

POINT

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Weather Forecast

HYDERABAD	VIJAYAWADA	TIRUPATHI
H 33° C L 25° C	H 35° C L 26° C	H 36° C L 26° C



Chandrababu and Pawan Personally Escort Him to the Chair

What Luck for RRR!

- Raghuramakrishna Raju elected as Deputy Speaker of AP Assembly
- CM Chandrababu, Deputy CM Pawan Kalyan, and Speaker Ayyannapatra honor him
- Alliance MLAs congratulate Raghurama

TPN, Amaravati: Raghuramakrishna Raju is truly a fortunate man. Despite facing significant challenges in the past, including difficulties entering his constituency and uncertainty about securing an MP ticket

in the last election, he ultimately contested as an MLA, won, and today, has been elected as the Deputy Speaker of the AP Assembly. What's even more fortunate is that Raghurama was respectfully escorted to the Deputy

Speaker's chair by Chief Minister Chandrababu Naidu and Deputy Chief Minister Pawan Kalyan. They were joined by Vishnukumar Raju, representing the BJP. Speaker Ayyannapatra rose from the chair and invited Raghurama

to be seated. Taking charge as the Deputy Speaker, Raghurama received congratulations from Chandrababu, Pawan, and Ayyannapatra. Other alliance MLAs also approached the chair to extend their best wishes.



Pawan Kalyan Proposes "Social Media Abuse Protection Bill"

TPN, Amaravati: Andhra Pradesh Deputy Chief Minister Pawan Kalyan has taken a bold step to address rising social media harassment, proposing a Social Media Abuse Protection Bill aimed at cracking down on online abuse. This initiative follows a concerning increase in social media misuse, with Pawan urging the assembly to swiftly pass the bill during the tenure of Speaker Ayyannapratru and Deputy Speaker Raghu Rama Krishna Raju.

After Raghurama's unanimous election as Deputy Speaker, Pawan Kalyan congratulated him and shared his vision for the bill. He highlighted

2 PAGE |

Will I Keep Calm When My Mother Is Insulted?: Lokesh

2 PAGE

Kodali Nani & Vamsi on Edge as Social Media Crackdown Intensifies



TPN, Avinash: In recent days, a stringent crackdown on abusive social media users has swept across the state. Those sharing morphed images and offensive content targeting women and children are being arrested, with cases swiftly registered. The YSR Congress social media teams are among those under scrutiny, as their online strategies have often leaned into aggressive tactics.

Reports indicate that over sixty YSR Congress social media activists have been detained so far. During the first month of Chandrababu Naidu's new term, the government maintained a calm stance, leading YSR Congress to believe that any serious actions were unlikely.

2 PAGE |

No Big Difference Between You and Us: YS Sharmila



- APCC President criticizes Jagan for echoing their views on the budget
- YCP MLAs face criticism for not attending the assembly
- Said that YCP is an "insignificant party" in the state

2 PAGE |

వార్క్-ఇన్ ఇంటర్వ్యూ (500 ఖాళీలు)

సేల్స్ ఎగ్జిక్యూటివ్ (పురుషులు/మహిళలు) - 300 Nos

గ్రాడ్యుయేట్ / పదిహేనా డిగ్రీల వారే ఉండాలి-జ్యూవలర్ పరిశ్రమలో 2 సంవత్సరాల అనుభవం ఉండాలి

సేల్స్ ట్రైనీ (పురుషులు/మహిళలు) - 200 Nos

గ్రాడ్యుయేట్ / పదిహేనా డిగ్రీల వారే ఉండాలి-ఫైవర్స్ దరఖాస్తు చేయవచ్చు, వయస్సు 25 లోపు ఉండాలి

ప్రయోజనాలు & ప్రోత్సాహకాలు

పరిశ్రమలో ఉత్తమమైన జీతం
సేల్స్ ప్రోత్సాహకాలు | బోనస్ | వైద్య బీమా
ఉచిత ఆహారం & వసతి | లీవ్ ప్రయోజనాలు
గ్రాట్యుయిటీ | ESI | PF & ఇతర ప్రయోజనాలు

ప్రపంచంలోనే అతి పెద్ద రిటైల్ చెయిన్స్ లో ఒకటైన జోయాలక్కుస్ జ్యూవలర్ తమ ఆంధ్ర షోరూంలలో పని చేయుట కొరకు కొంబర్ సేల్స్ పై అభిరుచి కలిగి మరియు అమోఘమైన సంభాషణ నైపుణ్యాలు కలిగిన అభ్యర్థుల కోసం పరిశీలిస్తోంది.

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వార్క్-ఇన్ ఇంటర్వ్యూకి హాజరు కాలేని అభ్యర్థులు తమ బయోడేటాను ఈ క్రింది ఈమెయిల్ కి పంపించవచ్చు:
vijayawadahr@joyalukkas.com ☎ 0866 2491916 📞 8978777585

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CM Outlines Ambitious Industrial Development Policies in Assembly

- New policies aimed at making Andhra Pradesh a leader in industry by 2047
- Vision includes massive investments, employment generation, and innovation hubs



TPN, Amaravati: Chief Minister Chandrababu Naidu presented an ambitious vision for Andhra Pradesh's industrial growth in the assembly, stating that new policies have been introduced to make AP the top state in the country by 2047. He emphasized that the government aims to promote the slogan of "an entrepreneur in every family."

CM Chandrababu revealed that the government's target is to attract investments worth Rs. 30 lakh crore, generating employment for 20 lakh people. A dedicated system will ensure timely initiation of investment projects. He highlighted plans to foster MSMEs on a large scale, expecting investments of Rs. 50,000 crore through this sector.

The government's policy also aims to make AP a global production hub, with projected foreign investments of Rs. 83,000 crore. Policies implemented from 2024 to 2029 are designed to maintain continuity in industrial growth. Chandrababu shared plans to establish an industrial park in each of the 175 constituencies of the state through public-private partnerships, with a focus on port-based industries to drive development.

To further boost entrepreneur-

ship, the Ratan Tata Innovation Hub will support innovators, with hubs planned for Amaravati, Visakhapatnam, Rajahmundry, Vijayawada, Tirupati, and Anantapur. Special incentives will be provided to encourage women from BC, SC, and ST communities to engage in industrial growth.

The government is also developing a "drone city" on 300 acres in Orvakallu, Kurnool district. Under the central "Drone Didi" scheme, DWCRAs women will be trained as drone pilots. Additionally, a plan is underway to train over 10,000 women in the use of

drones for agriculture.

In the food processing sector, Chandrababu explained that a dedicated cluster will be formed for each product, allowing AP to maximize returns by adding value to agricultural produce. "Through value addition, AP will become a fruit basket for the world," he stated, underscoring the state's commitment to transforming agricultural outcomes.

These policies reflect a long-term vision for AP's economic growth, aimed at positioning the state as an industrial leader on the national and global stage.

CM Chandrababu Visiting Delhi Today for Key Meetings with PM Narendra Modi

Andhra Pradesh Chief Minister Chandrababu Naidu is set to travel to Delhi today, with his visit during ongoing assembly sessions raising interest. During this trip, Chandrababu will hold discussions with Prime Minister Narendra Modi and several Union Ministers, focusing on recent developments in the state and progress on central projects. The Chief Minister's agenda includes discussions on securing further support from the Center for projects in Andhra Pradesh, with particular emphasis on the Polavaram irrigation project and the development of Amaravati. The Center recently allocated additional funds for these projects, and Chandrababu is expected to extend an invitation to the Prime Minister to lay the foundation stones for several new initiatives in the state.

Raghurama's Example Shows the Strength of Karma: Deputy CM

- Raghurama Krishna Raju assumes role as AP Deputy Speaker
- CM and Deputy CM reflect on his journey
- Pawan describes the moment as a "script written by God"

TPN, Amaravati: Undi MLA Raghuramakrishna Raju officially took charge as Deputy Speaker of the AP Assembly. Following Raghurama's seating in the Deputy Speaker's chair, Deputy Chief Minister Pawan Kalyan addressed the assembly with remarks that highlighted the power of karma. "Raghurama's journey is proof of how strong karma truly is," he said.



Referring to past challenges faced by Raghurama, Pawan noted, "Those who once challenged you and denied your entry into the Narasapuram Lok Sabha constituency cannot stand before you in the assembly today. This is karma... circumstances have unfolded in such a way that they cannot face you now. It's a script written by God and a testament to democracy."

Pawan also reflected on the hardships encountered during the previous administration, describing it as a time when politics was tainted. "Regardless of the obstacles you faced, your resilience is commendable. You entered the assembly with a majority of over 56,000 votes, and today, you've taken up the role of Deputy Speaker. I am confident that you will elevate this House with dignity."

He emphasized the need to prevent individ-

uals with criminal tendencies from entering politics. "Those with criminal mindsets have no respect for established systems and constitutional processes," he said, referencing the difficult experiences Raghurama endured, including physical and mental harassment for disagreeing with party policies. "No one, not even Supreme Court judges or moderate activists, were spared in the opposition's pursuit."

Pawan recalled how Raghurama, despite being elected as an MP by his party, was mistreated and subjected to extreme intimidation tactics. "We thought the MP would simply be arrested, but he was harassed using third-degree methods. The situation was so dire that Chandrababu immediately expressed concern, and I, too, was deeply affected by it," Pawan remarked.

Vizianagaram MLC Election Canceled...

TPN, Vijayanagaram: The scheduled MLC election for the Vizianagaram local bodies in Andhra Pradesh has been canceled. The Election Commission (EC) had previously released a schedule for the election, but it was called off before the official notification was issued. The decision follows a recent ruling by the Andhra Pradesh High Court concerning the disqualification of MLC Indukuri Raghuraju.

Indukuri Raghuraju, who initially won the Vizianagaram local bodies MLC seat as a YCP candidate, had shifted his allegiance toward the TDP before the elections. In response, Council Chairman Koye Moshen Raju disqualified him based on a complaint from his own party. Consequently, the EC had marked the Vizianagaram MLC

post as vacant and planned a by-election, with the schedule indicating polls would be held next month.

However, Raghuraju challenged his disqualification in the High Court, which ruled in his favor, declaring his disqualification invalid. As a result, Raghuraju retained his position as MLC, rendering the scheduled by-election unnecessary. Following this ruling, the EC was compelled to retract its initial decision, leading to the cancellation of the upcoming Vizianagaram MLC election.

This decision signifies that Raghuraju will continue to serve as MLC, and the election originally set to fill his position has been officially canceled.

No Big Difference Between You and Us: YS Sharmila

TPN, Andhra Pradesh: Former CM YS Jagan Mohan Reddy and APCC President YS Sharmila have once again directed critical comments towards the opposition YSRCP. Sharmila criticized YSRCP and its president, YS Jagan Mohan Reddy, for failing to take a proactive role in addressing issues. She noted that they had held a press meet prior to YCP's, stating that the budget presented by the alliance government was neither beneficial nor useful for the people of the state. "Jagan Mohan Reddy held a press meet and repeated what we said. Even if Jagan Mohan Reddy received 38 percent of the votes, there is no difference between you and us when he does not go to the assembly," Sharmila satirized.

Sharmila expressed frustration over YS Jagan Mohan Reddy turning YCP into an "insignificant party" by avoiding assembly sessions despite securing a 38 percent vote share. "The ineffective YCP, which cannot make its presence felt in the assembly, cannot insist on public issues in the assembly, and cannot question the ruling party on the assembly floor, is truly an 'insignificant party' in the state today. People did not vote for you to sit at home or to speak in front of your own microphones but to speak in front of assembly microphones. If you are sincere, raise your voice against the anti-government policies in the full assembly," Sharmila urged.

She suggested that YCP should appear as a public-focused party, even with its 11 members, even if it is not the primary opposition. If they still lack the courage to go to the assembly, she demanded their resignations. "Go to the polls. Then it will be clear who is insignificant and who is important. YCP MLAs should resign immediately, or, if they dare, attend the assembly and discuss the budget. CM Chandrababu, Deputy CM Pawan Kalyan, and the AP BJP should discuss the allocation of funds for Super Six schemes," she added.

Pawan Kalyan Proposes...

Continued from page 1

the rising wave of online harassment targeted particularly at TDP leaders, women, and their families by YCP-affiliated social media accounts. Pawan didn't hold back, describing these perpetrators as "psychos" and "sadists." He argued that, beyond party lines, Andhra Pradesh should become a pioneer in protecting citizens from social media abuse.

Reflecting on past instances, Pawan recalled how figures like Raghurama and Home Minister Anitha were subjected to relentless social media attacks. He warned, "If they can target prominent leaders, imagine what ordinary citizens face. They've created a social media abuse cartel, operating much like a criminal network, intent on silencing dissent." Drawing a powerful comparison, he likened it to how Escobar's empire controlled opposition. "They targeted people like Krishnam Raju and even went as far as arresting a three-time Chief Minister."

Pawan emphasized that the people of Andhra Pradesh deserve not only development but also a sense of peace and dignity. "Look around this assembly—it's vibrant and respectful. This positivity should extend throughout our state. The Social Media Abuse Protection Bill could be a powerful step towards creating that environment," he concluded. His call signals a significant shift in addressing online harassment, aiming to set a standard for accountability and respect across Andhra Pradesh's digital landscape.



Will I Keep Calm When My Mother Is Insulted?: Lokesh

TPN, Amaravati: AP Cabinet Minister Nara Lokesh delivered an impassioned speech in the legislative council today, questioning why he should stay silent after his mother was insulted in the assembly. His remarks ignited a heated exchange between TDP and YCP MLAs. The clash began when Minister Dola Sree Bala Veeranjanya Swamy accused YCP MLAs of avoiding assembly sessions. His comments provoked a strong reaction from YCP MLAs, who countered that it was actually Chandrababu Naidu who had previously left the assembly when YCP was in power.

Lokesh, visibly angered, defended his father's actions, stating that Chandrababu Naidu had consistently opposed the former government in the assembly for two years. He claimed it was the YCP MLAs who had insulted his mother during a session, prompting Naidu to challenge them and exit the assembly. Lokesh reminded YCP leaders that even if Chandrababu Naidu stopped attending, TDP leaders continued to participate in the sessions. He questioned why YCP MLAs are now absent from sessions.

"YCP leaders continue to post offensive content about TDP leaders, but we have never stooped to insulting Jagan's family. We have never spoken against his family members," Lokesh emphasized. He questioned, "Don't you remember how your leaders insulted my mother? Why didn't Jagan speak out against them? Why did he give tickets to those who disrespected my mother?"

Lokesh's remarks underscored the emotional depth and personal stakes of the ongoing political tensions, as he demanded accountability and respect for family members in political discourse.

Kodali Nani & Vamsi on Edge as Social...

Continued from page 1

But with the recent arrests, it's become evident that Chandrababu Naidu has launched a decisive response, putting the YSR Congress on high alert.

Party insiders suggest there's growing con-

cern among the leadership, as they sense that high-profile figures may soon be next. Former MLAs Kodali Nani and Vallabhaneni Vamsi are particularly on edge. Both have been keeping a low profile, spending more time in Hyderabad than in their constituencies since the election results.

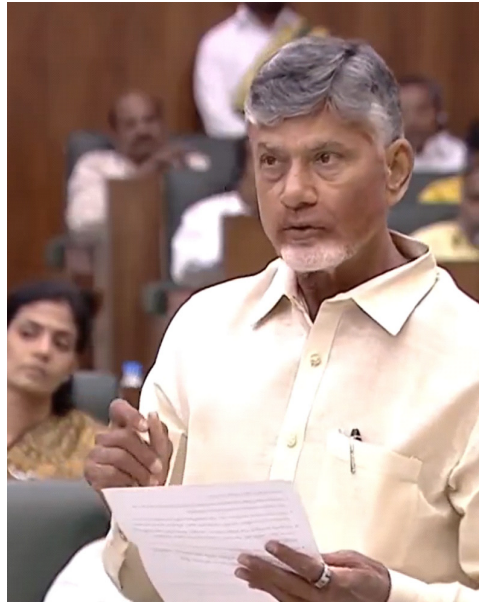
Nani, credited with introducing coarse lan-

guage into Telugu political discourse, and Vamsi, infamous for his controversial remarks about Chandrababu Naidu's wife, Nara Bhuvaneshwari, are now wary of drawing the government's attention. With the government cracking down hard on online misconduct, these two former MLAs could well be next in line when the crackdown extends to political figures.



Raghurama Rachchabanda is as Popular as the Natu Natu Song: CM

- Raghurama appointed as AP Deputy Speaker
- CM Chandrababu delivers congratulatory speech
- Praises Raghurama as a “warrior” with unwavering commitment
- TDP legislator steps into the role of AP Assembly Deputy Speaker



TPN, Amaravati: Raghurama Krishna Raju assumed the position of Deputy Speaker in the AP Assembly today, receiving congratulatory remarks from Chief Minister Chandrababu Naidu. In his speech, Chandrababu described Raghurama as a “fighter,” a man of courage and conviction. He praised Raghurama’s unblemished character and unwavering commitment to his principles.

Chandrababu recalled Raghurama’s past resilience, emphasizing his strength in adversity. “Despite facing threats, Raghurama never backed down; he stood firm in his beliefs and braved all challenges,” he said. The Chief Minister men-

tioned past attempts to suppress Raghurama, including a treason case filed against him when he acted independently and without hesitation.

Chandrababu highlighted that Raghurama was arrested on May 14, 2021, which was ironically his birthday. “It was a shocking event, one that created a nationwide sensation, as he endured mistreatment in custody. I have been in politics for 45 years, and I’ve never seen or heard of such an incident — perhaps it is the first and the last,” Chandrababu remarked, noting that Raghurama’s heart condition made the situation even more serious.

The Chief Minister recounted the accusations of conspiracy that were levied against Raghurama, including alleged collaborations with TV5 and ABN channels in an attempt to destabilize the government. Despite these challenges, Chandrababu praised Raghurama’s composure. “Just as the song Natu Natu from the movie RRR became a hit, Raghurama’s Rachchabanda programs became popular in the political landscape,” he stated.

Chandrababu concluded his speech by expressing confidence in Raghurama’s new role as Deputy Speaker, encouraging him to work with dedication and commitment.

Even if Cases Are Filed or Arrests Are Made, We Will Definitely Post: YCP Leader Roja



TPN, Andhra Pradesh: Social media posts are at the center of a heated controversy in Andhra Pradesh, with a fierce exchange unfolding between the ruling TDP-Janaseena-BJP alliance and the opposition YCP. Cases and arrests are being made against individuals posting inappropriate comments, and the AP High Court recently issued a statement emphasizing that those using social media to harass others could face arrest. Amid this, YCP leader and former minister Roja voiced her stance on Twitter, asserting that she and her party will continue to challenge the government’s actions on social media.

Roja criticized Chief Minister Nara Chandrababu Naidu for allegedly failing to fulfill promises made under the “Super Six” initiatives, claiming that budget allocations have not matched election promises. She tweeted that she, alongside her party leaders, activists, and supporters, will continue to post about what she described as the coalition government’s neglect of youth, women, and farmers.

Roja pointed to several promises she claims remain unfulfilled, including the Girl Child Fund, which promised every woman turning 18 an annual sum of Rs. 18,000 (Rs. 1,500 per month), and questioned whether the required Rs. 4,115 crore had been allocated for the 1,54,47,061 eligible gas connections under the Deepam Scheme, which promised three free gas cylinders per family each year. She also questioned the funding for the Talli Vandanam Scheme, which was to provide Rs. 15,000 per child, and criticized the government’s commitment to the Anadana Scheme, which pledged Rs. 20,000 per year in financial support for farmers. Additionally, she highlighted the Free Bus Scheme, intended to offer free bus travel for women, requiring an estimated Rs. 3,000 crore annually, and Yuva Galam, which promised employment to 20 lakh youths, offering Rs. 3,000 monthly to the unemployed, amounting to Rs. 7,200 crore annually.

Roja insisted that these promises have not been met in the budget, stating that the opposition would continue to hold the government accountable through social media posts, even if it means facing legal action.

Deputy Speaker RRR Extends Open Invitation to Jagan

TPN, Andhra Pradesh: The newly appointed Deputy Speaker of the AP Assembly, a prominent name in AP political circles, is Raghurama Krishna Raju. Set to be formally appointed as Deputy Speaker this afternoon, Raju has already made an intriguing gesture.

Speaking with a media outlet last night, ahead of his appointment, RRR extended an open invitation to YS Jagan to attend the assembly.

When asked if he would be willing to grant opposition leader status to Jagan, RRR explained, “The constitutional regulation mandates a specific number of seats to hold the opposition leader status. If the people of AP have chosen not to give him (Jagan) that status, we, as speakers, cannot change that. There is no precedent for granting opposition status outside these regulations.”

Nevertheless, RRR showed consideration by inviting Jagan to the assembly and assured him ample time to speak. “Based on the party’s



strength, we might allot them 30 minutes to speak in the assembly. They can use this time to raise their points and advocate for their cause. Avoiding the assembly and staying at home is not the right approach,” he stated.

With Ayyannapatru as the Speaker and RRR as the Deputy Speaker of the AP Assembly, the likelihood of Jagan stepping into the assembly appears slim, remarked a neutral observer closely monitoring these developments.

Shame on YCP Members Supporting Social Media Psychos



TPN, Amaravati: Power Minister Gottipati Ravikumar expressed that it is shameful for YCP members to come to the Peddala Sabha (Council) and speak in support of those who send abusive messages about women on social media. While answering questions from honorable members in the council on Thursday, he strongly condemned the behavior of these “social media psychos.”

He recalled that when the family of Chandrababu Naidu was insulted, Chief Minister Jagan and other YCP members reacted with laughter instead of condemnation.

Minister Ravikumar further remarked that the harassment of DCM Pawan Kalyan, Home Minister Anita, and Jagan’s own sister’s family on social media has tarnished societal values. He described it as a disgraceful act for YCP members to support such “social media psychos,” disrupting Council proceedings and surrounding the podium of the Elders’ Sabha in support of the accused.

He criticized the YCP members for wasting the valuable time of the Council of Elders, which could have been used to address meaningful questions for the people. Minister Gottipati Ravikumar stated that the actions of these YCP members, who have brought shame upon the council and society, are deeply disappointing.

"That Commode’s Specialty...": Vishnukumar Raju Brings

- Luxury commode at Rushikonda Palace catches everyone’s eye
- BJP MLA Vishnukumar Raju humorously describes its features
- MLA jokes that there’s “no need to use hands” with the high-tech commode

TPN, Amaravati: During today’s AP Assembly meeting, BJP MLA Vishnukumar Raju sparked laughter with his remarks about a luxury commode in Rushikonda Palace. The commode, reportedly worth Rs. 11 lakh, has become a topic of fascination, especially after recent visitors, including CM Chandrababu, were drawn to its unique features.

Vishnukumar Raju took the opportunity to describe the commode in a humorous tone, captivating the assembly. “I didn’t get the chance to sit on that commode, President!



But I don’t know if any of the members here got the chance to try it. We have many wealthy members here!

This commode is expensive because it’s fully automatic,” he explained.

He continued, “All you need to do is sit on it... there’s no need to do anything manually. It does the washing automatically—no hands, no napkins, no tissue paper needed... it’s all automated!” His description had everyone laughing, including Speaker Ayyannapatra, who couldn’t hide his amusement.

The video of Raju’s humorous commentary quickly went viral on social media, delighting viewers across platforms. His light-hearted take added a moment of humor to the assembly proceedings.

Jagan Will Not Attend Assembly Even if Given Opposition Status

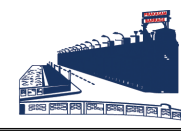
- Home Minister Anitha says Jagan will avoid the assembly coz Raghurama is Deputy Speaker
- Jests that people are even betting on this
- Criticizes attempts to protect Ravinder Reddy

TPN, Andhra Pradesh: AP Home Minister Anitha made significant remarks about YCP Chief YS Jagan Mohan Reddy. She stated that while Jagan has said he would attend the assembly if given opposition status, he would still avoid it if Raghurama Krishna Raju were appointed Deputy Speaker. “People are even betting on it,” she remarked. Speaking yesterday at the assembly’s media point, the Home Minister strongly criticized Jagan’s behavior.

She expressed anger, suggesting that if Varra Ravinder Reddy, who allegedly posted obscene content insulting Jagan’s mother Vijayamma and sister Sharmila, were arrested, Jagan would ap-

peal to the NHRC to protect him. “Should wrongdoers be honored in a function hall with shawls instead of being taken to the police station?” she questioned with frustration.

Referring to individuals like YCP Rajya Sabha member YV Subba Reddy, who reportedly protests before the NHRC claiming issues in the state, she asked, “Don’t they see the posts by YCP social media activists insulting women?” She mentioned that Chief Minister Chandrababu is planning to introduce a strong law for the protection of girl children. She also noted that out of 7,393 cases registered between June and October this year, 12,115 accused have been arrested.



Vijayawada Immersed in Devotion Sri Sri Ravi Shankar Leads Meditation and Satsang on the Banks of Krishna



TPN, Vijayawada: Vijayawada was enveloped in a spiritual ambiance during the Art of Living Maha Satsang, held along the banks of the Krishna River in the sacred month of Kartika. The gathering brought together thousands for meditation, devotional singing, and inspiring teachings. The satsang began with the Mahamrutyunjaya Mantra and Shiva Sankeertan by the Art of Living group. On the auspicious day of Ksheerabdi Dwadashi, beloved to both Lord Shiva and Lord Vishnu, Gurudev Sri Sri Ravi Shankar entered the venue to the uplifting chants of *Raghupathe Raghava Rajarama*.

Sri Sri Ravi Shankar spoke on the purity inherent in every human being, stating that practices like Sudarshan Kriya, meditation, and satsang help reduce stress and reveal inner purity. Addressing the issue of rising drug use among youth, he explained that young people often turn to drugs seeking pleasure beyond the five



senses, but this habit leads to addiction and a path of destruction. Emphasizing the lasting joy that spirituality and service bring, he recalled the pledge taken by thousands of students against intoxicants in a Visakhapatnam event last year and encouraged the people of Vijayawada to take similar steps.

During the event, Sri Sri honored businessman Gokaraju Gangaraju on his 80th birthday, lauding him as a source of inspiration for serving others with vitality and enthusiasm. In a lighthearted moment, he advised children to go two days without charging their phones to reduce screen dependence and encouraged attendees to leave their worries behind, urging them to return home with renewed smiles.

In a display of respect and camaraderie, Sri Sri Ravi Shankar also met with Chief Minister Nara Chandrababu Naidu at his

residence in Undavalli, where the Chief Minister extended a warm welcome and honored him. Additionally, Andhra Pradesh Deputy Chief Minister Pawan Kalyan hosted Sri Sri and the Art of Living team at his Mangalagiri camp office. Reflecting on their meeting, Pawan Kalyan expressed gratitude, saying, "Meeting Guruji Sri Sri Ravi Shankar is a blissful experience. In 1997-98, I attended his Art of Living course, which I gained so much from. I am grateful to Sri Sri Ravishankar Guruji for his blessings."

Art of Living representatives extended a warm welcome to Sri Sri Ravi Shankar, who visited Vijayawada after 13 years as a guest of the Andhra Pradesh State Government. The program, which was broadcast live, allowed millions across the country to witness the spiritual energy and devotion of Vijayawada on this special occasion.

Minister Narayana's Initiatives to Boost Pass Percentage in Government Junior Colleges



TPN, Amaravati: Andhra Pradesh Education Minister Ponguru Narayana shared a series of strategic suggestions aimed at improving the pass percentage in government junior colleges. At the request of Intermediate Board Commissioner Kritika Shukla, Minister Narayana attended a workshop organized by the Intermediate Board, held at Mary's Stella College Auditorium in Vijayawada. The workshop was attended by Regional Joint Directors, RIOS, District Vocational Education Officers, principals, and teachers from various regional centers.

In his address, Minister Narayana emphasized the need for structured classroom management, effective teaching methods, and a focused approach to subject priorities. He encouraged educators to adopt strategies that align with student needs and exam preparation, emphasizing that a strong foundation is key to achieving competitive ranks.

The Minister announced that Narayana Group would extend its support by providing essential materials for competitive exams, such as EAPSET. "Quality education should be accessible to all, and we are commit-

ted to supporting government junior colleges in this effort," he stated.

Minister Narayana, who is a mathematics teacher himself, demonstrated effective methods for teaching complex concepts, using examples to engage the attendees. He further highlighted the importance of student attendance, suggesting that teachers work closely with students to ensure consistent participation in classes.

In his discussions with the workshop attendees, Minister Narayana reviewed last year's performance statistics and addressed the reasons for any decline in marks. He expressed confidence that, with perseverance and focused instruction, students could achieve high scores and ranks. "There is nothing that cannot be achieved with determination," he added, urging teachers to tailor their instruction to meet the demands of competitive exams.

The initiative aims to equip government junior college students with the tools and guidance needed to excel academically and professionally, fostering a brighter future for Andhra Pradesh's youth.

Legislator Sujana Chaudhary Drafts Master Plan for Durga Temple Development



TPN, Vijayawada: The master plan for the comprehensive development of Sri Durga Malleswara Swamy's temple on Indrakiladri is nearing finalization, with MLA Sujana Chaudhary leading the initiative to enhance the temple's infrastructure to meet future needs. A review

meeting was held on Thursday at the MLA camp office in Tadigadapa, where Sujana discussed the project with Durga Gudi officials, including EO KS Rama Rao, technical team member Kondalarao, and executive engineers.

During the meeting, Sujana Chaudhary outlined a detailed vision for the temple's development, which includes the cessation of Bhavani Deekshas, installation of escalators to ease access to the hill, provisions for free food offerings, and enhanced facilities to accommodate devotees in queue lines. Sujana emphasized the importance of creating a master plan that would address both current and future needs, ensuring the comfort and spiritual fulfillment of visitors. The MLA also gathered suggestions from temple officials and technical experts to ensure the project aligns with the devotees' expectations. By undertaking this ambitious project, Sujana aims to elevate the temple's infrastructure, making it a well-equipped and accessible spiritual center for all.

MoU Signed Between Handloom, Textile Department and Adyam to Boost Handloom Sector in Andhra Pradesh

TPN, Vijayawada: The Andhra Pradesh government has taken a significant step toward ensuring continuous work and better livelihoods for the state's handloom workers. In a new partnership, the State Handloom and Textile Department signed a Memorandum of Understanding (MoU) with "Adyam," a handloom brand from the Aditya Birla Group. The agreement, exchanged by Handloom Textile Commissioner Rekharani and Adyam representative Manish Saxena during a program held on Thursday in Hyderabad, aims to enhance market opportunities and support the traditional handloom sector in Andhra Pradesh.

Commissioner Rekharani emphasized the department's mission to uplift the livelihoods of handloom workers, aligning with the Chief Minister's vision. As part of this partnership, the Aditya Birla Group will facilitate better marketing avenues for renowned handloom products

from the state, including Uppada (Cotton Jamdhani), Pulagurtha (Malka Khadi), Angara (Cotton Sarees), Venkatagiri (Cotton Sarees), and Kodumuru Gadwal Cotton Sarees. She highlighted that this collaboration is expected to provide sustainable employment for handloom workers while promoting Andhra Pradesh's rich handloom heritage.

The Aditya Birla Group currently collaborates with weaving communities in regions like Varanasi, Pochampally, and Bhuj, and this new partnership aims to enhance the reputation of the *Cheneta* brand, support the country's skilled artisans, and expand sales nationwide. Rekharani expressed that the initiative would not only raise the standard of living for handloom workers but also preserve the traditional weaving techniques that have been passed down for generations, bringing international recognition to their craftsmanship.



Andhra Pradesh: A Leader in Handloom Heritage

Andhra Pradesh holds a prominent place in India's handloom industry, with 1,77,447 handloom workers preserving a craft rich in cultural heritage. Each district in the state is known for producing distinctive handwoven textiles, contributing to both livelihoods and showcasing local creativity. The state boasts 35 recognized ODOP (One District One Product) handloom items, including four with Geograph-

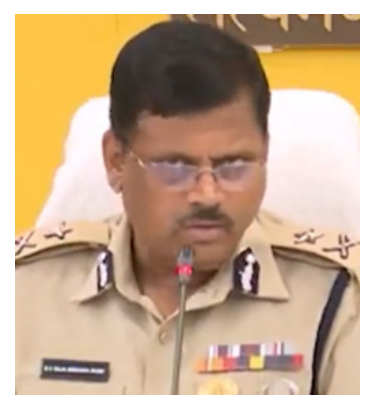
ical Indication (GI) status: Uppada Jamdhani sarees, Mangalagiri sarees, Venkatagiri sarees, and Dharmavaram silk sarees and pavadas. These products reflect the cultural traditions and artistry unique to Andhra Pradesh.

This MoU with Adyam marks a key milestone in supporting Andhra Pradesh's handloom workers and aims to enhance the reach and reputation of these traditional products across the country and beyond.

Vijayawada CP Reveals Key Updates in Criminal Investigation

TPN, Vijayawada: Vijayawada Commissioner of Police, Rajasekhar Babu, held a press conference to provide crucial updates on an ongoing investigation involving a series of criminal activities in the region. He revealed that five suspects are currently wanted in connection with a recent case, with four already identified and located. Efforts to apprehend the fifth suspect, Anil, are ongoing, with special teams formed to track him down.

The CP highlighted that one of the complainants involved had also faced assault charges in a previous case from 2019, underlining a history of violence connected to those involved. "There is no excuse for engaging in illegal activities, and we will not tolerate such behavior. We are taking a tough stance against anti-social groups, including blade gangs and drug rings," he asserted.



In an intensified crackdown, CCTV cameras have been installed at strategic locations to monitor and curb criminal activity. The CP detailed that Gautham Reddy, a notorious figure with 43 cases against him, including murder, has a rowdy sheet registered in his name. "We are examining why this rowdy sheet was previously closed and will investigate all cases linked to Gautham Reddy, including complaints of land fraud involving fake documents," he added.

The investigation has also extended to the activities of other suspects, including alleged calls Anil received from Prithviraj, which are under scrutiny. CP Rajasekhar Babu stated that all technical evidence is being gathered to ensure a thorough investigation. "We take action based on technical evidence, and this will be presented in court."

In a significant revelation, the CP disclosed that the investigation has unveiled a contract, or "supari," worth Rs. 24 lakhs, allegedly placed to harm a property owner. "As we dig deeper into the murder case, more details are surfacing, including the matter of the supari intended to target the landowner."

The police department also acknowledged a complaint from Umamaheswara Shastri, assuring that it is being addressed as part of the comprehensive investigation.

The Vijayawada police remain committed to enforcing the law and dismantling networks of criminal influence in the city. "We will not allow bullies to act unchecked. This investigation will be exhaustive, and justice will be pursued at every level," CP Rajasekhar Babu concluded.



Vijayasai Reddy Extends Congratulations to Raghuramakrishna Raju



TPN, Andhra Pradesh: In recent days, authorities across the state have intensified efforts to crack down on abusive social media users. Individuals responsible for posting morphed content and abusive remarks targeting women and children are being arrested, with cases registered against them. Notably, some members of the YSR Congress Party's social media teams are among those detained, as their strategy often involved aggressive online tactics. This crackdown seems to be having an effect, bringing a noticeable shift in behavior among social media users.

YSR Congress's Rajya Sabha MP Vijayasai Reddy, known for his outspoken and often controversial tweets, appears to have adopted a more restrained tone. In a surprising gesture, Vijayasai recently extended congratulations to TDP MLA Raghuramakrishna Raju, who was elected as the Deputy Speaker of the AP Assembly. On social media, Vijayasai tweeted, "Congratulations Mr. Raghuramakrishna Raju Garu for assuming the chair of Deputy Speaker of AP Legislature."



Tamil Nadu Telugu People Foundation Representatives Meet Dy CM

TPN, Andhra Pradesh: Representatives from the Tamil Nadu Telugu People Foundation met with Andhra Pradesh Deputy Chief Minister Shri Pawan Kalyan on Thursday morning at his camp office in Mangalagiri. During the meeting, the representatives highlighted the significant Telugu-speaking population residing in various Tamil Nadu regions, including Chennai, Coimbatore, Kanchipuram, Madurai, Chengalpattu, Tiruvallur, and Tiruthani, who have established themselves across various fields.

The representatives expressed their desire to construct a "Telugu Bhavan" (Telugu building) in Chennai as a cultural and community center for Telugus in Tamil Nadu. They mentioned that the late Chief Minister Jayalalitha had previously approved this project, but it had not progressed. They appealed to the Andhra Pradesh government to support and advance discussions for the construction of the Telugu building.

Additionally, the foundation representatives outlined the social services their organization provides and their efforts to promote the Telugu language and culture in Tamil Nadu. The Deputy Chief Minister commended the foundation's dedication to these causes.

The delegation included Mr. Devarakonda Raju, Prof. K. Srinivasa Rao, Mr. A.M. Manoj, Ms. Priya Sri-dhar, Mr. B. Raghunath, and other foundation members.



Raghurama Krishna Raju Torture Case

ASP Vijayapal's Evasive Responses During Investigation

TPN, Guntur: A case filed at Guntur's Nagarapalem Police Station in May 2021 alleges that former Narasapuram MP and current TDP MLA Raghuramakrishna Raju was tortured in police custody. During a recent police investigation, retired CID ASP Vijayapal reportedly gave evasive responses, frequently replying, "I don't know," "I don't remember," or "I forgot" when questioned by investigators.

The case, registered in July this year, claims that the police who arrested Raghurama in May 2021 tortured him in custody and attempted to kill him. Vijayapal attended the investigation at the Ongole district police office yesterday, where he was questioned extensively from 11 a.m. to 5:45 p.m. According to reports, he avoided directly answering the investigators' questions, instead insisting he did nothing wrong.

Questions posed by investigators included: Why was Raghuramakrishna Raju beaten in custody? Why were there wounds on his soles? After his arrest in Hyderabad, why was he detained overnight at the CID office in Guntur without being presented before a judge? Why was he arrested so soon after the case was registered? Vijayapal responded with statements such as "I don't know," "I don't remember," and "I forgot." He also denied assaulting Raghurama, questioning what he would gain from doing so.

Vijayapal reportedly gave similar answers during a previous hearing in Guntur on October 11.

YCP Faces Major Setback in East Godavari District as Former Advisor Rajeev Krishna Joins TDP

TPN, East Godavari: The Yuvajana Sramika Rythu Congress Party (YCP) faced a significant setback in East Godavari district as several of its leaders, along with former advisor S. Rajeev Krishna, switched allegiance to the Telugu Desam Party (TDP). Rajeev Krishna, a prominent industrialist and former advisor in the YCP government, formally joined TDP in the presence of Minister Nara Lokesh after resigning from YCP two days prior. Rajeev Krishna previously contested the 2014 elections on behalf of YCP from the Nidadaolu constituency but was unsuccessful.

Accompanying Rajeev Krishna in



joining TDP were several influential figures, including Chagallu ZPTC Vijayadurga Srinivas, Nidadavolu ZPTC Koya Surya Rao, Kovvuru ZPTC Bontha Venkatalakshmi, Dharmavaram MPTC Jonnakooti Komali, Tallapudi MPP Jonnakooti Posiraju, Tallapudi

Sarpanch Nakka Chittibabu, former president of Dommeru Society Garapati Venkatakrishna, former president of Dharmavaram society Mullapudi Kashivishwanath, along with many other YCP leaders, amounting to nearly 50 members. Minister Lokesh welcomed them into the TDP, presenting them with the party's yellow scarves at his residence in Undavalli.

During his address, Minister Lokesh remarked that YCP has become a model for fake and obscene posts and criticized the party's decline to only 11 seats, which he attributed to its anti-people policies. Emphasizing the importance of respectful language,

Lokesh stated that TDP is entrusted with a sacred responsibility to address public issues and asserted that even without opposition MLAs in the assembly, the TDP is dedicated to solving public problems. He urged party members to remember that TDP is a disciplined organization, focused on serving the people rather than asserting individual power. Lokesh called on everyone to work in unison for the state's development.

Rajeev Krishna assured his commitment to the party and expressed his determination to coordinate efforts to address public issues, pledging to become a valuable asset to TDP.

Questions posed by investigators included: Why was Raghuramakrishna Raju beaten in custody? Why were there wounds on his soles? After his arrest in Hyderabad, why was he detained overnight at the CID office in Guntur without being presented before a judge? Why was he arrested so soon after the case was registered? Vijayapal responded with statements such as "I don't know," "I don't remember," and "I forgot." He also denied assaulting Raghurama, questioning what he would gain from doing so.

Vijayapal reportedly gave similar answers during a previous hearing in Guntur on October 11.

Madras High Court Dismisses Actress Kasturi's Bail Plea



TPN, Chennai: The Madras High Court has refused to grant bail to actress Kasturi in a case involving her alleged inappropriate comments about the Telugu community. A single-judge bench, headed by Justice Anand Venkatesh, dismissed her anticipatory bail plea on Thursday.

During an event held in Chennai on the 3rd of this month, Kasturi made controversial remarks, claiming that the Telugu people originally came to serve the Tamil kings. She indirectly questioned

Dravidian theorists by stating that if those who came to serve the king's harem women 300 years ago now consider themselves Tamils, then how can Brahmins, who also migrated to Tamil Nadu, not be considered Tamils? Kasturi alleged that there is a targeted campaign against Brahmins in Tamil Nadu, stating that they are criticized for advising against looting, infidelity, and polygamy.

Following backlash, Kasturi issued an apology, clarifying that her comments were directed only at cer-

tain individuals and not the Telugu community as a whole. However, Telugu associations and notable figures expressed their anger and filed complaints with the police. A case was subsequently registered against Kasturi under four sections based on a complaint from a Telugu organization based in Egmore, Chennai. When police attempted to serve her a summons, they found her house locked, and her phone was switched off, indicating that she was evading arrest. In response, Kasturi approached the Madras High Court seeking anticipatory bail to avoid arrest.

'Lokesh Anna, Please Anna Begging You'

Sri Reddy's Emotional Letter to Lokesh

TPN, Andhra Pradesh: Actress Sri Reddy, who recently released a video apologizing amidst the cases and arrests involving YCP social media workers, has now written a heartfelt letter to YCP President Jagan and Minister Lokesh.

In her letter, Sri Reddy addressed Jagan first, expressing her admiration for him and his wife, Bharti Reddy, even though she has not had the opportunity to meet them personally and has only seen them on TV. She expressed regret over not being a member of the party and acknowledged that, while she intended to make her voice heard in support, she could not

have foreseen that her comments would tarnish the party's image and cause it harm. Recognizing her mistake, she expressed her decision to distance herself from the party.

She then addressed Minister Lokesh, affectionately calling him "Lokesh Anna." Sri Reddy promised not to make any more controversial comments and swore by her favorite god to prove her sincerity. She pleaded for forgiveness, revealing that she has been suffering, unable to eat or sleep for a week, and that her family has endured enough hardship. She begged to be left in peace.





What Trump's Second Term Means for India: Continuity and Cautious Optimism

As US President Donald Trump prepares for a second term, questions about how his foreign policies will impact India and its interests. While Trump's unpredictability is a concern for many nations, including allies and adversaries alike, India's experiences during his first term offer confidence that relations between the two countries will continue to progress under his renewed leadership.

Indian External Affairs Minister S. Jaishankar has pointed out that while some countries may feel nervous about Trump's return to power, India is not. This view reflects India's growing diplomatic maturity and the long-term nature of its strategic interests, which have been cultivated over the past two decades through engagements with both Republican and Democratic administrations. While Trump's policies may have at times been contentious, India's relationship with the US has largely benefited from consistent cooperation on trade, defense, and counterterrorism.

Some external commentators have suggested that Trump's re-election is welcomed in India due to ideolog-

ical similarities between Trump and Prime Minister Narendra Modi, both of whom are seen as right-wing conservative figures. However, this narrative overlooks the fact that Modi has fostered positive relationships with not just Trump but also with Presidents Joe Biden and Barack Obama, highlighting the pragmatic nature of India's foreign policy. Just as India faced challenges with certain policies from the Obama and Biden administrations, it also found areas of divergence with Trump on issues such as human rights and religious freedoms.

Relief, Not Enthusiasm

At the policymaking level in India, there is no overwhelming "enthusiasm" for Trump's second term, but there is a sense of relief. Many in India view Trump's re-election as a counterbalance to the Democrat-led focus on domestic issues that have sometimes been critical of India's internal affairs, such as religious freedom and minority rights. This tension often found resonance among sections of the opposition in India, who have sometimes lobbied for US intervention. Under Trump's leader-

ship, India is likely to face less external pressure on such issues, though reports from the US State Department on human rights, as mandated by Congress, will continue, albeit with a more restrained tone.

The presence of Christian evangelical groups in Trump's political base is a potential area of concern, as they could advocate for more vocal criticism of India's policies related to religious conversions and the status of Christian minorities. However, with Trump's more pragmatic foreign policy approach, such concerns may be managed without overly disrupting the broader India-US relationship.

Key Appointments and Strategic Implications

Trump's nominations to key administration positions have been a topic of keen interest in India. The appointment of Senator Marco Rubio as Secretary of State and Mike Waltz as National Security Adviser is seen as a positive development for India. Rubio, a strong advocate for closer US-India defense and technology cooperation, introduced the US-India Defense Cooperation Act in July 2024, which



seeks to strengthen military ties and exempt India from the CAATSA (Countering America's Adversaries Through Sanctions Act). As a vocal China critic, Rubio views India as a crucial partner in counterbalancing China's growing influence in the Indo-Pacific.

For India, these appointments signal a continuation of robust defense ties and closer collaboration in space, technology, and intelligence sharing, areas where India has increasingly sought US partnership. Additionally, Rubio's position strengthens the push for limiting US assistance to Pakistan,

further aligning with India's security interests in the region.

In conclusion, while India's expectations from Trump's second term are rooted in cautious optimism, the relationship is likely to remain steady, with a continued focus on strategic cooperation and pragmatic diplomacy. India's growing global influence and strategic importance will likely ensure that the partnership with the US remains a cornerstone of India's foreign policy, regardless of who occupies the White House.

AI in Cancer Screening: Promise and Caution for Healthcare Systems



Artificial Intelligence (AI) has emerged as a transformative tool in cancer screening, with the potential to revolutionize early detection and improve recovery rates. However, experts are increasingly cautious about the overdependence on AI, particularly when it comes to its application in healthcare.

Trisha Greenhalgh, a medical doctor and professor of primary healthcare at Oxford University, recalls a personal experience where an AI scanner misinterpreted her mammogram as "normal," while her general practitioner, using clinical judgment, identified a potential issue based on her medical history. This incident highlights a crucial point: while AI can assist, it cannot replace the nuanced decision-making of a skilled healthcare professional. AI excels in environments where the rules are clear and consistent, such as in games like chess. But healthcare, with its complexity and variety of cases, presents a far more challenging domain for AI. As Sumedha Sircar, founder of Liger India, points out, healthcare systems are full of "known unknowns" and "unknown unknowns," making screening tests particularly difficult. While AI has great potential to democratize healthcare and improve accessibility—especially in underserved regions—its current limitations mean it cannot yet make healthcare decisions independently.

In developed countries like the UK, AI-driven

tools such as at-home blood tests and walk-in centers have begun to make cancer detection more accessible. However, experts caution that AI scanners are not infallible. In some cases, AI may fail to detect cancer, or worse, it could identify incidentalomas—non-threatening tumors—that lead to unnecessary anxiety and follow-up tests for patients. These challenges are particularly relevant in India, where the AI application in medical screening is still in its early stages. India's medical infrastructure, limited in some areas, could benefit from AI by facilitating mass cancer screenings, especially in rural regions. However, the use of AI in diagnostic settings must be approached with caution.

Research has shown that AI-assisted diagnostic tools can create "automation bias," where radiologists rely too heavily on AI recommendations. A 2023 study found that when AI provided incorrect diagnoses, the performance of radiologists, even experienced ones, dropped dramatically.

This suggests that while AI can be a valuable tool, it should complement—not replace—human expertise. In India, where the doctor-patient ratio is skewed, AI could significantly help by making cancer screening more widespread, but it should always be used with due diligence, ensuring that human clinical judgment remains a central part of the diagnostic process.

A good time for India to make a much-needed pivot in trade policies

Donald Trump's return to the presidency of the United States has stirred significant concerns among global policymakers, particularly in major economies that rely heavily on the US as both a market and trading partner. One of Trump's most controversial strategies during his first term was his aggressive stance on trade, particularly his decision to impose high tariffs on a range of imported goods. As Trump eyes a second term in office, there is growing apprehension about the potential economic consequences of his avowed plans to raise tariffs once again.

The US remains the world's largest consumer market, and any shifts in its trade policy send ripples throughout the global economy. During his first term, Trump's tariff war with China, along with new trade barriers imposed on Europe and other trading partners, had significant implications on global trade flows. With inflationary pressures already high and global supply chains still recovering from the pandemic, the threat of increased tariffs raises the possibility of even greater economic disruption.

Trump has been vocal about his intention to prioritize American manufacturing, promising to bring back jobs to the US by raising tariffs on imports and encouraging domestic production. However, such policies are viewed with concern by many global leaders, who fear



that a broader tariff regime could trigger a cascade of retaliatory measures, leading to a new era of trade wars. As history has shown, protectionist policies often result in reduced global trade and higher prices for consumers, especially when key sectors like technology, automobiles, and agriculture are affected.

For countries heavily dependent on exports to the US, such as China, Germany, and Mexico, Trump's proposed tariff increases could strain economic growth. These nations may respond with their own tariffs or seek alternative markets for their goods, thus disrupting established global trade networks. Additionally, emerging markets with strong ties to the US, including India and Brazil, could feel the pinch as demand for their exports wanes or faces higher costs due to tariffs.

The Culturalisation of Caste in Modern India: From Secularisation to Solidarity

The evolution of caste in India has undergone significant transformations, from the secularisation and politicisation of caste to the current trend of its culturalisation. The culturalisation of caste refers to the celebration of caste-specific cultural practices, such as food, marriage customs, ceremonies, and religious rituals, with a particular focus on local caste deities and occupations. This shift highlights caste as a "way of life," emphasizing not just its hierarchical dimensions but also its integration into the broader cultural fabric of Indian society.

This process of culturalisation is not entirely new. It can be traced back to the historic debates between two towering figures in Indian social and political thought: Mahatma Gandhi and Dr. B.R. Ambedkar. While Ambedkar saw the articulation of caste differences as vital for the upliftment of the "depressed classes" and for mobilizing these



communities against the oppressive social system, Gandhi took a more collective approach. He emphasized the importance of shared cultural sensibilities and solidarity across castes, viewing equality not as the eradication of differences, but as a process of communal responsibility and mutual care.

Political philosopher and Gandhian scholar Akeel Bilgrami points out that Gandhi was critical of using the liberal state or market forces to achieve equality. For Gandhi, the ideal of equality should not come at the expense of community-based ethics. He envisioned a society where relationships were ground-

ed in cooperation and mutual responsibility, rather than individual rights or market-driven competition. Gandhi's approach to caste was therefore tied to his broader vision of a self-sustaining, spiritually oriented community, where the social order was based on shared cultural practices rather than rigid hierarchies.

In this framework, Gandhi's endorsement of the varna system—while often criticized for its association with caste stratification—can be seen as an attempt to preserve cultural diversity within a unified social order. The varna system, as Gandhi envisioned it, was not about rigid social divisions but rather a way of fostering co-responsibility and self-restraint. For Gandhi, it was not the abolition of caste that was important, but rather a transformation in how caste was understood and practiced, with an emphasis on community and cultural unity.

Congress openly declaring to give gas cylinders to Rohingyas, Bangladeshis: PM

Prime Minister Narendra Modi, in a public address in Chhatrapati Sambhajnagar, Maharashtra, ahead of the state's Assembly elections, made serious allegations against the Congress party, accusing it of offering benefits to foreign nationals at the cost of Indian citizens. Modi claimed that Congress was "openly declaring" its intentions to provide gas cylinders to Rohingyas and Bangladeshis, a move he argued would harm the interests of Indian citizens.



Addressing a large gathering, Modi criticized the opposition party for what he described as an attempt to "push people of India into hardships" by favoring illegal immigrants. His remarks were aimed at galvanizing support among voters by positioning the Bharatiya Janata Party (BJP) as the protector of Indian interests, while Congress, according to the PM, was siding with foreign nationals in a bid to gain political mileage.

al battle. The allegations by Modi are likely to intensify the debate over illegal immigration, a sensitive issue in many parts of India, including Maharashtra.

His speech further emphasized the party's commitment to national security and the economic empowerment of the people.

The Prime Minister's comments come at a time when the political atmosphere in Maharashtra is highly charged, with both the ruling BJP and opposition parties, including Congress, preparing for a tough elector-

Modi also took the opportunity to highlight his government's welfare programs for the people of Maharashtra, stressing that under BJP leadership, the focus would remain on the welfare of Indian citizens.

As the election draws near, these sharp accusations reflect the ongoing political rivalry in the state and the country, with both BJP and Congress trying to sway voter sentiment with their respective narratives on governance and security.



Jharkhand becoming 'den of Naxals' under Congress, JMM, RJD: Yogi Adityanath

Uttar Pradesh Chief Minister Yogi Adityanath on Thursday launched a scathing attack on the ruling Mahagathbandhan alliance in Jharkhand, accusing the coalition of turning the state into a "den of Naxals." Speaking at an election rally in Dhanbad, Adityanath criticized the alliance of the Jharkhand Mukti Morcha (JMM), Congress, and Rashtriya Janata Dal (RJD), alleging that they were not only looting the state but also promoting left-wing extremism.

This remark came just a day after 43 out of the 81 assembly constituencies in Jharkhand went to the polls, with voting for the remaining 38 seats scheduled for November 20. Adityanath claimed that trends from the first phase of voting showed a clear advantage for the Bharatiya Janata Party (BJP), and predicted that the saffron party would secure an absolute majority in the state. He added that the people of Jharkhand had decided to oust the Congress, JMM, and RJD from power.

In his speech, Adityanath also referred to the formation of Jharkhand in 2000, recalling how the Congress and RJD had opposed the creation of the state. "When Jharkhand was being developed, I was a Member of Parliament from Gorakhpur. They were opposing Jharkhand's creation, and now they are trying to mislead the people," he remarked.

Further intensifying his criticism, Adityanath urged the people to prevent the "infiltration" of refugees, including Rohingyas from Myanmar and Bangladeshis, accusing the opposition of facilitating "land jihad" by allowing their entry. This topic of illegal immigration has become a key issue in the BJP's electoral campaign in Jharkhand, with Adityanath and other BJP leaders often invoking it to attack the ruling alliance.

The remarks by Adityanath come amid the ongoing assembly elections and reflect the BJP's aggressive stance against the opposition parties in the state.



Thoughts, not clothes, make one a 'yogi': Akhilesh in veiled dig at UP CM Adityanath

Samajwadi Party chief Akhilesh Yadav on Thursday took a subtle dig at Uttar Pradesh Chief Minister Yogi Adityanath, suggesting that the title of "Yogi" is earned through one's thoughts and actions, rather than mere attire. Without directly naming Adityanath, Yadav emphasized that true spirituality and leadership stem from one's ideology and words, rather than external appearances.

Yadav's comment comes amid ongoing political discourse in Uttar Pradesh, where the Samajwadi Party has been vocal in critiquing the Yogi Adityanath-led BJP government. In his address, Yadav hinted at the gap between the image projected by certain leaders and the reality on the ground, stressing that the essence of leadership lies in the substance of one's actions and not just the symbolism of their attire.

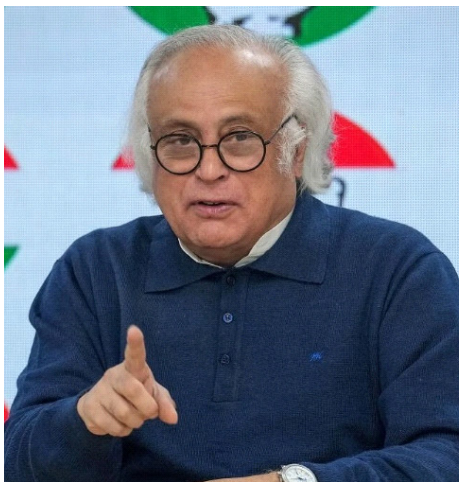
The veiled reference to Adityanath, who is often seen wearing saffron robes associated with Hindu religious ascetics, reflects the long-standing rivalry between the two leaders. Yadav, known for his sharp political commentary, has previously criticized the ruling BJP over issues related to governance and law and order in the state.

As the state gears up for upcoming elections, the exchange of barbed remarks between the two prominent leaders is expected to escalate, with both the Samajwadi Party and BJP working to consolidate their respective voter bases in Uttar Pradesh. Yadav's comment, while subtle, is likely to resonate with his party's supporters who have questioned the current administration's approach to governance.

Congress Slams Centre Over Piyush Goyal's Comments on Food Inflation

The Congress Party on Thursday hit back at the Centre, criticizing Union Commerce Minister Piyush Goyal's recent remarks that considering food inflation as a factor for reducing rates is a "flawed theory." The party accused the government of only knowing "one trick" — to shift blame, rather than addressing the root causes of rising food prices and inflation.

Goyal, speaking on the issue of food inflation, suggested that focusing on food prices when deciding on economic policies was misguided. His comment came amid growing concerns over the continuing rise in the cost of essential commodities, which has put considerable strain on the common man's household budget.



The Congress took strong exception to Goyal's statement, accusing the government of being out of touch with the real issues faced by the people. "Instead of taking responsibility for the rampant inflation that is affecting families across India, the government is merely offering excuses and refusing to take effective action," said a senior Congress leader.

The opposition party further emphasized that the central government's failure to curb food inflation has been exacerbated by its economic policies, which they argue have failed to bring relief to the masses. Congress pointed to the rising prices of staples like wheat, rice, and pulses, which have made basic meals unaffordable for many. The party called on the government to focus on addressing the economic distress of the people, rather than dismissing their concerns with theoretical arguments.

The war of words between the ruling government and the opposition over inflation continues to heat up, with food prices remaining a key point of contention as both sides look to gain the upper hand in the public debate.

India-UAE Ties Reach New Heights, Says External Affairs Minister S. Jaishankar



External Affairs Minister S. Jaishankar on Thursday highlighted the growing strength of India-UAE relations, emphasizing the wide-ranging collaborations between the two countries in sectors such as fintech, renewable energy, infrastructure, and defence. Speaking at the inauguration of the Symbiosis International (Deemed University) campus in Dubai, Jaishankar marked the partnership's growth since Prime Minister Narendra Modi's historic visit to the UAE in 2015—the first by an Indian Prime Minister in over a century.

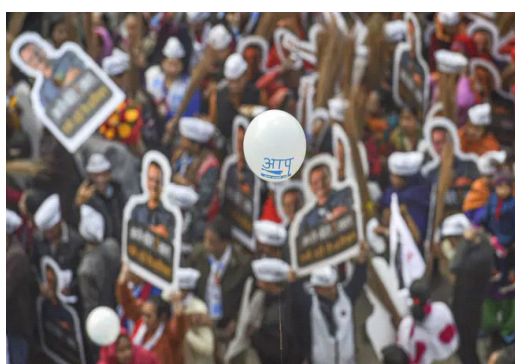
Jaishankar described the current phase of India-UAE ties as an era of "new milestones," citing the speed and success of initiatives such as the Comprehensive Economic Partnership Agreement (CEPA), which was negotiated in record time. He praised the deepening cooperation between the two nations, especially in key areas of technology, energy, and education, underscoring that these sectors would drive the future of both countries.

In his address, Jaishankar also drew attention to the significance of education in shaping India's future, noting that the launch of the Symbiosis campus in Dubai was part of a broader trend of expanding educational and cultural exchanges. He stressed that India must prepare its youth for the global workplace, especially in emerging fields like electric mobility, renewable energy, and space technology.

The minister further emphasized that contemporary education could play a critical role in preparing students to tackle global challenges, making them capable of advancing national prospects. Jaishankar expressed confidence that Symbiosis International, known for its high academic standards, would replicate its successful educational model to equip students with the skills necessary for the 21st century.

AAP Councillor Mahesh Khinchi Wins Delhi Mayor Election

Aam Aadmi Party (AAP) candidate Mahesh Khinchi has been elected as the next Mayor of Delhi, securing a narrow victory with 133 votes against BJP's Kishan Pal, who received 130 votes. Khinchi's election marks a significant milestone as he becomes the first Dalit Mayor of the national capital. However, the process leading to his win was far from smooth, marred by disruption, a walkout by Congress members, and claims of cross-voting.



The election, which was postponed multiple times since April, finally took place on Thursday evening. The BJP, despite having only 120 members, managed to garner additional votes, which it claimed were the result of cross-voting by some AAP councillors. The BJP issued a statement alleging that "eight AAP councillors voted in favor of the BJP," a claim that

further intensified political tensions.

Meanwhile, Congress also played a pivotal role in the drama. In protest against the repeated delays and the AAP's refusal to hold a full one-year tenure for the Mayor, the Congress party staged a walkout. However, two Congress members—Mohammad Khushnood and his wife,

Sabila Begum—chose to stay behind. Begum, in particular, defied the party's walkout decision, casting her vote in favor of Khinchi, leading to her resignation from Congress shortly after.

The election delay stemmed from a series of procedural issues, including a standoff between AAP and the BJP, disputes over the appointment of a presiding officer by the Lieutenant Governor, and the boycott of the September election by AAP councillors after an incident involving frisking.

Khinchi's tenure as Mayor will be limited to just five months, with the term originally delayed due to political wrangling and disputes. Despite the controversy, his election is seen as a significant victory for the AAP and a historic moment for Delhi's Dalit community.



Dominica to Honor PM Modi with Highest National Award



The Commonwealth of Dominica is set to confer its highest national award, the *Dominica Award of Honour*, to Prime Minister Narendra Modi in recognition of his significant contributions to the Caribbean island nation during the COVID-19 pandemic. The award will be presented by Dominican President Sylvanie Burton during the upcoming India-CARICOM Summit, which will be held in Georgetown, Guyana, from November 19 to 21.

A statement from Dominica's Prime Minister's Office highlighted that the award is being given to Prime Minister Modi for his leadership and support in aiding Dominica during the global health crisis. In February 2021, India sent 70,000 doses of

the AstraZeneca COVID-19 vaccine to Dominica, a gesture that was critical to the island's vaccination efforts during the pandemic.

The statement further emphasized that the award also acknowledges Modi's dedication to strengthening the partnership between India and Dominica. It particularly lauded India's support in sectors such as healthcare, education, and information technology, as well as Modi's commitment to climate resilience and sustainable development on a global scale.

Dominican Prime Minister Roosevelt Skerrit expressed the nation's gratitude, calling the award an expression of appreciation for Prime Minister Modi's solidarity during the pandemic. "Prime Minister Modi has been a true partner to Dominica, especially during our time of need amid a global health crisis," Skerrit said. He also praised the strengthening of bilateral ties, emphasizing the award as a symbol of the enduring friendship between the two nations.

In his acceptance speech, Prime Minister Modi highlighted the importance of international collaboration to address global challenges such as climate change and geopolitical tensions. He reaffirmed India's commitment to working closely with Dominica and the Caribbean region to build a resilient future together.

Israeli Airstrike Targets Hezbollah Stronghold in Southern Beirut



An Israeli airstrike struck the southern suburbs of Beirut on Thursday, following an evacuation warning issued to residents in Hezbollah-controlled areas. The attack targeted locations in Shouaifat al-Omrousiya and Ghobeiry, two neighborhoods in the capital's southern suburbs that are considered strongholds of the Iran-backed group.

Images from AFP TV showed a large plume of grey smoke rising from the area shortly after the strike, marking the latest in a series of air raids that have intensified since Israel escalated its military operations against Hezbollah in September. This particular airstrike comes amid growing tensions between Israel and the Lebanese militia, which has been a focal point of the conflict.

Before launching the airstrike, Israel's military had issued a warning to residents, urging them to evacuate their homes. The Israeli army's spokesperson, Avichay Adraee, posted a message on the social media platform X, informing residents that they were located near Hezbollah facilities that could be targeted in future operations. The warning included a map highlighting specific build-

ings in the Shouaifat al-Omrousiya and Ghobeiry areas, which are believed to house Hezbollah interests.

In his post, Adraee emphasized that Israel's actions were directed at Hezbollah, which it accuses of using civilian areas as cover for military operations. The warning was part of Israel's broader strategy to minimize civilian casualties while targeting the group's infrastructure, which includes weapons depots, missile launch sites, and command centers.

The escalation follows an ongoing campaign by Israel against Hezbollah, which has been involved in several border clashes and skirmishes with Israeli forces. Israel has repeatedly stated that it will continue to act against Hezbollah's presence in southern Lebanon, particularly as the militia is seen as a proxy force for Iran in the region.

The situation remains tense, with Israel and Hezbollah both on high alert. The international community has expressed concern over the potential for further escalation, especially given the already fragile security situation in the region.

Biden, Xi To Meet In Peru This Week As World Leaders Shift Focus To Trump

US President Joe Biden is set to meet with Chinese President Xi Jinping in Lima, Peru, on Saturday for the final in-person sit-down of their current term. The two leaders will be attending the Asia-Pacific Economic Cooperation (APEC) forum, marking their third face-to-face meeting since Biden took office. Their last encounter was a year ago at the same summit in San Francisco.



As Biden's term winds down, his political influence is expected to be waning, while Xi, already focused on navigating the transition to a potential second term for President-elect Donald Trump, may view the meeting through a different lens. Trump has indicated he would intensify the trade war with China, proposing significant tariffs on Chinese imports and escalating tensions between the two economic giants.

Senior Biden administration officials, who spoke on condition of anonymity, did not disclose whether Biden plans to address Trump's policies during the meeting with Xi. National Security Advisor Jake Sullivan emphasized that Biden's objective would be to reassure Xi of the need for stability and predictability in US-China relations during this transitional period. Sullivan described competition with China as "a paramount priority" for the next administration.

Unlike past meetings, the focus of this summit is not on securing new agreements but rather on highlighting issues of concern. Biden is expected to discuss China's continued support for Russia, particularly in the defense sector, and to reiterate the progress made in areas such as military communication, counter-narcotics cooperation, and artificial intelligence—key areas where the Biden administration has worked to enhance dialogue with Beijing.

On the Chinese side, Xi may use the meeting to assess the state of bilateral relations, which have stabilized over the past year after the 2023 summit, leading to renewed diplomatic engagements. However, the trajectory of US-China relations could face fresh challenges under the incoming Trump administration, particularly with Trump appointing figures known for their tough stance on China.

Additionally, the meeting comes amid heightened tensions over cybersecurity, with US intelligence officials investigating a Chinese hack into American telecommunications networks. The Biden administration has made clear that cyber-espionage will be a central topic of discussion, warning China against reckless cyber-attacks that could further strain bilateral ties.

As both countries continue to clash over issues ranging from Taiwan to the South China Sea, the Biden administration stresses the importance of keeping communication channels open, even as the geopolitical landscape shifts.

Elon Musk Earns Key Position In Donald Trump's World

As Donald Trump prepares for a potential return to the White House, one of his most influential and consistent allies has been none other than Elon Musk. The brash billionaire CEO of Tesla and SpaceX has been a fixture in Trump's inner circle, offering advice, joining calls with world leaders, and even attending high-profile events alongside the former president.



Musk's influence also extends to policy matters. On Tuesday, Trump appointed him and fellow billionaire Vivek Ramaswamy to lead a new "Department of Government Efficiency," aimed at reducing Washington's bureaucracy. Musk, known for his drastic overhaul of Twitter (now X), has pledged to "send shockwaves through the system" to tackle govern-

Musk's support for Trump dates back to the 2020 campaign, where he showed his enthusiasm by publicly endorsing the former president and making appearances at rallies. Since then, Musk has remained a constant presence, frequently advising Trump on key matters, including personnel decisions and government efficiency. Musk has even embraced the informal title of "First Buddy," reflecting his close relationship with the president-elect.

Following Trump's election victory, Musk was spotted accompanying him to Mar-a-Lago, where he has spent considerable time in recent days. During a visit to Washington, Musk was given a prominent seat among Republican lawmakers at a gathering with Trump. The former president publicly praised Musk, calling him "so good," as lawmakers gave him a standing ovation.

ment waste.

Beyond his official roles, Musk has also offered advice on matters outside his typical realm. He has publicly suggested that Lara Trump, the president-elect's daughter-in-law, should be appointed to a U.S. Senate seat in Florida, and has been involved in diplomatic calls with leaders from Turkey and Ukraine, leveraging his Starlink technology to aid communication during the war.

While Musk's growing influence has earned him praise from Trump, it has also made him a target for criticism, particularly from Democrats. Despite his past Democratic ties, Musk's political evolution has given him unprecedented access to Trump, marking him as a key figure in the president-elect's upcoming administration.

Trump, Biden Discuss Ukraine and Middle East Crises in First Transition Meeting



US President-elect Donald Trump made a historic return to the White House on Wednesday, marking his first visit since his loss to Joe Biden in the 2020 election. Trump's appearance at the Oval Office came just a week after his impressive victory in the November 5 election, in which he successfully regained his political footing and secured a second term in office.

During the private meeting, Trump and Biden focused on critical global issues, particularly Ukraine and the Middle East. White House National Security Ad-

viser Jake Sullivan revealed that Biden stressed the importance of supporting Ukraine, arguing that the stability of Europe is crucial for American national security. According to Sullivan, Biden emphasized that a strong and secure Europe would help prevent the US from being drawn into further conflicts abroad.

Biden's remarks reflected his long-standing foreign policy position, which advocates for a united transatlantic front to counter Russian aggression and ensure the security of NATO allies. The conversation also

touched on various other geopolitical challenges in the Middle East, although details of those discussions remain private.

The meeting between the two leaders was notable for its symbolic value, marking a rare moment of cooperation between Trump and Biden, who have often been at odds over policy matters. Despite their past differences, the focus on international security issues underscored the shared responsibility of both leaders to address pressing global challenges.

Trump's visit to the White House also highlighted the growing anticipation of his return to power. After months of claims regarding election fraud in 2020, his acceptance of victory in the 2024 race solidified his position as a dominant force in American politics. The White House meeting serves as an important milestone in the transition of power, offering a glimpse into the evolving dynamics between the outgoing and incoming administrations as they work together on critical international matters.



Weekly Market Recap

Persistent Decline Amid Weak Earnings and FII Outflows



Domestic stock markets fell for the second week in a row. Benchmark indices fell by 2 percent. The midcap and bank Nifty declined by up to 4%.

Negative signals from international markets, departure of foreign institutional investors, poor results of companies in the September quarter and weak sentiment are the reasons for this. Sensex and Nifty tried to rally on Thursday but eventually ended flat. Nifty tried to take support at 200 DEMA. It is better for investors to be alert in the face of fluctuations.

The BSE Sensex, which closed at 77,690 in the previous session, opened at 77,636 today. It touched an intraday high of 78,055. It then fell gradually and touched an intraday low of 77,421. It eventually closed at 77,580, a loss of 110 points. The NSE Nifty opened at 23,542 and touched a high of 23,675 and a low

of 23,484. The total fell by 26 points to close at 23,532. Bank Nifty increased by 91 points and settled at 50,179.

In Nifty50, 21 companies gained while 29 lost. Eicher Motors, Heromoto, Grasim, Kotak Bank, HDFC Life are the top gainers. Hindustan Unilever, BPCL, Britannia, Tata Consumer, Nestlé India are the top losers. Today, FMCG, Pharma, PSU Bank, Healthcare, Oil and Gas indices turned red. Auto, media, private bank and realty indices soared.



Market breadth on NSE is in favor of buyers. Stocks of 2881 companies traded up 1531. 1269 were lost.

The rupee settled at 84.40 against the

dollar. Weakened by 2 paise compared to yesterday. Newly listed Niwabupa ended flat. Heromoto Corp's shares rose sharply on the back of Q2 earnings. Eidparry's net profit decreased from Rs.452 crores to Rs.305 crores. Eicher Motors' rating was raised by Nomura to Neutral from Reduce. Torrent shares fell for the sixth day in a row. Nomura has given a buy rating to PI Industries with a target price of Rs.5100. Kotak Mahindra AMC Nilesh Shah said that if you are investing with a one-year time limit, you should stay away from stock markets. Sameer Arora, founder of Helios Capital, said that the FIIs should not be blamed for the market correction and that the results of the companies in September were not good. Ramdev Agarwal said Nifty will touch 30 thousand when FIIs come back.

India's Merchandise Trade Deficit Widens to \$27.14 Billion in October 2024



India's merchandise trade deficit surged to \$27.14 billion in October 2024, as imports continued to rise despite a strong performance in exports. According to the latest government data, merchandise exports in October increased by 17.26% year-on-year to reach \$39.2 billion, while imports grew by 3.88% to \$66.34 billion.

This marks a significant rise in the trade gap compared to September 2024, when exports were \$34.58 billion and imports stood at \$55.36 billion. The growing deficit is largely attributed to higher imports, including an increase in the purchase of gold and crude oil.

Despite the widening deficit, the government remains optimistic about India's export performance. Trade Secretary Sunil Barthwal noted that exports are expected to exceed \$800 billion by the end of the fiscal year in March 2025. Last fiscal year, India's total exports were estimated at \$776.68 billion.

Sectors like engineering and electronics are contributing to the export growth. Engineering exports during the first seven months of the fiscal year rose to \$67.49 billion from \$61.5 billion a year earlier, while electronics goods exports jumped to \$19.07 billion from \$15.42 billion.

India's services exports also performed well, with an estimated \$34.02 billion in October, up from \$30.61 billion in September. In contrast, imports of services increased to \$17 billion from \$16.32 billion.

However, the trade deficit for the April-October period reached \$164.65 billion, up 10% from \$149.67 billion in the same period last year. A significant factor behind this increase was the sharp rise in gold and crude oil imports. Gold imports in October soared to \$7.13 billion from \$4.39 billion the previous month, while crude oil imports jumped to \$18.2 billion from \$12.5 billion.

WPI inflation rises to 4-month high of 2.36% in October; food prices spike

Wholesale price inflation surged to a four-month high of 2.36% in October, driven by significant price increases in food items, particularly vegetables, and manufactured goods, according to data released by the government on Thursday.

The Wholesale Price Index (WPI) for October saw a marked uptick, reflecting higher costs across various sectors. The increase in inflation was primarily attributed to a sharp rise in the prices of essential food items, with vegetables leading the charge. Seasonal fluctuations and supply chain disruptions have contributed to the spike in food prices, which are a significant component of the WPI.

Vegetables, in particular, saw substantial price hikes during the month, as adverse weather conditions and transportation challenges led to shortages. The sharp rise in vegetable prices added considerable pressure to overall food inflation, pushing the WPI higher.

In addition to food items, manufactured goods also saw notable price increases. The cost of basic and intermediate goods, including metals, chemicals,

and textiles, experienced upward pressure due to rising input costs and continued supply chain challenges. This trend contributed further to the overall inflationary trend in the wholesale market.

While wholesale price inflation has been climbing in recent months, it is still within a relatively moderate range. However, the October data raises concerns about the potential for further inflationary pressures in the coming months, particularly if food and commodity prices continue their upward trajectory.

Experts are closely monitoring these developments, as sustained inflation at the wholesale level could eventually filter into retail prices, affecting consumers directly. Additionally, the government's response to rising inflation, including any monetary or fiscal measures, will be crucial in managing the inflationary risks in the economy.

Overall, the rise in wholesale price inflation signals the ongoing challenges faced by both producers and consumers, particularly in light of volatile food prices and the continuing pressures on supply chains.



Royalty payment by listed companies rises to Rs 10,779 cr in FY23: SEBI study



Royalty payments made by listed companies to their related parties (RPs) have more than doubled over the past decade, according to a new study by the Securities and Exchange Board of India (SEBI). The study reveals that 233 companies paid a total of ₹10,779 crore in royalties in FY23, a sharp increase from ₹4,955 crore in FY14.

The growth in royalty payments has raised concerns regarding transparency and governance practices within Indian corporations, particularly in cases where such payments are made to entities controlled by promoters or their families. Critics argue that these transactions, often perceived as a means to transfer funds

within the corporate group, could be detrimental to minority shareholders if not properly scrutinized.

In sectors such as technology, pharmaceuticals, and consumer goods, royalty payments are typically linked to the use of intellectual property, trademarks, patents, or branded technology. Companies argue that these payments are justified, as they compensate for the value of these intangible assets. However, the sharp rise in these payments suggests that some companies may be over-relying on related party agreements for financial gains.

SEBI's study highlights the need for stricter disclosure norms and en-

hanced monitoring of related party transactions to ensure that they align with the interests of all shareholders, not just the promoters. The rise in royalty payouts also draws attention to the lack of clear regulatory frameworks to govern such payments, which could lead to conflicts of interest or improper financial management.

As the trend continues to grow, investors, analysts, and regulatory bodies will be closely watching how listed companies address concerns related to royalty payments, especially regarding the balance between fair compensation for intellectual property and potential misuse of corporate funds.



Meta Will Face Antitrust Trial Over Instagram, WhatsApp Acquisitions

Meta Platforms, the parent company of Facebook, will face a trial in a lawsuit filed by the U.S. Federal Trade Commission (FTC), which accuses the tech giant of buying Instagram and WhatsApp to stifle emerging competition in the social media market. A Washington judge, James Boasberg, ruled on Wednesday that the case would proceed, denying Meta's request to dismiss the allegations that it engaged in illegal practices to maintain its social network monopoly.

The lawsuit, which was originally filed in 2020 during the Trump administration, claims that Meta, previously known as Facebook, overpaid for Instagram in 2012 and WhatsApp in 2014 as part of a strategy to eliminate potential threats rather than compete with them. The FTC argues that these acquisitions were anti-competitive and harmful to consumers by consolidating Meta's dominance in the social media space.

While Boasberg allowed the FTC's primary claim to move forward, he dismissed another part of the lawsuit which accused Facebook of restricting third-party app developers' access to its platform unless they agreed not to compete with Facebook's core services. The judge ruled that Meta would not be allowed to argue that the WhatsApp acquisition helped boost competition against tech giants like Apple and Google during the trial.

A Meta spokesperson responded to the ruling, expressing confidence that evidence at trial would demonstrate that the acquisitions of Instagram and WhatsApp were beneficial for both competition and consumers. On the other hand, FTC spokesperson Douglas Farrar emphasized that the case, which has evolved under both the Trump and Biden administrations, represents a bipartisan effort to curtail Meta's monopoly power and restore competition in the social media industry.

This lawsuit is one of several major antitrust cases currently targeting Big Tech. Meta, along with other tech giants like Google, Apple, and Amazon, is facing increased scrutiny from regulators in the U.S. and Europe over anti-competitive behavior. A trial date for the FTC case against Meta has not yet been set.



New AI Tool Can Track Your Location Using Microorganisms On Your Body



Scientists have developed a groundbreaking AI tool that can track an individual's recent locations based on the microorganisms found on their body. This innovation, detailed in the journal *Genome Biology and Evolution*, introduces a new method of location tracing by analyzing the microbiome—an ecosystem of bacteria, fungi, and other microbes—that each person collects as they move through different environments. The tool can determine whether someone visited a beach, walked through a park, or even exited at a particular train station.

The AI system, called the Microbiome Geographic Population Structure (mGPS), was developed by researchers at Lund University in Sweden. Unlike traditional GPS, which relies on satellite signals to pinpoint location, mGPS uses microbial "fingerprints" to identify geographical areas. Each environment, whether urban, rural, or marine, has a unique microbial composition. When a person visits these places, they pick up and carry these microscopic traces, allowing the AI to match them to specific locations.

Eran Elhaik, a researcher at Lund University and co-author of the study, explained, "The human microbiome changes constantly as we encounter different environments. By tracking these changes, we can gain insights into disease spread, sources of infection, and even track microbial resistance. This can also be a valuable tool in criminal investigations."

To train the AI, researchers fed it a vast collection of microbiome data from various environments: urban areas, subway systems, soil samples from 18 countries, and marine ecosystems from nine bodies of water. This data enabled the AI to identify the unique "fingerprints" of each environment and link them to geographic coordinates with remarkable precision.

In tests, the mGPS was able to identify the source location of microbiome samples with 92% accuracy in cities, including distinguishing between subway stations just 564 feet apart in Hong Kong. However, its accuracy was slightly reduced in London due to the poor condition of underground stations.

Snapchat Enhances Family Safety Features with Real-Time Location Sharing

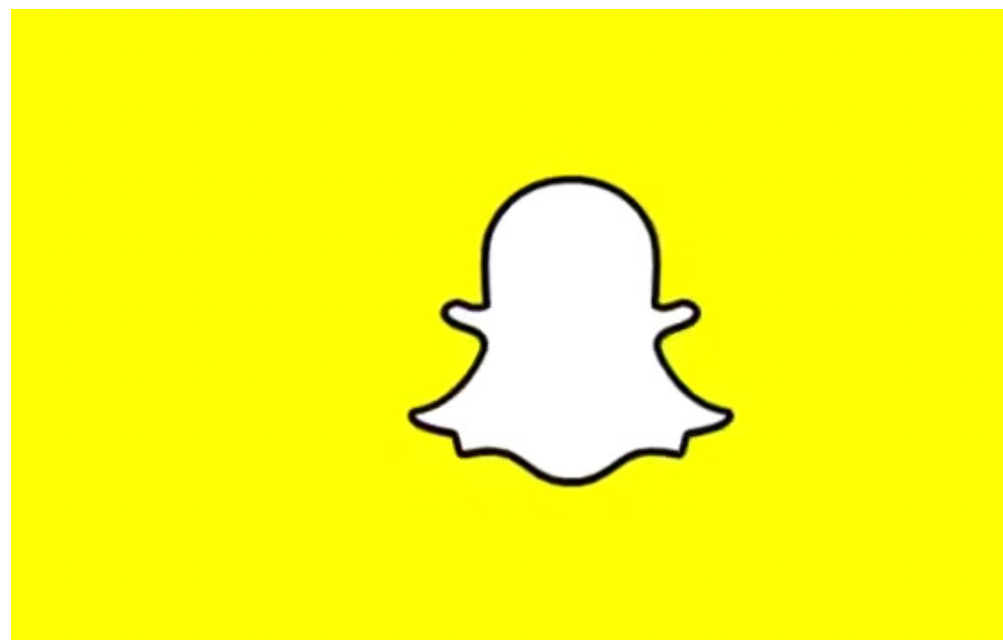
Snapchat, the popular social media platform used by over 750 million people globally, is rolling out several new features designed to improve family safety. As part of its Family Center, Snapchat is introducing tools that allow parents to request their children to share their real-time location. This update aims to help families stay better connected, especially as kids become more mobile.

One of the key features is the ability for parents to see when their teen children have arrived at specific locations, such as school, home, or the gym. This addition gives parents peace of mind by providing real-time location updates, ensuring their children are where they're supposed to be.

In addition, Snapchat is expanding its existing Snap Map feature, which allows users to share their locations with friends and family. According to the company, nearly half of Snapchat users actively use Snap Map to share their whereabouts. With the new Family Center update, these location-sharing capabilities are now being integrated to make it easier for families to track and stay connected, even when they're on the move.

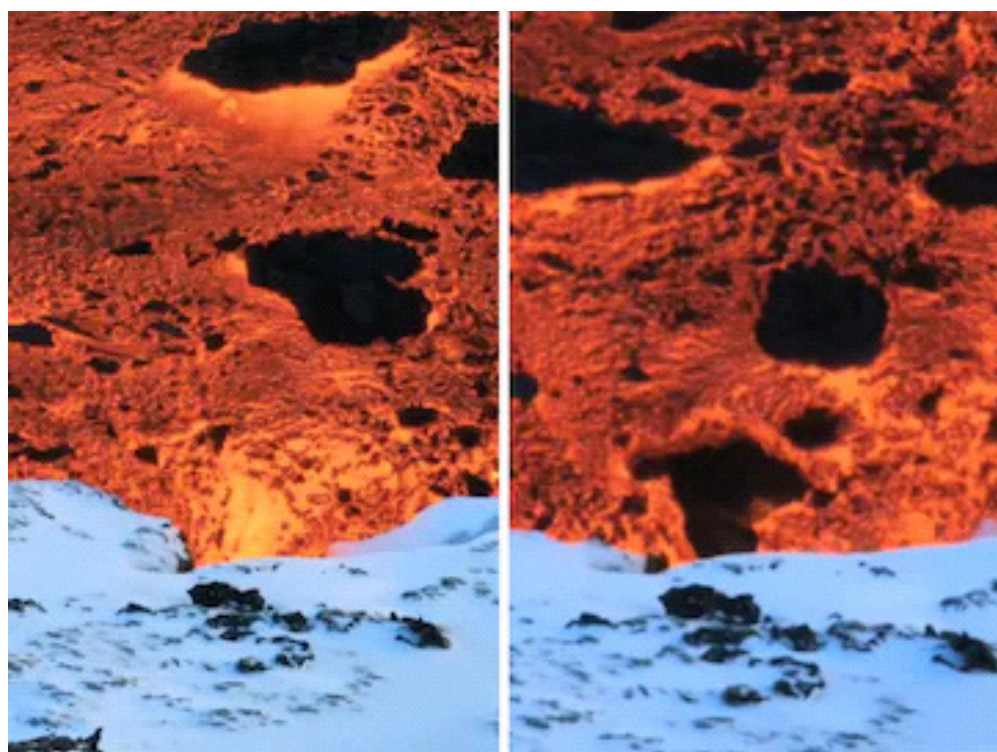
The Family Center also includes privacy features, ensuring that teens have control over who can see their location. Parents can make location-sharing requests, but the feature is designed to prioritize user consent and safety. This balance of transparency and control is part of Snapchat's broader commitment to providing a safer online environment for younger users.

By introducing these features, Snapchat continues to evolve as a family-friendly platform, giving parents more tools to stay informed about their children's activities while respecting their privacy and autonomy.



Rare Lava Flow Over Snow Captured by Icelandic Photographer

Nature never ceases to amaze, and a recent video shot by an Icelandic photographer has left many in awe of a rare natural phenomenon. The footage, shared on Instagram by Jeroen Van Nieuwenhove, captures the mesmerizing sight of lava flowing over a snow-covered landscape in Southwest Iceland. The stunning visuals depict lava emerging from fissures and slowly gliding over a pristine white surface, creating a striking contrast between fire and ice.



When the video first surfaced online, many viewers initially speculated that the footage might have been generated using artificial intelligence (AI) due to its surreal and otherworldly quality. However, Nieuwenhove, the photographer behind the lens, explained that it's a rare but real phenomenon. He noted that as humans, our instinct is often to "perceive something as fake when we are unable to comprehend it," especially when we witness something as extraordinary as lava flowing over snow.

The remarkable moment was captured at Sundhnukagigar, a series of volcanic craters in Southwest Iceland that have been active since December of the previous year. These craters have erupted multiple times, creating the ideal conditions for

this unusual display of natural forces. Nieuwenhove's Instagram reel showcases the powerful forces of nature, with lava snaking its way across the frozen terrain in a slow, deliberate movement.

This rare sight serves as a reminder of the dynamic and unpredictable nature of our planet, where fire and ice co-exist in a breathtaking display of contrast. While such occurrences may seem surreal, they are part of the ongoing volcanic activity in Iceland, which remains one of the most volcanically active regions in the world.

Australia Bans Social Media for Teens: Solution to Parenting Challenges

Australia has introduced the world's first social media ban for teenagers under the age of 16, a move that has sparked mixed reactions. While bans on social media typically trigger protests about freedom and democracy, this time the response is more subdued, particularly among parents who are increasingly concerned about the impact of social media on their children.

For many parents, especially in the age of "doomscrolling," the anxiety over their children's online presence is understandable. Social media platforms have been linked to a range of negative effects on young people, from bullying and harassment to unrealistic beauty standards and peer pressure. The tragic death of a 14-year-old boy last month, who took his life after believing he was in a relationship with an AI chatbot, highlighted the potential dangers. While some blame the AI chatbot's influence on the boy's fragile mental state, others criticized the parents for not noticing the warning signs of distress in their child.

Articles targeting parents often suggest limiting screen time, using parental controls, or encouraging offline activities. While these are sensible suggestions, they don't address the broader issue—parents themselves are often just as addicted to social media. This raises the question: how can parents monitor their children's online behavior when they are also consumed by the very platforms they are trying to regulate? The Australian government's proposed social media ban raises further concerns about its enforcement. While the law would prevent children from signing up for social media, it doesn't address situations where parents use their children in social media content, such as family vloggers or influencers. Moreover, the law leaves unclear how tech companies will verify the age of users, and whether children will be able to bypass these restrictions with forged documents or simply by consuming content rather than posting.





India Dominates Thailand 13-0 in Women's Asian Champions Trophy Hockey

India delivered an emphatic performance, thrashing Thailand 13-0 to secure their third consecutive win at the Women's Asian Champions Trophy hockey tournament on Thursday. The victory virtually sealed India's spot in the semifinals, with young striker Deepika leading the charge, netting five goals in the match.

From the outset, it was clear that India was in complete control. The Indian team dominated possession and attacking play, with Thailand unable to register a single shot on goal. Deepika opened the scoring in the 3rd minute, controlling a brilliant pass from Neha and slotting the ball past the Thai goalkeeper. She quickly added four more goals throughout the match, including two from penalty corners, showcasing her clinical finishing.

India's offensive firepower didn't stop there. Preeti Dubey scored twice, Lalremsiami added a brace, and Manisha Chauhan also found the net twice, including one from a penalty corner. Beauty Dung Dung (30th minute) and Navneet Kaur (53rd minute) rounded off the scoring, as India's attack continued to overwhelm the Thai defense.

India also displayed significant improvement in converting penalty corners, scoring five out of 12 opportunities. The team's swift, precise ball movement and coordinated attacks kept Thailand under constant pressure, with goalkeeper Siraya Yimkrajang often left helpless.

With the win, India now sits second in the standings with nine points, tied with China, but trailing on goal difference. India's next challenge will be a crucial match against Olympic silver medalists China on Saturday, which will determine their position in the semifinal race.

Earlier, Malaysia defeated South Korea 2-1, while China continued their undefeated streak with a 2-1 win over Japan.



Rodrigo Bentancur Gets Seven-Match Suspension for Racist Comment

Tottenham Hotspur's midfielder, Rodrigo Bentancur, has been handed a seven-match suspension by the Football Association (FA) after being charged with an "aggravated breach" of the FA's rules regarding racism. The 27-year-old Uruguayan will be sidelined from domestic matches until mid-December following the controversy.

The incident that led to the suspension occurred during a June interview with a Uruguayan TV reporter. When asked by the reporter, "Can you get me the shirt from the Korean?", referring to Tottenham teammate Son Heung-min, Bentancur made a comment that was deemed racist by the FA. The comment, which was intended as a joke, has now led to serious repercussions, with the FA determining that it constituted an aggravated breach of their regulations on discrimination.

Bentancur's suspension will see him miss seven matches for Tottenham, starting from the club's upcoming fixtures. The Uruguay international, who has been in poor form lately, will not be eligible for selection until mid-December, adding to the turmoil surrounding his current situation at the club.

Tottenham Hotspur and Bentancur have expressed regret over the incident, acknowledging the gravity of the comment and the need for greater sensitivity and awareness in football. Son Heung-min, for his part, has not publicly commented on the incident but has expressed his belief in promoting a positive, inclusive environment at the club.

The FA's decision serves as a reminder of the importance of tackling racism and discrimination in football, with both the governing body and clubs working to foster respect and inclusivity within the sport.

PV Sindhu Falls to Michelle Li in Pre-Quarterfinals at Kumamoto Masters

India's campaign at the Kumamoto Masters Japan Super 500 badminton tournament ended prematurely on Thursday, as double Olympic medalist PV Sindhu was knocked out in the pre-quarterfinals. Sindhu, ranked 20th in the world, was the last remaining Indian player in contention after the exits of Lakshya Sen and the women's doubles duo of Tressa Jolly and Gayatri Gopichand.

In a thrilling women's singles match that lasted 1 hour and 15 minutes, Sindhu squandered an early lead and eventually lost 21-17, 16-21, 17-21 to Canada's Michelle Li, ranked 23rd in the world. The match was tightly contested, with Sindhu holding an advantage for much of the first game. The two shuttlers were neck-and-neck early on, but Sindhu managed to take a slight lead at 11-8, maintaining her edge to close out the first game.

However, Li came out strong in the second game, taking an 8-3 lead and forcing Sindhu to play catch-up. Sindhu did fight back, leveling the score at 16-16, but Li went on a five-point streak to equalize the match at



one game apiece.

The decider was a tense affair, with both players locked at 17 points. However, it was Li who raised her game in the final moments, winning four straight points to seal the victory. Sindhu's unforced errors also contributed to her downfall in the decid-

ing game, as Li capitalized on every opportunity.

Michelle Li will now face South Korea's Yu Jin Sim in the quarterfinals. Despite her early exit, Sindhu's performance continues to highlight her resilience, but she will look to bounce back stronger in upcoming tournaments.

Tilak Varma Shines with Century as India Defeat South Africa by 11 Runs



Tilak Varma's scintillating century (107 off 56 balls) played a pivotal role in India's 11-run victory over South Africa in the third T20I at Centurion. Despite a fearless, explosive knock from South Africa's Marco Jansen, who scored 54 off just 17 balls, the Proteas fell short of India's total of 219/6, ultimately losing the game in a thrilling finish.

The match saw several dramatic mo-

ments, including a flying ant attack that briefly distracted players on the field. In the midst of the chaos, Varma's commitment to the cause was evident when he almost collided violently with the ground while attempting to save a boundary. The young Indian batter, however, quickly recovered and continued to shine with his bat. Just two balls later, Varma dived in vain to try and stop another bound-

ary, showcasing his relentless determination.

Varma's century was the backbone of India's imposing total, as he took on the South African bowlers with ease, hitting boundaries and sixes at will. His knock was complemented by solid contributions from the middle order, with Hardik Pandya and Sanju Samson adding vital runs.

In response, South Africa threatened to chase down the target, thanks to a powerful cameo from Heinrich Klaasen, who scored 41 off 22 balls, including some massive sixes. Jansen's blitzkrieg towards the end, which included three sixes, kept the game in the balance. However, despite his best efforts, Jansen couldn't take the Proteas over the line, and India managed to hold their nerve in the final overs to secure a narrow victory.

India's win was built on the back of Varma's brilliant century, while the final overs delivered by India's bowlers ensured they secured a crucial 11-run victory in this high-scoring encounter.

Pakistan's Dramatic Collapse in T20I: Five Wickets Fall Against Australia

Pakistan experienced a stunning collapse in the rain-shortened first T20I against Australia at the Gabba on Thursday, as they lost five wickets for just 16 runs while chasing a target of 93/4 in 7 overs. This dramatic collapse has now become a part of T20I history, as the 16 runs at the fall of the fifth wicket is not only the lowest for Pakistan in T20Is but also the lowest for any team against Australia in this format.

The collapse unfolded in a mere 15 deliveries, leaving Pakistan in disarray. Key players like Sahibzada Farhan, Mohammad Rizwan, Usman Khan, Babar Azam, and Irfan Khan all fell within this brief but catastrophic period. The Australian bowlers, led by Spencer Johnson and Xavier Bartlett, seized the opportunity with impressive precision, reducing Pakistan's chase to a near-impossible task.

At one point, Pakistan had been in a reasonably strong position, but the series of quick dismissals turned the match in Australia's favour. The collapse left the Men in Green reeling,



as they struggled to get any momentum in their chase. The rain-affected match, which had already shortened the game, became a one-sided affair as Pakistan's batsmen crumbled under pressure.

Australia's bowlers were clinical in their execution, with Johnson and Bartlett playing crucial roles in Pakistan's downfall. The match saw Pakistan lose their key batters in quick succession, with no batsman able

to build a solid partnership or withstand the pressure from the Australian attack.

In the end, Pakistan's chase fell well short, and they were handed a heavy defeat in what was supposed to be a competitive encounter. This dramatic collapse will surely be remembered as one of the most significant turning points in the match, as Pakistan now looks to bounce back in the upcoming fixtures.



Varun Tej's Matka – Gangster drama that lacks enough thrills



Varun Tej's recent films may not have met audience expectations, but with his latest outing **Matka**, he has teamed up with director Karuna Kumar, known for his unique storytelling style. Their collaboration has sparked curiosity, especially with Varun Tej's promotional pictures showcasing him in three distinct getups. The actor himself claimed that this time they are "hitting hard," which only raised the stakes further. But did **Matka** live up to the hype? Let's find out.

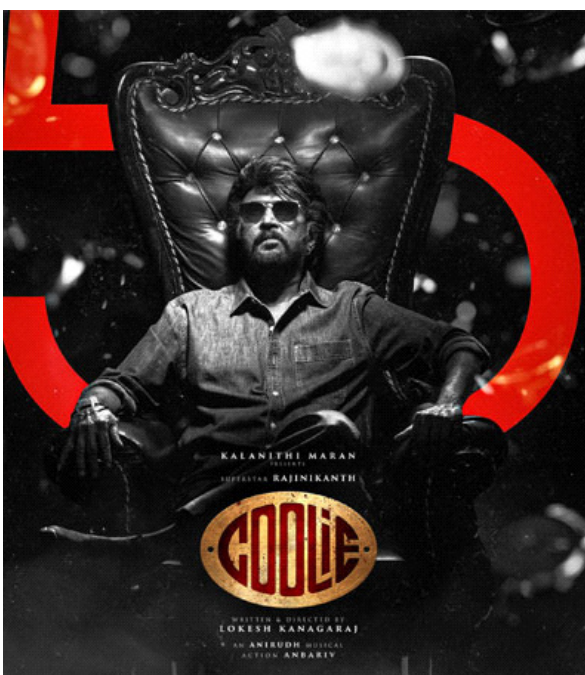
Matka tells the story of Vasu (Varun Tej), a boy from Burma who comes to Vizag as a refugee. After committing a murder during his childhood, he lands in jail, where he witnesses the volatile world of crime. Upon release, Vasu

joins a coconut merchant, Appalareddy (Ajay Ghosh), in Purna market. Here, he faces off with the dangerous gang led by KB (John Vijay). The film's plot follows Vasu's journey through different stages of his life, showcasing his rise from a troubled past to a significant force in the market. However, despite the film's title, the gambling theme (*Matka*) doesn't feature prominently, and it never fully takes center stage, leaving many expecting more of it.

Matka presents itself as a biographical film, focusing on Vasu's journey from childhood to adulthood. While the premise offers some intrigue, it doesn't delve deeply into the expected **Matka** gambling world, which could disappoint viewers looking for that angle. The film unfolds like a character study, exploring various phases of Vasu's life, but lacks the typical high-octane moments seen in mass entertainers. Despite a fresh narrative style, the film struggles with pacing issues, especially in the middle portion, where the story slows down significantly.

Varun Tej delivers a commendable performance, working hard to bring depth to his character. His various getups add a layer of authenticity, but the lack of a strong antagonist and the slower pace of the story undermine the overall impact. The supporting cast, including Meenakshi Choudhary, Nowra, Ajay Ghosh, Kannada Kishore, Ravi Shankar, and Naveen Chandra, all contribute in their respective roles, though none of them have a stand-out impact.

The technical side of **Matka** is handled well, with Jivi Prakash Kumar's background score standing out as one of the film's key highlights. The vintage feel of Vizag is beautifully captured through the costumes and art direction, creating a nostalgic atmosphere. Karuna Kumar's dialogues are also noteworthy, adding a layer of depth to the characters and their motivations. The production values are solid, but the film could have benefited from tighter editing to maintain better pacing.



Rajinikanth and Lokesh Kanagaraj's Coolie to release on Labour Day

If any Kollywood film has the potential to enter the exclusive Rs. 1000 crore club, it's undoubtedly **Coolie**, starring none other than Superstar Rajinikanth. This highly anticipated film marks the first collaboration between Rajinikanth and sensational director Lokesh Kanagaraj, adding immense excitement to the project. With such star power behind it, expectations are soaring, and the buzz around the film is palpable.

According to recent reports from Kollywood circles, **Coolie** is slated for a grand release on May 1, strategically timed for Labour Day. The choice of this date is perfect, aligning with the theme of the title and taking advantage of the summer holiday season, which is typically a lucrative time for movie releases. With Rajinikanth's unmatched star power, **Coolie** is poised to dominate at the box office, and the timing couldn't be better.

In addition to Rajinikanth, **Coolie** boasts a stellar ensemble cast, including veteran actor Nagarjuna, Upenndra, and Shruti Haasan in key roles, further adding to the film's appeal. There are also strong rumors that Bollywood megastar Aamir Khan might make a cameo in the film, which, if confirmed, would undoubtedly send the box office collections into overdrive.

'Lucky Baskhar' Crosses Rs. 100 Crore Mark in 2 Weeks



Lucky Baskhar, the latest Telugu release for the Diwali season, has struck a chord with both critics and audiences, earning rave reviews for its gripping storyline and stellar performances. Directed by Venky Atluri, this multilingual crime drama features Dulquer Salmaan in the lead role, with Meenakshi Chaudhary playing his romantic interest.

After just two weeks at the box office, the film has surpassed the Rs. 100 crore mark worldwide, solidifying its status as one of the most successful projects for Sitara Entertainments. To commemorate this milestone, the team released a special video celebrating the film's entry into the coveted Rs. 100 crore club in just 14 days, sparking excitement among fans about its future earnings.

The film also features key performances by Sai Kumar, Maanasa Choudhury, Tipu Anand, Ramki, Hyper Aadi, and others, with music composed by GV Prakash Kumar. Co-produced by Fortune Four Cinemas, **Lucky Baskhar** stands as a major hit for the Diwali season, drawing in large crowds and keeping the box office momentum going.



Kanguva – High-voltage action drama that works only in parts

The much-anticipated **Kanguva** has been generating buzz ever since Suriya's intense coconut-hitting promotional stills were released, raising expectations among fans. Produced by Gnanavelraja, Vamsi, and Pramod with a massive budget of 350 crores, **Kanguva** directed by Siva promises an epic action-packed folklore story. With Suriya in the lead, whose star power spans both Tamil and Telugu cinema, the film had high hopes riding on it. But does it deliver? Let's dive into the story and its execution.

Kanguva opens with a thrilling premise: a group of Russian scientists capture children for cruel experiments, but one child manages to escape. The child finds his way to Francis (Suriya), an ordinary man who soon realizes he's caught in a web of danger, with Russian thugs on his tail. The mystery deepens as the child's identity and his connection to Francis are revealed. The film takes a fantastical turn, with a storyline that spans across generations. Suriya plays two distinct roles—Kanguva, a centuries-old hunter, and Francis, a contemporary man. The film explores themes of reincarnation, revenge, and fate, as the story moves from the present to the past. The core mystery is about the connection between Kanguva and the child Pulama, and why the past continues to haunt Kanguva in his present life.

Director Siva's **Kanguva** attempts something ambitious, blending folklore with grand action sequences and reincarnation elements. The first half of the film can be a bit confusing, as it introduces a complex narrative filled with animals, revenge, and mythical elements. The second half unravels the plot and clarifies the storyline, but by then, the pacing has been disrupted. The film feels like a mix of inspiration from Hollywood action and fantasy films, with large-scale action set pieces, animal sequences, and dramatic visuals. However, while the scale is grand, the execution falters at times, especially with the over-the-top violence and intense animal imagery, which may not resonate with all audiences.

Suriya delivers a stellar performance, carrying the entire film on his shoulders. He convincingly portrays both the fierce Kanguva and the more grounded Francis. His emotional depth in the action scenes stands out. Bobby Deol's role as the antagonist, though limited in screen time, adds some intrigue, but he doesn't fully leave a mark. Disha Patani's role is primarily for glamour, while Yogi Babu's comedy does not make much of an impact. The surprise element comes towards the end, with Karthi's cameo, hinting at a bigger role in the sequel. His brief appearance adds excitement, and his unique look is impressive.

Cinematography by Vetri Palaniswami deserves praise for presenting the film in a visually rich manner. The grand scale of the movie is evident, with elaborate action sequences and sweeping landscapes. **Devi Sri Prasad's** background score, while intense, at times overpowers the emotional moments, and the music could have been better integrated. Editing could have been tighter, especially in the first half, to maintain better pacing.

Nithiin's Hilarious 'Robinhood' Teaser Unveiled

Tollywood star Nithiin and director Venky Kudumula have teamed up once again for the highly anticipated movie **Robinhood**, following their successful collaboration on **Bhishma**. With huge expectations surrounding the project, the makers have unveiled an exciting teaser, sparking anticipation for the film's release on December 25, which will serve as a Christmas gift for fans.

In the newly released teaser, Nithiin plays the role of a quirky thief named Robin Hood. The character, who sees every Indian as his brother or sister, is shown stealing money with the intention of "redistributing" it. The teaser, with its mix of humor and action, showcases Nithiin's comedic timing and hints at an adventurous storyline filled with unexpected twists. The details of Robin Hood's actions and the challenges he faces are set to unfold when the film hits theaters.

