



PAWAN FOILED Rs.300 Cr PLAN OF DWARAMPUDI



TPN CORRESPONDEDNT
Amaravati, DEC-10

Deputy Chief Minister Mr. Pawan Kalyan has stood to his word of battling with YSRC Ex MLA Dwarampudi Chandrasekhar Reddy, who has attacked Veera Mahila of Janasena. He has foiled the deal of Rs.300 Cr set by Mr. Dwarampudi, with his action plan.

In the beginning days of the Alliance Government, Minister for Civil Supplies Mr. Nadendla Manohar has conducted a ride and seized the tonnes of PDS rice found in the stock yards of Kakinada port. Then itself the Minister has stated that there will be an inquiry of CID on Mr. Dwarampu-

di and his associated companies. But, what happened we don't know, later onwards no inquiry was started and the syndicate of Mr. Dwarampudi has continued their smuggling business with other names.

Allegedly, Mr. Dwarampudi has offered R.300 Cr to not to disturb his business to the top minister of the Cabinet through a top leader of BJP. That particular BJP leader is not of traditional saffron batch. And we know relative of a minister is doing rice business and an MLA of BJP is relative of Dwarampudi. Using all these relationships, business friendships, Mr. Dwarampudi has hatched this Rs.300 Cr deal allegedly. Even an MLA, MP of Janasena have also

colluded with Dwarampudi allegedly.

Knowing this plan, Mr. Pawan Kalyan has mentioned this serious issue with Mr. Amit Shah, Minister for Home Affairs, Government of India, in his Delhi tour. After getting the nod of Mr. Amit Shah, Mr. Pawan Kalyan has started his action of plan. Part of it only, he has visited the Kakinada Port and exposed the PDS rice smuggling, which is going on in a big way.

With no way, the Alliance Government under the leadership of Mr. N.Chandrababu Naidu is initiated the inquiry and tighten the measures at Kakinada Port. Now the syndicate of PDS rise has changed its route and going towards Guja-

rat and other states by roadway. Even, that one also to be blocked by Mr. Pawan Kalyan very soon as per the sources.

This approach of Mr. Pawan Kalyan has become indigestible for the key Minister of the AP Cabinet. They are trying to block the plans and actions of Pawan Kalyan. The officials of Police Department not responded to Mr. Pawan Kalyan is part of it, as per JSP circles. Even Mr. Pawan has mentioned the leave of SP at Kakinada Port openly. Later on also there is no explanation of SP to Mr. Pawan Kalyan or even for Media. The situation between that key Minister and Mr. Pawan is like a cold war. What will happen, we have to wait and watch.



Death Threats To Deputy CM Pawan Kalyan

TPN CORRESPONDENT
Amaravati, DEC-10

Deputy Chief Minister Pawan Kalyan's office staff received a series of threatening calls and messages from an unknown individual, warning that they would kill him. The threatening communications included vulgar language and raised concerns among the office staff. Upon receiving these threats, the staff immediately informed Pawan Kalyan, who instructed them to report the matter to senior police officials.

The threatening calls and messages were received at Pawan Kalyan's office, located in the second block of the AP Secretariat, while the Deputy Chief Minister was not present. The calls included explicit threats directed at Pawan Kalyan, causing considerable alarm among his office staff.

Following the incident, senior police officers launched an investigation to determine the source of these threats and whether Pawan Kalyan or other ministers' offices had been targeted in a similar manner. Authorities are also examining the timing and details of when these calls and messages were received. The incident has raised concerns within the government, as it marks an unusual escalation in threats directed at the Deputy CM.

483 Metric Tons of Ration Rice Seized at Visakhapatnam Port

- ₹12,000 Crore Worth of PDS Rice Exported Illegally in 3 Years
- Crackdown on Ration Mafia Intensifies

TPN CORRESPONDEDNT
Visakhapatnam, DEC-10

State Food and Civil Supplies Minister Nadendla Manohar has vowed to take decisive action against the illegal transportation of Public Distribution System (PDS) rice. Speaking to the media after a surprise inspection at Visakhapatnam Port on Monday, he revealed large-scale smuggling operations involving ration rice meant for the poor.

During the inspection, 483 metric tons of PDS rice, prepared for export, were seized at the port's container freight station. Minister Manohar stated that intensified surveillance at Kakinada Port had prompted smugglers to shift operations to Visakhapatnam over the past two months. He assured the public that a comprehensive investigation is underway and stern action will follow.

₹12,000 Crore Smuggling Operation Exposed
Manohar disclosed that during the previous administration, 1.38 crore metric tons of PDS rice, valued at approximately ₹12,000 crore, were smuggled



from Kakinada Port, with another 36,000 metric tons exported from Visakhapatnam over three years. Recent inspections at Visakhapatnam Port uncovered that 70,000 metric tons of ration rice were transported in just two months. Chief Minister Nara Chandrababu Naidu has established a Special Investigation Team (SIT) through the CID to investigate and curb the smuggling operations. Minister Manohar confirmed that a detailed report on the illegal activities at Visakhapatnam Port will be submitted to the SIT. The minister emphasized that state and central authorities are collaborating to tackle

these crimes, pledging a "zero tolerance" approach. He added that the misuse of PDS rice affects the 1.48 crore ration cardholders it is meant to serve, while the diversion benefits smugglers earning profits under the guise of exporting rice as part of the "Quality of Rice Project of India." Manohar urged the public and media to support the government in its efforts to eradicate the ration rice mafia. He stressed that ensuring the security of the country and the rights of the poor should be a collective responsibility. He also warned traders against attempting to smuggle ration rice, announcing that severe penalties will be imposed.

Nagababu Likely to Join AP Cabinet

Beda Mastana Rao and Sana Satish have been confirmed as TDP RS candidates



TPN Correspondent
Amaravati, Dec 9

Speculations are rife about actor and Jana Sena leader Nagababu being inducted into the Andhra Pradesh Cabinet. As the political landscape evolves, sources indicate that Nagababu, brother of AP Deputy Chief Minister Pawan Kalyan, may soon take oath as a minister, representing Jana Sena in the state cabinet.

Earlier, it was rumored that Nagababu would be appointed as the TTD Chairman, a position eventually taken by BR Naidu. Later, discussions shifted to Nagababu possibly being nominated to the Rajya Sabha as three seats from Andhra

Pradesh became vacant. However, with two seats going to the TDP (Beda Mastana Rao and Sana Satish) and one to the BJP (R. Krishnaiah), the Rajya Sabha opportunity for Nagababu did not materialize. Now, the focus has shifted to state politics. Sources suggest that Pawan Kalyan prefers Nagababu to remain active in state politics to strengthen Jana Sena at the grassroots level, rather than moving to a national role in Delhi. Nagababu played a key role in the recent elections, leading his brother's campaign in Pithapuram constituency and boosting party morale across Andhra Pradesh. Given Pawan Kalyan's respon-

sibilities as Deputy Chief Minister, having Nagababu in the cabinet would not only bring him closer to the party ranks but also strengthen Jana Sena's presence within the alliance with the TDP and BJP. An official announcement on Nagababu's induction into the cabinet is expected soon, marking another significant step in the TDP-Jana Sena alliance's governance strategy. Meanwhile, TDP Rajya Sabha candidates from Andhra Pradesh have been finalized. Beda Mastana Rao and Sana Satish have been confirmed by the TDP high command, while the BJP has already announced R. Krishnaiah as its Rajya Sabha candidate.

Toll Tax on Roads in 16 AP Cities



TPN CORRESPONDENT
Andhra Pradesh, DEC-10

The Andhra Pradesh government is set to introduce toll taxes on state roads, aligning them with national highways. A comprehensive plan is being finalized to develop and maintain roads across 16 cities under the Public-Private Partnership (PPP) model. This initiative will allow contractors to recover costs through toll collection and advertising revenue.

The project encompasses the development of 642.90 km of roads within urban local bod-

ies, including corporations, municipalities, and city panchayats. Contractors will be tasked with constructing and maintaining these roads for ten years, with responsibility for any required repairs during the period. Visakhapatnam accounts for the highest road coverage under the plan, with 253.05 km slated for development. Other cities include Nellore (83 km), Guntur (60 km), Kakina (39 km), Vizianagaram (33 km), Chittoor (29 km), Kadapa (28 km), Anantapur (21 km), Tirupati (19 km), Vijayawada (17 km), Srikakulam (12 km), Machilipatnam (11 km), Kurnool and Rajahmundry (7 km each), and

Eluru (5 km). The government will soon approve the prepared plan, after which tenders will be invited for execution. Contractors who secure these tenders will commence construction and simultaneously ensure road maintenance for the next decade. Apart from toll collection, contractors will also have the opportunity to generate revenue through advertisements along the developed roads. This initiative is expected to significantly improve road infrastructure, ensuring better connectivity and travel convenience for citizens across Andhra Pradesh.

AP Government Launches Survey to Identify Bogus Pension Beneficiaries

TPN Correspondent
Amaravati, Dec 9

In a significant move to curb fraudulent pension claims, the Andhra Pradesh government has launched a survey to identify ineligible beneficiaries before granting new pensions. This decision comes as the state continues to receive complaints regarding pension distribution, with many individuals reportedly receiving pensions despite not meeting eligibility criteria.

Currently, the state has around 65 lakh pension beneficiaries, with more than three lakh applications for new pensions pending. The government has decided to conduct a pilot survey in select secretariats across the state to verify the authenticity of existing pension claims. The two-day survey (on December 9 and 10) will be carried out by four teams, each working in a secretariat chosen from each district.

The survey will assess the validity of pension claims through a set of 13 questions designed to identify those who are eligible for pensions and those who are not. To ensure unbiased results, the government has directed that staff from neighboring mandals be appointed for the inspections, rather than local Secretariat staff, to prevent any potential conflicts of interest.

The collected data will be entered into an app, and a photo of each pensioner will be taken as part of the verification process. Based on the feedback from the pilot project, the government plans to extend the survey across 15,004 village and ward secretariats statewide.

The initiative aims to identify ineligible beneficiaries and streamline the pension distribution process, ensuring that only deserving individuals receive financial support. Following the completion of the survey, the government is expected to make a decision on the disbursement of new pensions.

YS Avinash Reddy's PA Appears Before Kadapa Cyber Crime Police



TPN Correspondent
Kadapa, Dec 9

YCP MP YS Avinash Reddy's personal assistant Raghav Reddy appeared before the Kadapa Cyber Crime Police today for questioning in connection with inappropriate social media posts targeting Sharmila, Vijayamma, and Sunitha.

The investigation stems from the earlier interrogation of Varra Ravindra Reddy, who reportedly claimed that the controversial posts were not made by him but originated from Avinash Reddy's office. He alleged that the content was provided by Raghav Reddy, leading to a case being registered against the latter a month ago.

While police had been searching for Raghav Reddy, he obtained a stay on arrest from the High Court until December 12. Upon arriving in Pulivendula, Raghav Reddy was issued notices to attend questioning at the Kadapa Cyber Crime Office.

The police clarified that the investigation aims to gather details and does not include an arrest at this stage. Further developments are awaited.

Jana Sena Leaders Address Public Grievances in Janavani Program

TPN Correspondent
Vijayawada, Dec 9

The Jana Sena Party demonstrated its commitment to addressing public issues as Nandigama Constituency Coordinator Mrs. Tamballapalli Ramadevi and Railway Kodur MLA Sri Arava Sridhar participated in the Janavani program held at the party's central office on Monday morning. Speaking on the occasion, MLA Sridhar emphasized that the Janavani program serves as a direct platform for the public to submit their grievances in the form of petitions. "This initiative ensures that the people's problems are brought to our attention and actively worked upon to find solutions," he stated.

Mrs. Ramadevi interacted with attendees, assuring them of the party's unwavering dedication to resolving their concerns. She highlighted the Jana Sena Party's commitment to being a bridge between the public and governance, ensuring accountability and action.

The Janavani program continues to be a vital platform for citizen engagement, reflecting Jana Sena's efforts to build a people-centric administration.



AP on High Alert as Heavy Rains Continue; Warning Issued for Several Districts

TPN Correspondent
Amaravati, Dec 9

Heavy rains continue to lash Andhra Pradesh, with the state on high alert as a series of low-pressure areas persist over the region. For nearly 15 consecutive days, several districts in AP have been experiencing continuous rainfall, and the situation is expected to persist at least until December 15, as per the latest warning from the Meteorological Department. The low-pressure system, formed in the southeast Bay of Bengal, remains active and is expected to strengthen further over the next 24 hours. This system is moving towards the

west-northwest, bringing widespread rains to areas including Rayalaseema and the southern coastal districts. Meteorologists predict that rain will continue in various parts of the state, with moderate to heavy showers expected for the coming week.

The AP government has issued urgent instructions to district administrations in response to the ongoing weather conditions. Key measures include the immediate transfer of harvested paddy to rice mills to prevent damage, and ensuring that paddy stocks in granaries remain dry to avoid spoilage.

The Meteorological Department has also issued warnings of severe waves

along the coasts of Srikakulam, Krishna, and Nellore for the next four days, adding further concern for coastal communities. Additionally, forecasts suggest that another low-pressure area may develop near the Andamans around December 14 or 15, which could bring additional heavy rainfall to Andhra Pradesh by mid-December. Given the prolonged nature of these rains, the state government is closely monitoring the situation and advising the public, especially farmers and coastal residents, to remain vigilant. The ongoing weather pattern suggests that the rains are unlikely to subside soon, even as the winter season approaches.





BJP Fields R. Krishnaiah as Rajya Sabha Candidate from AP

TPN CORRESPONDENT
AP, DEC-10

Bharatiya Janata Party (BJP) has announced R. Krishnaiah as its Rajya Sabha candidate from Andhra Pradesh. Krishnaiah, the National President of the BC Association and former Rajya Sabha member, had previously represented the YSR Congress Party (YSRCP) in the upper house.

After the recent elections, Krishnaiah resigned from both his Rajya Sabha membership and the YSRCP, choosing to align with the BJP. The party's decision to field him underscores the respect and importance it places on his leadership within the BC community.

In addition to Krishnaiah, the BJP leadership has named Rekha Sharma from Haryana and Sujith Kumar from Odisha as Rajya Sabha candidates, marking a strategic selection of leaders across states.

Meanwhile, two other prominent leaders, Mopidevi Venkataramana and Beda Mastan Rao,



have also exited the YSRCP and resigned from their Rajya Sabha memberships. Both leaders have joined the Telugu Desam Party (TDP), signaling a shift in political alignments within Andhra Pradesh.

The developments highlight a reshuffle in Andhra Pradesh's political landscape, with major parties recalibrating their strategies ahead of key elections.

Home Minister Anita Warns of Legal Action Against Vijayasai Reddy

TPN CORRESPONDENT
Amaravati, DEC-10

Andhra Pradesh Home Minister Vangalapudi Anita has issued a sharp rebuke to YSRCP Rajya Sabha member Vijayasai Reddy, accusing him of making reckless statements out of fear that his wrongdoings may come to light. Criticizing his remarks as inappropriate for someone of his rank and age, Anita warned that such behavior is unacceptable.

She dismissed Vijayasai's attempts to criticize TDP chief Chandrababu Naidu and create a divide between the TDP and Jana Sena Party leader Pawan Kalyan. Anita cautioned that he would not be spared if he continues to act irresponsibly. She advised him to adopt a measured and methodical approach in his public statements.

Anita further challenged Vijayasai to openly call for an investigation into the allegations against her, asserting that cases will indeed be registered against him. She highlighted an ongoing probe into irregularities in ration rice distribution, emphasizing that no accused individual would be exempt from accountability.



ty. She also remarked that if the YSRCP leaders persist in such behavior, they might not secure even 11 seats in the next elections.

During her visit to the Vijayawada sub-jail, Anita inspected the facility and reviewed its infrastructure. She revealed that an inquiry into allegations against jail officials is underway and assured that a detailed report will be received within two days. Appropriate action will be taken based on the findings of the report, she added.

Who is a Greater Actor Than Jagan? – Satya Prasad

TPN CORRESPONDENT
Amaravati, DEC-10

Satya Prasad launched a scathing critique of YSRCP chief and Andhra Pradesh Chief Minister Y.S. Jagan Mohan Reddy, holding him responsible for the declining pass percentage in Class 10 examinations. He accused the YSRCP regime of burdening students and teachers, leading to a deteriorated education system.

"Who is a greater actor than Jagan?" Prasad questioned, alleging that Jagan misleads the public with broken promises and crocodile tears. He criticized Jagan for posing as a protector of the people while presiding over a regime marked by chaos, including alleged attacks, murders, and illegal cases.

Prasad defended young leader Nara Lokesh, who, he claimed, is tirelessly working to reform the derailed education system and restore Andhra Pradesh as a knowledge hub. He condemned the YSRCP's dismissive attitude towards these efforts, accusing Jagan of labeling them as mere theatrics.



"People are already disillusioned with Jagan's governance," Prasad said, urging the Chief Minister to stop acting and focus on genuine public welfare. He warned that if Jagan continues on the current path, he risks being remembered as "Zero Reddy." Prasad called on the government to emulate the coalition's focus on development and education, asserting that only a sincere approach can regain public trust.

Pawan Kalyan's Action to Stop Illegal Rice Exports is Inspirational: Lanka Dinakar

TPN CORRESPONDENT
Amaravati, DEC-10

BJP leader Lanka Dinakar praised AP Deputy CM Pawan Kalyan for his recent action in halting a ship involved in illegal rice exports from Kakinada port. Speaking to the media, Dinakar called Pawan Kalyan's move an inspiring and crucial step in addressing the issue of rice smuggling.

Dinakar welcomed the government's decision to form a Special Investigation Team (SIT) to probe the illegal rice exports, saying it would curb the activities of the rice mafia. He noted that the formation of the SIT has sent a strong message to those involved in these illegal practices.

Recalling NTR's initiative to provide rice at affordable prices for the poor, and Prime Minister Narendra Modi's Garib Kalyan Anna Yojana to distribute



free rice to the needy, Dinakar criticized the illegal rice exports, particularly during the COVID-19 pandemic, which he alleged saw double the amount of rice being shipped abroad instead of reaching the poor.

Dinakar warned that once the SIT report is received, legal action would be taken against the rice smugglers involved in the illicit trade.

Botsa Expresses Gratitude to Chandrababu and Pawan

TPN CORRESPONDENT
VIZAG, DEC-10

The political landscape in Andhra Pradesh is heating up as the coalition government completes six months in power, with the YSRCP government increasing pressure to fulfill election promises. Opposition leader Botsa Satyanarayana made significant comments during the recent Legislative Council session, thanking Chandrababu Naidu and Pawan Kalyan for reminding the public of the development achieved during their rule, particularly through the Nadu-Nedu program.

Botsa appreciated the recent parents-teachers meeting organized by the AP government, which highlighted the improvements made in schools under the previous government's tenure. However, he suggested that it would have been more appropriate for Chandrababu and Pawan Kalyan to commit to completing the remaining work in schools through Nadu-Nedu. He also demanded an immediate reduction in the increased charges that were imposed during the coalition government's time.

Botsa addressed the controversial issue of the container ship allegedly carrying drugs that arrived in Visakhapatnam, clarifying that investigations under Operation Garuda, including a check by Interpol, found no drugs on board. He expressed plans to write to the Prime Minister and Home Minister about the CBI's handling of the case.

Further criticizing the current government's performance, Botsa accused it of failing to support



farmers and vowed to meet with district collectors to submit a petition in support of the farming community. He also announced plans to protest against increased electricity charges, submitting a petition to SEs by the end of the month.

YSRCP is planning a state-wide program on January 3 to demand the release of fee reimbursement. Additionally, he revealed that he had written to MLCs urging them to participate in an assembly committee related to the Visakhapatnam dairy case, reiterating his call for their inclusion in the committee's activities.

3-Time BRS MLA Found Not Indian, Fined Rs 30 Lakhs

TPN Correspondent
Hyderabad, Dec 9:

In a shocking turn of events, the Telangana High Court has fined former BRS MLA Chennamaneni Ramesh Rs 30 lakh for deceiving the electoral system regarding his Indian citizenship. The case has sent shockwaves through the political landscape as Ramesh, who served as the Vemulawada MLA for three consecutive terms, was found to be a German citizen, not an Indian as he had claimed.

The issue first came to light when Ramesh's competitor, Adi Srinivasa, filed a long-standing legal battle, arguing that Ramesh was contesting the election with false documentation. The case had been under litigation for several years, with Srinivasa challenging the authenticity of Ramesh's Indian citizenship.

In a landmark ruling today, the Telangana High Court declared that Chennamaneni Ramesh had falsely represented himself as an Indian citizen during his electoral campaigns. As a result, the court imposed a fine of Rs 30 lakh on Ramesh, which includes Rs 25 lakh in compensation to Adi Srinivasa for contesting



the elections with fake documents, and Rs 5 lakh to the Legal Services Authority for its role in the case.

Ramesh, who was elected MLA from the BRS party for three terms, had created fraudulent documents to claim Indian citizenship. However, the court's verdict confirmed that he was, in fact, a German national, a violation of election laws that prohibit foreign citizens from contesting Indian elections. This unprecedented case has raised serious questions about the integrity of the electoral process and the checks and balances in place to verify candidates' eligibility.

Conditional Bail Granted to Kukkala Vidyasagar in Jethwani Case

TPN CORRESPONDENT
Vijayawada, DEC-10

YSRCP leader Kukkala Vidyasagar, the main accused in the high-profile Jethwani case, has been granted conditional bail by the Andhra Pradesh High Court. The case, which involved allegations of harassment against Mumbai actress Kadambari Jethwani, has drawn significant attention in the state.

The bail petition was fiercely contested, with advocate Narra Srinivas and Public Prosecutor Lakshmi Narayana arguing on behalf of the complainant and the police, opposing the bail on grounds that it could impact the case. Senior advocate Niranjan Reddy represented Vidyasagar, emphasizing that the accused had already spent 76 days in custody. After hearing arguments from both sides, the court reserved its judgment before granting bail on Monday.

Vidyasagar was apprehended by Vijayawada police in Dehradun, Uttarakhand, after evading authorities for weeks. Following his arrest, he was brought to Vijayawada on a transit warrant after being produced before the Third Additional Chief Judicial Magistrate in Dehradun.

The police investigation revealed that Vidyasagar had moved between Mumbai and Delhi before being caught. The case also implicated three senior IPS officers—PSR Anjaneyulu, Kantirana Tata, and Vishal Gunni—who were



suspended for alleged misuse of power and involvement in the case.

Kadambari Jethwani filed multiple complaints, including one against Vidyasagar and several police officers, accusing them of filing false cases and subjecting her to mental harassment. The Ibrahimpatnam police registered a case under various sections, naming Vidyasagar as the primary accused.

A comprehensive investigation led by ACP Sravanthirai of the NTR Police Commissionerate involved statements from Kadambari, her parents, and other witnesses. A detailed 100-page report was submitted to the government. In response to the allegations, Chief Minister Nara Chandrababu Naidu approved the suspension of three senior IPS officers, along with two lower-ranking officers, Ibrahimpatnam CI Satyanarayana and ACP Hanumantha Rao. Orders under G.O. Nos. 1590, 1591, and 1592 were issued, with the details marked confidential on the government website.

New Railway Line in AP: Vijayawada to Secunderabad in Just 3.40 Hours

TPN CORRESPONDENT
Vijayawada, DEC-10

Railway infrastructure in Andhra Pradesh is receiving a significant boost under the NDA government's third term at the center. With the central government accelerating pending projects in the state and providing necessary funding, key initiatives are progressing at a rapid pace.

One of the pivotal projects is the Nallapadu-Bibinagar doubling and electrification, spanning 248 kilometers at an estimated cost of ₹2,853 crore. The entire expense is being borne by the central government, with work being divided into phases and assigned to contractors to ensure timely completion.

Project Phases

- **Phase 1:** 47 km between Nadikudi and Kukkadam at a cost of ₹571 crore.
- **Phase 2:** 56 km between Nallapadu and Bellamkonda with a budget of ₹600 crore.
- **Phase 3:** 75 km between Kukkadam and Veligonda estimated at ₹700 crore.

The total cost of these three phases is ₹1,871 crore, and work is underway simultaneously. Notifica-

tions for land acquisition in Andhra Pradesh have been issued, while similar steps are awaited in Telangana.

Enhanced Connectivity

Once the double line is operational, travel from Guntur to Secunderabad will take just three hours, while the Vijayawada-Secunderabad journey will be reduced to 3.40 hours. This new line will also



provide an alternative route from Secunderabad to Chennai and Tirupati, connecting Guntur to the Chennai route via Tenali.

Additionally, the completion of the Nadikudi-Srikalahasti railway line will add another alternative route, significantly enhancing connectivity in the region. Officials aim to complete the entire project within two years, providing a major boost to regional rail transport and reducing travel times across key destinations.

MP Kesineni Sivanath Leads Self-Employment Training Initiative for Youth

TPN CORRESPONDENT
Vijayawada, DEC-10

A self-employment training program for rural youth and young women in the Vijayawada Parliament area has been launched under the leadership of MP Kesineni Sivanath. In collaboration with the National Institute of Rural Development (NIRD) in Hyderabad, the program aims to empower youth through awareness and skill development initiatives.

In the first phase, a group of 50 young men and women from the Thiruvur constituency departed for Hyderabad this morning (Monday) to attend the training. A bus carrying the participants was flagged off from Thiruvur constituency as part of the initiative.

Speaking on the occasion, MP Kesineni Sivanath, popularly known as Chinni, stated that the program aligns with Chief Minister Chandrababu Naidu's vision of fostering entrepreneurship in every family. He emphasized that efforts are be-



ing made to transform rural households in the seven constituencies of the NTR district into entrepreneurial units.

The MP also revealed plans to organize similar training programs monthly, sending youth from rural areas of each constituency to NIRD for hands-on training and awareness sessions. This initiative aims to equip participants with the skills and knowledge necessary to pursue self-employment opportunities, contributing to the socio-economic growth of the region.

Ambavaram Psychological Research and Well-Being Association Hosts Successful Poster Release Program

TPN Correspondent
Vijayawada, Dec 10:

The Ambavaram Psychological Research and Well-Being Association recently organized a vibrant poster release event in Vijayawada, emphasizing its mission to advance psychological research, mental health awareness, and professional collaboration. The program aimed to foster a culture of well-being and promote informed counseling practices.

The event was graced by distinguished guests, including Paul Hamsa, District Jail Superintendent, and Dr. M.V. Bramhananda Reddy, Founder and President of APTPIEA. Their encouraging speeches highlighted the vital role of mental health advocacy and the association's impactful initiatives.

Key Contributors and Participants

The association's leadership actively participated, including:

- Dr. Mandali Sravana Krishna Kumari (President)
- Dr. Ambavaram Pratap Reddy (Vice President)
- Sripathi Jagadeeswara Rao (Secretary)
- Dr. Thejavathi Manish and Girisha Jain (Joint Secretaries)
- Dasari Rama Devi (Treasurer)

Executive members Dakshayani Virupaksham, Maremal-la Jyothi, Bhavana Chinka, Tagarampudi Sharmila, Dr. Chittareddy Lakshmana Kumar, Tummapudi Ravindra



Babu, and Karuturi Sirisha contributed significantly to the event's success. The program was further enriched by active participation from Dr. Riyaz, Swetha Mukunda Chari, and Kalyan.

Promoting Mental Health Awareness

The event reaffirmed the association's dedication to its mission by facilitating discussions on mental health and well-being, sharing resources, and emphasizing the importance of psychological research. The collective efforts of the association's members, coupled with the inspiring presence of special guests, made the event a grand success.

The Ambavaram Psychological Research and Well-Being Association continues to take meaningful steps toward creating a mentally healthier and more informed community. This program marks another milestone in its journey of advocacy and professional excellence.

Minority Welfare Possible Only Under Chandrababu Naidu: Mohammad Fataullah

TPN Correspondent
Vijayawada, Dec 10:

Highlighting the achievements of the Telugu Desam Party (TDP) in uplifting minority communities, Mohammad Fataullah, General Secretary of the State TDP Minority Cell, stated that minority welfare is achievable only under the leadership of Chandrababu Naidu. He made these remarks during a felicitation ceremony for Mustaq Garu, newly appointed Chairman of the Minority Finance Corporation.

Fataullah criticized the previous government for neglecting Muslim welfare, emphasizing that not a single rupee was provided to Muslims through the Minority Finance Corporation during their tenure. He contrasted this with Chandrababu Naidu's leadership, citing the allocation of ₹4,000 crore for the development and welfare of Muslims as evidence of



his commitment.

He recalled how Nandamuri Taraka Rama Rao (NTR), the founder of TDP, established the Minority Finance Corporation to provide financial assistance to Muslims. "Today, Chandrababu Naidu is carrying forward NTR's legacy by ensuring the corporation

fulfills its mission effectively," Fataullah said.

Fataullah highlighted that under the previous government, many Muslim businesses suffered significant losses, and TDP workers from minority communities faced severe financial hardships. He urged the Minority Finance Corporation to identify such individuals and provide them with the necessary support.

He also called for reforms in the loan distribution process, advocating for direct loans without bank involvement to ensure timely

assistance for minority entrepreneurs.

The meeting underscored the TDP's commitment to addressing minority welfare and advancing economic opportunities for the Muslim community under Chandrababu Naidu's visionary leadership.

RTC Bus Hits Lorry on Hyderabad-Vijayawada Highway

TPN Correspondent
Vijayawada, Dec 9:

A tragic road accident occurred on the Hyderabad-Vijayawada highway, resulting in the death of the bus driver and several passengers being injured. The incident took place at Dandu Malkapuram in Chautuppal mandal, where a deluxe bus traveling from Nalgonda to Hyderabad collided with a lorry.

The impact of the collision was severe, and the bus driver was killed on the spot. His body was trapped in the cabin, requiring a crane to remove it. Six passengers aboard the bus were

critically injured and were immediately rushed to a nearby government hospital for treatment. Some of the injured passengers were later transferred to a hospital in Hyderabad for further medical attention.

Due to the accident, traffic on the busy highway between Vijayawada and Hyderabad was halted for a significant period, causing disruptions for commuters. Authorities are investigating the cause of the accident, while efforts to clear the wreckage and restore normalcy on the highway are ongoing.

Manchu Manoj Files Police Complaint..

TPN Correspondent Hyderabad, Dec 10: Actor Manchu Manoj has filed a complaint with the Pahadi Sharif police station in Hyderabad, alleging that ten unidentified individuals attempted to attack him at his residence. The incident reportedly occurred yesterday morning while Manoj was at home with his wife and children.



According to the complaint, the attackers fled when Manoj tried to apprehend them. In the process, Manoj sustained injuries and later sought medical treatment at a private hospital in Hyderabad. Reports of a possible altercation within the Manchu family surfaced after his hospitalization, but the family has denied these claims.

The Pahadi Sharif police inspector provided details, stating, "Manchu Manoj reported that the attackers came to his home and tried to harm him. He mentioned being assaulted while trying to catch them. However, he has not named any family members, including Mohan Babu, in his complaint."

Manoj also alleged that the CCTV footage capturing the incident was destroyed. He specifically mentioned the involvement of two individuals, Vijay Reddy and Kiran, in tampering with the evidence. The police have assured that this aspect will be

thoroughly investigated. The inspector revealed that a Dial 100 call was received about the incident. When officers arrived at Manoj's residence, only Manoj, his wife, and children were present. Manoj claimed that the attack occurred around 9 a.m. the previous day. The police have registered a case and initiated an investigation into the incident. They are looking into the alleged disappearance of the CCTV footage and the motives behind the attack. Manoj stated in his complaint that he is unaware of the reason for the assault but expressed concerns for his family's safety. This incident has sparked significant attention, with further developments anticipated as the investigation continues.

MLA Bolisetty Srinivas Congratulates Volleyball Competition Winners in Marteru

TPN CORRESPONDENT West Godavari, DEC-10

Tadepalligudem MLA and Government Whip Hon'ble Sri Bolisetty Srinivas congratulated the winners of the volleyball competition held in Marteru, Achantha constituency, West Godavari district, on Monday. Addressing the participants, he commended their sportsmanship and determination. In his speech, MLA Srinivas highlighted the importance of sports in fostering discipline, teamwork, and a healthy lifestyle among the youth. He assured the players that the state government is committed to nurturing talent and creating opportunities for sports enthusiasts. "Sports are not just games; they are a means to build character, resilience, and unity. The government will extend full support to budding players by improving infrastructure, organizing



more competitions, and providing financial assistance," he stated. He encouraged the players to strive for excellence and bring laurels to the state. The event concluded with MLA Srinivas distributing prizes to the winners and participants, emphasizing that every athlete contributes to the vibrant sporting culture of Andhra Pradesh.

UTF Secures Victory in Godavari MLC By-Elections

TPN CORRESPONDENT AP, DEC-10

The United Teachers' Federation (UTF) clinched a decisive victory in the MLC by-elections for five districts under the Godavari region, with their candidate Burra Gopi Murthy securing the required majority through first-priority votes.

The elections, held on the 5th of this month, saw 15,495 teachers exercising their voting rights out of the total 16,737 registered voters. Gopi Murthy's victory was confirmed as he garnered over 50 percent of the votes, crossing the two-thirds majority mark.

The counting process, which began today at 14 tables set up at Kakinada JNTU, showed Gopi Murthy maintaining a consistent lead from the outset. With his term as the newly elected MLC spanning two years and two months, this win solidifies UTF's influence in the region.

The by-election was necessitated following the untimely demise of Ubhaya Godavari Upadhyaya MLC Sheikh Sabji in a road accident. The contest featured five candidates, including



Gopi Murthy, Dr. Kavala Nageswara Rao, Palugu Deepak, Gandham Narayana Rao, and Namana Venkatalakshmi.

Throughout the campaign and polling phases, candidates employed various strategies to win over voters. The election process, including counting, was conducted under the supervision of special observers.

With the announcement of his victory, Gopi Murthy received widespread congratulations, marking a significant moment for the UTF and the teaching community in the region.

Inter Student's Murder in Nandikotkur Shocks District

TPN CORRESPONDENT NANDYAL, DEC-10

The brutal murder of an intermediate student, Lahari, in Byreddy Nagar, Nandikotkur, has sent shockwaves across the district. District Superintendent of Police (SP) Adiraj Singh Rana visited the crime scene and shared preliminary findings from the investigation.

Speaking to the media, SP Rana revealed that Lahari and the accused, Raghavendra, had prior acquaintances as both had previously studied in Veldurthi mandal. Lahari had recently moved to Nandikotkur to continue her studies while staying at her grandfather's house. The incident occurred in the early hours of Monday, around 3 a.m. According to the SP, it appears that Raghavendra poured petrol on Lahari and set her ablaze. Lahari succumbed to her injuries at the scene, and her body has been sent to Kurnool Hospital for a postmortem examination. Raghavendra, who sustained inju-



ries, is currently undergoing treatment at Nandyal Hospital. SP Rana stated that evidence is being meticulously gathered to understand the full sequence of events. The accused, Raghavendra, hails from Kallugotla village, while the victim, Lahari, was a resident of Ramallakota. The police are continuing their investigation to determine the motive behind this horrific act and whether it was a result of an attempted suicide pact, as suspected.

"YCP Has Weakened the System" – Minister Kinjarapu Achchenaidu

TPN CORRESPONDENT MANYAM, DEC-10

State Agriculture Minister Kinjarapu Achchenaidu has accused the previous government of weakening systems over the past five years. On Monday, Achchenaidu visited Manyam district and participated in several development programs. He also held a review meeting at the Collector's office after garlanding the NTR statue at Narisipuram, with the attendance of State Tribal Welfare Minister Gummati Sandhyarani, ZP Chairman, and several MLAs and MLCs.



During his address to the media, Minister Achchenaidu highlighted the discussions held with district officials regarding education, healthcare, agriculture, drinking water, and irrigation. He made key suggestions during the review and pointed out that although new districts had been formed, there was

a shortage of officials to provide essential services. He further assured that efforts would be made to construct roads to ensure ambulances can reach Girishikara villages within the next two years. Achchenaidu also emphasized the ongoing shortage of funds, noting that while progress is being made across various departments, concrete actions will be taken once the necessary funds are available.

Cash Deposited in Farmers' Accounts Within 48 Hours Rs. 40 Crore Paddy Drying Industry to Be Set Up in Srikakulam

TPN CORRESPONDENT Srikakulam, DEC-10

"Sankranti has come early for all the farmers in the state. We are depositing cash in their accounts within 24 to 48 hours of collecting the paddy. Do not sell the paddy to middlemen. We will buy every grain. CM Chandrababu and Deputy CM Pawan Kalyan have ordered changes in the purchase terms to ensure that the farmers get full benefit after seeing your difficulties," said Civil Supplies Minister Nadendla Manohar. He visited Kalisetti Gudem, Budumuru Gram Panchayat, Laver Mandal, Srikakulam district, on Monday afternoon and personally inspected the functioning of the paddy purchase center. He said, "In view of the untimely rains, we have increased the moisture content. We are depositing money in the accounts of farmers within 24 hours of purchasing the paddy and are going to them to instill confidence in them. We have changed the information that farmers are facing difficulties in purchasing paddy if the moisture content



is more than 17 percent, so we have ordered them to buy paddy even if it has 24-25 percent moisture content." He further stated that a paddy drying and processing industry will be set up in Srikakulam with an investment of Rs. 40 crore, which will greatly benefit the farmers of the North Andhra districts. The coalition government has also committed to modernizing the Madduvalasa and Thotapalli canals in Etcherla constituency. "We have developed AI technology that allows farmers to get all information related to the agriculture department by simply saying

'Rithu Hi' on WhatsApp," Manohar added. The minister revealed that the target for paddy collection across the state is 32 lakh metric tons, with around 5 lakh metric tons being collected from Srikakulam district alone. He expressed his commitment to preventing migration from the district by ensuring better agricultural support. Meanwhile, the district's agricultural department reported that Rs. 36 crore has been deposited in the accounts of farmers, with 1.1 lakh metric tons of grain already collected. Awareness programs have been organized to ensure farmers cut and thresh after the 11th of this month, as rains are expected. Full provisions of gunny bags and tarpaulins are available for their use. Etcherla MLA N Eswar Rao spoke about the irrigation challenges in his constituency and emphasized that resolving these issues would benefit farmers immensely. He criticized the previous government for neglecting critical canals like Thotapalli, Narayanapuram, and Madduvalasa.



Bhutan's Royal Visit to India: Strengthening Ties Amidst Regional Challenges



On December 6, 2024, Bhutan's King Jigme Khesar Namgyal Wangchuk and Queen Jetsun Pema concluded a two-day visit to India, where they met with Prime Minister Narendra Modi and External Affairs Minister S. Jaishankar. This visit was a reaffirmation of the strong bilateral relations between the two nations, underscoring the mutual trust and cooperation that define their ties.

During the visit, India reiterated its commitment to supporting Bhutan's development and growth. The Ministry of External Affairs highlighted the "spirit of mutual trust, cooperation, and profound understanding" that forms the foundation of the relationship between the two countries. The discussions covered various issues of shared interest, including clean energy and hydropower development. India also expressed its support for the Gelephu Mindfulness City, a significant project spearheaded by Bhutan's king, reflecting India's continued encouragement of Bhutan's socio-economic progress.

Although India and Bhutan share close ties, Bhutan's evolving relationship with China has introduced new complexities in the region. Bhutan and China have yet to establish full diplomatic relations, but in recent years, there have been steps toward resolving their border disputes. In October 2023, Bhutan and China signed a 'cooperation agreement' aimed at settling and demar-

cating their border, signaling a potential shift in Bhutan's diplomatic direction. Bhutan's government has expressed its belief that resolving the boundary issue with China would serve the long-term interests of the country.

Despite these developments, there are concerns about China's growing influence along the disputed border. Reports indicate that China has been constructing villages in contested areas, with these settlements expanding in both size and number, further complicating the territorial dispute. These actions have raised tensions and are seen as a way for Beijing to exert pressure on Bhutan in its border negotiations.

In terms of defense, Bhutan relies heavily on India for military support. The Bhutanese army is small and often depends on India for training and assistance. This was evident during the 2017 Doklam crisis, when Indian forces intervened to protect Bhutan's sovereignty and prevent China from constructing a road through disputed territory. This resulted in a tense 73-day standoff between Indian and Chinese forces.

As Bhutan navigates its diplomatic challenges with China, its relationship with India remains a cornerstone of its security and development. The visit underscored the enduring strength of India-Bhutan ties, which continue to be vital in the face of shifting regional dynamics.

The Fall of Syria: A Catalyst for Regional Instability and Extremist Resurgence

The ongoing upheaval in Syria is on the brink of reshaping the Middle East's power dynamics, with consequences far beyond its borders. One of the key figures in this shift is Muhammad al-Jawlani, once labeled a terrorist by the U.S., now emerging as a leader with growing political legitimacy. This transformation, facilitated with Western support, highlights the risks of meddling in a region where alliances can shift unpredictably. The critical question remains: will the fall of Bashar al-Assad's regime lead to the resurgence of Daesh (ISIS) and increase threats to Israel?



The fragmentation of Syria can be traced to its historical roots. After the collapse of the Ottoman Empire, colonial powers drew Syria's borders in the Sykes-Picot Agreement, disregarding the region's complex ethnic and sectarian makeup. When Syria gained independence in 1946, it inherited a fractured society marked by tensions between Sunnis, Alawites, Kurds, and Christians. The Assad family's rise to power in 1971 cemented an authoritarian regime that relied heavily on the Alawite minority, sowing resentment among the Sunni majority. The Arab Spring protests in 2011 ignited these tensions, with Assad's brutal crackdown escalating into a full-blown civil war.

As the conflict unfolded, various Islamist groups, including al-Jawlani's Al-Nusra Front, took advantage of the power vacuum. Syria became a battleground for proxy wars, with international and regional powers fueling the chaos. The current push to remove Assad may seem like a step towards democracy, but the void left behind raises grave concerns. In removing a brutal but stable regime, Western powers have created fertile ground for extremist factions to regain strength, with al-Jawlani's Hay'at Tahrir al-Sham (HTS) now emerging as a major player.

The potential resurrection of Daesh looms large in the wake of Assad's downfall. Historical precedents from Iraq and Libya show how the collapse of autocratic re-

gimes can lead to the rise of extremist groups. With Syria's fractured state, these groups, including remnants of Daesh, have the opportunity to thrive once again, creating a direct threat to regional stability and Israel's security.

For Israel, the rise of groups like HTS, which openly opposes the Jewish state, is a nightmare scenario. The collapse of Syria's government creates a volatile environment at Israel's borders, where radical factions could unite and pose an even greater threat. Hezbollah in Lebanon, another staunch enemy of Israel, could further destabilize the region, creating the potential for a two-front conflict.

The fall of Syria is a double-edged sword, with the danger of unleashing a new wave of extremism. The U.S. and its allies, in their quest for regime change, may have inadvertently set the stage for a more dangerous and unstable Middle East. As the region teeters on the brink, the ramifications of this power shift will continue to unfold, with dire consequences for the future of Syria and its neighbors.

Why An Unstable Middle East Is A Risk For India



Over the past decade, India has transformed its "Link West" policy into a robust "Act West" strategy, shifting from transactional partnerships to a comprehensive, strategic relationship with Gulf Cooperation Council (GCC) countries. These oil-rich nations are also pursuing their own "Act East" policies, aligning their ambitions with India's vision for a "Viksit Bharat" by 2047. This growing synergy has been evident through high-level exchanges, with Indian Prime Minister Narendra Modi visiting several GCC nations, including the UAE, which is India's third-largest trading partner.

India's relations with the GCC have expanded beyond bilateral ties, with multilateral initiatives such as the I2U2 (India, USA, UAE, Israel), IUSU (India, UAE, Saudi Arabia, USA), and India-GCC partnerships taking center stage. These collaborations cover a range of sectors, including trade, investment, energy, and defense, while also addressing broader regional issues. However, the ongoing instability in the Middle East, particularly the 14-month war in Gaza and escalating tensions in Syria and Lebanon, threatens to undermine these initiatives. These conflicts raise concerns about energy and food security, economic engagements, and the safety of millions of Indian expatriates in the region.

To address these challenges, India has become more active in multilateral and regional frameworks, including participation in the G20, COP mechanisms, and organizations like BRICS and the SCO, where several Middle Eastern countries are involved. India's growing engagement is not limited to the GCC but extends to other countries in the region, such as Qatar, Bahrain, Kuwait, and Egypt.

In recent weeks, India's External Affairs Minister, S. Jaishankar, has undertaken significant diplomatic missions, including visits to Qatar, Bahrain, and Oman. These meetings have focused on strengthening bilateral relations and addressing regional security concerns, particularly the volatile situation in the Middle East. Jaishankar's visit to Qatar coincided with the Doha Forum, where key discussions were held on the Israel-Hamas ceasefire and the ongoing conflict in Syria.

India's strategic commitment to the region is evident through its active role in maintaining maritime security and ensuring the safety of merchant shipping routes. As regional tensions continue to rise, India's emphasis on regional stability and pragmatic diplomacy remains critical to maintaining peace and security in an increasingly unstable environment.

Embracing Artificial Intelligence for Speedy Justice in Indian Courts

In India, where over 51 million cases remain pending across all levels of the judiciary, the call for judicial reform has never been more urgent. The sheer backlog underscores the necessity for innovative solutions that can transform the system and deliver justice more swiftly. Among the most promising tools to address this crisis is Artificial Intelligence (AI), a technology that, when integrated thoughtfully, could revolutionize the judicial landscape.



AI has already demonstrated its potential across various sectors globally, and the judicial system is no exception. India's Supreme Court has taken notable steps towards technological advancement, yet there is a pressing need for more focused efforts in incorporating AI into the legal system. One key area where AI can be a game-changer is in court administration. AI can assist in categorizing cases, organizing files, and tracking case progress, thus streamlining workflows and improving efficiency. The cumbersome paperwork that currently burdens the system can also be digitized, allowing AI to help analyze and extract relevant information, reducing manual intervention.

Digitalization powered by AI is already transforming legal systems in countries like England, Wales, and Austria. By using AI for tasks such as case filing, defect detection, and real-time case monitoring, these countries have greatly improved the speed and transparency of their judicial processes. India could benefit from such innovations by adopting similar AI tools, which would make legal information more accessible to both courts and litigants.

Beyond administrative tasks, AI holds great promise in assisting judicial decision-making. Legal research, often time-consuming and resource-heavy,

can be expedited by AI systems that gather relevant case laws and precedents quickly. Furthermore, AI could aid in tasks like translation, transcription, and providing legal knowledge to litigants, making the system more accessible to a wider range of people.

However, while AI offers significant advantages, it is important to recognize its limitations. AI cannot replace human judgment, especially when it comes to adjudicating complex legal matters that require understanding of human nuances and ethics. The role of judges and judicial officers remains irreplaceable, and AI should only serve as a tool to assist, not substitute, human decision-making. Thus, a balance must be struck between technological assistance and the essential human element in the justice system.

The Supreme Court's initiative, such as the "Supreme Court Portal for Assistance in Courts Efficiency" (SUPACE AI), represents a positive step toward incorporating AI specifically tailored for the Indian judicial system. SUPACE, designed to assist judges by collecting relevant facts, is an example of how AI can be utilized to support judicial functions without overstepping its role.

In conclusion, AI has the potential to be a vital ally in the pursuit of speedy and accessible justice in India.

PM Modi Promotes Youth Leadership in Politics, Urges End to Dynasty Politics

TPN CORRESPONDENT AHMEDABAD
DECEMBER.10

Prime Minister Narendra Modi, during a foundation stone-laying event in Panipat, Haryana, on Monday, emphasized the importance of involving youth in politics, urging the nation to move beyond the dominance of dynasty politics. He criticized those who treat politics as a family-owned enterprise and called for a significant change.

In a virtual address at an event organized by Ramkrishna Math in Lekhamba village near Sanand, the Prime Minister announced the launch of the *Young Leaders' Dialogue* in Delhi on Swami Vivekananda's birth anniversary. Modi said the initiative aims to create a new path forward, allowing the youth to take a more active role in shaping the nation's political future.

He expressed his belief that alongside technology and other sectors, it is equally crucial for young people to lead the way in politics. "We cannot leave politics to those who believe only in dynasty politics," Modi said, adding that a shift towards inclusive and dynamic leadership is necessary for the



progress of the country.

The *Young Leaders' Dialogue* will be held on January 12, 2025, to honor Vivekananda's legacy, and 2,000 youth leaders will attend the event in person. An even larger audience will join virtually, as the Prime Minister seeks to engage a broad demographic. "This initiative will bring nearly one lakh

talented and energetic youths into politics, who will drive India's future and usher in a new era for the country," Modi declared.

Modi highlighted that the event is part of a larger effort to realize Swami Vivekananda's dreams for a progressive, inclusive India, and to empower the nation's youth to become catalysts for change.

Amit Shah Announces Development of Anti-Drone Gun Unit for Border Security



TPN CORRESPONDENT DELHI
DECEMBER.10

Home Minister Amit Shah revealed that a laser-equipped anti-drone gun mount system had been developed, with the collaboration of all border security forces. The system is designed to counter the rising threat posed by drones along India's borders, particularly in Punjab, where the security situation has been under heightened scrutiny.

Shah shared that the new technology had already proven effective, with 55% of drones attempting to breach the border in Punjab being successfully intercepted. This marks a significant advancement in India's efforts to protect its borders from unmanned aerial threats, which have become increasingly common in the region.

The new anti-drone system is part of a broader strategy to strengthen border security and prevent unauthorized drone activity, which has been used for smuggling, espionage, and potentially even for attacks. The system employs advanced laser technology to neutralize drones in mid-air, enhancing the capability of border security forces to deal with this modern security challenge.

The Home Minister's announcement highlights the government's ongoing efforts to modernize the security infrastructure along India's borders. By introducing cutting-edge technology like the anti-drone system, the government aims to stay ahead of evolving threats and ensure the safety of the nation's borders. The development is also seen as a testament to the growing role of technology in national security operations.

Farmers pleading for justice because Modi govt 'betrayed' them again and again: Kharge

TPN CORRESPONDENT DELHI
DECEMBER.10

Congress president Mallikarjun Kharge on Monday criticized the Modi government for betraying farmers repeatedly and called for justice for the agricultural community. Addressing the ongoing struggles faced by farmers, Kharge highlighted the numerous unfulfilled promises by the government, including the failure to meet their income goals and implement critical agricultural reforms.

Kharge raised pointed questions to Prime Minister Narendra Modi, asking why farmers have to repeatedly come to Delhi seeking justice. He urged Modi, who was scheduled to visit Haryana and Rajasthan, to understand the plight of farmers who are essential in feeding the nation.



Kharge criticized the formation of a committee to provide legal status to MSP, saying the government has failed to take any meaningful action to address the issue. These unkept promises, according to Kharge, have contributed to the ongoing agrarian distress.

The Congress president emphasized that farmers' right to raise their voice and demand their rightful due should not be suppressed, urging the government to respect their struggles. The agricultural community, Kharge said, has been consistently denied justice, leading to widespread discontent and protests.

"Farmers are pleading for justice because your government has betrayed them again and again," Kharge remarked. He listed several unfulfilled promises that have left farmers frustrated, such as the government's failure to double their income by 2022, as well as the non-implementation of the Swaminathan Commission's recommendation to guarantee a Minimum Support Price (MSP) of Input Cost + 50%.

Assam CM Invites Nirmala Sitharaman to Advantage Assam Summit 2.0

TPN CORRESPONDENT
THIRUVANANTHAPURAM DEC 10

Assam Chief Minister Himanta Biswa Sarma recently extended an official invitation to Union Finance Minister Nirmala Sitharaman and Union Minister for Ports, Shipping, and Waterways Sarbananda Sonowal, inviting them to attend the upcoming Advantage Assam Summit 2.0, scheduled to be held in Guwahati in February next year.

The Advantage Assam Summit 2.0 aims to promote the state as a premier investment destination and enhance its economic growth. The event is expected to attract a wide range of investors, businesses, and industry leaders from across the country and abroad, further cementing Assam's position as a key player in India's economic development. During the meeting, CM Sarma emphasized Assam's growing role in national economic progress and how the summit would be



an important platform for showcasing the state's potential in sectors like manufacturing, agriculture, and infrastructure. He highlighted Assam's rich natural resources, strategic location, and conducive business environment, which make it an attractive investment hub for both domestic and international investors. Sarma also discussed the

state government's initiatives to improve the ease of doing business, including reforms aimed at simplifying regulations and providing incentives for businesses. He expressed his hope that both Sitharaman and Sonowal's presence at the summit would add value and strengthen the event's impact.

Nirmala Sitharaman, who has played a crucial role in India's financial policy, and Sarbananda Sonowal, a former Chief Minister of Assam, are expected to bring valuable perspectives to the summit. Their participation would underscore the central government's commitment to Assam's development and foster greater collaboration between the state and the federal government in boosting economic growth.

The Advantage Assam Summit 2.0 is expected to be a significant milestone in Assam's journey towards becoming a major economic powerhouse in the Northeast region.

Will we have lollipop while you occupy our land: Mamata to Bangladeshi politicians

TPN CORRESPONDENT KOLKATA
DECEMBER.10

West Bengal Chief Minister Mamata Banerjee on Monday addressed provocative comments made by some Bangladeshi politicians, who claimed that Bangladesh had legitimate territorial rights over Bengal, Bihar, and Odisha. Speaking in the West Bengal Assembly, Banerjee dismissed such statements and urged residents of the state to remain calm and composed in the face of external provocations.

Banerjee mocked the remarks of certain Bangladeshi leaders and stressed that such statements should not disturb the peace of West Bengal. "Stay calm and healthy and have peace of mind," she advised. The comments from Bangladesh's Nationalist Party (BNP) leader, who made the territorial claim during a recent public meeting in Dhaka, had raised concerns among many in India.



In her speech, Banerjee emphasized unity, saying that the state's people, regardless of religion or community, have condemned the situation in Bangladesh, particularly the attacks on minorities. "The same blood flows in the veins of Hindus, Muslims, and all other communities. We must work together to prevent aggravating the situation in West Bengal," she said, highlighting the importance of solidarity across religious lines.

Banerjee also acknowledged the collective protests by people in West Bengal against the situation in Bangladesh, and urged her political rivals and media outlets to be responsible in their commentary on the issue. She advised against inflaming tensions, stating, "If trouble breaks out here, it will affect us all. Similarly, if the situation worsens in Bangladesh, it will affect our relatives and friends there."

The Chief Minister reiterated her government's stance of following the Ministry of External Affairs' guidelines on foreign matters. She called for patience, emphasizing that her party, the Trinamool Congress, would refrain from speaking out of turn until the outcome of diplomatic discussions between India and Bangladesh were clear.

Tamil Nadu Assembly Passes Resolution Against Tungsten Mining in State



TPN CORRESPONDENT CHENNAI
DECEMBER.10

The Tamil Nadu Assembly on Monday passed a resolution calling on the Centre to immediately revoke the tungsten mining rights granted to Hindustan Zinc Limited (HZL) in the state. The decision followed an intense debate in the House, with Chief Minister M.K. Stalin taking a strong stance against the project.

During the debate, Stalin asserted that he would not allow any mining activities in the region, emphasizing the negative impact on local livelihoods and the environment. He declared, "Tungsten mining will not be allowed under any circumstances. If the project proceeds, I will not hold this post as Chief Minister." His comments came in response to criticism from Leader of Opposition Edappadi K. Palaniswami, who accused the ruling government of being "silent" for months before taking action, only after protests broke out in the affected areas of Melur in Madurai.

The resolution, which was introduced by Water Resources Minister Duraimurugan, was passed unanimously by the Assembly. Interestingly, the Bharatiya Janata Party (BJP), despite its usual opposition, chose not to oppose the resolution at the introductory stage.

The issue of tungsten mining in Tamil Nadu has sparked significant controversy, with local communities raising concerns about the environmental consequences of such projects. The government's swift response highlights the growing tensions between development projects and environmental protection in the state.

Will Make It "Easier" For People To Come In Legally To US: Trump

WASHINGTON: Incoming US President Donald Trump reiterated his stance on immigration, vowing to deport all illegal immigrants once he takes office. He emphasized that his administration would strictly enforce immigration laws, starting with removing criminal offenders.

Trump outlined his plan to focus first on deporting individuals involved in criminal activities, particularly gang members like MS-13 and violent offenders, such as murderers and those released from mental institutions. He criticized the release of violent criminals, saying, "We had 13,000 murderers released into our country over the last three years. They're walking down the streets. They're very dangerous."

While he remains firm on deporting illegal immigrants, Trump also expressed his intention to make legal immigration easier for those wishing to enter the country. He suggested that prospective immigrants would need to pass a simple test, demonstrating knowledge about American history and a love for the country. He added, "They have to be able to tell you what the Statue of Liberty is," referring to the type of civic knowledge immigrants would be expected to have.

Addressing the issue of undocumented



individuals brought to the US as children, commonly referred to as "dreamers," Trump stated that the situation would be tackled in the future. While he acknowledged their contributions to American society, he also mentioned the need to work with Democrats on finding a solution for this group. Trump highlighted that the Dreamers, many of whom are now middle-aged, have established lives in the US and said that "Republicans are very open

to a potential deal, despite the difficulty in reaching bipartisan agreement.

Overall, Trump's remarks reflected his commitment to deporting criminals while offering a more streamlined process for individuals seeking to enter the US legally. His plan marks a continuation of his tough stance on illegal immigration but with a focus on reforming the process for legal applicants.



War Can't Be Finished: Zelensky On Trump's Call For Immediate Ceasefire

KYIV: Ukrainian President Volodymyr Zelensky has firmly rejected US President-elect Donald Trump's call for an immediate ceasefire between Russian and Ukrainian forces, emphasizing that Kyiv will not accept any peace agreement without strong security guarantees. Trump, in a recent interview, suggested that his administration might reduce aid to Ukraine and advocated for a ceasefire and peace talks. However, Zelensky stated that the ongoing war cannot be resolved by "just a piece of paper and a few signatures" and stressed the need for lasting, reliable peace.

Zelensky made his comments after meeting Trump in Paris on Saturday, alongside French President Emmanuel Macron. While Trump has expressed his ability to swiftly end the conflict, he did not provide specifics on how he would achieve that. He also reiterated his favorable relationship with Russian President Vladimir Putin.

In response, Zelensky conveyed Ukraine's need for an "enduring" peace that would protect the nation from future Russian aggression. Although he had previously opposed territorial concessions, Zelensky has recently softened his stance, suggesting that Ukraine might temporarily forgo control of certain Russian-occupied territories in exchange for NATO security guarantees and continued Western military support. Zelensky emphasized that peace must be long-lasting and credible, warning that the war should not drag on endlessly. The Ukrainian leader also acknowledged the heavy toll of the war, revealing that 43,000 Ukrainian soldiers had been killed, and over 370,000 wounded. He underscored that Ukraine's desire for peace is stronger than anyone else's, but Russia's actions have continuously disrupted that peace. Zelensky called on Western allies not to ignore the ongoing occupation by Russia and reiterated that any peace agreement must guarantee Ukraine's security.

Meanwhile, Russia has accused Ukraine of refusing to negotiate, with Kremlin spokesperson Dmitry Peskov stating that Ukraine's conditions for talks are unacceptable, as they do not include ceding control of four disputed regions.

Biden Calls Collapse of Assad's Regime a "Historic Opportunity" for Syria's Future

WASHINGTON: Outgoing US President Joe Biden hailed the collapse of Bashar al-Assad's regime as a "historic opportunity" for the Syrian people, marking the end of decades of authoritarian rule and over 13 years of devastating civil war. His comments came shortly after Syrian rebel forces successfully seized control of the country, forcing Assad to resign and reportedly flee to Moscow.

Biden, in his statement, emphasized the significance of this moment for the Syrian population, who have endured immense suffering under Assad's rule. He described the regime's fall as an unprecedented opportunity for the Syrian people to rebuild their nation, free from the decades of oppression and violence that defined the Assad government. "This is a chance for Syria to turn a new page, one where the voices of the people can be heard and where they can shape a future based on freedom and justice," Biden said.



The collapse of Assad's regime came after a rapid and coordinated offensive by Syrian rebel forces, marking a major turning point in the ongoing conflict that has plagued the country since 2011. The fall of Damascus and Assad's departure to Moscow has sent shockwaves through the region, leading to questions about Syria's political future and the broader implications for Middle Eastern geopolitics.

Biden's remarks also pointed to the broader international context, with many Western nations seeing Assad's downfall as a victory for the Syrian people and a blow to the interests of authoritarian powers such as Russia and Iran, which have supported Assad throughout the conflict.

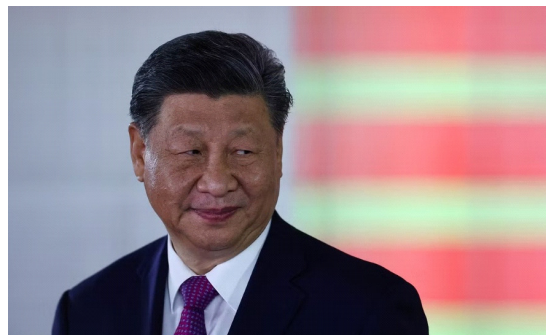
While the future of Syria remains uncertain, Biden's statement highlighted the hope that this historic moment could pave the way for a new era in the country—one defined by democracy, accountability, and a greater respect for human rights. However, the path to lasting peace and stability will depend on the ability of Syria's people and leaders to navigate the complex political and humanitarian challenges ahead.

China announces first monetary policy shift since 2010 to spur growth

BEIJING: China has announced plans to adopt an "appropriately loose" monetary policy next year, marking the first shift towards easing since 2010. This move, reported by state media following a Politburo meeting, aims to stimulate economic growth amid ongoing challenges.

The policy adjustments were outlined as part of the country's broader strategy to implement a more proactive fiscal policy and introduce "unconventional" counter-cyclical measures. These steps are designed to counter economic slowdowns and support recovery by boosting domestic consumption and expanding demand across various sectors.

According to the official readout, the Chinese government's priority is to strengthen economic resilience while maintaining stability. The announcement emphasized



the importance of "pursuing progress while maintaining stability," focusing on leveraging advancements to ensure long-term stability and foster innovation.

The move to ease monetary policy comes ahead of China's annual Central Economic Work Conference, which will set key targets and policies for 2025. The policy shift also includes strengthening the policy toolkit and refining counter-cyclical measures

to respond more effectively to economic challenges.

Since 2010, China has maintained a relatively tight monetary policy, but the need for flexibility in its economic approach has led to the decision to adopt a looser stance. The central bank will now implement more targeted adjustments to stimulate economic activity while avoiding risks of overheating.

While the central bank employs a variety of policy stances—ranging from "loose" to "tight"—the focus will now be on creating a balanced approach to support both growth and stability. As China navigates economic hurdles, including external challenges and slowing domestic growth, these policy changes are expected to play a crucial role in shaping the nation's economic future in 2025.

Rebel Leader Abu Declares Victory, Signals End of Assad's Rule and Iranian Influence in Syria

MOSQUE: Abu Mohammad al-Jolani, the leader of the Islamist group Hayat Tahrir al-Sham (HTS), has declared a "historic" victory in Syria, marking a significant turning point in the country's long-running conflict. Speaking from the Umayyad Mosque in Damascus on December 8, 2024, Jolani, who led a successful offensive that took control of the Syrian capital in less than two weeks, announced the end of Bashar al-Assad's regime. Jolani, who previously led al-Qaeda's Syrian branch before distancing himself from the group, now heads Syria's largest rebel faction and has positioned himself as a key figure in shaping the country's future.



In his speech, Jolani emphasized Syria's "purification," signaling that the country's regional reputation as a narco-state was about to end. He specifically highlighted how Assad's Syria had become the world's leading source of Captagon, an amphetamine-type drug, and how criminality had spread throughout the region under Assad's rule. Jolani's comments appear to be directed not only at the Assad regime but also at regional powers whose support he will need moving forward.

Jolani, who now uses his given name, Ahmad al-Sharaa, instead of his nom de guerre, also referenced the waning influence of Iran in Syria, further solidifying his break from past alliances and signaling his readiness to lead a post-Assad Syria free from foreign intervention. His remarks suggest a new phase for Syria, one where the country's leadership may shift away from the entrenched Assad regime and Iranian influence, opening a potential path for a more pluralistic and tolerant future, as Jolani has expressed interest in embracing religious diversity.

As the head of HTS, Jolani now finds himself at the forefront of the post-Assad political landscape, with the potential to become a key figure in Syria's reconstruction. His victory in Damascus, along with his rejection of past extremism, has elevated his status, while the future of Syria hangs in the balance.

India Raises Concerns Over Minority Attacks in Bangladesh

Foreign Secretary Vikram Misri, during his visit to Dhaka, expressed India's concerns over recent attacks on religious minorities in Bangladesh. In a meeting with Bangladeshi Foreign Adviser Mohammad Touhid Hossain, Misri condemned the attacks on religious institutions, describing them as "regrettable."

Misri highlighted India's desire for a "positive, constructive, and mutually beneficial" relationship with Bangladesh, despite the tense diplomatic atmosphere. He emphasized that India's primary concern is the safety and welfare of minorities in Bangladesh, especially following the surge in violence against the Hindu community.

Misri further discussed the troubling incidents of violence, which have included vandalism and desecration of religious places. He called for addressing these issues with sensitivity, expressing regret over the targeted attacks on cultural and religious properties.

The meeting, which was described as

"frank, candid, and constructive," provided both sides an opportunity to assess their bilateral ties. Misri's visit marks the first high-level meeting between India and Bangladesh since the political upheaval in Bangladesh following the ousting of Prime Minister Sheikh Hasina in August.

Bilateral relations between the two countries have been strained due to several issues, including rising violence against religious minorities in Bangladesh. Tensions escalated after Hasina fled to India following a massive anti-government protest. Subsequently, the interim government under Nobel laureate Mohammad Yunus has faced criticism for its handling of the violence, with reports of mob attacks targeting Hindus and Hindu priests being prosecuted.



Indices End with Moderate Losses Amid Mixed Market Signals

The domestic stock market indices closed with moderate losses on Monday, following a day of fluctuations influenced by mixed signals from global and Asian markets. After opening flat, the indices traded within a narrow range until the afternoon, and European markets reached their lows after opening, as they continue to remain in a consolidation phase. The Sensex and Nifty both recorded losses, with FMCG, media, and consumption shares facing the brunt of the selling pressure.

The BSE Sensex, which had closed at 81,709 in the previous session, opened at 81,602 on Monday. It touched an intraday low of 81,411 and a high of 81,783 before finally closing at 81,508, down by 200 points. The NSE Nifty opened at 24,633, reached a low of 24,580, and hit a high of 24,705. It closed at 24,633, down 58 points. The Bank Nifty lost 101 points to settle at 53,407.

Among the Nifty50 stocks, 19 companies gained while 30 lost. Wipro, LT, SBI Life, Tata Steel, and BPCL were the top gainers, while Tata Consumers, Hindustan Unilever, Tata Motors, Nestle India, and Asian Paints were the biggest losers. Sector indices for tourism, defense, metal, consumer durables, IT, and PSE saw marginal gains, while FMCG, media, consumption, auto, oil and gas, pharma, PSU bank, and energy sectors experienced losses.

Market breadth on the NSE was slightly positive, with 1,546 stocks advancing and 1,318 declining out of 2,944 shares traded. A total of 140 companies reached 52-week highs, while 13 stocks touched 52-week lows.



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For short-term investments, analysts suggest buying shares of Tata Steel, Hindalco, NTPC, Jindal Steel, and REC.

The Indian rupee weakened by 4 paise, closing at 84.73 against the dollar. Notable stock movements included HSBC raising its target price on Infosys to Rs. 2120 from Rs. 1795, while Railtel secured orders worth Rs. 13 crore and Rs. 16 crore from different companies. Metal stocks rose after China's Politburo signaled a focus on consumption, and Jagil prepaid shares surged after striking a deal with HDFC Bank to offer credit cards using Jagil software. Meanwhile, Star Health received a show cause notice from the IRDAI, and Wrights shares rose 5% following a \$9.71 million order from the Guyana gov-

ernment. Jefferies gave a buy rating to Godrej Consumers with a target price of Rs 1550. Gokaldas, Welspun, and other textile stocks rose 14% amid turmoil in Bangladesh's garment industry.

Recommended Stocks:

Tata Steel
Tata Steel, a major player in the steel industry, has witnessed growth due to increased demand in the construction and automotive sectors. With strong fundamentals and cost-effective production, it re-



mains a top pick.

Hindalco
Hindalco, a key player in the metals sector, excels in aluminum and copper production. The company's focus on green technologies and strong global demand for metals enhances its growth prospects in the long term.



NTPC
NTPC, India's largest energy producer, has seen growth through its investments in renewable energy and expansion of thermal power. With a diversified portfolio, NTPC is well-positioned for sustainable growth in the energy sector.



Jindal Steel
Jindal Steel & Power is one of India's leading steel producers, benefiting from strong domestic demand and a diverse portfolio. With focus on innovation and efficient production, Jindal Steel shows promising growth potential.



REC
REC Limited, a leading power sector financing company, plays a key role in funding power generation and transmission projects. Its strong financial position and government support make it a stable investment for long-term growth.



SBI Projects India's GDP Growth at 6.3% for FY25 Amid Slowing Economic Momentum



The State Bank of India (SBI) has projected that India's Gross Domestic Product (GDP) will grow at 6.3% during the ongoing fiscal year (FY25), revising down its earlier estimates. This projection is lower than the Reserve Bank of India's (RBI) revised estimate of 6.6%, which was adjusted from a previous forecast of 7.2%.

SBI's projection comes after India's GDP growth slowed to 5.4% in the July-September quarter of FY25, marking the lowest growth rate in seven quarters. This slowdown raised concerns over the overall pace of the economy, with analysts pointing out that the first quarter of FY25 had already shown weaker-than-expected performance.

SBI explained that its forecast was influenced by a range of factors, including weak domestic consumption, global headwinds, and slower growth in industrial production. The bank also noted that this was not an unusual situation, referencing similar downward revisions in previous fiscal years. In FY22 and FY23, GDP growth projections were also downgraded by about 90 basis

points on average, reflecting broader economic challenges.

While the RBI had recently revised its GDP growth estimate for FY25, Governor Shaktikanta Das acknowledged the slowdown but expressed confidence that the economic conditions would improve in the coming quarters. However, even with the downward revisions, both the RBI and SBI remain optimistic about the long-term growth trajectory of the Indian economy.

Meanwhile, SBI also commented on the RBI's recent decision to cut the Cash Reserve Ratio (CRR) by 50 basis points (bps) to 4%. While this move is expected to infuse ₹1.16 lakh crore into the banking system, SBI anticipates only a modest positive impact of 3-4 bps on banks' net interest margins. The CRR reduction will occur in two phases, with cuts scheduled for December 14 and December 28.

With the budget approaching, the focus now shifts to fiscal policies that could address the challenges posed by slower growth and inflationary pressures.

Indian Consumer Confidence Weakens Amid Rising Inflation, Says RBI

According to the latest survey by the Reserve Bank of India (RBI), Indian consumers' confidence in the country's general economic situation, employment prospects, and their own income and spending has weakened. The survey revealed a noticeable decline in consumer sentiment, reflecting growing concerns about economic conditions and financial stability.

The RBI's findings indicate that households are increasingly cautious about their financial outlook. As a result, consumers are more apprehensive about job security, and their income expectations have also taken a hit. The survey highlights a shift in consumer sentiment, with more individuals expressing doubts about the country's overall economic performance in the near future.

In addition to concerns about the economy, inflation remains a major worry for Indian households. The survey found that domestic consumers anticipate a further rise in inflation, which is likely to impact their purchasing power. This expectation of higher inflation is causing consumers to adjust their spending habits, with many indicating that they are likely to curtail discretionary expenditures in the coming months.



The weakening consumer confidence comes at a time when the country is grappling with several economic challenges, including rising food and fuel prices, which have contributed to inflationary pressures. The RBI's survey suggests that these factors are significantly affecting consumer sentiment, leading to a more cautious approach to spending.

Despite these concerns, some positive outlooks remain, with a portion of consumers still holding optimistic views

about their personal income and the broader economy. However, the overall sentiment has shifted towards a more negative perspective, suggesting that many Indian households are bracing for tougher financial conditions in the near term.

As inflation continues to rise and economic uncertainties persist, Indian consumers are expected to adopt a more cautious and conservative stance in managing their finances, affecting overall consumption patterns in the country.

Paytm Shares Hit 52-Week High on Stake Sale to SoftBank

Shares of One 97 Communications, the parent company of Paytm, surged more than 3% on Monday, December 9, hitting a new 52-week high of Rs 1,007. This increase followed the announcement that the company would be selling its stake in PayPay Corporation to SoftBank.

This stock price rally marks Paytm's fifth consecutive day of gains, with shares having risen approximately 11% over this period. The upward movement in the stock price has seen Paytm's shares trading above their 5-day, 20-day, 50-day, 100-day, and 200-day moving averages, signaling strong market momentum.

The sale of Paytm's stake in PayPay Cor-



poration to SoftBank has been viewed positively by investors, contributing to the company's positive stock performance. The move is seen as a strategic shift that could potentially streamline operations and enhance Paytm's focus on its core business.

Investors are keeping a close eye on developments, as the transaction is expected to have a long-term impact on Paytm's financial structure and future growth prospects. The ongoing surge in Paytm's stock is indicative of investor confidence in the company's strategic direction and its ability to capitalize on new opportunities in the fintech space.

As the stock continues to climb, analysts suggest that the next few weeks will be crucial in determining whether Paytm can maintain its upward momentum and if the company's market position strengthens further with this key stake sale to SoftBank.



Japan's Futuristic 'Human Washing Machine' Offers Customized Bathing Experience

Japan is taking technology to new heights with the introduction of the Mirai Ningen Sentakuki, a high-tech "human washing machine" that promises to revolutionize the bathing experience. Developed by Science Co., an Osaka-based company, this groundbreaking invention combines artificial intelligence (AI) with a futuristic design to deliver a personalized wash-and-dry experience in just 15 minutes.



After a busy day, many people crave a relaxing bath, but for those pressed for time, the Mirai Ningen Sentakuki offers an ideal solution. This innovative device uses AI to analyze the user's body, ensuring a customized wash that caters to individual needs. The machine resembles a sleek, futuristic pod, reminiscent of a fighter jet cockpit, and is designed to provide the ultimate convenience and relaxation in a fraction of the time it takes for a traditional bath.

The Mirai Ningen Sentakuki will be showcased at the Osaka Kansai Expo, offering a unique opportunity for 1,000 lucky visitors to experience the machine firsthand. During an event, company chairman Yasuaki Aoyama shared that they are about 70% of the way to full development, with plans to offer public demonstrations at the upcoming expo.

This innovation highlights Japan's ongoing commitment to integrating advanced technology into everyday life, and the human washing machine is a glimpse into what could be the future of personal care. With its ability to customize the bathing experience and drastically reduce the time spent, this futuristic device promises to make daily routines more efficient and enjoyable.

As the development of the Mirai Ningen Sentakuki continues, it could pave the way for more advanced and efficient solutions to common personal care tasks, making it a significant step forward in the world of technology and wellness.

Bengaluru Startup Hires Men To Carry Advertisement Boards, Internet Calls It Disgraceful

In a bold and unconventional marketing move, Bengaluru-based startup Swish has hired men to carry large advertisement boards on their backs, replacing traditional billboards with human advertisements. This unusual promotional tactic has gone viral, with mixed reactions flooding social media.

In the viral images, a group of men can be seen walking down the streets at night, each carrying illuminated boards displaying details of Swish's 10-minute food delivery service. The sight of these individuals parading the streets with large advertisements strapped to them has caught the attention of many, but not all reactions have been positive.



One viral post humorously captioned the images, "VC: how much funding do you need? Start-up: 5 million \$ VC: what's your customer acquisition plan? Then: Human ads VC: Take my money." While the comment drew laughs from some, it also raised serious concerns about the ethical implications of the stunt. Many users criticized the practice as "disgraceful," questioning the treatment of the men involved and the message it sent about labor exploitation.

The images quickly sparked a debate, with some applauding the creative and bold marketing strategy, while others argued it was dehumanizing and unprofessional. Supporters of the

stunt pointed out that it was an innovative way to grab attention in a city flooded with traditional advertisements. However, critics argued that using people as moving billboards could be seen as a form of exploitation, reducing individuals to mere tools for advertisement purposes.

As the debate continues to unfold online, Swish's controversial tactic has certainly captured the public's attention. While the startup's human advertisement stunt may have been effective in terms of visibility, it also raised important questions about the boundaries of marketing and the ethics of using human beings as walking ads.

TikTok Trends That Dominated Pop Culture in 2024: From Demure to Brat

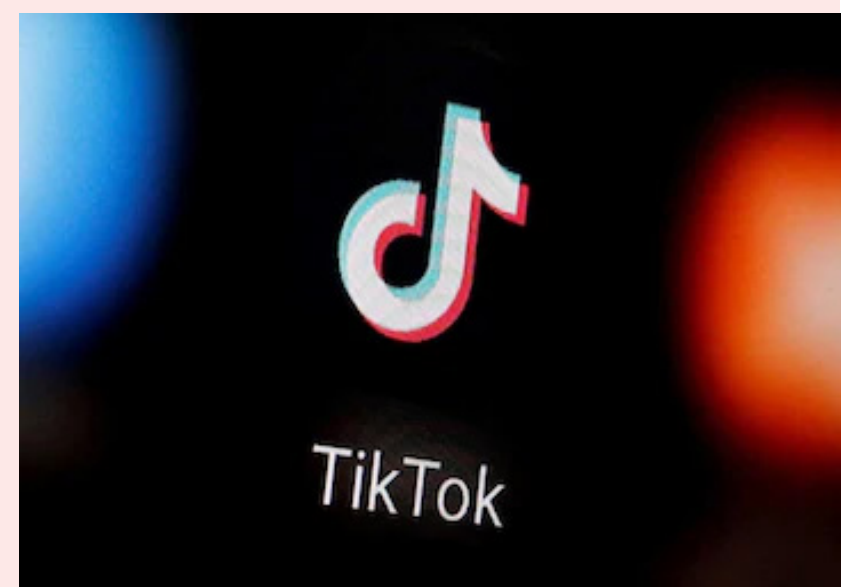
In 2024, TikTok continued to reign as the epicenter of internet culture, delivering a year filled with viral moments that influenced pop culture in unexpected ways. From quirky remakes of recipes and catchphrases to the rise of iconic furry and feathered characters, TikTok served as a platform for creativity, connection, and the sharing of unforgettable trends. The year saw a range of content, from playful dances to calming vibes, all shaping the social media landscape in new ways.

One of the standout trends of 2024 was the rise of **#demure**, a movement that embraced minimalism and mindfulness. The term was popularized by creator Jools Lebron, who described it as "very demure, very mindful" — a call for peaceful living and simplicity. The trend quickly expanded beyond just a buzzword, becoming a full-blown cultural moment. TikTok creators used **#demure** to share everything from basic makeup tutorials to ASMR meditation sessions. This yearning for calm and tranquil-

ity resonated so deeply with users that Dictionary.com named "demure" their Word of the Year, highlighting the collective desire for peace and reflection in a fast-paced world.

On the flip side, 2024 also saw the rise of the **brat** persona, a trend that exuded sass, confidence, and independence. Popularized through **Brat Summer**, a movement driven by Kelley Heyer's viral Apple dance inspired by Charli XCX, the **brat** trend became a celebration of bold self-expression and unapologetic attitude. It was all about embracing one's inner confidence, rejecting societal norms, and owning one's individuality. This trend gained such traction that Collins Dictionary chose "brat" as their Word of the Year, underscoring the growing cultural shift toward empowerment and fearless self-expression.

These two opposing trends, **demure** and **brat**, encapsulated the diverse ways in which TikTok shaped the cultural conversa-



tion in 2024 — balancing peaceful introspection with unfiltered boldness. The year on TikTok brought us together in new ways, creating a unique blend of relaxation and empowerment that defined the year's most memorable moments.

Record-Breaking 5,000 Drones Create Giant Santa Claus, Dazzles Social Media

A breathtaking display of technology and holiday cheer has taken social media by storm. A US-based drone company, Sky Elements, set a new world record by flying 5,000 drones in one of the largest-ever drone light shows, captivating millions of viewers across the globe. The light show, which took place in Mansfield, Texas, featured a giant Santa Claus flying on his sleigh, pulled by two massive reindeer, just in time for Christmas celebrations.



This dazzling spectacle broke Sky Elements' own previous record of flying 2,500 drones, set just a week earlier in the northern hemisphere. With the help of UVify, a drone technology partner, the companies created an unforgettable scene using precise drone choreography. The evening show unfolded with near-perfect precision as thousands of drones, each equipped with LED lights, soared into the sky. In a matter of moments, the drones formed the image of Santa Claus, complete with his iconic red suit, long white beard, and a sleigh overflowing with presents. Santa was even seen waving to the delighted audience.

The event marks Sky Elements' 11th Guinness World Record, solidifying their reputation as pioneers in drone light shows. The video of the performance quickly went viral, racking up more than 98 million views and 5.5 million likes on Instagram alone, further cementing the global appeal of these high-tech holiday displays.

In addition to the stunning visual, the show highlighted the immense coordination and planning involved in orchestrating such a large-scale performance, with technicians working meticulously to ensure every drone was perfectly aligned to create the spectacular display. The record-breaking drone performance has quickly become a holiday sensation, with viewers around the world marveling at the marriage of technology and festive spirit.

Experience Japanese School Life for Rs 17,000 with Unique 'One-Day Student' Scheme

For just Rs 17,000 (30,000 yen), foreign tourists in Japan can step into the shoes of a Japanese student for a day under a unique "One-Day Student" program. Offered by the company Undokaiya, this immersive experience allows participants to dive into the world of Japanese school culture, providing a fun and educational adventure that highlights the country's traditions and customs.



The program, hosted at a decommissioned secondary school in Chiba Prefecture, offers an array of activities that include calligraphy, traditional katana fighting, and physical education. The aim is to give tourists a taste of what life is like for students in Japan, while also boosting tourism in the region. The experience is open to people of all ages, with a daily limit of just 30 participants, ensuring a personalized and engaging atmosphere.

Participants can choose to wear the iconic sailor uniforms or suits for the opening ceremony, just like the students seen in Japa-

nese manga and anime. From there, they will be assigned to classrooms, where they'll practice Japanese calligraphy in language lessons. The day also includes traditional cultural experiences, such as wearing kimonos, learning to use a katana sword, and taking part in a Japanese dance.

A standout feature of the program is the school's emphasis on disaster preparedness, teaching participants crucial emergency response skills. As Japan is an earthquake-prone country, visitors will undergo drills, learn-

ing how to quickly duck under desks—just as local students do during their school drills.

This "One-Day Student" program is a rare opportunity for tourists to not only experience Japan's rich school culture but also to deepen their connection with the country's traditions in an interactive and memorable way. Whether you've been fascinated by Japanese school life through anime or simply want to learn something new, this immersive experience offers a fun and educational day out.



Sherfane Rutherford Ton Steers West Indies To Victory Over Bangladesh



A superb maiden ODI century from Sherfane Rutherford powered the West Indies to a thrilling five-wicket win over Bangladesh in the first ODI at Warner Park on Sunday. Rutherford's explosive innings of 113 off 80 balls, which included seven fours and eight sixes, helped West Indies chase down Bangladesh's total of 294/6 with just seven runs to spare.

The 26-year-old Rutherford, playing in his 10th ODI, came to the crease with the West Indies at 94-3, needing 201 runs to win. He formed a vital 99-run partnership for the fourth wicket with captain Shai Hope, who made 86 off 88 balls. Rutherford's knock brought the team closer to their target before he was dismissed by off-spinner Mehidy Hasan Miraz, caught by Jaker Ali at midwicket.

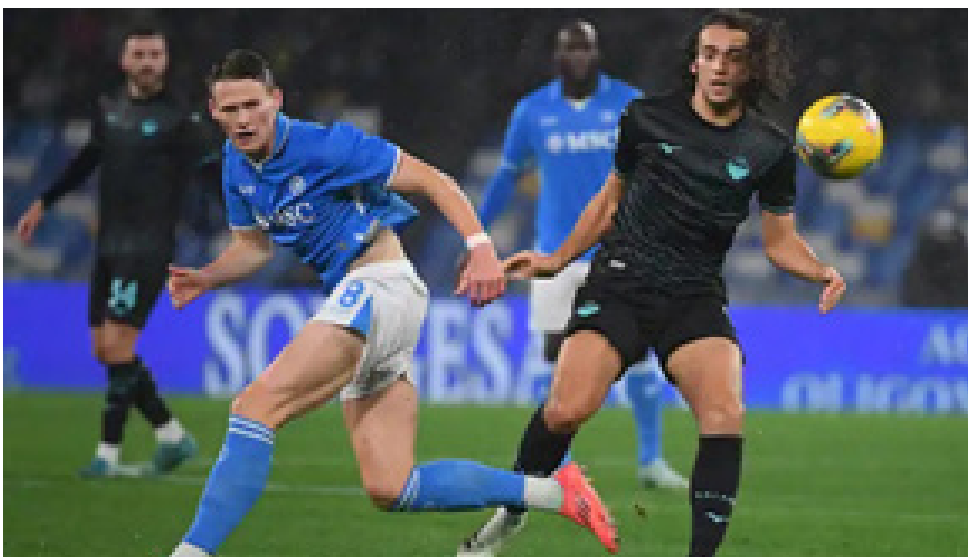
Rutherford then joined forces with Justin Greaves (41 not out) in a crucial 95-run partnership for the sixth wicket, which put the West Indies within reach of victory. Despite his early

exit, Rutherford's remarkable performance was enough to take West Indies to the brink of success. He was named the Player of the Match for his efforts.

Captain Shai Hope praised Rutherford's consistency and improvement in his batting. "We ask for consistency, and he's showing that," said Hope. "He strikes the ball really well, and the hard work is paying off. He was disappointed not to finish the game, but he played a pivotal role in the win."

Earlier in the day, Bangladesh, after winning the toss and opting to bat, made a strong start. Opener Tanzid Hasan contributed 60 runs, while captain Mehidy Hasan Miraz scored 74. A partnership of 96 between Mahmudullah (50 not out) and Jaker Ali (48) pushed Bangladesh to a total of 294/6, but it wasn't enough to deny the West Indies, who chased down the target with Rutherford's heroics.

Napoli Hand Serie A Lead To Atalanta With Lazio Defeat, Fiorentina Win



Napoli's hopes of retaining the Serie A top spot were dashed on Sunday after a 1-0 home defeat to Lazio, allowing the red-hot Atalanta to take over at the summit. This result dropped Napoli to second, two points behind Atalanta, while Lazio remained in the hunt, just three points off the leaders.

In a wet and frustrating match for Napoli at the Stadio Diego Armando Maradona, Gustav Isaksen's stunning strike in the 53rd minute proved to be the match-winner, leaving Napoli goalkeeper Alex Meret helpless. The goal came after a first-half period of dominance from the hosts, with Khvicha Kvaratskhelia and Andre-Frank Zambo Anguissa both hitting the woodwork. Despite their efforts, Napoli couldn't break down Lazio's resilient defense.

Lazio, playing with determination under Marco Baroni, were under pressure for much of the game but struck decisively when it mattered. After Isaksen's brilliant goal, they held firm to secure a vital three points.

"We're facing teams built to win, and the only way we can get there is with good football," said Baroni after the win.

Napoli, last season's champions, now find themselves under threat from several clubs. Inter Milan and Lazio are just one point behind them in the league, with both teams also eliminating Napoli from the Italian Cup in recent weeks. Despite efforts from Kvaratskhelia and Anguissa, who both came close to scoring, Napoli's finishing and lack of creativity in key moments left them frustrated.

In other Serie A action, Fiorentina continued their strong form with a 1-0 victory over Cagliari, keeping themselves in contention for a top-four finish. Danilo Cataldi scored the only goal of the match, dedicating it to his friend Edoardo Bove, who remains hospitalized after collapsing last week. Cataldi's goal secured Fiorentina's eighth consecutive league win and kept them level on points with Lazio in fourth place.

Chelsea Beat Tottenham Hotspur To State Premier League Title Credentials, Arsenal Stumble

Chelsea mounted a thrilling comeback on Sunday, overcoming a two-goal deficit to beat Tottenham 4-3 at the Tottenham Hotspur Stadium. The victory moved Chelsea to second place in the Premier League, just four points behind leaders Liverpool, who had their match postponed due to stormy weather.

Tottenham seemed to be in control early, as Dominic Solanke and Dejan Kulusevski put Spurs two goals up within the first 11 minutes. However, Chelsea quickly responded, with Jadon Sancho pulling one back with a brilliant strike. The second half belonged to the visitors, as Cole Palmer equalized from the penalty spot in the 61st minute, before Enzo Fernandez put Chelsea ahead with another fine goal 12 minutes later. Palmer's cool "Panenka" spot-kick provided a two-goal cushion, although Son Heung-min's late strike for Spurs made it 4-3.

Chelsea now sit in second place with 31 points, just two ahead of Arsenal, who were held to a 1-1 draw by Fulham earlier in the day. Despite their position, Chelsea manager Enzo Maresca played down their title chances, stating that teams like Ar-



senal, Manchester City, and Liverpool were still ahead of them in terms of readiness.

The draw for Arsenal was frustrating, as a late winner from Bukayo Saka was ruled out by VAR for offside. Fulham had taken the lead early, with Raul Jimenez scoring a brilliant goal. Arsenal responded with a set-piece goal from William Saliba, but they couldn't find a winner despite domi-

nating the match. Manager Mikel Arteta expressed disappointment, saying his side did everything right but couldn't capitalize on their chances.

In other Premier League action, Leicester City salvaged a point at home, drawing 2-2 with Brighton, while Bournemouth secured a dramatic 2-1 win over Ipswich, denying the hosts their first home win in the top flight for 22 years.

South Africa overpower Sri Lanka to sweep series 2-0

South Africa moved to the top of the World Test Championship standings after defeating Sri Lanka by 109 runs in the second Test at St George's Park on Monday, securing a 2-0 series victory. The match was sealed by a stellar performance from left-arm spinner Keshav Maharaj, who claimed 5 wickets for 76 runs as Sri Lanka was bowled out for 238.

The victory came after a dominant fifth day, with Sri Lanka's chase faltering early. Overnight batsmen Dhananjaya de Silva and Kusal Mendis were dismissed within the first 10 overs. Sri Lanka began the day at 205 for 5, still needing 143 runs for an unlikely victory.

Maharaj struck first, dismissing Mendis for 46, who had contributed to a 97-run sixth-wicket partnership with De Silva. Kagiso Rabada followed with the crucial wicket of Sri Lankan captain De Silva, who was caught behind for 50, leaving the tail exposed.

This commanding win not only gave South Africa a clean



sweep of the series but also propelled them to the top of the World Test Championship table, reinforcing their dominant form in the longest format of the game.

India Drawn in Tough Group for 2027 Asian Cup Qualifiers

India has been placed in a challenging group for the 2027 Asian Cup Qualifiers, alongside Bangladesh, Hong Kong, and Singapore. The final round of qualifiers, which kicks off on March 25, 2025, will see 24 teams competing for a spot in the main tournament in Saudi Arabia in 2027.

The draw, conducted at the Asian Football Confederation (AFC) House in Kuala Lumpur, Malaysia, saw teams divided into six groups of four. Only the six group winners will earn automatic qualification for the 2027 Asian Cup, joining the 18 teams that secured their places after the second round of qualifiers.

India, ranked 127th, is the highest-ranked team in Group C, followed by Hong Kong (156th), Singapore (161st), and Bangladesh (185th). Despite being the top seed in the group, India faces a tough challenge to secure qualification, with all three of its opponents showing competitive form in recent years.

The final round of the qualifiers will be held across six matchdays, with home-and-away fixtures between March 25, 2025, and March 31, 2026.



India will begin its campaign at home against Bangladesh, marking a crucial start to their bid for a third consecutive appearance in the Asian Cup.

With only the top team from each group guaranteed a place in the main

tournament, India will need to perform strongly against its regional rivals. As the qualifiers progress, the competition is expected to intensify, and India will need to put in consistent performances to secure their spot in the prestigious continental event.



Baaghi 4 New Poster: Sanjay Dutt Is A Villain Bathed In Blood And Heartache

Tiger Shroff recently announced the highly anticipated fourth installment of his popular *Baaghi* franchise, which is set to hit theatres on September 5, 2025. Directed by A. Harsha, the action-packed film promises to deliver an exciting cinematic experience. Following the release of the first-look poster of Tiger Shroff's character, the makers have now unveiled the intense new poster featuring Sanjay Dutt, sparking even more excitement among fans.

In the poster, Sanjay Dutt is seated on a throne, dressed in blood-soaked clothes and holding a lifeless woman in his arms. The image exudes a sense of deep pain and fury, suggesting that Dutt's character will be one filled with raw emotion and vengeance. The striking visual is accompanied by the tagline, "Every Aashiq Is A Villain," hinting that Dutt's character will serve as the primary antagonist in the film.

The tagline hints at a complex character, potentially driven by the heartbreak of losing a loved one, which sets the stage for a gripping battle between Dutt's character and Tiger Shroff's hero. Dutt's portrayal is expected to bring a new level of intensity to the *Baaghi* franchise, with his formidable screen presence and strong character arc making him a perfect fit for the role of the villain.



Fans are eagerly awaiting more updates about *Baaghi 4*, which is already creating a buzz with its star-studded cast and action-packed storyline. With the combination of Tiger Shroff's high-octane action sequences and Sanjay Dutt's intense performance as the antagonist, the film promises to be one of the biggest action releases of 2025. Stay tuned for more thrilling updates as *Baaghi 4* prepares to take audiences on an unforgettable ride.

The Girlfriend Teaser: Vijay Deverakonda's Poetic Voice For Rashmika

The prestigious production houses Geetha Arts, Mass Movie Makers, and Dheeraj Mogilineni Entertainments have joined forces with the talented performer Rashmika Mandanna for an exciting new love story, *The Girlfriend*. The film is directed by the brilliant Rahul Ravindran, known for his exceptional storytelling.

The teaser for *The Girlfriend* has already been attached to the blockbuster *Pushpa 2*, where it received an overwhelming response from audiences across India. Now, the teaser has been launched digitally, featuring an intense voiceover by the heart-throb Vijay Deverakonda. His captivating voice sets the perfect tone for what promises to be an emotionally rich and captivating narrative. The poetic dialogues featured in the teaser draw viewers in, promising a deep and touching journey.

The teaser opens with Rashmika Mandanna entering college with her luggage in tow, offering a glimpse into the emotional depth of her character. The visuals suggest a love story that will explore various shades of emotions, taking audiences on a heartfelt ride.



Deekshith Shetty is introduced as her boyfriend, adding a layer of complexity to the story. The emotional weight of the teaser is enhanced by Hesham Abdul Wahab's moving musical score, creating a perfect synergy between the visuals and music.

Rashmika Mandanna shines in the teaser, looking effortlessly beautiful in simple college outfits, with her expressions and captivating smile adding depth to her character. Having delivered powerful performances in her previous films, Rashmika is set to deliver a

groundbreaking performance in this women-centric film.

The Girlfriend is currently in the final stages of its shoot. Krishnan Vasanth handles the cinematography, while musical sensation Hesham Abdul Wahab composes the film's music. The film is being presented by ace producer Allu Aravind, with Vidya Koppineedi and Dheeraj Mogilineni bankrolling the project. Fans are eagerly awaiting this compelling love story that promises to captivate hearts across the country.

Ram Charan to Unveil Special Glimpse of SDT 18: Exciting Project From Sai Dharam Tej

Global star Ram Charan, who is gearing up for the grand release of *Game Changer* directed by Shankar Shanmugam on January 10, 2025, is once again making headlines. This time, it's for a different, highly anticipated reason. Ram Charan is all set to unveil a special glimpse of the untitled project *SDT 18*, starring Sai Dharam Tej, now known as Sai Durgha Tej. The event will take place on December 12, 2024, at the Shourya Convention Center in Yousufguda, Hyderabad. While the exact time of the event remains under wraps, it has already sparked excitement among fans.

Anticipation for *SDT 18* is soaring, with fans eager to get a glimpse of this exciting new venture. Aishwarya Lekshmi stars as the female lead, adding a fresh dynamic to the film. Directed by debutant Rohit KP, the project is garnering attention for its intriguing storyline and star-studded cast.



Along with Sai Durgha Tej and Aishwarya Lekshmi, *SDT 18* features a talented ensemble cast that includes Jagapathi Babu, Sai Kumar, Srikanth, and Ananya Nagalla, among others. Produced by PrimeShow Entertainment under the Hanu-Man banner, the film is creating significant buzz even before its official release. The music for the film is composed by the talented Ajaneesh Loknath, whose work is expected to add an emotional depth to the movie.

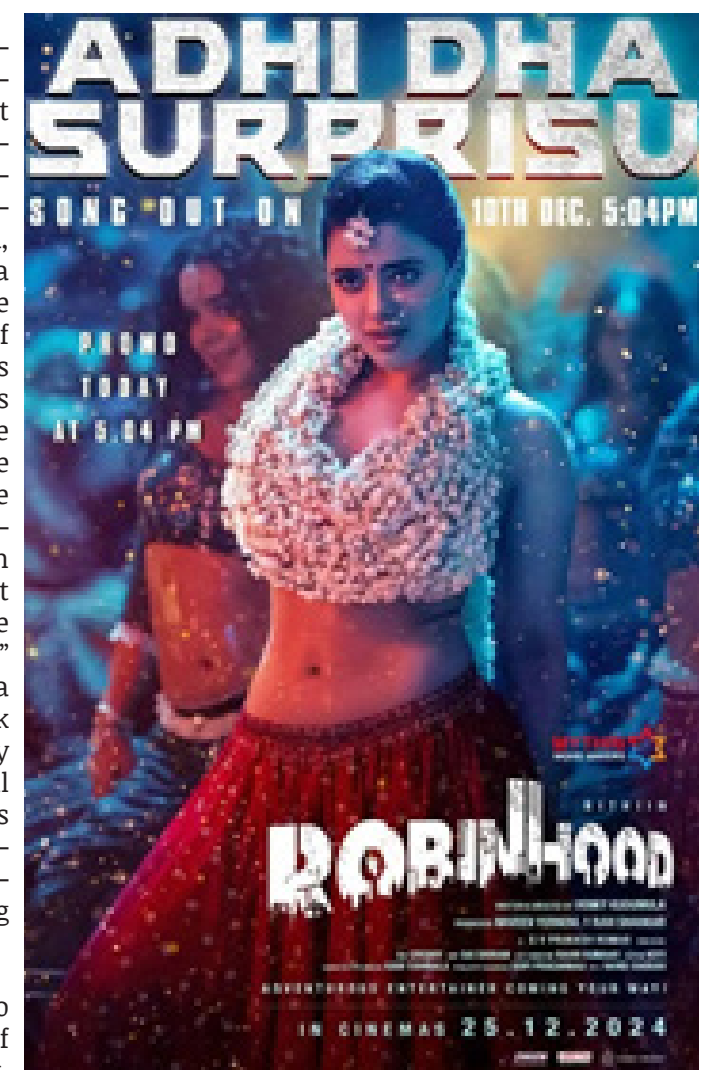
As the special glimpse release event draws closer, fans are eagerly waiting for more details about the film, including its official release date. With a strong cast, an exciting debut director, and Ram Charan's involvement in the project, *SDT 18* promises to be a major highlight in the coming months. Stay tuned for more updates on this highly anticipated film!

A Glamorous Treat from Ketika Sharma: Robinhood Gears Up for Musical Release

Hero Nithiin's upcoming heist comedy, *Robinhood*, directed by Venky Kudumula, is all set for a grand release on the 25th of this month. As the film nears its release, the makers have kicked off the musical promotions with the super hit song "One More Time." Sung by Vidya Vox, the track has already topped several music charts and has become a major hit among fans.

In addition to the success of the first track, the makers have announced the release of the film's second song tomorrow. This special song will feature the charming Ketika Sharma in a glamorous new look. The poster for the song showcases her in a stunning blouse adorned with jasmine flowers, which adds a fresh and elegant touch to her appearance.

With her graceful performance and the perfect blend of glamour, Ketika Sharma is set to capture the attention of both the youth and the masses. The song promises to be a visual and musical treat, enhanced by a mass-appealing, foot-tapping number composed by GV Prakash Kumar. The track is expected to further el-



evate the film's appeal and excite audiences ahead of its release.

Alongside Nithiin, *Robinhood* stars Sreeleela as the leading lady, bringing an additional layer of star power to this high-budget venture. Produced by Mythri Movie Makers, the film promises to be a complete entertainer with a blend of comedy, action, and drama, sure to leave a lasting impression on audiences.

As anticipation for the film builds, the combination of catchy music, glamorous performances, and the exciting narrative of *Robinhood* ensures that the movie is poised to be a hit among fans of all ages.

RRR: Behind & Beyond - Makers Announce Documentary on the Epic Film

The Oscar-winning Telugu film *RRR*, directed by the legendary SS Rajamouli and starring global superstar Ram Charan alongside the electrifying Junior NTR, is once again in the spotlight for an exciting and unexpected reason. Since its release on March 25, 2022, *RRR* has captivated audiences worldwide, earning critical acclaim and leaving a lasting mark on the global cinema landscape.

As the film approaches its two-and-a-half-year milestone, the makers of *RRR* are preparing to surprise fans with something truly special this December. The team has announced the release of an exclusive documentary titled *RRR: Behind & Beyond*, offering an intimate look at the making of the blockbuster film.

A special poster featuring the mastermind SS Rajamouli has already been shared, sparking excitement among



fans. While the exact release date and OTT platform have yet to be revealed, the documentary promises to provide a deep dive into the experiences of the cast and crew during the making of

RRR. It will also shed light on many unknown aspects of the film, giving audiences a behind-the-scenes look at the creative process, challenges, and triumphs that went into bringing the epic story to life.

The documentary is expected to offer new insights into the production, showcasing the hard work and dedication that made *RRR* a global phenomenon. Fans can look forward to hearing from the stars, crew, and other key contributors who were part of this cinematic journey.

While the wait continues for more details about the platform and premiere date, *RRR: Behind & Beyond* promises to be an unforgettable experience for the film's ardent followers. Stay tuned for more updates on this highly anticipated documentary, which will take fans on a journey beyond the scenes of one of the most iconic films in recent history.