



Weather Forecast

HYDERABAD	VIJAYAWADA	TIRUPATHI
TEMPERATURE	TEMPERATURE	TEMPERATURE
H 28° C L 22° C	H 29° C L 24° C	H 26° C L 24° C

December 9: Telangana Thalli Day

"CM Revanth Leads Statue Unveiling Ceremony"
"Tributes to Telangana's Cultural Icons"
"Pledge to Uphold Telangana's Aspirations"

TPN , Hyderabad: Telangana Chief Minister Revanth Reddy unveiled the statue of "Telangana Thalli" at the state Secretariat on December 9, marking a significant cultural and political event. The unveiling ceremony, which began at the auspicious time of 6:05 a.m., included pujas performed by the Chief Minister, symbolizing reverence for Telangana's mother figure.

The event saw the participation of Deputy CM Bhatti Vikramarka, ministers, MPs, MLAs, MLCs, and other public representatives. CM Revanth Reddy emphasized that the occasion transcended political boundaries, urging citizens to celebrate it as a festival. He announced that December 9 would be observed annually as Telangana Thalli Avatar Day to honor the aspirations and sacrifices of Telangana's people.

Criticizing the previous administration, the CM said Telangana's identity and cultural symbols had been sidelined over the past decade. He pledged to restore pride by recognizing poets, singers, and cultural icons who contributed to the statehood movement. Artists like Guda Anjaiah, Gaddar, Goreti Venkanna, and others will receive a 300-yard house plot, a cash award of ₹1 crore, and a lotus leaf as a token of ap-

preciation.

The Chief Minister also addressed issues of neglect in the united Andhra Pradesh state and accused previous Telangana rulers of prioritizing personal and political interests over public welfare. "We are moving Telangana from crisis to welfare, from corruption to development, and towards reconstruction," he declared.

Revanth Reddy reaffirmed his commitment to public governance, stating that the new statue of Telangana Thalli represents the aspirations of every Telangana citizen. He warned that any attempts to desecrate the statue would result in strict legal action.

The CM highlighted plans to restore the Telangana identity further by honoring poets and promoting cultural symbols like the song *Jaya Jayahe Telangana*. He also criticized the replacement of the "TG" vehicle code with "TS," stating it was against the spirit of Telangana activism.

The unveiling of the Telangana Thalli statue is seen as a step toward reclaiming the cultural and historical pride of the state while addressing past grievances.



Government Officially Recognizes Telangana Thalli Statue

TPN , Telangana: The Telangana government has officially recognized the Telangana Thalli statue, issuing a Government Order (GO) approved by Governor Jishnu Dev Verma. The GO mandates the installation of the Telangana Thalli statue in government offices, including collectorates, across the state. December 9 will now be celebrated annually as Telangana Thalli Inauguration Day in all state and district government offices.

During an Assembly discussion, Chief Minister Revanth Reddy described Telangana Thalli as the embodiment of the collective power and aspirations of four crore people. He highlighted that the statue symbolizes the spirit of Telangana's struggle for self-respect and progress. The statue's design features a green saree representing agricultural prosperity, a blue base symbolizing rivers, and a necklace of beads denoting unity.

The CM emphasized honoring Telangana's cultural icons and declared the government's commitment to upholding the values and sacrifices that led to the state's formation.

KTR Unveils Statue, Attacks Congress and Revanth Reddy

KTR Celebrates Telangana's Culture with Statue Unveiling
BRS President KCR's Role in Telangana's Formation Praised
KTR Accuses Revanth Reddy of Attacking Telangana's Identity
Milk Abhishekam Planned for Telangana Thalli Across State

TPN , Hyderabad: BRS Working President K.T. Rama Rao (KTR) unveiled the Telangana Thalli statue at the Medchal BRS party office on Monday, marking a significant moment in the state's political landscape. During the ceremony, KTR praised BRS President K. Chandrashekar Rao (KCR) for his pivotal role in the Telangana movement, recalling the fast KCR undertook 15 years ago for the cause. KTR described the day as Vijay Diwas, celebrating KCR's unwavering commitment to the formation of Telangana.

KTR, however, took aim at Telangana Congress leader A. Revanth Reddy, accusing him of being a traitor to Telangana. He criticized Reddy for installing what he called a "Congress Thalli" statue, claiming it did not represent the true spirit of Telangana. KTR expressed his discontent with the Congress-led government's portrayal of Telangana Thalli,

stating it undermined the mother figure of Telangana.

The BRS Working President emphasized that Telangana Thalli, a symbol of the state's culture, was conceived collectively under KCR's leadership, drawing from the contributions of poets, artists, and sculptors. He further criticized the Congress party for attempting to diminish the significance of Telangana's heritage by eliminating symbols like Bathukamma from the statue.

KTR reiterated that the success of Telangana as a unified state over the past decade was due to KCR's leadership, and promised to address the injustice done by the Congress party. He called for the performance of milk abhishekams for Telangana Thalli across the state on Tuesday as a show of respect and solidarity with the culture of Telangana.



'One Nation, One Election' Bill in Winter Session

TPN , Telangana : The Central Government is accelerating efforts to introduce the 'One Nation, One Election' Bill in Parliament during the ongoing winter session. If not in this session, the government intends to introduce the bill in the next session.



The proposed bill aims to hold simultaneous elections for state assemblies and the Lok Sabha. A committee led by former President Ram Nath Kovind has made recommendations on the bill, which was subsequently approved by the Union Cabinet. The bill now requires approval from Parliament.

Before presenting the bill, the government plans to send it to a Joint Parliamentary Committee (JPC) for

discussion with representatives of all parties and to seek their consent. Additionally, the government has requested feedback from the speakers of all state assemblies. Intellectuals, experts, and civil society members will also be consulted. After these discussions, the government plans to seek public opinion on the bill.

If approved, the bill will lead to simultaneous elections, streamlining the election process across India.

CM Revanth Reddy to Visit Jaipur and Delhi from

CM to Attend Personal Engagements in Jaipur on Day One
High-Level Meetings in Delhi to Address Telangana's Development



TPN , Telangana : Telangana Chief Minister A. Revanth Reddy will embark on a three-day visit to Jaipur and Delhi from December 11 to 13. On the first day, the CM will travel to Jaipur, Rajasthan, for personal engagements.

Following this, he will proceed to Delhi for a two-day visit, where he is scheduled to meet with ministers and officials from various departments to discuss matters concern-

ing Telangana. He is also expected to engage with the Congress party leadership to deliberate on significant topics, including cabinet expansion, the filling of nominated posts, and other key issues.

With the assembly sessions postponed until December 16, the PCC president and other senior leaders are likely to accompany the Chief Minister during his visit to Delhi.

High Court Declares Chennamaneni Not an Indian Citizen





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High Court Imposes ₹30 Lakh Fine on Chennamaneni Ramesh
Verdict Sparks Political Debates and Raises Questions on Citizenship Norms

TPN , Hyderabad: In a significant legal development, the Telangana High Court has ruled that BRS leader and former Vemulawada MLA Chennamaneni Ramesh is not an Indian citizen. The court determined that Ramesh contested elections and served as a public representative in India while holding German citizenship, violating the norms of Indian citizenship requirements.

As part of the ruling, the High Court imposed a fine of ₹30 lakh on Ramesh. Of this, ₹25 lakh is to be paid as compensation to Adi Srinivas, who had contested the claim, and ₹5 lakh is directed to be paid to the Legal Services Authority. The court has mandated that all payments be completed within one month.

This verdict marks a major setback for Chennamaneni Ramesh, whose citizenship status had been under scrutiny for years. The High Court's decision reinforces the legal standards surrounding citizenship and the eligibility criteria for public office in India.

The case has sparked political debates, with opposition parties questioning the BRS party's stance on the issue. Meanwhile, legal experts view the verdict as a precedent for stricter enforcement of citizenship norms in the political arena.

Chennamaneni Ramesh has yet to issue an official statement in response to the court's decision. The ruling has raised concerns over the potential implications for his political career and the credibility of his past elections.

BJP Announces R. Krishnaiah as Rajya Sabha Candidate from AP

TPN , Telangana: The Bharatiya Janata Party (BJP) has announced R. Krishnaiah, a prominent leader and the National President of the BC Association, as its Rajya Sabha candidate from Andhra Pradesh. Krishnaiah, who previously represented the YSR Congress Party (YSRCP) in the Rajya Sabha, resigned from both the party and his Rajya Sabha membership following the elections and subsequently joined the BJP.

This move underscores the BJP's commitment to giving due recognition to leaders who champion backward class causes. Krishnaiah's candidature reflects the party's strategy to strengthen its base in Andhra Pradesh by attracting influential leaders from other parties. In addition to Krishnaiah, BJP has also nominated Rekha Sharma from Haryana and Sujith Kumar from Odisha for the Rajya Sabha elections.

Meanwhile, two other prominent leaders, Mopidevi Venkataramana and Beda Mastan Rao, also resigned from the YSRCP and their Rajya Sabha memberships. Both leaders have since joined the Telugu Desam Party (TDP). With three vacant Rajya Sabha seats in Andhra Pradesh, these developments signal a significant reshuffling in the political landscape, as parties vie for influence and representation in the Upper House.



Annual Celebration to Honor Telangana Icon

Statue Design Reflects Telangana's Agrarian and Cultural Heritage
December 9: A Historic Day for Telangana's Legacy
Youth and Sacrifices Honored Through Telangana Talli

TPN , Hyderabad : On the first day of the winter session of the Telangana Assembly, Chief Minister A. Revanth Reddy made a significant announcement regarding the unveiling of the Telangana Talli statue. He stated that the statue was inspired by the spirit of the Chakali Ailamma and Sammakka-Sarakka struggles, symbolizing the state's rich culture and traditions.

The statue portrays Telangana Talli holding crops like paddy, jowar, and sajjia in her hands, signifying the state's agrarian roots. Adorned with a necklace of shaved beads, the statue reflects the heritage and resilience of the people. CM Reddy emphasized that Telangana Talli is not just a statue but an emotion for the people, symbolizing their struggles and aspirations.

Highlighting the role of youth during the

Telangana movement, the CM recalled the inspiring words of Kaloji Narayana Rao, "Your birth is yours, your death is yours," which fueled the determination of many young people who sacrificed their lives for the state's formation.

CM Reddy also announced that the unveiling of the statue marks a historic milestone and declared December 9 as *Telangana Talli Avatarana Utsav*, an annual event to celebrate the cultural icon. He noted that December 9 is significant as it coincides with Sonia Gandhi's birthday and the day in 2009 when the foundation for Telangana's formation was laid with P. Chidambaram's announcement.

The CM criticized previous administrations for neglecting the recognition of Telangana Talli and highlighted that this



deficit has now been addressed by the Congress government. He assured that Telangana Talli will remain a symbol of pride and identity for generations to come.

The unveiling ceremony and annual celebration aim to honor the state's heritage and inspire future generations to uphold its values.

Deputy CM Highlights Cultural Legacy in Telangana Statue

Design Inspired by Telangana's Struggles and Traditions
Pedestal Symbolizes Movements and Sacrifices of Martyrs
A Historic Monument Celebrating Telangana's Legacy

TPN , Hyderabad : Deputy Chief Minister Bhatti Vikramarka Mallu introduced a statement in the Legislative Council highlighting the design and significance of the Telangana Thalli statue. He described it as more than a mere monument, calling it a historic standard that encapsulates the spirit of the Telangana movement and its people.

"This statue has breathed life into the concept of the Telangana nation," stated Bhatti. "It reflects the excitement, flame, and roar of the people who clenched their fists for freedom. Telangana Thalli is not just a concept but the heartfelt emotion of four crore children."

The Deputy CM explained that the statue

has been meticulously designed to represent Telangana's traditions, cultures, and historical legacy. Inspired by the struggles of icons like Chakali Ailamma and Sammakka-Sarakka, the statue embodies the resilience and dignity of Telangana's people.

He elaborated on the statue's pedestal, which symbolizes the state's history and commemorates the movements, struggles, and sacrifices of the martyrs. "The pedestal stands as a tribute to the sacrifices and contributions of the martyrs who made Telangana's dream a reality," Bhatti noted.

With its artistic grandeur and cultural depth, the Telangana Thalli statue serves



as a testament to the state's journey. The Deputy CM expressed confidence that the statue would be a permanent marker in history, capturing the essence of Telangana's pride and unity.

The unveiling of this vision marks a significant step in preserving and honoring Telangana's heritage, ensuring that the spirit of its struggle continues to inspire future generations.

Telangana Assembly Sessions Postponed to December 16



TPN , Telangana : The Telangana Assembly sessions, which commenced today, have been postponed until the 16th of this month. During the session, Chief Minister Revanth Reddy announced the installation of the Telangana Talli statue in the Secretariat. The unveiling ceremony is scheduled for this evening, and the CM extended an invitation to all members to attend the event.

Prior to the session, BRS leaders staged a protest in front of the Assembly, leading to their detention by the police.

During the proceedings, CM Revanth Reddy addressed the House on the model of the Telangana Talli statue, which sparked a heated debate between the ruling and opposition parties. Several members offered suggestions and feedback on the statue's design.

Amidst the discussions, the Assembly unanimously decided to officially observe Telangana Talli Formation Day on December 9 every year. Following this resolution, the Speaker announced the adjournment of the session until December 16.

Assembly Ruckus: Adani-Revanth Slogans Spark Controversy

BRS Legislators Halted for Violating Assembly Decorum
Police Intervene as Slogans Target Congress Leadership

TPN , Hyderabad : High drama unfolded as BRS MLAs and MLCs were detained while attempting to attend Telangana Assembly and Legislative Council sessions wearing T-shirts with "Adani Revanth Bhai Bhai" printed on them. The controversial attire and slogans caused a stir at the Assembly gates, leading to the intervention of police.

The legislators, who marched from Gun Park to the Assembly as part of their protest, accused the Congress government and Chief Minister Revanth Reddy of questionable ties



with industrialist Adani. Police halted them at the gates, citing violations of Assembly decorum. Officials stated that wearing T-shirts featur-

ing political messages and images of Adani and Revanth Reddy would not be permitted. However, the BRS leaders defended their protest as a peaceful



form of dissent. The protest took an innovative turn as BRS members raised slogans like "Telangana Talli is our mother, Congress Talli is yours" and "Dosti with Adani in Kusti Galli." They also criticized the Congress for allegedly neglecting Telangana's cultural icons and traditions, including Bathukamma.

BRS leaders argued that their attire symbolized their dissent against Congress's policies and alliances. However, the police detained them, escalating the already tense political atmosphere. Party leader K.T. Rama

Rao (KTR) reportedly encouraged the innovative protest, urging members to highlight their grievances within the Assembly. The BRS accused CM Revanth Reddy of ignoring public concerns despite repeated warnings.

The incident highlights the growing political rivalry between the ruling Congress and the opposition BRS, with both parties intensifying their rhetoric as the Assembly sessions proceed. The detention of the BRS legislators has sparked a debate on freedom of expression versus maintaining legislative decorum.



Minister Ponnam Advocates for Telangana Talli Statue



TPN , Hyderabad : In a debate on the Telangana Talli statue in the Legislative Assembly, Minister Ponnam Prabhakar emphasized the significance of the statue and the contributions of UPA Chairperson Sonia Gandhi to the formation of Telangana. He credited Sonia Gandhi's unwavering commitment to the state's creation, despite knowing the potential challenges. He also extended birthday greetings to her, marking the announcement of Telangana's formation on December 9.

Minister Prabhakar highlighted that Telangana does not yet have an official state anthem or an officially recognized statue of Telangana Talli. He welcomed the unveiling of the statue at the Dr. Babasaheb Ambedkar Secretariat, describing it as a symbol of Telangana's pride and culture. He further proposed the installation of Telangana Talli statues in every district center, collectorate, and government office.

Prabhakar also discussed the state's achievements, such as the implementation of job guarantees, loan waivers, and welfare schemes like free bus travel for women and free electricity. He urged cooperation across political lines to ensure the statue's installation and emphasized the importance of moving beyond politics to focus on Telangana's development.



Venkat Reddy Hits Back at Critics Over Telangana Talli Statue

TPN , Hyderabad : In a passionate speech during the Legislative Assembly session, Minister Komatireddy Venkat Reddy praised the unveiling of the Telangana Talli statue, describing it as a tribute to the state's agricultural roots and cultural heritage. He emphasized that the statue, depicting a mother who represents the struggles and hard work of Telangana's farmers, should be honored for its symbolism rather than criticized for its simplicity.

Venkat Reddy shared his personal commitment to Telangana, recalling his hunger strike and sacrifices during the Million March. He expressed deep affection for the state, stating that despite facing adversity, he would never back down from the fight for Telangana's rights. He criticized comments that the statue, which lacks crowns or jewelry, undermines the state's identity, arguing that the absence of such adornments reflects the true, humble nature of Telangana's people.

He also strongly defended the Congress party, affirming that it was the only political entity to consistently champion Telangana's cause. Venkat Reddy rejected claims from the opposition BRS, accusing them of politicizing the issue and disregarding the core values of Telangana's identity. He reaffirmed Congress's commitment to the state, calling it the only party with the moral right to speak on Telangana's formation.

Telangana Talli Shedding Tears Under Revanth's Rule: Kavitha

TPN , Hyderabad : BRS MLC Kalvakuntla Kavitha expressed deep anguish, claiming that Telangana Talli, the cultural symbol of Telangana, is "shedding tears" under Chief Minister Revanth Reddy's administration. She criticized the unveiling of the redesigned Telangana Talli statue, accusing the Congress government of altering its essence. Kavitha stated that the Congress has turned the "mother of the movement" into the "mother of Congress." She highlighted the installation of a Rajiv Gandhi statue on the streets while placing the Telangana Talli statue in a less prominent location. "Congress is rejecting Telangana's identity and heritage," she remarked.

She condemned the redesign of Telangana Talli, emphasizing its role in inspiring millions during the statehood movement. Kavitha also criticized the removal of ****Bathukamma****, the traditional floral festival unique to Telangana, from the depiction of Telangana Talli. She accused the Congress government of "destroying the essence of Bathukamma and the lifeline of Telangana's culture." Her remarks come amid ongoing political tensions between the BRS and Congress, as leaders clash over the representation and preservation of Telangana's cultural identity. Kavitha urged the government to respect the sentiments of the people and preserve the state's traditions without altering its symbols.



Harish Rao Alleges Conspiracy Behind Telangana Talli Statue Redesign



TPN , Hyderabad : The winter session of the Telangana Assembly began with political tensions as BRS MLAs accused Chief Minister Revanth Reddy and industrialist Adani of collusion, claiming they were deceiving the people of Telangana.

BRS MLAs, wearing T-shirts featuring the images of CM Revanth Reddy and Adani, were stopped by the police at gate number two of the Assembly. Officials objected to the attire, citing decorum, and subsequently de-

tained the legislators.

Amid the controversy, BRS MLA Harish Rao launched a scathing attack on CM Revanth Reddy, accusing him of running a corrupt and anarchic government. He condemned the detentions, arguing that they were an attempt to silence both the opposition and public dissent.

Harish Rao also alleged that the redesign of the Telangana Talli statue was part of a con-

spiracy against former CM K. Chandrashekar Rao (KCR). He questioned the necessity and motive behind altering the statue, asking whether there had been any public demand or movement for such a change.

The incident has heightened political tensions in Telangana, with the BRS accusing the Congress government of undermining the state's cultural identity and democratic principles.

BJP MLAs Accuse Government of Ignoring Protocol

TPN , Hyderabad : A heated debate erupted in the Telangana Assembly's winter session when BJP MLAs accused the state government of violating protocol and neglecting proper respect for legislators. BJP MLA Rakesh Reddy expressed concern, claiming the government fails to respect MLAs, not only in the Assembly but also in government programs.

He further alleged that development in the state is concentrated in South Telangana, leaving other regions neglected. Rakesh Reddy emphasized that the Assembly should serve as a platform for addressing such concerns, stating, "This is why we are raising this issue in the Assembly."

In response, Minister Sridhar Babu advised the BJP MLAs to raise specific violations if they felt protocol had been breached and assured that action would be taken if any issues were identified.

Meanwhile, BJP MLA Palvai Harish highlighted the significance of celebrating Telangana Liberation Day on September 17, criticizing the government's focus on statues and name changes instead of actual development. He also pointed out that while BJP was invited to the unveiling of the Telangana Talli statue, they were not consulted about the design.



Kodandaram Supports Telangana Talli Statue, Compares It to Cultural Icons



TPN , Hyderabad : Congress MLC Kodandaram made impactful comments in support of the Telangana Talli statue, comparing it to the revered statues of Yellamma, Pochamma, Maisamma, and Ammavar found across Telangana. He praised the government's decision to install the statue, calling it a reflection of the state's struggles, culture, and sacrifices.

Kodandaram emphasized that the statue embodies the spirit of Telangana's agricultural roots, particularly highlighting the role of women in

agriculture, which is central to the state's economy. He noted that the Telangana Talli statue represents the legacy of the Telangana struggle, symbolizing the perseverance and resilience of its people.

Congratulating the artists for their work, Kodandaram stated that the statue is a fitting tribute to the state's heritage. He expressed his support for the government's initiative to install the statue, emphasizing its significance in preserving Telangana's history and identity.

Minister Sitakka Unveils Telangana Talli Statue, Criticizes BJP and BRS

TPN , Hyderabad : Minister Sitakka, while addressing the Assembly, emphasized the importance of the Telangana Talli statue as a symbol of the state's heritage, self-respect, and struggles. She recalled the historic formation of Telangana, driven by the aspirations of four crore people and the 60 years of struggle for statehood. Sitakka also acknowledged the significance of Sonia Gandhi's leadership in the creation of Telangana, wishing her a happy birthday.

Referring to the statue's unveiling, Sitakka criticized the BJP and BRS for opposing the Telangana Talli statue, accusing them of pursuing their political agendas. She highlighted that for 10 years, Telangana did not have an official statue of Telangana Talli, with the previous leadership promoting a version that was tied to the BRS party and its leaders.

Sitakka also touched on the importance of the state anthem "Jaya Jaya Telangana," pointing out that it had been disregarded in the past. She praised the Congress government for

prioritizing women's welfare, noting initiatives like free bus travel for women and affordable gas cylinders. Sitakka closed by stressing that the unveiling of the Telangana Talli statue is a representation of the state's identity and the progress made since its formation. She urged everyone to attend the unveiling ceremony as a symbol of Telangana's unity and strength.





Complaint Filed Against ASHA Workers



TPN , Hyderabad: A complaint has been lodged with the National Human Rights Commission (NHRC) against Assistant Commissioner of Police (ACP) K. Shankar and Sultan Bazaar Circle Inspector (CI) Srinivas Chary for allegedly manhandling and slapping an ASHA (Accredited Social Health Activist) worker. The petition, filed by advocate Immaneni Rama Rao under petition number 20380/IN/2024, seeks strict action against the police officials involved.

testers also alleged that payments for polio surveys were diverted to Anganwadi teachers instead of ASHA workers.

A video of the altercation went viral, sparking outrage among netizens. The footage shows police detaining ASHA workers, with one worker's leg trapped in a police van door.

Screaming in pain, she tried to alert CI Srinivas Chary, who was seen closing the door. In a defensive act, the ASHA worker slapped the inspector, prompting retaliation from police officers, including ACP Shankar. During the scuffle, an officer reportedly pulled the worker's saree, further intensifying public condemnation.

The incident has drawn criticism from multiple quarters, highlighting the plight of ASHA workers and the unmet promises by the state government. Advocate Immaneni Rama Rao, in his complaint to NHRC, emphasized the need for accountability and immediate action against the accused officials. The viral video has reignited discussions on police brutality and the working conditions of ASHA workers, who play a critical role in the healthcare system.

The incident occurred during a protest by ASHA workers at the Director of Medical Education's office. The workers were demanding a salary hike to ₹18,000, a pre-election promise made by Telangana Chief Minister A. Revanth Reddy that remains unfulfilled. Pro-

Drama in Manchu Family: Police Complaints Filed

Mohan Babu Files Complaint, Seeks Police Protection Against Son Manchu Manoj Claims Life Threat, Requests Police Intervention Family Drama Intensifies as Manchu Vishnu and Lakshmi Get Involved

TPN , Hyderabad: The family of Tollywood actor Manchu Mohan Babu is embroiled in a dramatic dispute, with Mohan Babu and his son, Manchu Manoj, filing police complaints against each other. The situation escalated after an argument led to Manoj being admitted to TX Hospital in Banjara Hills with leg injuries. Mohan Babu has since filed a complaint with the police, seeking protection from his son, claiming that he faces a threat to his life.



police protection. The complaint follows an earlier incident where Manchu Manoj claimed that he was attacked by a group of 10 individuals in Pahadi Sharif. Manoj had alleged that two people, Vijay and Kiran, had taken CCTV

footage of the attack. He too sought police protection, citing threats to his life.

Adding complexity to the situation, Manchu Vishnu and Manchu Lakshmi, other members of the Manchu family, have become involved in the ongoing matter. The family drama continues to unfold, with the situation still unresolved. It remains to be seen how the matter will develop, and whether further legal action will be taken. The public remains watchful of the twists and turns in this high-profile family dispute.

In his letter to Rachakonda Police Commissioner, Mohan Babu expressed concerns about his safety and requested

Injured ASHA Worker Shifted to Osmania General Hospital



TPN , Hyderabad: An ASHA worker, Santoshini, who was injured during a protest at the office of the Director of Medical Education (DME) in Koti, was transferred to Osmania General Hospital (OGH) on Monday. Santoshini, part of a group of protesting ASHA workers, was reportedly forced into a police van by authorities during the demonstration.

Following the incident, she sustained injuries and was immediately provided medical attention. Health care workers in the emergency wing of OGH are currently treating her injuries.

The ASHA workers had gathered to protest over their demands related to health and employment issues, with Santoshini being one of the key participants. As the situation escalated, police intervention led to her injury. This development has raised concerns over the handling of protests and the treatment of healthcare workers, with ongoing calls for justice and better working conditions for ASHA employees.

Telangana ACB Arrests Senior Accountant for Demanding Rs 40,000 Bribe

TPN , Hyderabad: The Telangana Anti-Corruption Bureau (ACB) has arrested Katta Nagesh, a senior accountant at the district treasury office in Khammam, for demanding a bribe of Rs 40,000. Nagesh allegedly requested the bribe to process official duties related to a deceased person, who was a relative of the complainant. The tasks included processing a revised pay scale, service pension, gratuity, family pension bills, and commutation totaling Rs 3,92,960. This arrest is part of the ACB's ongoing crackdown on corruption. On December 6, C. Umesh, a panchayat secretary from Mahadevpur village in Sangareddy, was arrested for accepting a bribe of Rs 15,000 to issue a 'no dues certificate' for a bank loan.



In another case, ACB officials arrested Jyothi Sharma, a senior drafting officer in the survey and land records office in Mahabubabad, for taking a bribe of Rs 20,000 in exchange for granting official favors on November 21. The ACB also nabbed K. Soma Shekar, an assistant commercial tax officer in the Malakpet 2 Circle, on December 5 after he demanded Rs 1 lakh but settled for Rs 50,000, which was later accepted by his colleague Mahaboob Basha. The ACB continues its efforts to tackle corruption in the state.

KTR Questions CM's Intent Behind Telangana Talli Diwas



TPN , Hyderabad: BRS Working President K.T. Rama Rao (KTR) voiced sharp criticism on social media platform X against Chief Minister Revanth Reddy's decision to celebrate December 9 annually as Telangana Talli Avataram Diwas.

In his post, KTR questioned the intent behind the announcement, suggesting a connection to Congress leader Sonia Gandhi's birthday, which falls on the same day. "Revanth... Is this all for officially celebrating Sonia's birthday?" KTR asked.

He further criticized Revanth Reddy's shifting stance, stating, "Once you said Balidevata, now you say you will celebrate your birthday. Your nerve may not have a tongue, but the people of Telangana have self-respect."

KTR lambasted the CM for allegedly trying to alter Telangana's cultural symbolism. "It is your foolishness to think that the appearance of idols can be changed as easily as changing parties. It is your naivety to think that the divine form of Telangana mother can be erased from the hearts of millions," he remarked.

The comments reflect the ongoing tension between the BRS and Congress over cultural and political narratives in Telangana.

BRS Leaders Slam Congress Over Police Action on ASHA Workers



TPN , Hyderabad: BRS MLC Kalvakuntla Kavitha has strongly criticized the Congress government for allegedly using police force against ASHA workers who were peacefully protesting for a promised salary increment. In a tweet, Kavitha condemned the incident, questioning if this was Sonia Gandhi's "birthday gift" to Telangana girls.

"Inhumane treatment of ASHA workers is unacceptable. Girls were beaten with khakis for merely demanding the fulfillment of election promises. The Congress government has betrayed all sections by failing to deliver on its commitments even after a year in power," Kavitha wrote. She warned that the "tyrannical rule of Congress" would face an inevitable end.

Former minister and BRS leader Sabita Indra Reddy also criticized the Congress, accusing them of hypocrisy. "On one hand, they speak about Telangana Thalli in the Assembly, and on the other, they allow attacks on ASHA workers outside," she said.

Both leaders demanded immediate action to fulfill the promised salary of ₹18,000 for ASHA workers and condemned the police for allegedly pulling sarees and acting in a mob-like manner. Sabita further urged Congress to honor its election manifesto and deliver justice to the protesting workers.

Deputy CM Bhatti Vikramarka Joins Cultural Celebrations



TPN , Hyderabad : Deputy Chief Minister Bhatti Vikramarka participated in the cultural programs organized at the HMDA premises on Knuckles Road, Hyderabad, as part of the Prajapalana-Praja Vijayotsavam celebrations. Upon his arrival, he was warmly welcomed by several prominent figures, including PCC President Mahesh Kumar Goud, GHMC Mayor Gadwala Vijayalakshmi, Fisheries Corporation Chairman Mettu Saikumar, and Agriculture Principal Secretary Raghunandan Rao.

The event, which celebrates the connection between the government and the people, featured a variety of cultural performances. Music Director Thaman, who was overseeing the programs, presented a lineup of musical and artistic displays to entertain the attendees.

Bhatti Vikramarka, as a part of his role in the government, expressed his support for such initiatives that bring the community together and celebrate Telangana's rich cultural heritage. The event highlighted the state's commitment to fostering a sense of unity and pride among its citizens through cultural events and public engagement.





MLC Vani Devi Criticizes Telangana Talli Statue, Calls it Congress Party's Symbol

TPN , Hyderabad: BRS MLC Vani Devi made emotional comments regarding the unveiling of the Telangana Talli statue, asserting that it is not a representation of Telangana Talli but rather a symbol of the Congress party. Speaking at Telangana Bhavan, Vani Devi expressed her disappointment over the design and symbolism of the statue, which was built under the Congress government.

Vani Devi pointed out that the statue of Telangana Talli was crafted poor-

ly and lacked the grandeur and respect that the symbol of Telangana deserves. "When I saw the Telangana Talli statue during the movement, it reminded me of poverty," she said, adding that it did not reflect the true spirit of the state. She criticized the absence of important features in the sculpture, including the crown and gems, which are integral to the cultural identity of Telangana. She emphasized that Telangana Talli should be a powerful symbol, especially in a land known for its rich heritage, like

the Kohinoor diamond.

"The absence of Bathukamma in the Telangana Talli statue is an insult to women," she stated, referring to the iconic festival that celebrates Telangana's culture. Vani Devi claimed that the statue being unveiled today is not Telangana Talli but rather the "mother of the Congress party." Her remarks come at a time when political tensions continue to rise over cultural and political narratives in Telangana.



RTA Officials Under Fire for Corruption at Inter-State Check Posts in Adilabad



TPN , Adilabad: Officials from the Regional Transport Authority (RTA) are facing criticism for allegedly extorting bribes from truck and goods carrier drivers at inter-state check posts in Adilabad district. Drivers reported that they were forced to pay between Rs 600 to Rs 1,000, even when they had all the required documents. The check posts, particu-

larly in Boraj (Jainath mandal), Beltharoda (Bhainsa mandal), and Wankidi (Kumram Bheem Asifabad district), are major transit points for trucks carrying essential goods and agricultural produce between northern and southern India. These posts generate significant revenue, with estimates suggesting an income of Rs 5 crore to Rs 7 crore monthly.

RTA officials oversee the inspection of overloading, illegal transportation, and violations of the Motor Vehicle Act at these check posts, operating in three shifts daily. However, despite compliance with regulations, drivers have been allegedly coerced into paying bribes to pass through without issues.

Anti-Corruption Bureau (ACB) officials recently raided the Boraj check post, seizing unaccounted cash amounting to Rs 62,500. Earlier, in May, Rs 11,630 was found during a similar raid. Drivers claim that bribes are common at inter-state check posts, with some officials staying at the posts for years to capitalize on the opportunity for illicit income.

TGMFC Urges Students to Apply Directly for CM's Overseas Scholarship Scheme

TPN , Hyderabad: The Telangana Minorities Finance Corporation (TGMFC) has called on students aspiring to apply for the Chief Minister's Overseas Scholarship Scheme for Minorities to fill out their applications directly and avoid using middlemen. TGMFC Chairman Mohd Obedulla Kothwal announced that

applications for the "Fall Season 2024" are being accepted online until December 31. The scholarship offers up to Rs 20 lakh for students wishing to pursue higher education abroad. Students applying for the scholarship must submit proof of income (below Rs 5 lakh per annum) along with their educational certificates.

The TGMFC has expressed concern over the involvement of middlemen who have been found tampering with students' documents, making them ineligible for the scheme. Kothwal emphasized that students should complete the application process themselves to ensure accuracy and avoid any complications.

Food Poisoning Outbreak at Kasturba Vidyalaya in Nagarkurnool District



TPN , Nagarkurnool: Food poisoning incidents have once again raised concerns in Telangana's educational institutions. At Kasturba Vidyalaya in Naganool mandal, Nagarkurnool district, three students fell ill after consuming contaminated food. The affected students, Premalatha, Akshaya, and another unnamed student, exhibited symptoms such as vomiting, diarrhea, and coughing.

The students were immediately hospitalized and are receiving medical treatment at Nagarkurnool District Hospital. According to the Kasturba Vidyalaya

staff, the food poisoning was attributed to outside food consumed by one of the students. However, the parents of the affected students questioned this claim, pointing out that two of the students had not eaten outside food.

The incident has sparked controversy, with the parents raising concerns over the school's handling of food safety and the source of contamination. The food poisoning case at Kasturba Vidyalaya has quickly become a hot topic, highlighting ongoing concerns about food safety in educational institutions across the state.

SCCL Wins Five Awards for Green Energy Initiatives

TPN , Kothagudem: Singareni Collieries Company Limited (SCCL) has been recognized for its commitment to sustainable energy by winning five prestigious awards for its green energy initiatives. The awards were given for the construction and management of solar power plants, as well as actions taken to establish SCCL as a 'Net Zero Positive Company'.

D Satyanarayana Rao, Director (E&M), and GS Janaki Ram, General Manager (Solar), received the awards at the Telangana and Andhra Pradesh Annual Solar Awards Conference held at 'Suryacon' in Hyderabad. These accolades



highlight SCCL's efforts in promoting renewable energy and reducing its carbon footprint.

Villagers Protest Against Ethanol Project, Demand Withdrawal of Cases in Nirmal

TPN , Nirmal: Villagers in Dilawarpur and Gundampalli are voicing their anger against the State government after 122 individuals, including 19 women, were booked in connection with a protest against the establishment of an ethanol project. The charges include attempted murder, vandalizing the vehicle of Nirmal RDO Rathna Kalyani, detaining her, and obstructing her duties. The protests took place on November 26, when villagers gathered to oppose the project.

Dasarath Reddy, a resident of Dilawarpur, expressed frustration over the cases, noting that they were filed on different dates, with the most recent on December 7. He criticized the police for registering cases against farmers who were simply protesting against the ethanol factory, despite assurances from Collector Abhilasha Abhinav and SP Janaki Sharmila that the cases would be dropped.

The villagers are now threatening to intensify their protest if the cases are not withdrawn. They recalled how they ended their protest on November 27 after receiving an assurance from Collector Abhilasha that the project was halted and placed under abeyance. The violence on November 26, where some protesters reportedly damaged RDO Kalyani's vehicle, was also noted, though the fire was quickly extinguished by police, and Kalyani was hospitalized.

The villagers are now demanding the government honor its commitment to withdraw the cases and stop further legal action against the protesters.

Class 10 Girl Takes Her Life by Jumping in Front of Speeding Train in Khammam



TPN , Khammam: A 14-year-old Class 10 student, Mannuru Lakshmi Nakshatra, tragically ended her life by jumping in front of a speeding train in Khammam city on Monday. Police said that the girl, who was studying at a private school in the city, had been ill in recent days.

Her father, M. Naveen, a medical representative from Thorur village in Mahabubabad district, lived with his family in the Mamillagudem area of the city. On the day of the incident, Lakshmi Nakshatra went out to buy pens for her term exams but returned home late due to being confronted by street dogs on her regular route. When she was reprimanded for being late, she became upset and told her parents that she would be gone for good. While her parents initially dismissed her words, they later became worried when she left without further communication.

Naveen and his wife, Anuradha, searched for their daughter at nearby relatives' homes, then at the railway station and surrounding areas. Tragically, they found their daughter's body at the Mondigate area near the railway track. The girl had jumped in front of a train traveling from Warangal to Vijayawada.

The Government Railway Police (GRP) have filed a case and are investigating the incident. The community mourns the loss of a talented student and state-level basketball player.

Group-2 Hall Tickets Released for Upcoming Exams



TPN , Hyderabad: The hall tickets for the Group-2 exams, scheduled for the 15th and 16th of this month, have been released. The exams will be conducted in two sessions on these days.

Candidates appearing for the exam are required to affix a passport-size photograph on their hall tickets. Failure to do so will result in being denied entry to the exam. Additionally, only black or blue ballpoint pens should be used, and only

government-issued identity cards will be accepted at the exam centers. Acceptable ID cards include passport, PAN card, voter ID, Aadhaar card, government employee ID, and driving license.

Examination centers will open at 8:30 am for the morning session and 1:30 pm for the afternoon session. The gates will close at 9:30 am for the morning session and 2:30 pm for the afternoon session—half an hour before the exam begins. No candidates will be allowed entry after these times.

The following items are prohibited in the exam center: calculators, pagers, mobile phones, tablets, pen drives, Bluetooth devices, watches, mathematical tables, log books, wallets, handbags, pouches, writing pads, notes, charts, and jewelry (except mangalsutra and bangles). Candidates wearing shoes will not be allowed to appear for the exam.



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.



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.

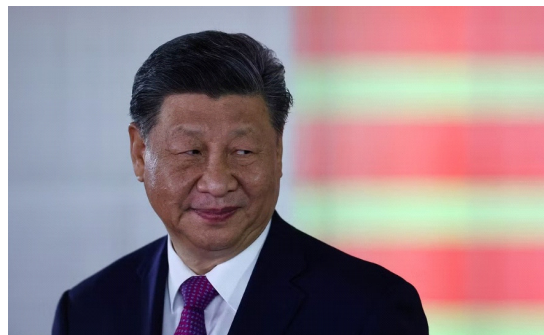
While the future of Syria remains uncertain, Biden's statement highlighted the hope that this historic moment could pave the way for a new era in the country—one defined by democracy, accountability, and a greater respect for human rights. However, the path to lasting peace and stability will depend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



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

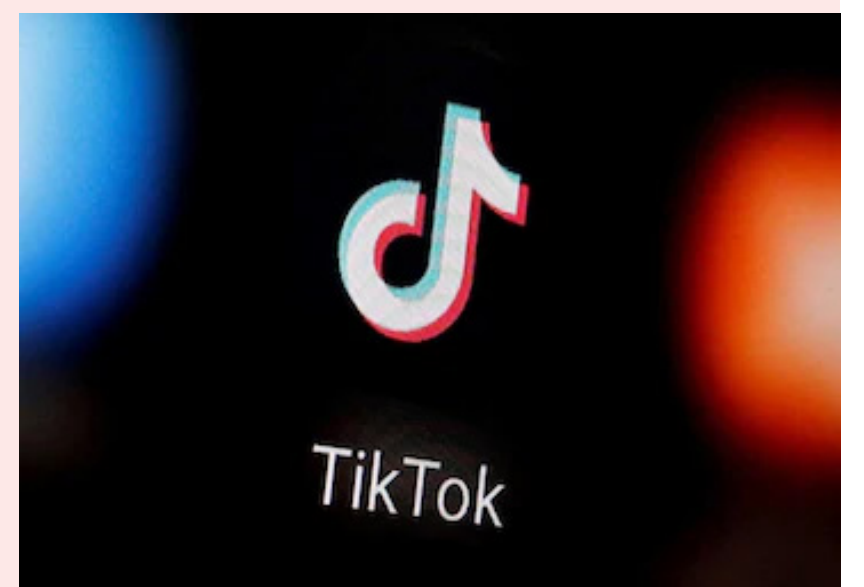
In 2024, TikTok continued to reign as the epicenter of internet culture, delivering a year filled with viral moments that influenced pop culture in unexpected ways. From quirky remakes of recipes and catchphrases to the rise of iconic furry and feathered characters, TikTok served as a platform for creativity, 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.

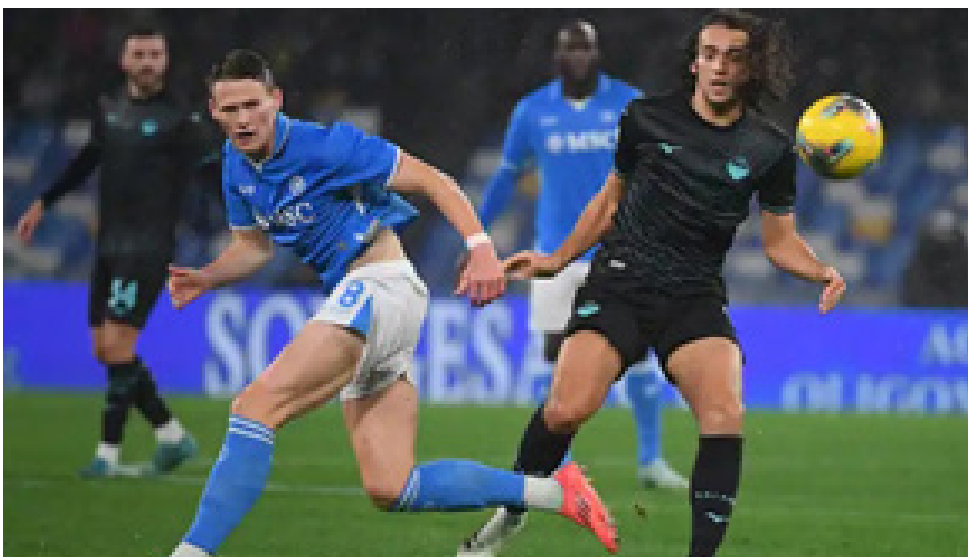
Rutherford then joined forces with Justin Greaves (41 not out) in a crucial 95-run partnership for the sixth wicket, which put the West Indies within reach of victory. Despite his early

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.

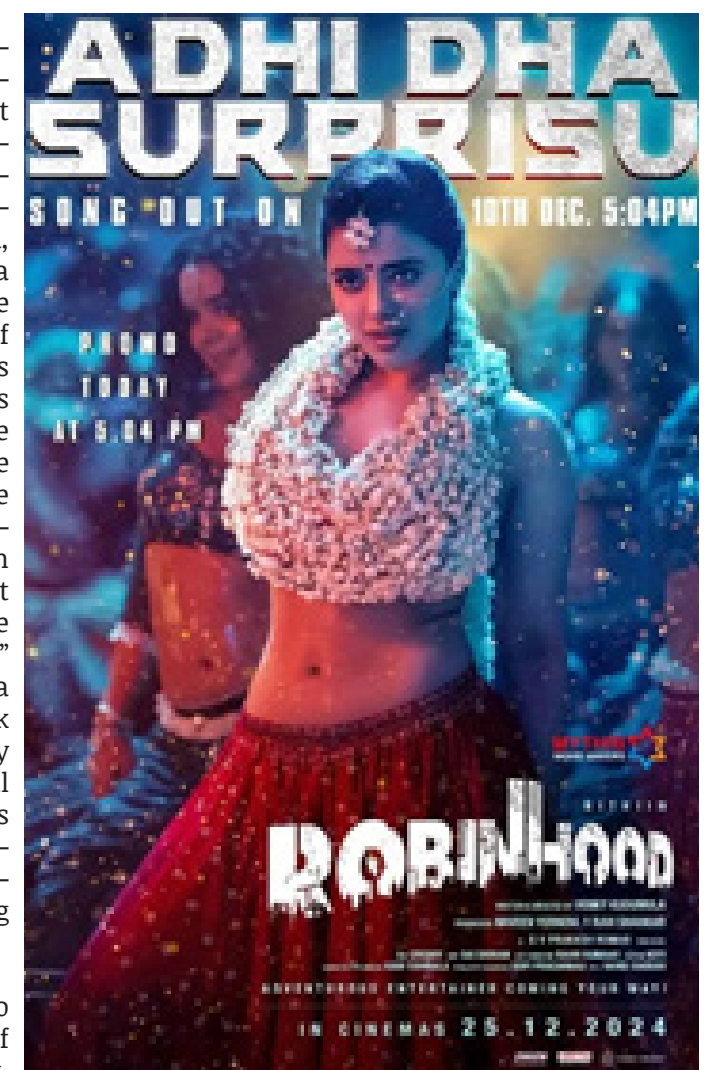
As the special glimpse release event draws closer, fans are eagerly waiting for more details about the film, including its official release date. With a strong cast, an exciting debut director, and Ram Charan's involvement in the project, *SDT 18* promises to be a major highlight in the coming months.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