

POINT

Weather Forecast

HYDERABAD	VIJAYAWADA	TIRUPATHI
H 27° C L 16° C	H 31° C L 22° C	H 23° C L 22° C

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IS JATWANI'S CASE SOLD TO JINDAL?

G. Avinash | TPN

Jatwani Kadambari, Mumbai Actress who is a victim of Vijayawada Police is still waiting for the arrests of IPS officials. On 31st August 2024, Jatwani Kadambari has filed her complaint against the Vijaywada Police and Kukkala Vidyasagar. Though the incident was happened before the elections, the issue was come to limelight only after the news published in POINT. After that all the media has highlighted the issue and the Alliance Government come forward and assured victim Jatwani Kadambari about her protect and the justice. Surprisingly, even after three months also, there is only one arrest, i.e. Mr. Kukkala Vidyasagar. In this week, he also got bail through court with few conditions. Until now no IPS official was called up or inquired in this case. Though there are no names of IPS officials in the FIR, Mr. Kranthi Rana Tata has appealed for anticipatory bail in the High Court and Mr. Vishal Gunni has also appealed in the same way. On 30th November, 2024, CID, which is investigating this case, has filed an affidavit in the court. In the affidavit, it has clearly mentioned that Intelligence Ex-Chief Mr. Seetaramanjanyulu has run the episode and Mr. Kranthi Rana Tata, Vishal Gunni's involvement was there evidently. So,



CID officials has appealed in that affidavit to not to issue any anticipatory bails to them. Surprisingly, there is no inquiry on those three IPS Officials until now. Even the Court has issued any anticipatory bail. Questions are raising that why the case is not moving forward and why even inquiry is not going on in this case? As per Ms. Jatwani Kadambari, to escape from the rape case filed by her, Mr. Sajjan Jindal has done all this through AP Police. In the whole episode, due to the brutal action of IPS officials, the most beneficiary is Mr. Jindal allegedly. There is a rumor that, Mr. Jindal is taking care of all these IPS officials and the police staff, who are involved in this case, as they have done this for him only, allegedly. He has offered packages to IPS officials and assured them to not to bother about the case and career allegedly. He has managed few people of AP Government here and prevented the investigation of CID allegedly. That is why the case is not going on it's normal pace. Even talks are going on with Jatwani Kadambari also for compromise. Whole syndicate is trying to sabotage the case and free the three IPS officials from the case. The role of present Government is crucial actually. But, Sajjan Jindal has managed that role also, allegedly.



PAY MY TAX, DO YOUR BUSINESS

G. Balaraju | TPN

Chilakaluripeta, has becoming top in corruption as per the allegations coming there. Ex-Minister Mr. Prathipati Pulla Rao is the MLA now here. Earlier he was the Minister in the cabinet of Mr.Naidu and got many allegations of corruption. Later after the defeat in 2019, he has maintained silence and become active only before the elections of 2024. In the wave of alliance, he won the seat and started again his old business of corruption allegedly. Ex-Minister Vidala Rajani has shown the way to Mr. Pulla Rao and learnt about the sources of corruption. Allegedly he is dictating all the businesses in the constituency. Though there are no sand reaches in the area, unofficial reaches were opened allegedly. From there, the sand is transporting regularly with the blessings of MLA and under monitoring of MLA's associates allegedly. Along with sand, gravel is also become a good sale product for the MLA batch allegedly. Without paying tax to MLA, no lorry cannot load gravel here. In this week itself, vehicles were stopped, which were supplying gravel to a layout going on beside highway. Only

because of non-payment of MLA's tax, the work was stalled, a local has explained. Liquor business is also in the grip of MLA as per locals. They are saying that all the liquor shop holders have to pay monthly commission to MLA and few shops are running by MLA's associates only. They are giving targets to the shops on sales so that their share will be increased. Whatever the business, they have to pay the commission prescribed the MLA batch allegedly. Based on the category of the business, they will decide the percentage. Even for the new comers, MLA batch inviting for discussions to settle the deal allegedly. Surprisingly registrations also rendering income to MLA allegedly. Any registration the share of MLA should be paid as per the locals. Like this, MLA Prathipati Pulla Rao set a target of Rs.5 Crores every month for his associates allegedly. They have a clear-cut work division, who has to take care of which business and who has to collect in sand sales, who has to collect in liquor sales like that. As a Minister, Mr. Prathipati has gained lot of experience in the collection and now he found new ways and escalated his collection in a big way, a local has commented.



If you are helpless, where should the average person go?

Dy CM Pawan Kalyan Expresses Discontent at Collectors' Conference

TPN Correspondent Amaravati, Dec-12:

Deputy Chief Minister Pawan Kalyan made sharp comments on governance issues during a collectors' conference held in Andhra Pradesh today. Expressing dissatisfaction over the functioning of the administration, he criticized the helplessness of collectors in addressing pressing issues such as the rampant sand mafia and other irregularities. Pawan Kalyan questioned the role of collectors, asking, "If you are helpless, where should the average person go?" He pointed out that systemic failures and political interference have eroded governance, leaving common citizens vulnerable. Highlighting the unchecked sand mafia, the Deputy CM alleged that interference by MLAs had hindered attempts to regularize sand mining. Despite Minister Nadendla Manohar's efforts to curb adulteration and irregularities, Pawan noted that tangible results were yet to be seen. Pawan warned MLAs against further interference in the sand business, asserting that strict action would be taken. He urged collectors to act in accordance with the rule book, stating, "We

are here to do good for the people and will provide you with the necessary support. What is stopping you from strengthening the system?" Referring to the previous government's role, Pawan alleged that the revenue machinery, under political influence, engaged in various irregularities—from selling movie tickets to illegal sand mining. He expressed disappointment that senior IAS officers failed to challenge such practices, despite their stature and responsibilities. Pawan cited the consequences of public discontent in countries like Sri Lanka and Syria as a warning, emphasizing that inefficient governance could lead to mass revolts. He stressed the importance of a responsive administration, urging officials to prioritize public welfare and adhere to democratic values. Pawan lauded former Chief Minister Chandrababu Naidu for his vision in transforming Hyderabad into a global city. He credited Naidu for envisioning Cyberabad amidst rubble, driving economic and infrastructural growth. "When we travel on the flyovers in Hyderabad, we see the vision of Chandrababu. He is a tireless worker who took the state forward," Pawan remarked.

CM Chandrababu That is our protection from Sri Rama

TPN CORRESPONDENT
Andhra Pradesh, Dec - 12

In a crucial meeting with district collectors on Wednesday, December 11, Andhra Pradesh Chief Minister Chandrababu Naidu and Deputy CM Pawan Kalyan emphasized the importance of smart work over hard work in rebuilding the state. Ministers also participated in the meeting, where CM Chandrababu addressed the attendees, including district collectors, secretaries, and media representatives. Chandrababu explained that while governance in a state without major problems might be simple, rebuilding a state after destruction requires immense effort and strategic planning. This meeting marked the second such review session with the



collectors. He shared insights into the importance of democracy, saying that the Indian Constitution ensures equality and justice for all citizens.

He recalled instances from other countries, like Syria and Bangladesh, where the lack of democratic corrections led to turmoil and dictator-

ships. "In India, democracy, symbolized by the election process, acts as a protector," he stated, referring to it as a safeguard for the nation. Deputy CM Pawan Kalyan also highlighted the government's hard work in addressing problems over the past six months, including the efforts of IT Minister Nara Lokesh in securing Google's investment in Visakhapatnam. He emphasized that the success of initiatives like setting up a tech center with Google would be a game-changer for the state. CM Chandrababu further urged the need for smart work, stressing that hard work alone is ineffective without tangible results. He advocated for transforming the state into a "knowledge society" to ensure progress, where the focus would be on working smarter, not harder.



AP 10th Class and Intermediate Exam Schedules Released by Education Minister Nara Lokesh

TPN CORRESPONDENT
Andhra Pradesh, Dec - 12

Andhra Pradesh Education Minister Nara Lokesh has officially released the schedule for the upcoming 10th class and intermediate exams for the year 2024.

The 10th class exams will commence on March 17, 2024, while the intermediate exams will begin on March 1, 2024. The intermediate exams will be held between March 1 to 31, with the first-year exams scheduled from March 1 to 19, and the second-year exams from March 3 to 20.

Key exam dates for intermediate students include the Ethics and Human Values exam on February 1, and the Environmental Education exam on February 3, both from 10 am to 1 pm.

Practical exams for second-year MPC and BPC students will take place from February 10 to 20, while practical exams for inter vocational courses will be held from February 5 to 20.

In a message to students, Nara Lokesh urged them to focus on their preparation and remain calm. "Dear students, the time has come to focus on the exams. Prepare in a planned manner, and don't let stress affect you. Take care of your health and perform to the best of your abilities," he said.

For 10th class students, Lokesh reassured them, "We are conducting the exams on alternate days to give you ample time to prepare. Use this extra time wisely to study and excel in your exams. I wish all the very best to my 10th class brothers and sisters."

The government has expressed hope that students will make the most of their preparation time and perform excellently in these crucial exams.



Minister Payyavula Keshav Calls for Unified Effort to Rebuild AP

TPN CORRESPONDENT
Andhra Pradesh, Dec - 12

Finance Minister Payyavula Keshav emphasized the need for a collective effort to rebuild the state of Andhra Pradesh, highlighting the challenges inherited by the current government, particularly the Rs. 10 lakh crore debt. Speaking at the AP Collectors' Conference on Wednesday, Keshav shared his long-standing partnership with Chief Minister Chandrababu Naidu, dating back to 1994, and praised Naidu's unwavering passion and commitment to governance.

Keshav stressed that despite the financial challenges, Naidu continues to govern with a focus on people's welfare and humanity. He pointed out that the state's income in the first month of the coalition government was barely enough to cover salaries and allowances, and in the last two years, the state had spent 107 percent of its income on these expenses. The minister also highlighted the Rs. 1.14 lakh crore arrears that need immediate attention.

Keshav acknowledged the painful situation the state faced due to debts, stalled projects, and unmet aspirations of the people, but reassured that under Naidu's leadership, Andhra Pradesh would eventually be transformed, much like Hyderabad was. He urged government departments to use resources carefully and called for a collaborative effort to overcome these challenges and rebuild the state for the benefit of the people.

In closing, Keshav appealed to everyone to work as a CM team, united in their mission to restore and uplift the state.



High Court Takes Strict Stance on Helmet Use, Water Cut for Unpaid Fines

TPN CORRESPONDENT
Andhra Pradesh, Dec - 12

The Andhra Pradesh High Court has expressed serious concerns over the rising number of deaths due to non-use of helmets, with over 660 fatalities reported in the past three months. The court criticized the police for failing to enforce traffic rules effectively and questioned their role in reducing these preventable deaths.

In a hearing prompted by a petition from High Court lawyer Tandava Yogesh, the court highlighted the alarming statistics and expressed its frustration with the lack of strict action against violators. The bench emphasized that if traffic rules, including mandatory helmet use, were enforced rigorously, many of these fatalities could have been avoided.

In response, the High Court instructed the police to strictly implement helmet laws and enforce traffic violations more aggressive-

ly. The court even suggested cutting off essential services like water and electricity to homes of those who fail to pay traffic fines. Additionally, it reminded authorities that vehicles of non-compliant individuals could be seized under existing legal provisions.

The court also raised concerns over the vacant positions in the traffic police department and questioned why steps had not been taken to address the shortage. The High Court pointed out that traffic rules are being followed more diligently in Hyderabad, where even minor infractions like seatbelt use and black film on windows are strictly controlled. The court noted the contrast in enforcement between the state capital and other regions of Andhra Pradesh.

The bench ordered that the Traffic IG and the Transport Commissioner appear before the court at the next hearing, scheduled for December 18, 2024. This comes after several previous directives from the court to ensure helmet usage among two-wheeler riders.

CM Chandrababu Naidu Praises Minister Lokesh for Google MoU In AP

TPN CORRESPONDENT
Andhra Pradesh, Dec - 12

Andhra Pradesh Chief Minister Chandrababu Naidu commended Minister Nara Lokesh for his persistent efforts that led to the signing of an MoU with Google. Speaking at the Collectors' Conference held at the AP Secretariat, Naidu emphasized that continuous effort is essential for achieving results and praised Lokesh's dedication.

Naidu stated that the agreement with Google would accelerate development in Visakhapatnam, highlighting the importance of identifying opportunities even during challenging times. He underscored that leadership is about creating possibilities in crises, adding that "smart work" is more crucial than mere hard work. He also stressed that public awareness plays a vital role in preserving democracy.

Investments Driven by Pro-Growth Policies

The Chief Minister noted that Andhra Pradesh's business-friendly environment,



fostered by progressive policies, has attracted both domestic and international investors. This, he said, is paving the way for increased employment opportunities across the state.

On Twitter, Naidu revealed details of his meeting with Google's Vice President Bikash Koli and a delegation from the company in Amaravati. During the meeting, the team outlined plans for Google's business expansion in India, expressing pride that the agreement was signed with Andhra Pradesh, setting it apart from other states. Naidu expressed confidence that partnerships with global technology leaders like Google would position Andhra Pradesh on a robust path to growth and innovation.

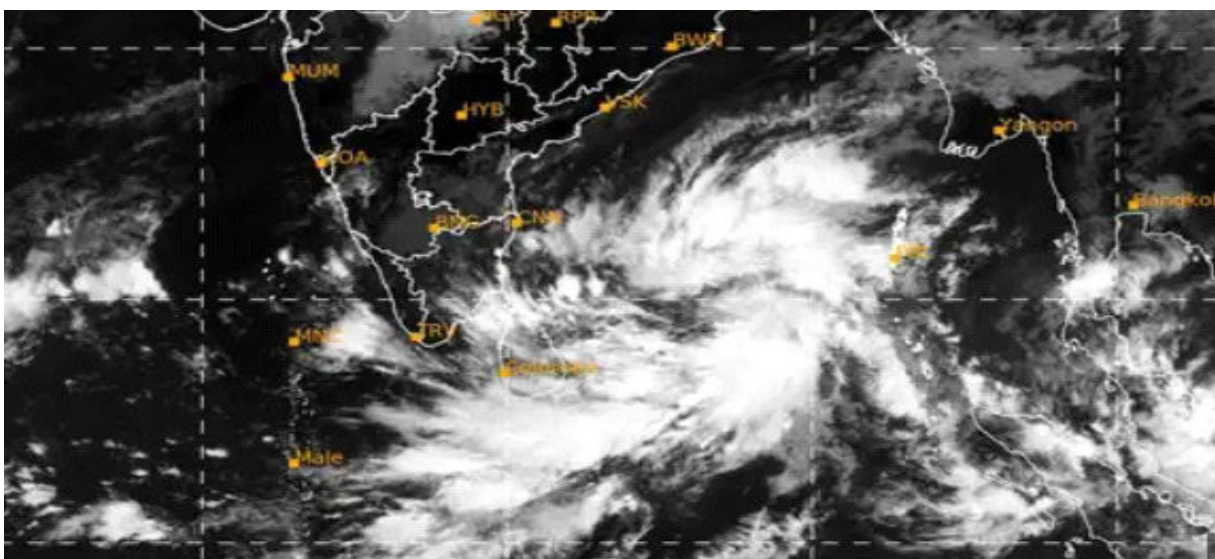
Minister Nadendla Manohar Criticizes Jagan's Govt Over Farmer Welfare

TPN CORRESPONDENT
Andhra Pradesh, Dec - 12

In a scathing tweet, Civil Supplies Minister Nadendla Manohar criticized the previous government's handling of farmer welfare, specifically targeting Former Chief Minister Jagan Mohan Reddy. Manohar, in his tweet, highlighted the stark contrast in grain procurement under the two administrations.

The minister pointed out that during the current government's tenure, a total of 15.40 lakh metric tons of grain had been collected, compared to just 8.23 lakh metric tons under Jagan's rule. He emphasized that the present coalition government was ensuring that payments to farmers were processed within 48 hours of grain collection, contrasting it with the delays farmers faced under Jagan's leadership.

Manohar questioned the credibility of Jagan's government, stating, "Did the farmers get paid properly during Jagan's rule? At least they couldn't provide them with enough gothas (grain storage)." He went on to accuse Jagan of cheating farmers and challenged his right to hold rallies given the lack of support for the farming community during his administration.



Severe Low Pressure Causes Sudden Weather Change in South Coastal Districts of AP

TPN CORRESPONDENT
Andhra Pradesh, Dec - 12

A severe low pressure has developed in the south-east-southwest Bay of Bengal, and the India Meteorological Department (IMD) has warned of its gradual intensification into a depression. The system is expected to move towards the Sri Lanka-Tamil Nadu coasts in the next 24 hours, bringing significant weather changes to the region. The IMD forecasts heavy rains in coastal districts of Andhra Pradesh, Rayalaseema, and Yanam ar-

reas on December 11th and 12th. Fishermen have been warned not to venture into the Bay of Bengal from December 11 to 13 due to the adverse conditions.

The weather in the southern coastal districts of Andhra Pradesh has drastically changed, with cloudy skies and strong winds. The influence of the severe low pressure has led to a drop in temperature, causing a sudden cold wave in many areas. The public is advised to stay cautious as the situation continues to evolve over the next few days.

Everyone is their people... So how is the rice coming? – YS Jagan

TPN CORRESPONDENT
Andhra Pradesh, Dec - 12
On Wednesday, YSRCP Chief and former Chief Minister Jagan Mohan Reddy addressed allegations regarding the smuggling of ration rice from Kakinada port. In a meeting with YSRCP representatives from the Joint Prakasam district in Tadepalli, Jagan responded to claims made by coalition leaders about the issue. Jagan pointed out that the coalition government, including ministers, officials, and security personnel, is under the control of the coalition, questioning how rice could be smuggled past check posts if everyone involved is from their side. "The government is theirs,

the ministers are theirs, the officials are theirs, the check posts are theirs, and even the customs and security staff are theirs. So how is the rice moving?" Jagan asked. Further, Jagan referred to Minister Payyavula Keshav In law, who is allegedly "number one in rice exports." He also mentioned that the Deputy CM recently inspected the port but pointed out that the ship from which Payyavula In law was exporting rice had not been inspected. Jagan's remarks came amid ongoing allegations that ration rice was being smuggled from Kakinada port during the tenure of the YSRCP government.



NDA Govt Releases Pamphlet on Six-Month Achievements In AP

TPN CORRESPONDENT
Andhra Pradesh, Dec - 12
The coalition government in Andhra Pradesh has completed six months in power, marking the occasion with the release of a pamphlet detailing its achievements. TDP leaders outlined the top 20 programs completed by the coalition government during this period at a media briefing held on Wednesday.



The coalition, which won the AP elections by defeating the YSRCP, has focused on fulfilling the promises made during the election campaign. Chief Minister Chandrababu Naidu has worked towards developing the state, prioritizing welfare schemes like the pension hike and the Deepam scheme. More initiatives are in the pipeline, with the government preparing to implement them as soon as possible.

Thondapooja Dasharatha Janardhan, speaking at the event, emphasized that the people of Andhra Pradesh had suffered under the YSRCP rule, which lacked security for citizens' property and lives. He criticized the YSRCP for looting public property through the Land Titling Act. In contrast, he claimed that the TDP-led coalition government had restored people's freedom and independence over the past six months. He highlighted the government's plan to distribute Rs 1,60,000 crore in pensions over the next five years and contrasted the welfare efforts

of the TDP with those of the YSRCP, calling the latter "as different as a jackal is from a lion." Varla Ramaiah, another party leader, also presented the top 20 achievements of the TDP in the last six months. He argued that the public should evaluate the coalition government's performance, noting that the previous YSRCP government had failed to highlight public welfare programs at the national level. Despite the state's economic challenges, he assured that the coalition was ensuring that welfare schemes remained unaffected. Ramaiah also criticized Jaganmohan Reddy, referring to him and his allies as "twins" in their dishonesty. Malyadri, another TDP leader, challenged Jaganmohan Reddy's claims about the coalition government's failure to implement promises. He proposed an open discussion between the TDP and YSRCP about the development that had occurred under their respective governments. Malyadri accused Jagan of using lies to distract from his own scandals and blamed him for fostering divisions based on caste, religion, and region to deflect attention from his own failings. He called on the public to remain vigilant against such tactics.

Case Filed Against Former Minister Perni Nani's Wife Over Ration Rice Scam

TPN CORRESPONDENT
Andhra Pradesh, Dec - 12

A case has been registered against Jayasudha, wife of YSRCP leader and former minister Perni Nani, in connection with a ration rice scam. The Machilipatnam police took action following a complaint from Civil Supplies Department officer Kotireddy.

The controversy dates back to the previous government when Perni Nani allegedly constructed a warehouse in his wife Jayasudha's name. This warehouse was later rented out to the Civil Supplies Department for storing Public Distribution System (PDS) rice stocks.



Recently, officials conducted an inspection of the warehouse and discovered a significant discrepancy in the inventory. They reported that 185 tons of PDS rice were missing from the stocks. The Civil Supplies Department raised concerns about the mismanagement and irregularities, leading to a formal complaint against Jayasudha.

In his defense, Perni Nani attributed the shortage to technical issues, claiming that the weir bridge used for weighing the stocks was not functioning properly. Despite this explanation, the police registered cases against both Perni Nani and Jayasudha based on the Civil Supplies Department's findings. This incident has sparked controversy and raised questions about the accountability and transparency in the handling of government resources. The investigation into the missing rice stocks is ongoing, and further action will depend on the findings of the inquiry. The allegations and subsequent case have put the former minister and his family under intense scrutiny, with opposition parties demanding a thorough probe into the matter.

Our Govt Has the Responsibility to Rectify Encroachments and Provide Justice - Revenue Minister

TPN CORRESPONDENT
Andhra Pradesh, Dec - 12

At the Collectors' Conference, Andhra Pradesh's Revenue Minister Satya Prasad highlighted the government's commitment to rectifying the encroachments, irregularities, and corruption that occurred during the previous administration. He emphasized that it is the government's responsibility to address the issues created by the former government and ensure justice for the victims who suffered due to these actions.



Minister Satya Prasad acknowledged the challenges posed by the irregularities and encroachments that have affected various sectors in the state. He stated that the current government, under the leadership of Chief Minister Y.S. Jagan Mohan Reddy, is dedicated to providing a transparent and accountable administration that prioritizes the welfare of the people.

"The people who have been wronged must be compensated, and we will work diligently to correct these past mistakes," Satya Prasad said. He reiterated that the government will take appropriate action to investigate and resolve cases of corruption and land encroachments, ensuring that the vic-

tims receive justice. The Minister also called on the district collectors to cooperate and contribute to the efforts of identifying and rectifying the issues at the grassroots level. He emphasized that the government's goal is to create a system where transparency and fairness guide all decisions, fostering public trust and confidence in governance. With a focus on restoring public faith, Satya Prasad assured that the government will leave no stone unturned in its mission to address the injustices of the past and pave the way for a more just and equitable future.

MLA Vishnu Kumar Raju Demands Comprehensive Probe into YS Jagan's Alleged Scams

TPN CORRESPONDENT
Andhra Pradesh, Dec - 12

MLA Vishnu Kumar Raju launched a scathing attack on former Chief Minister YS Jagan Mohan Reddy, accusing him of widespread corruption and financial mismanagement during his Ycp Tenure from 2019 to 2024. Speaking to the media on Wednesday, Vishnu Kumar Raju demanded a thorough investigation into alleged financial scams from multiple angles.



He claimed that Andhra Pradesh was completely "destroyed" during Jagan's leadership, accusing him of indiscriminate looting and corruption. "If given a chance as a child of YSR, would you do this?" Raju questioned, pointing out the severe damage caused to the state. He predicted that Jagan would not even secure two assembly seats in the upcoming elections.

The BJP leader called for the establishment of a special ministry to investigate the various scams allegedly perpetrated by Jagan. He also accused several YSRCP leaders of misconduct, citing the alleged forced takeover of the Kakinada Port from KV Rao and claimed corruption of ₹1,750 crores in a deal between Jagan and the Adani Group.

"Investigating agencies have confirmed that Jagan accepted bribes. The government must take immediate ac-

tion and bring the guilty to justice," Raju said. He also criticized Jagan for burdening the public with high electricity tariffs and questioned the transfer of the Gangavaram project for just ₹650 crores.

Raju alleged that Jagan's Ycp Tenure saw rampant exploitation, including land grabbing in Visakhapatnam and the forcible seizure of private properties. He urged authorities to investigate these allegations and hold those responsible accountable.

Concluding his remarks, Raju expressed confidence in YSRCP's defeat in the upcoming elections, stating, "At least work in a way that ensures your presence in the assembly." The BJP leader's statements have intensified the political discourse ahead of the state elections.

Vidadala Rajani Faces Legal Trouble Over Alleged Illegal Activities During Ycp Tenure

TPN CORRESPONDENT
Andhra Pradesh, Dec - 12

Former minister Vidadala Rajani is embroiled in controversy following allegations of illegal collections during his Ycp Tenure. The allegations, which have surfaced after the formation of

the management of a stone crusher unit in Chilakaluripet. When the traders refused to comply with Rajani's demands, it is said that a fine of Rs. 50 crore was imposed on the company for illegal mining.

The traders eventually reached a settlement after being threatened by police officer Joshua, and a sum of Rs. 2.2 crore was reportedly collected. Out of this amount, the investigation concluded that Rajani personally received Rs. 2 crore, while his personal assistant received Rs. 10 lakh, and another Rs. 10 lakh went to the involved police officer.



According to the findings of the vigilance investigation, Rajani is accused of illegally collecting Rs. 2 crore. The vigilance team, in coordination with police and mining officials, looked into claims that Rajani used his position to extort money from various individuals. Notably, one allegation involves Rajani pressuring

The vigilance report has been submitted to the government, and attention is now focused on the next steps the government will take in response to these revelations. The investigation has stirred significant anticipation, as the public awaits official action based on the findings.

YSR Congress Party to Hold "Annadataku Andaga YSRCP" Protest in Nellore – Kakani

Criticized the Govt for Neglecting the Welfare of Farmers

TPN CORRESPONDENT
Nellore, Dec - 12

Former Minister and Joint Nellore District YSR Congress Party President Dr. Kakani Govardhan Reddy announced the "Annadataku Andaga YSRCP" protest program, which will take place on December 13th in Nellore city. The announcement was made during a poster release event attended by Nellore Rural Constituency In-charge Anam Vijayakumar Reddy, corporators, and YSR Congress Party leaders and activists.

During a media conference, Dr. Kakani criticized the coalition government for neglecting the welfare of farmers. He accused the government of cheating farmers and highlighted the difference in support provided under the previous and current administrations. He pointed out that former Chief Minister YS Jagan Mohan Reddy had provided annual investment assistance of ₹13,500 to farmers, but now Chandrababu Naidu, after promising ₹20,000 assistance before the elections, had failed to fulfill this commitment. Dr. Kakani expressed that YSRCP would continue to fight for the implementation of every promise made to the farmers.

He also noted that the previous government had borne the crop insurance premium, a burden that is now be-



ing placed on the farmers under the current regime. Further, he mentioned the irregularities in grain procurement, which have caused severe difficulties for farmers across the state.

The "Annadataku Andaga YSRCP" program will begin with tributes to Dr. B.R. Ambedkar at Ambedkar Square, followed by a rally to the Collectorate, where a petition addressing the issues of farmers will be submitted to the District Collector. Dr. Kakani urged a large number of farmers and party members to join the rally and make the protest a success.

Swarnandhra @2047 Vision Document Launch Program to be Held on December 13

TPN CORRESPONDENT

NTR District, Dec - 12

Honorable Chief Minister Nara Chandrababu Naidu will participate in the launch of the Swarnandhra @ 2047 Vision Document on December 13 at the Indira Gandhi Municipal Stadium. To ensure the event's success, State Taxation Chief Commissioner Babu. A emphasized the need for special teams to work in close coordination.

On Wednesday, Babu.A, along with state-level officials, reviewed the arrangements for the program at the Collector's Camp Office. He instructed the team to organize the event with meticulous planning and security measures. Key considerations included parking for buses and VIP vehicles, security checkpoints, seating arrangements for VIPs and the public, exhibition spaces, barricading, and public addressing systems. Additionally, the installation of LED screens,



the review meeting was attended by Mines and Geology Commissioner, Director Praveen Kumar, Additional Secretary (Finance) J. Nivas, Shaap VC and MD Girisha PS, Joint Collector Dr. Nidhi Meena, Police Commissioner SV Rajasekhara Babu, Vijayawada Municipal Corporation Commissioner Dhyana Chandra HM, and others.

uninterrupted power and water supply, sanitation, transport arrangements, and medical camps were also discussed. The meeting also addressed the involvement of donors, academicians, social activists, and MSME representatives, ensuring that appropriate arrangements are made for their participation.

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Minister Nimmala Ramanaidu Assists the Poor and Criticizes Opposition at Palakollu Event

TPN CORRESPONDENT

Palakollu, Dec - 12

Minister Nimmala Ramanaidu handed over cheques totaling Rs. 8.20 lakh from the Chief Minister's Relief Fund to the poor in the Palakollu constituency, emphasizing the government's commitment to supporting the underprivileged. During his address, the Minister assured farmers that they would now have the freedom to sell their grain to millers of their choice, with payments deposited into their bank accounts within 24 hours. Minister Nimmala highlighted that under the leadership of Chief Minister Chandrababu Naidu, the government had cleared the Rs. 1,674 crore in arrears for grain purchases that had remained unpaid under the previous administration. He criticized the YSRCP and its leadership, including Jagan Mohan Reddy, for failing to honor their promises to the farmers.

The Minister further added that the Chandrababu government was introducing the crop registration facility for tenant farmers for the first time, ensuring more benefits for them. He also expressed his concern about the drug and marijuana problem under the current government, stating that it had led



to the weakening of youth in the state. In an effort to combat this, Minister Nimmala announced that a 2K run would be held in Palakollu on December 15 to raise awareness about saving the girl child and eradicating fetal killings.

Minister Nimmala also took a strong stance against former Chief Minister Jagan Mohan Reddy, accusing him of failing to speak out on the widespread abductions in the state and criticized his leadership for the lack of justice for women. He praised Chief Minister Chandrababu Naidu for taking proactive measures, including the formation of the Eagle Team to curb drug use in the state.

The event was marked by a strong call for unity in protecting women's rights and eradicating social evils like drug abuse.

MLA Bonda Uma Fulfills Dreams of District Homeowners

Urges People to Avail House Titles and Registrations

TPN CORRESPONDENT

Vijayawada, Dec - 12

Government Whip and Central Constituency MLA Bonda Umamaheswarao held a press conference at the Telugu Desam Party office in Singh Nagar, Vijayawada, to address house titles and registrations for the district's homeowners. Speaking to the media, Bonda Uma highlighted the long-standing issues faced by poor sections of the city, who have been waiting for house titles and registrations for years.

"Many residents in Vijayawada, who have lived in their homes for 25 to 30 years, were deprived of titles and registrations. During my previous term as MLA, I took special care to ensure house titles were issued and 5300 houses were registered from a survey of 7210 houses," said Bonda Uma. "However, when the YCP government came to power, they gave out titles but failed to provide permanent solutions, leaving many without registered titles."

The MLA emphasized that the main objective now is to resolve the pending issues related to house titles and registrations. He announced that a special initiative is underway to register houses with titles at a nominal fee of ₹100 and provide titles for houses that were previously not registered. The activity will cover several areas, including Devineni Gandhi Puram, Payakapuram, and Nandamuri Nagar, among others. "We are working closely with the Commission-



er, and a special team has been formed to handle this. Secretariat staff will go door-to-door to inform the owners about this opportunity," said Bonda Uma.

Additionally, Bonda Uma mentioned that houses in certain areas have faced difficulties due to the 22A GO, but efforts are underway to address these issues and provide permanent solutions. He also mentioned that homeowners will be able to access low-interest loans for various purposes, including education and marriage, once the registration process is complete.

The event was attended by TDP State Secretary Navaneetham Sambasiva Rao, Center Constituency Coordinator Erubothu Ramana Rao, and other party leaders.

MLA Venigandla Ramu Promises Full Land Rights, Resolves Issues in Revenue Conference

TPN CORRESPONDENT

Nandivada, Dec - 12

Gudivada MLA Venigandla Ramu emphasized the government's commitment to resolving land issues during a revenue conference held in Polukonda village, Nandivada mandal. The conference was organized as part of the coalition government's efforts to address the land-related concerns of the people.

Speaking at the event, MLA Ramu highlighted that land issues are one of the main challenges faced by people in Andhra Pradesh. He stressed that the government, under Chief Minister Nara Chandrababu Naidu's leadership, is dedicated to providing full rights to landholders. He further mentioned that the government is working on resolving land disputes and providing solutions to those affected by such issues.

The MLA noted that it has been six months since the coalition government came to power, and it has focused on addressing the problems of the people while also promoting state development. He criticized the previous YSRCP government for using programs for its own benefit and assured that the coalition government is committed to benefiting the public.

MLA Ramu, along with local authorities and



leaders, reviewed the land issue petitions submitted by farmers and villagers. He pointed out that the revenue conferences are a vital step toward resolving these long-standing concerns and ensuring justice for landholders.

The event was attended by various local leaders and officials, including Mandal TDP President Daneti Sanyasirao, Grama Party President Kurma Srinivasa Rao, Sarpanch Manepalli Jhansi Kumari, Tahsildar Gurumurthy Reddy, and Deputy Tahsildar Kiran, among others. Local villagers and farmers also participated in the conference.

Four Arrested for Stealing from Passengers, ₹1.5 Lakh Seized

TPN CORRESPONDENT

Vijayawada, Dec - 12

The Vijayawada City Police have arrested four individuals involved in robbing passengers by stealing from them at crowded locations such as bus stands. The police seized Rs. 1.5 lakh from the accused.



Following directives from N.T.R. District Police Commissioner Sri S.V. Rajasekhara Babu, a special team was formed under the leadership of Crimes DCP Sri K. Thirumaleswara Reddy, Crimes ADCP Sri M. Raja Rao, and Crimes ACP Sri Venkateswarlu. The team was tasked with monitoring suspects involved in thefts.

On the evening of December 11, the CCS team, with the help of Krishna Lanka Police, apprehended four individuals near Padmavati Ghat, located near the Pandit Nehru Bus Stand. The arrested suspects have been identified as Burri Suresh (47) of Visakhapatnam, Aritakula Tarakeswara Rao (44), Kambala Srinu (42) of Kailasapuram, and Budumuri Raju (35) of Kobbarithota. All of them are long-time friends with several previous theft-related offenses.

During interrogation, the suspects revealed that they targeted crowded areas such as bus stands, where they would discreetly steal money or valuables from unsuspecting victims. The thieves would distract their targets while one of them picked their pockets, with the others blending into the crowd.

One such incident took place on December 6, 2024, when they stole money from a complainant's pocket at the bus stand while he was accompanying his brother-in-law to the hospital. The victim later filed a complaint at the Krishna Lanka Police Station, which led to the investigation and subsequent arrest. The police have recovered Rs. 1.5 lakh from the suspects, who have been taken into custody for further legal proceedings.

Revenue Conference Held in Gosaveedu Village to Resolve Land Issues

TPN CORRESPONDENT

NTR District, Dec - 12

A revenue conference was conducted at the village secretariat in Gosaveedu village, located in Gampalagudem mandal, to address land-related concerns of the local community. The conference saw active participation from Revenue Divisional Officer (RDO) K. Madhuri and other key officials.

During the conference, a total of 8 applications regarding Record of Rights (ROR) were received. These applications were reviewed and resolved on the spot, ensuring prompt action to address the land issues raised by the

villagers.

The event also saw the participation of Gampalagudem Mandal Tahsildar Smt. V. Rajakumari, Village Sarpanch Prashanth, and various village elders, along with the revenue and secretariat staff. The program was part of ongoing efforts by the government to streamline land-related services and resolve issues at the grassroots level.

The collaborative efforts of the local authorities and community members ensured the smooth conduct of the conference and helped in resolving the concerns of the villagers effectively.



Tahsildar Cracks Down on Ration Mafia, Seizes 2,500 KG of Illegal PDS Rice in Vijayawada West

TPN CORRESPONDENT

Vijayawada, Dec - 12

In a significant crackdown on the ration mafia, the West Tahsildar, Intiyaz Pasha, along with his team, seized 2,500 KG of illegal Public Distribution System (PDS) rice in Vijayawada West constituency on Wednesday morning. The rice was found stored in approximately 50 bags at a building under repair at D No 75-5-171, President Street, Bhawanipuram. The house belonged to SK. Qudus, and locals informed the Tahsildar that the illegal storage was being carried out by Kolli Thirupathamma, a woman known for running a ration mafia in the area.

Locals lauded Tahsildar Pasha for his prompt action in identifying and addressing the illegal storage and transportation of PDS rice,

despite the government's efforts to streamline PDS distribution and ensure fair delivery to the public.

Kolli Thirupathamma, who had been profiting from illegal ration distribution, was arrested during the raid. Tahsildar Pasha urged the public to cooperate with the authorities and refrain from selling ration rice illegally. He emphasized the importance of informing revenue officials if they become aware of any such illegal activities, as the government continues to strive to deliver ration rice directly to citizens' doorsteps.

The operation was carried out with the assistance of In-Charge RI Vennela, Civil Supply RI Venkat, and VRO Rajesh Joseph, who were part of the team in executing the raid.

I Never Thought Such a Day Would Come - Manchu Manoj

TPN CORRESPONDENT, Hyderabad : Tollywood actor Manchu Manoj became emotional while addressing the ongoing controversy within his family, expressing regret over an incident involving journalists at his father Mohan Babu's residence. Speaking to the media, Manoj apologized on behalf of his father and brother, Vishnu, for the treatment of journalists who had come to cover the situation. Visibly moved, Manoj shared his pain and disbelief, stating, "I never thought such a day would come. It's heartbreaking that journalists had to go through this because of my family. I will always stand by the

families of those affected."

Dismissing rumors of a property dispute with his father, Manoj clarified, "I am not fighting with my family over property. I have never relied on their income, nor has my wife asked for anything. I run my own business and live independently."

Manoj also expressed frustration over his wife and seven-month-old daughter being dragged into the controversy. Calling his father "a God," Manoj lamented that the person being portrayed in recent events is not the man he knows. "My father is being

misled by others. The allegations against me, including the claim that I attacked someone, are false. Let the CCTV footage prove otherwise. I am ready to appear before the police today."

Manoj assured the public and media that he would provide clarity after the police investigation, promising to reveal the truth behind the controversy.

This emotional response from Manoj has drawn sympathy from fans and the media, while also highlighting the strained dynamics within the Manchu family.



KA Paul Condemns Mohan Babu's Attack on Media Representatives



TPN CORRESPONDENT, Hyderabad : Tollywood veteran actor Mohan Babu is facing widespread criticism following an alleged attack on media representatives who entered his residence. The incident has sparked outrage, with prominent figures, including Praja Shanti Party president KA Paul, voicing strong disapproval.

Responding to the controversy, KA Paul questioned the actor's actions, stating, "Mohan Babu, who else... what is the point of attacking media representatives?" He emphasized that such behavior towards the press is unacceptable, regardless of an individual's stature.

Calling the attack "heinous," KA Paul firmly condemned the incident and urged Mohan Babu to offer an immediate public apology. He stressed the importance of respecting the media, which plays a critical role in upholding democracy and ensuring transparency.

This incident has sparked a heated debate, with many criticizing Mohan Babu's actions as a violation of press freedom. Media organizations and civil society groups have also called for accountability and a clear explanation of the events leading to the alleged altercation.

As of now, Mohan Babu has not issued any statement regarding the allegations. The incident continues to draw attention from various quarters, with demands for an amicable resolution and a commitment to uphold the rights of media professionals.

Visakhapatnam Farmers Association Organizes Walk and Organic Farming Conference



TPN CORRESPONDENT, Visakhapatnam : The Visakhapatnam-based Farmers Association

organized a walk from RK Beach Kali Mata Temple to YMCA to promote awareness about sus-

tainable farming practices. The walk, which has been a tradition for the past five years, aims to engage the public in the importance of organic farming.

The organizers announced that a four-day conference on organic farming would be held in the city. The event will focus on creating awareness about key topics such as food processing, mixed farming, soil health, and sustainable agricultural practices. The initiative seeks to educate farmers and the general public on the benefits of organic farming for health, the environment,

and long-term agricultural productivity. Through interactive sessions, workshops, and expert talks, the conference will provide valuable insights and guidance on adopting eco-friendly farming techniques.

The association emphasized its commitment to fostering a community dedicated to preserving soil value and promoting chemical-free farming methods. The walk and conference are part of their larger effort to make Visakhapatnam a hub for sustainable agricultural practices.

Sports Play a Vital Role in Health, Says Botsa Sandeep

TPN CORRESPONDENT, Visakhapatnam: Botsa Sandeep, son of MLC Botsa Satyanarayana, emphasized the importance of sports for mental and physical well-being during the inauguration of a pickleball court in Lawson's Bay Colony. He was joined by his mother, Botsa Jhansi, in the event held near the beach.

Speaking on the occasion, Botsa Sandeep highlighted how sports serve as a valuable outlet in today's fast-paced and hectic lifestyle, helping individuals enhance their physical and mental health. "In modern times, sports are essential for maintaining balance in our lives. They provide much-needed leisure and health benefits," he stated.

Botsa Jhansi expressed her joy at inaugurating the sports complex in such a serene environment. She encouraged residents to take full advantage of the facility, promoting a healthier and more active lifestyle.

The event also saw participation from Leader of the Opposition in the Legislative Council Botsa Sattibabu, Botsa Pujitha, and other dignitaries, who praised the initiative aimed at fostering community engagement and well-being through sports.

The newly opened pickleball court is expected to become a hub for fitness enthusiasts and sports lovers in Visakhapatnam, offering them an opportunity to stay active in a picturesque setting.



Nellore City Commissioner Orders Hotel Owners to Comply with Food Quality Standards

TPN CORRESPONDENT, Nellore: Nellore City Municipal Commissioner Suryateja has directed hotel owners to adhere to food quality standards to ensure the health and safety of customers. The order came after a meeting with the District Food Safety Department and Municipal Health officials to discuss food safety regulations for hotels, hot food centers, and restaurants within the Nellore City Corporation jurisdiction.

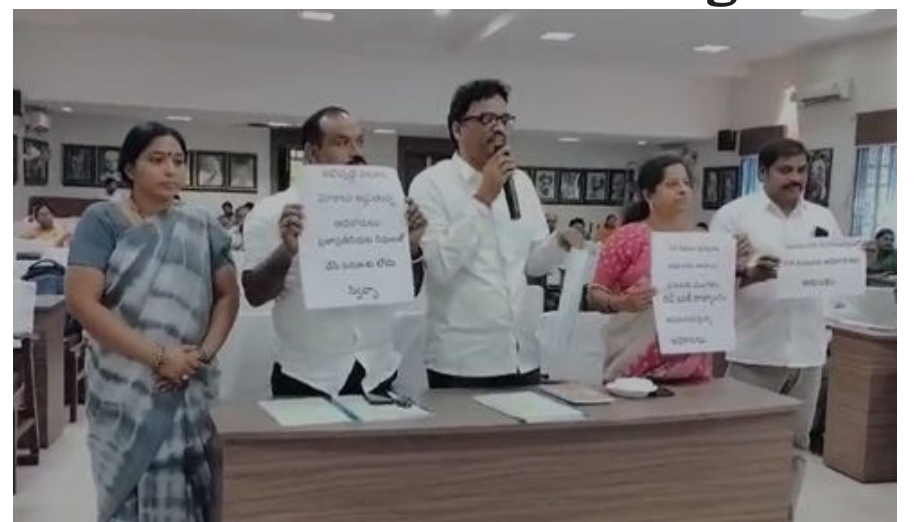


environment. He also suggested that vegetarian and non-vegetarian food should be stored and prepared separately. Additionally, personal hygiene should be prioritized while serving food to customers. Suryateja stressed the prohibition of using harmful colors and adulterated ingredients in food preparation, warning that such practices would not be

During the meeting, the Commissioner emphasized the importance of maintaining cleanliness, particularly in the kitchen area, to ensure a hygienic en-

vironment. He further advised hotel and restaurant owners to obtain the necessary permissions from the Municipal Corporation for the proper management of their establishments. The meeting was attended by Food Safety Officer G. Venkateswara Rao, Additional Commissioner Nandan, Health Department Officer Dr. Chaitanya, Deputy Commissioner Chennudu, and managers from prominent hotels in the city. The discussions underscored the importance of ensuring food safety and maintaining high hygiene standards in the hospitality industry.

ZPTC's Protest at Joint Visakha Zilla Parishad Standing Committee Meeting



TPN CORRESPONDENT, Anakapalle: Members of the Zilla Parishad Teritorial Constituencies (ZPTCs) staged a protest during the joint Visakha Zilla Parishad Standing Committee meeting held today. The protest highlighted their dissatisfaction with the lack of cooperation from authorities in advancing development projects.

The protesting ZPTCs held placards and shouted slogans demanding active cooperation from officials to expedite developmental initiatives. Munagapaka ZPTC Swami Satyanarayana, speaking at the protest, pointed out that approximately ₹1 crore allocated for development programs had yet to be released. He urged the authorities to clear these pending funds to facilitate progress.

ZPTC representatives from various constituencies, including Rambilli ZPTC Dhuli Nagaraju, Elamanchili ZPTC Senapati Sandhyarani Ramu, and Makavarapalem J.D.P.T.C., actively participated in the demonstration.

The protest underscores growing frustrations over delays and administrative hurdles in implementing vital development projects in the region. The ZPTCs called for immediate action to address these issues and ensure the smooth execution of planned initiatives.

East Godavari Police Arrested Four Motorcycle Thieves Seize 29 Stolen Bikes Worth Rs. 11.6 Lakh

TPN CORRESPONDENT, East Godavari: The East Godavari District Police have successfully arrested four individuals involved in motorcycle thefts and recovered 29 stolen motorcycles worth approximately Rs. 11.6 lakh. DSP (Central Zone) Sri K. Ramesh Babu revealed the details during a press conference. In response to the rising number of motorcycle thefts in Rajahmundry and surrounding areas, the East Godavari District Police, under the supervision of District Superintendent of Police Sri D. Narasimha Kishore IPS, formed special teams at each police station to monitor and prevent such crimes. These teams are regularly instructed and kept under close observation. As part of these efforts, DSP K. Ramesh Babu, along with Inspector (Three Town)

V. Apparao, Sub Inspector V. Appalaraju, and other police personnel, were conducting a vehicle check at Katheru Gaman Bridge on December 11, 2024. During the check, they apprehended four individuals aged between 16 and 19 years, who attempted to flee upon noticing the police. The suspects were detained and questioned in the presence of mediators.

The arrested individuals were identified as:

1. Kuppam Teja, 19, resident of Weavers Colony, Rajamahendravaram.
2. Three Juvenile Offenders (CICLs) in conflict with the law.
3. Sriram Konthamuru (absconder). These individuals, along with two other associates, were involved in stealing motorcycles from various locations by

using keys to unlock parked bikes. They would then sell the stolen bikes and use the proceeds for leisure activities. In total, they stole 29 motorcycles, valued at Rs. 11.6 lakh. These motorcycles were sold to Vadaboyna Ramesh and Gurrala Venkanna, who then hid the bikes in quarry pits in Rajamahendravaram. The stolen motorcycles were recovered, and the four suspects were taken into custody. Three of the juveniles will be presented in juvenile court, while the other accused will be sent for remand. The District SP advised that parents and elders should guide children toward positive paths, urging them to pursue education and become responsible citizens. The officers involved in the successful operation were congratulated, and rewards were announced for their efforts.



Rejuvenation of Cultural Hubs: Kashi, Ayodhya, and Prayagraj Transform Since 2014

India's cultural landscape has undergone a remarkable transformation since 2014, marked by a renewed focus on preserving and celebrating the nation's heritage. Cities like Varanasi (Kashi), Ayodhya, and Prayagraj stand out as prime examples of this rejuvenation, blending tradition with modernity and spirituality with economic progress.

Kashi: A Spiritual and Economic Hub

Varanasi, or Kashi, an ancient spiritual center, has experienced a dramatic shift from a solely religious destination to a thriving economic hub. The Kashi Vishwanath Corridor project is a key symbol of this transformation, expanding the temple complex from 3,000 to 500,000 square feet, easing congestion for devotees, and making it a major attraction. The surge in tourism—from 69 lakh visitors in 2021 to over 13 crores in 2022—has resulted in a significant economic boost, with revenue from religious tourism increasing sharply.

Infrastructure improvements, including new roads, bridges, and flyovers, have also been crucial. Projects like the four-lane Road Over Bridge and new connectivity through the Vande Bharat Express have

enhanced access to the city. Additionally, advancements in healthcare and education, such as the establishment of medical colleges and wellness centers, have elevated living standards for residents. These combined efforts have generated jobs, promoted local industries like Banarasi silk, and fueled sustainable economic growth, positioning Varanasi as a model for cultural and economic revival.

Ayodhya: Reviving Faith and Infrastructure

Ayodhya, revered as the birthplace of Lord Ram, has seen a profound resurgence, largely due to the construction of the Ram Temple. This historic development has re-energized the city's spiritual significance while also driving large-scale infrastructural upgrades. The construction of the Maharshi Valmiki International Airport and the redevelopment of Ayodhya Railway Station, which will soon handle 60,000 passengers, are key examples of these efforts.

Alongside these infrastructure projects, the introduction of the Amrit Bharat trains and a total Rs 15,700 crore investment in the region's development are expected to boost tourism and create jobs. The holis-

tic approach, combining spiritual, infrastructural, and economic progress, aims to transform Ayodhya into a thriving spiritual and economic center.

Prayagraj: Beyond the Kumbh Mela

Prayagraj, known for the Kumbh Mela, is also undergoing a revitalization that extends beyond this massive religious gathering. While the Kumbh brings millions of pilgrims, the city is focusing on long-term growth, investing heavily in hospitality and infrastructure. With Rs 449 crore invested in hotels, resorts, and wellness centers, Prayagraj's hospitality sector is being transformed into a year-round destination. The opening of 11 more hotels, part of a Rs 838 crore investment, will create thousands of new jobs and provide sustained economic growth.

The revitalization of Kashi, Ayodhya, and Prayagraj reflects India's broader cultural renaissance, driven by pride in the nation's heritage and supported by government initiatives. These efforts are not only preserving India's cultural fabric but also creating new economic opportunities, setting a powerful example of blending tradition with progress.

The Fall of Damascus: A Reflection on History and Power



Damascus, one of the oldest cities in the world, has once again fallen. Its cyclical nature of power shifts, violent regime changes, and ethnic and religious clashes throughout history provide valuable lessons for modern societies. While the city has witnessed regime changes from the Roman conquest in the 1st century AD to the most recent developments, the ongoing contestation for socio-political dominance has shaped its character. Today, the fall of Damascus underlines how the cycles of power and its socio-political dynamics continue to influence the region.

In July 2012, rebels breached Damascus, a city long considered inviolable, signaling the start of a long and bloody conflict. While the Syrian regime responded with overwhelming force, including Operation Capital Shield in 2013, to defend the capital, it was only a temporary measure. Eleven years later, the regime fell yet again. Throughout history, Damascus has witnessed similar power shifts, not only due to military conquest but also through ethnic and religious clashes such as the Crusades.

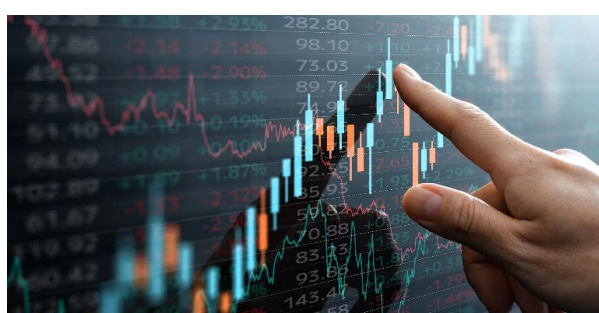
Damascus holds immense historical significance as a thriving trade hub along the Silk Roads, as highlighted in Peter Frankopan's **The Silk Roads**. Though it lacked direct access to the Mediterranean, it competed with cosmopolitan cities like Constantinople, Antioch, and Chang'an. The fertile land of Damascus, bolstered by irrigation infrastructure from the Barada River, allowed the city to prosper agriculturally. Even during the height of religious conflicts in the 10th century AD, Damascus maintained its status as a trading epicenter, where Muslim and Christian traders coexisted peacefully, protected by the city's political tolerance.

Interestingly, Damascus was never ruled by a local dynasty, a feature that aligns it more closely with cities like Delhi than with its Phoenician or Arab neighbors. Its history is marked by the dominance of "outsiders" who integrated into the local culture, helping shape its growth. This characteristic mirrors that of Delhi, offering insights into the political evolution of cities that have seen multiple waves of foreign influence.

The current developments in Syria and the fall of the Assad regime offer critical lessons in liberalism's limitations. The Assad family's politicization of Syria's multicultural society fueled resentment, particularly among the Sunni majority, marginalized by the Alawite (Shia) regime. The Syrian civil war, driven by both political and socio-religious factors, is a reminder of the dangers of exclusionary politics. The rise of conservative forces, often in reaction to liberal elitism, has caused upheaval across the globe, as seen in Afghanistan, Iran, Turkey, and Bangladesh. The fall of Damascus has sparked celebrations and looting, but the political aftermath is not one of simple victory. Israel has already moved to assert control, planting its flag beyond the previous buffer zone. This historical perspective should serve as a cautionary tale for regimes and rebels, particularly in Delhi, to understand the complex interplay of power and the cyclical nature of conflict in shaping the future of cities and nations.

India's Economic Struggles: Denial, Desperation, and Policy Shifts

Five years ago, policymakers in New Delhi were largely in denial about the deep economic stagnation gripping the country. Despite signs that wage incomes were stagnating to such an extent that Indians were cutting back even on inexpensive items like 7-cent cookies, little action was taken. Fast forward to today, and while there has been some progress, much of the core issues remain unaddressed.



the deeper structural issues at play.

One of the more alarming indicators of ongoing financial stress is the sharp rise in loans against gold. With a staggering annual growth rate of over 50 percent, these loans signal that lower-income borrowers are being forced to pledge their gold—often their most prized possession—as collateral in order to survive. This is a clear sign of desperation among India's working class, struggling to stay afloat amid mounting financial pressures.

While there was a temporary rebound following the pandemic, driven by pent-up demand, a boom in stock-market wealth, and an expansion in household credit, the recovery now appears to have run its course. The excitement is fading, and India finds itself returning to the same economic stagnation it faced before the pandemic. Despite the challenges, the government's economic czars remain largely silent about the slowdown. They point to the busy election season and its impact on public spending, but their public statements fail to address

Privately, however, it seems the government is starting to acknowledge the gravity of the situation. To signal a change in economic direction, India's finance ministry has decided to make a key personnel shift. Sanjay Malhotra, a senior official in the ministry, is set to replace Reserve Bank of India Governor Shaktikanta Das. This change could pave the way for a much-needed rate cut, as experts believe that the current restrictive monetary policy, partially responsible for the economic slowdown in recent months, may need to be loosened. With meaningful private investment and job creation still lacking, India is at a crossroads. The shift in leadership may signal a shift in economic strategy, but whether it will be enough to address the underlying issues or whether it will only delay the inevitable remains to be seen. India's leaders will need to confront these challenges head-on if the country is to break out of its economic rut and return to sustainable growth.

The AI Czar Debate: Visionary or Catastrophic for India?

The recent announcement by the United States about appointing an "AI Czar" has stirred up discussions about whether India should follow suit. While the concept seems to promise a strategic move for the future, it could also create significant challenges. Appointing an "AI Boss" in India could lead to a "highly combustible conundrum," combining progress with potential chaos.



tion: Are we positioning ourselves as consumers rather than creators in the AI revolution?

On one hand, having an AI Czar would signal India's commitment to leading in the digital age. But on the other, it invites the possibility of political and corporate interference. Who would fill such a position? Perhaps a retired political figure seeking a cushy post-retirement role? Or a tech mogul with ties to industries eager to profit from AI policies? The appointment of such a figure could inadvertently breed conflicts of interest and impede unbiased policy-making.

AI is not just another technological advancement; it is a transformative force that will shape the future of society, economy, and even the way we go about our daily lives. The United States, by appointing an AI Czar, is aiming to assert its global leadership in the digital age. On the contrary, India seems more focused on hosting conferences and entertaining visits from international tech giants like NVIDIA and OpenAI. However, this focus raises the ques-

Indeed, while India is a large consumer market and offers cheap labor, the intellectual property and profits from AI technologies still rest predominantly in the West. India's role as a consumer of global innovation is undeniable, but to truly lead in AI, we must shift our focus from merely adopting Western innovations to developing our own.

If India is to become a leader in AI, a unifying figure is essential—someone capable of coordinating efforts across ministries, states, and industries. However, this individual must possess patience, political acumen, and diplomatic finesse to navigate complex challenges. They must balance the interests of policymakers, industry leaders, and even the judiciary. But the stakes are high: mishandling this role could result in regulatory capture, stalled innovation, or fragmented policies.

Vladimir Putin to Visit India for 23rd Annual Bilateral Summit with PM

TPN CORRESPONDENT NEW DELHI
DECEMBER.12

Russian President Vladimir Putin is set to visit New Delhi for the 23rd annual bilateral summit with Indian Prime Minister Narendra Modi, nearly three years after his last visit in December 2021. The exact dates for the summit are yet to be confirmed, but it will take place in response to Modi's invitation, which was extended during their meeting at the Kazan BRICS summit in October.

The upcoming summit follows their earlier engagement at the 22nd India-Russia summit, which took place on the sidelines of the Eastern Economic Forum in Russia in July. During that meeting, both leaders reaffirmed their commitment to further strengthening their 'special and privileged' strategic partnership. They highlighted the deep, historical ties between the two nations, emphasizing their long-standing, reliable, and all-weather relationship.

The upcoming visit is particularly signifi-



cant as Putin's agenda will focus on promoting a fairer and more just global order. This aligns with Russia's vision of empowering the global south, the majority of nations that remain underrepresented in West-

ern-dominated international institutions. The summit provides an opportunity for both countries to discuss their shared vision for international governance, security, and economic cooperation, aiming to address global imbalances and advocate for more inclusive global institutions.

India, as one of the world's largest and fastest-growing economies, continues to be a key partner for Russia, especially in light of changing global dynamics. The two countries have continued to strengthen their bilateral ties in various sectors, including defense, energy, and trade, amidst shifting geopolitical landscapes.

This visit highlights the growing importance of India-Russia relations in a rapidly evolving world order, with both leaders seeking to enhance their collaboration on regional and global issues. The 23rd summit marks a critical point in the ongoing dialogue between the two nations, with both sides aiming to advance their shared goals for a balanced and multipolar world.

CM Stalin Inaugurates Renovated Periyar Memorial in Kerala for Vaikom Satyagraha Centenary



TPN CORRESPONDENT THIRUVNANTHAPURAM
DECEMBER.12

Tamil Nadu Chief Minister MK Stalin arrived in Kerala to inaugurate the renovated Thanthai Periyar Memorial and Granthasala in Vaikom, Kottayam, alongside Kerala Chief Minister Pinarayi Vijayan. This event, scheduled for December 12, coincides with the centenary of the Vaikom Satyagraha, a historic movement that fought for social justice and caste equality.

On social media, Stalin reflected on the significance of the Vaikom Satyagraha, stating, "How was our society a hundred years ago and imagine where we have reached now! I will participate in the hundred years completion of Vaikom protest which seeded these changes."

The Vaikom Satyagraha, a key non-violent movement between 1924 and 1925 in Travancore, challenged caste-based discrimination that prevented lower-caste people from using roads surrounding the Vaikom Sree Mahadeva Temple. This movement, led by figures such as TK Madhavan, K Kelappan, and Periyar EV Ramasamy, became a significant moment in Kerala's modern history and a test for Gandhian non-violent resistance. Though partial success came in 1925, when three of the four roads were opened to the oppressed, full equality was achieved only in 1936 with the Temple Entry Proclamation.

Periyar, known as the "Vaikom Veerar" (Hero of Vaikom), played a crucial role in the Satyagraha, advocating for complete equality. The renovated Periyar Memorial, funded by Tamil Nadu at a cost of Rs 8.5 crore, stands as a tribute to his legacy. The complex, spread over 70 cents of land, includes a photo exhibition hall, library, children's park, visitor's pavilion, and a statue of Periyar in a seated posture. In addition to the Vaikom memorial, Tamil Nadu is building another memorial at Arookutty in Alappuzha, where Periyar was jailed during the Satyagraha. Kerala has recently transferred land for this project, announced by Stalin in 2023.



"No possibility of alliance with Congress for Delhi polls"

TPN CORRESPONDENT NEW DELHI
DECEMBER.12

Aam Aadmi Party (AAP) supremo Arvind Kejriwal on Wednesday firmly rejected any possibility of an alliance with the Congress for the upcoming Delhi Assembly elections, scheduled for February. The former Delhi Chief Minister reiterated that there would be no coalition with the Congress, dismissing speculation surrounding a potential partnership.

His statement came in response to media reports suggesting that the AAP and Congress might form a joint front to contest the 70-member Delhi Assembly. The speculation gained traction following the cancellation of a key Congress event, the "Nyay Chaupal," which was supposed to be the culmination of the party's "Nyay Yatra" across Delhi ahead of the elections. Rahul Gandhi, Congress leader and MP, was expected to participate in the event, which fueled rumors of a possible alliance between the two parties.

Despite the buzz around a potential Congress-AAP tie-up, Kejriwal remained steadfast in his stance. "There is no possibility of any alliance with the Congress," he asserted, further dashing hopes of a united front between the two parties.

In a separate development, Kejriwal also met Nationalist Congress Party (NCP) chief Sharad Pawar on Tuesday. This meeting took place amid rising calls within the opposition Indian National Developmental Inclusive Alliance (I.N.D.I.A) to appoint West Bengal Chief Minister Mamata Banerjee as the head of the political grouping, currently led by Congress President Mallikarjun Kharge. The rejection of any alliance with the Congress highlights AAP's independent stance as the Delhi Assembly elections approach, with the party focusing on its own agenda rather than partnering with the opposition. As the election draws closer, the dynamics within I.N.D.I.A and the fate of potential alliances in other regions remain subjects of political intrigue.

"Protect Minorities In Violence-Hit Bangladesh": Mamata Banerjee To Centre

TPN CORRESPONDENT KOLKATA
DECEMBER.12

Bengal Chief Minister Mamata Banerjee on Wednesday called on the Indian government to provide protection to minorities in Bangladesh, particularly the Hindu community, which has been facing increasing violence since the August overthrow of former Prime Minister Sheikh Hasina. Banerjee stressed the importance of ensuring security for those at risk and facilitating the return of those willing to come back to India.

She urged the Indian government to act swiftly, stating, "We want the Government of India to act. Provide security to people. Those who want to return, arrangements must be made for them to return." She emphasized that no border had been shut, with people continuing to cross through the Indo-Bangladesh border. "A lot of people are coming through the border. The BSF is sometimes stopping them, but people are still coming through civil aviation and trains. Nothing has been shut," she said.



The call for protection comes in the wake of increasing attacks on religious institutions and minorities in Bangladesh, particularly the Hindu community. Tensions escalated further following the arrest of a prominent

Hindu priest in Bangladesh last month on sedition charges. Foreign Secretary Vikram Misri had conveyed India's concerns over the violence to Bangladesh's Foreign Adviser Mohammad Touhid Hossain earlier this week, calling the attacks on religious places "regrettable."

Among the recent incidents, a minor girl from Bangladesh, a member of the ISKCON community, fled to India to escape threats from radical elements. The girl, hailing from Panchagarh in Bangladesh's Rangpur division—an area known for attacks on Hindus—was intercepted by the Border Security Force (BSF) on Tuesday night at Fatehpur in Uttar Dinajpur district. She had been threatened with kidnapping because of her religious affiliation.

A relative of the girl, who fled from Bangladesh to India, confirmed that the family had been targeted for their ISKCON devotion, with the minor girl being specifically threatened. Hindus make up around 8% of Bangladesh's population of 170 million.

Changes In Cost Of Fuel, Road Can Bring Logistics Cost To 9%: Nitin Gadkari

TPN CORRESPONDENT JAIPUR
DECEMBER.12

Union Minister for Road Transport and Highways, Nitin Gadkari, addressed the Rising Rajasthan Global Investment Summit 2024 in Jaipur on Tuesday, emphasizing that reducing fuel and road costs could lower India's logistics cost by 9%. He believes this reduction will enhance Rajasthan's competitiveness in global exports. Gadkari explained that adjusting fuel and road prices would help the state save significantly, and a 9% reduction could bridge the gap between 16% and 9%, making Rajasthan more competitive.

During his speech, the Union Minister outlined the importance of focusing on four critical areas to achieve India's goal of becoming a self-reliant and third-largest global economy: water, power, transport, and communication. He stressed that if these infrastructures are developed, it would attract capital investment, stimulate industry, trade, and business growth, and create more job opportunities. This, in turn, would raise per capita income and alleviate poverty, contributing to the country's overall progress.



Gadkari also highlighted the economic potential of ethanol production, suggesting that Rajasthan could encourage the use of ethanol in place of petrol. He encouraged the state to incentivize ethanol production using local crops like maize, sorghum, and millet, which would not only benefit the farming community but also contribute to a greener economy. Gadkari's vision includes switching major vehicles, such as cars, scooters, and auto-rickshaws, to ethanol, leading to increased prosperity for farmers in the region.

The ongoing summit, which features various thematic and sectoral sessions organized by Rajasthan's state government departments, is attracting global investors, industry leaders, and policymakers. It serves as a platform to discuss opportunities for enhancing the state's economic growth and positioning it as a key player in India's development.

"Compelled To Take Step, Chairman Biggest Disruptor In Rajya Sabha": M Kharge

TPN CORRESPONDENT NEW DELHI
DECEMBER.12

Congress President Mallikarjun Kharge on Wednesday explained why the opposition was forced to table a no-confidence motion against Rajya Sabha Chairman Jagdeep Dhankhar, calling him the "biggest disruptor" of the Upper House. Kharge accused Dhankhar of undermining the dignity of the institution and claimed that the opposition had no choice but to take this step after facing repeated obstruction.

Kharge emphasized that the motion was not a "personal fight" against Dhankhar but a reaction to his actions that, according to him, hurt the functioning of the Rajya Sabha. "We are compelled to take this step. For three years, he gave us neither time nor space to raise critical issues," Kharge said, stressing that the opposition had been denied opportunities to voice concerns on important matters.

The Congress chief also criticized Dhankhar for showing favoritism toward the ruling party. "We expect protection from the Chairperson, but he keeps gesturing to ruling party MPs to speak. Who will listen to the opposition when the Chair himself defends the government?" Kharge said. He added that the Chairman's behavior was reminiscent of a "headmaster" scolding MPs, accusing him of working as the government's spokesperson.

The no-confidence motion, which the opposition filed earlier in the day, was based on accusations of partisan behavior by Dhankhar. This development triggered a heated exchange in Parliament, with BJP MPs fiercely defending the Rajya Sabha Chairman. Parliamentary Affairs Minister Kiren Rijiju rejected the motion, asserting that the NDA had the majority in the Rajya Sabha and that the notice would be rejected. Rijiju also came to Dhankhar's defense, calling him "our guide" and accusing Congress of repeatedly insulting the Chair. The face-off between Congress and BJP MPs had intensified over a claim of alleged collusion between Congress leader Sonia Gandhi and businessman George Soros, which led to further tensions between the two sides.



Bangladesh Court Denies Bail for Hindu Priest Chinmoy Krishna Das

DHAKA: A Bangladesh court has rejected the bail plea of Chinmoy Krishna Das, a Hindu priest and spokesperson for the Bangladesh Sammilit Sanatan Jagran Jote, who has been arrested on charges of sedition. The court's decision, delivered by Chittagong Metropolitan Sessions Judge Md. Saiful Islam on Wednesday, cited the absence of a lawyer's letter of attorney, which is required for such hearings.

Das, a monk affiliated with the International Society for Krishna Consciousness (ISKCON), has been arrested in connection with a case that his defenders argue is false and fabricated. His lawyer, Subhashish Sharma, was unable to attend the hearing on December 3 due to security concerns. The petition for bail will now be heard again on January 2, 2025.

Public Prosecutor Mofizul Haque Bhuiyan confirmed that the state party informed the court that lawyer Rabindra Ghosh, who had applied for Das's anti-



ipatory bail hearing, did not have the necessary power of attorney. This procedural issue led to the rejection of the bail application. The court also noted that the bail hearings of two other accused individuals could not take place for similar reasons.

Das, who suffers from various health issues, including diabetes and respiratory problems, has been detained for over

a month. His arrest follows a pattern of rising concerns over the treatment of minorities in Bangladesh, particularly Hindus. The arrest coincides with increasing attacks on religious and cultural minorities by extremist groups in the country.

India has expressed concerns about the situation, urging the Bangladesh government to ensure a "fair and transparent" trial for the arrested individuals, including respect for their legal rights. The Indian Ministry of External Affairs (MEA) has also called on the Bangladeshi authorities to provide adequate protection for minorities and ensure their rights to peaceful assembly and expression.

India's Foreign Secretary Vikram Misri reiterated these concerns during his visit to Dhaka on December 9, where he met with top Bangladeshi officials, emphasizing the need for a constructive approach to safeguard religious and cultural freedoms.

Donald Trump Economic Plan Will Be Disaster: Joe Biden



WASHINGTON: Outgoing US President Joe Biden on Tuesday criticized Donald Trump's economic proposals, calling them a "disaster" and warning of their potential harm to the US economy. In a speech at the Brookings Institution, Biden specifically challenged Trump's threat to impose heavy tariffs on imports, labeling them a "major mistake." He also urged Trump to build upon the successes of his own administration.

Biden's remarks came after Trump secured a second term largely fueled by voter frustration with rising living costs under Democratic leadership. Biden, who is preparing to leave office in January, warned that Trump's economic agenda, including the proposed tariffs on key trading partners like Mexico, Canada, and China, would significantly raise prices for US consumers. "I believe this approach is a major mistake," he added.

At another event, Treasury Secretary Janet Yellen echoed Biden's concerns, stating that Trump's tariff plans could "derail the progress we've made on inflation and growth." Yellen cautioned that sweeping tariffs would increase costs for consumers and pressure companies dependent on imports. Biden's speech was framed as a major defense of his economic legacy, especially as he prepares to leave office. At 82, Biden decided not to seek re-election in 2024, passing the torch to Vice President Kamala Harris, who was defeated by Trump in November. Despite this, Biden remains active in defending his policies and contrasting his "middle-out, bottom-up economic playbook" with Trump's "trickle-down economics."

Biden highlighted the US economy's recovery post-Covid and his administration's significant investments in green technology and industry. He also praised the economic conditions that Trump will inherit, claiming that Trump is stepping into the "strongest economy in modern history."

Syria Faces Escalating Strikes Amid Political Transition and Rebel Victory



DAMASCUS: Syria is experiencing intense military activity as its new transitional Prime Minister, Mohammad al-Bashir, assumes leadership following the fall of President Bashar al-Assad. The Hayat Tahrir al-Sham (HTS)-led rebels, who ousted Assad three days ago, appointed al-Bashir to oversee the country's transition until March 1. In his first interview, al-Bashir called for "stability and calm," emphasizing the need for the people to enjoy peace after years of conflict.

However, amid this political shift, Israel has intensified its military operations in Syria. The Israeli Defense Forces (IDF) carried out over 350 airstrikes in the past 48 hours, targeting weapons stockpiles and critical infrastructure. These strikes hit several strategic sites, including Syrian Navy facilities at Al-Bayda and Latakia ports, airfields, missile depots, tanks, fighter jets, and anti-aircraft batteries. Israeli Defense Minister Israel Katz confirmed the destruction of the Syrian navy fleet and reported Israeli troops setting up positions at the buffer zone near the Israeli-occupied Golan Heights.

Turkey also carried out aerial strikes in Syria, destroying a convoy of trucks carrying missiles and heavy weapons that had reportedly been seized by Syrian Kurdish militias. These operations reflect the broader regional involvement in Syria's conflict.

In the diplomatic sphere, US Secretary of State Antony Blinken emphasized the importance of an inclusive political process in Syria, stating that the US would support a future government that is credible, inclusive, and non-sectarian. He called for external interference to cease, with the Syrian people determining their government's future.

HTS commander Ahmed al-Sharaa, also known as Abu Mohammed al-Jolani, reassured the world that Syria was moving toward stability and development. He downplayed fears of further conflict, noting that the regime's removal was crucial for peace. Meanwhile, the United Nations is considering whether to remove HTS from its terrorist list, based on the group's actions and its potential to form an inclusive government.

South Korean Police Block Raid on President Yoon's Office Amid Martial Law Investigation

SEOUL: South Korean police announced on Wednesday that security guards had blocked an attempt to raid President Yoon Suk Yeol's offices as part of an investigation into his brief imposition of martial law. Yoon is already facing restrictions, including a travel ban, as part of a broader investigation into his inner circle's involvement in the controversial events of December 3-4.

Police earlier stated that a Special Investigation Team had initiated raids on various government agencies, including the presidential office and the National Assembly Security Service. However, a spokesperson later clarified that investigators were able to access the office's civil services division but were unable to enter the main building due to security restrictions imposed by the president's guards.

Meanwhile, former defense minister Kim Yong-hyun, accused of advising Yoon to impose martial law, reportedly attempted suicide just before his formal arrest on Tuesday. Kim, who was detained on Sunday and charged with



"engaging in critical duties during an insurrection" and "abuse of authority," claimed through his lawyers that his subordinates were simply following his orders. Kim's health was reportedly stable on Wednesday, according to prison authorities.

In a separate development, North Korean state media commented on the martial law incident, accusing Yoon of creating chaos with a "fascist dictatorship" and describing the martial law decree

as a desperate response to his political troubles. Yoon had stated that martial law was necessary to protect South Korea from North Korean threats and to eliminate anti-state elements.

Yoon's declaration has sparked ongoing protests, with tens of thousands of South Koreans demanding his resignation. Polls show record-low public support for the president, who narrowly survived an impeachment motion in parliament on Saturday.

Netanyahu Rejects Corruption Charges as Historic Trial Continues

TEL AVIV: Israeli Prime Minister Benjamin Netanyahu dismissed the corruption charges against him as "ridiculous" during a historic court appearance on Tuesday. Netanyahu, facing bribery, fraud, and breach of public trust charges in three separate cases, became the first sitting Israeli prime minister to stand trial. The cases date back to his time in office while Israel is engaged in military conflicts.

Speaking before the court, Netanyahu rejected the accusations, stating, "There's no corruption, no fraud. It is just ridiculous." He also criticized the media, claiming that while most of the Israeli public leans right-wing, the media is "98 percent on the other side." Throughout the day of testimony, Netanyahu maintained his stance, saying the charges did not affect him, and emphasized that his focus was on matters



of international importance.

The charges include allegations that Netanyahu and his wife, Sara, accepted over \$260,000 worth of luxury gifts such as cigars, champagne, and jewelry from billionaires in exchange for political favors. Among the accused benefactors are Israeli-born Hollywood producer Arnon Milchan and Australian businessman James Packer.

The trial also includes two cases involving Netanyahu's attempts to secure favorable media coverage. One concerns alleged negotiations with Arnon Mozes, publisher of *Yedioth Ahronoth*, for positive press in return for curbing the influence of a rival newspaper. The second case accuses Netanyahu of using his influence to benefit Shaul Elovitch, owner of the Walla news website, in exchange for favorable coverage and support for a telecom merger.

Protests have surrounded the trial, with supporters chanting "Netanyahu, the people support you," while critics called for his imprisonment. The trial has faced delays, with Netanyahu requesting adjournments due to ongoing conflicts in Gaza and Lebanon. Critics argue that the prime minister has prolonged the conflicts to avoid justice.

Syria Appoints Interim Prime Minister as Refugees Begin Returning



DAMASCUS: As Syria's long-standing civil war winds down, refugees are beginning to return to the country, following the appointment of a new caretaker prime minister. Mohammed al-Bashir, a figure largely unknown outside rebel circles, was appointed by the rebel faction Hayat Tahrir al-Sham (HTS) to lead a transitional government until March 1. In his brief address on state television, Bashir confirmed his leadership and noted that the interim cabinet had included members from both the rebel

Salvation Government and the ousted Assad regime.

The US, while engaging with the rebel groups, has urged them to establish an inclusive government that respects minority rights and prevents terrorism. US Secretary of State Antony Blinken emphasized the need for a government that can facilitate humanitarian aid and maintain stability, particularly with Syria's neighbors. The challenge ahead for Syria is immense, as the country

faces the monumental task of rebuilding after a civil war that left hundreds of thousands dead and millions displaced. Major cities are in ruins, and the economy is severely damaged by international sanctions. Despite this, some refugees, particularly those from Turkey, have started their journey home. Ala Jabeer, who fled Syria 13 years ago, is among them. He expressed hope for a better future in Syria, especially after witnessing the end of Assad's oppressive regime.

In Damascus, signs of recovery were visible, with businesses reopening, banks resuming operations, and normal activity returning to the streets. However, the country remains deeply divided, and the international community remains cautious about the rebel-led government.

The US has expressed concerns over the HTS's history, with some officials skeptical about the group's ability to respect minority rights and religious freedom.



Markets Flat for Third Session; Nifty at 24,641, Smallcap Index Hits Record High

Domestic stock markets continued to be range bound for the third consecutive session. They ended flat on Wednesday as well. There were no positive signals from international markets. Moreover, consolidation is continuing due to the lack of any events to bring momentum. Although the Nifty rebounded in the afternoon, it faced resistance at 24,700. The respective sectoral indices ended mixed. The smallcap index closed at record highs. The indices may soon find a direction.

The BSE Sensex, which closed at 81,510 in the previous session, started at 81,568 today. It touched an intraday low of 81,382. It reached an intraday high of 81,742. It finally closed at 81,526, up 16 points. The NSE Nifty, which opened at 24,620 on Wednesday, touched a low of 24,583 and a high of 24,691. It closed at 24,641, up 31 points. The Bank Nifty fell 186 points to settle at 53,391.

Among the Nifty50s, 26 companies gained while 23 lost. Trent, Bajaj Finance, Britannia, Shriram Finance, Hero Moto were the top gainers. JSW Steel, Adani Ports, NTPC, SBI, and Axis Bank were the top losers. Today, shares of MNC, tourism, consumer durables, auto, IT, FMCG, defense, and healthcare sectors rose. Selling continued in banking, media, energy and CPSE stocks.

Market breadth on NSE was in favour of buyers. Out of 2893 shares traded, 1510 gained and 1309 lost. Shares of 103 companies reached 52-week highs. 13 stocks touched 52-week lows. Investors can buy shares of Tata Communications, RVNL, Bajaj Finserv, Ircan and Voltas in the short term.

The rupee ended flat at 84.84 against the dollar. Shares of Shakti Pumps rose 5% on orders worth Rs 754 crore. Tata Communications ended a three-day losing streak. Shares rallied strongly today. Jefferies said that although



the valuation of shares of M&M, TCS and Eicher Motors remains high, they are still suitable for investment. Anand Rathi maintained a buy rating for Bajaj Finance. HSBC gave a buy rating to GAIL, Hindustan Petroleum, Bharat Petroleum and Indian Oil. MobiKwik IPO received a response of 5.01 times on the first day. Vishal Megamart received a response of 0.33 times. Investments in gold ETFs increased three times between November last year and this November. Adani Group shares came under pressure. HSBC gave a buy rating to Policy Bazaar with a target price of Rs. 2550. NTPC Green won the 500 MW solar project in the reverse auction of SEC.

1. Tata Communications Limited (TATACOMM)

Tata Communications is a global provider of telecommunications solutions and services, including data transmission, internet connectivity, and cloud services. The company reported an 18% increase in Q2 FY24 revenue, reaching ₹57.67 billion, driven by strong demand for dig-



TATA COMMUNICATIONS

ital services.: Despite revenue growth, profit before exceptional items declined by nearly 7% to ₹2.78 billion due to a 20% rise in total expenses. Robust growth in digital services and a strong global presence. High valuation and declining profitability due to rising expenses.

2. Rail Vikas Nigam Limited (RVNL)



RVNL is a public sector enterprise under the Ministry of Railways, engaged in the development of railway infrastructure. The company has shown consistent growth in revenue and profitability, attributed to its role in executing railway projects. Ircan International secured a ₹750.82 crore project from RVNL, indicating active project allocation and execution. Strong government backing and a robust order book. Dependence on government projects and potential delays in project execution.

3. Ircan International Limited (IRCON)

Ircan is a public sector construction company specializing in transport infrastructure. The company has maintained steady financial performance, supported by a diverse project portfolio. Awarded a ₹750.82 crore project by RVNL, enhancing its project pipeline. Expertise in infrastructure projects and a strong order book. Exposure to project execution risks and regulatory changes.



IRCON INTERNATIONAL LIMITED
(A Government of India Undertaking)

4. Voltas Limited (VOLTAS)

Voltas is a leading provider of air conditioning and engineering solutions. Reported a two-fold increase in profit to ₹3.34 billion, driven by higher demand for air conditioners amid heatwaves. Operations revenue rose by 47% to ₹49.04 billion, with a 51% growth in the cooling products segment. Market leadership in cooling products and strong financial performance. Seasonal demand fluctuations and competition in the consumer electronics market.



VOLTAS LIMITED

5. Bajaj Finserv Limited (BAJAJFINSV)

Bajaj Finserv is a diversified financial services company offering lending, insurance, and wealth management services. The company has demonstrated consistent growth in revenue and profitability across its business segments. Diversified financial services portfolio and strong market presence. Exposure to credit risk and regulatory changes in the financial sector.



Asian Development Bank Lowers India's GDP Growth Forecast to 6.5% for FY25



The Asian Development Bank (ADB) has revised India's GDP growth forecast for the current financial year, lowering it to 6.5% from its earlier projection of 7%. The downgrade comes due to weaker-than-expected growth in private investment and housing demand. In addition, ADB has also adjusted India's growth forecast for the 2025-26 financial year, now predicting a growth of 7%, down from its previous estimate of 7.2%.

The ADB's latest report on the economic outlook also highlighted a slowdown in growth across the Asia-Pacific region, with overall growth for 2024 expected to be 4.9%, slightly lower than the earlier forecast of 5%. The report also noted that changes in U.S. trade, fiscal, and immigration policies could impact growth and inflation in developing economies in Asia and the Pacific.

India's economic performance has been subdued in recent quarters. In the July-September period of FY25, India's GDP grew at just 5.4%, marking a seven-quarter low. This figure was well below the Reserve Bank of India's fore-

cast of 7%. Last week, the RBI also revised its GDP growth estimate for the current fiscal year, lowering it to 6.6% from 7.2%, while increasing the inflation forecast to 4.8%, citing a slowdown in economic activity and persistent food price inflation.

Despite these challenges, ADB remains optimistic about India's medium-term growth prospects, supported by a strong agriculture output, particularly from the summer crop season, and a resilient services sector. Additionally, lower-than-expected global crude oil prices are expected to provide further economic relief.

ADB's report also suggested that there are signs of recovery in India's economy, with strong forward-looking indicators such as industrial and services PMI, urban labor force participation, and the Reserve Bank of India's industrial outlook.

In contrast, Southeast Asia's growth outlook has been raised to 4.7% for this year, driven by stronger manufacturing exports and public capital spending.

SEBI Expands T+0 Settlement Cycle for Top 500 Scrips Starting January 2025

The Securities and Exchange Board of India (SEBI) announced on Tuesday that it will expand the optional T+0 (same-day) settlement cycle for equity cash markets, effective January 2025. Under this initiative, the top 500 scrips by market capitalization, as of December 31, 2024, will be included in the T+0 settlement cycle, which aims to enhance market efficiency and offer more flexibility to participants.

This move builds on SEBI's earlier rollout in March 2024, where the T+0 cycle was introduced for 25 scrips, initially limited to non-custodian clients. With the inclusion of the top 500 scrips, the expansion will occur in phases. Starting in January 2025, the bottom 100 companies from the list will be added to the T+0 settlement cycle, followed by the next 100 companies each month until all 500 scrips are covered. This expansion will complement



the existing 25 scrips already under the T+0 cycle.

SEBI has also allowed all stock brokers to participate in the T+0 settlement cycle, enabling them to charge differential brokerage fees for T+0 and T+1 settlements, as long as the fees remain within regulatory limits. Additionally, a separate block deal window will operate for T+0 settlements from 8:45 AM to 9:00 AM daily.

Participation in this window is optional, with trades executed here settled on the same day.

Qualified Stock Brokers (QSBs) with a minimum number of active clients by December 31, 2024, will be required to implement systems for seamless participation in T+0 settlements. Newly designated QSBs will have three months to comply with these requirements after updates to the QSB list. SEBI has also directed stock exchanges, clearing corporations, depositories, and custodians to develop infrastructure for enabling institutional investors to participate in T+0 settlements.

The expanded provisions for scrips, broker participation, and operational guidelines will take effect on January 31, 2025. However, requirements for QSBs, custodians, and block deal windows will be implemented by May 31, 2025.

Forge Partnerships among key stakeholders to address global concerns: FM Sitharaman

In her address at the inaugural session of the Global Economic Policy Forum (GEPF) 2024, Finance Minister Nirmala Sitharaman emphasized the need for global collaboration to address pressing challenges. Organized by the Ministry of Finance's Department of Economic Affairs and the Confederation of Indian Industry (CII), the forum brought together industry leaders, policymakers, and global stakeholders to discuss the future trajectory of the global economy.



Sitharaman outlined five key priorities that require urgent attention for global economic stability and better quality of life, especially for citizens in the Global South.

The first priority was to restore global calm. She stressed the importance of preventing geopolitical conflicts and wars,

which have significant impacts on global supply chains, food security, and inflation. Sitharaman called for a coordinated approach to ensure that geopolitical tensions do not disrupt the global economy.

The second priority focused on creating frictionless supply chains. She emphasized that supply chains should remain uninterrupted by political or strategic risks, as their smooth functioning is crucial for global economic growth and prosperity.

Addressing climate change was the third priority. Sitharaman highlighted the importance of protecting wealth, assets, and livelihoods from climate-related risks, calling for concerted efforts to mitigate environmental challenges. She also stressed the need for innovation in agriculture to improve farmer livelihoods while mini-

mizing resource strain, with water conservation being a key area of focus.

The fourth priority was promoting inclusive growth through collaboration between large and small industries. Sitharaman encouraged businesses to leverage their strengths and scale to tap into the demographic dividend, ensuring that growth benefits are widespread across the country.

Finally, she highlighted the importance of technology and digitalization. Announcing that Agri Stack would be India's next big digital initiative, she urged industry leaders to collaborate with the youth and foster skills development to drive economic progress.

In his opening remarks, CII President Sanjiv Puri praised India's contributions to global growth, climate action, and supply chain resilience, reinforcing the country's commitment to these key areas.



Australian Woman's Pimple Turns Out to Be Skin Cancer, Leading to Life-Changing Discovery



For most people, pimples are a common, harmless skin issue that usually heals on its own over time. However, for 32-year-old Australian woman Rachel Olivia, what seemed like a simple pimple on her forehead turned into a life-changing discovery. After a small red breakout failed to heal, Rachel learned that it was actually skin cancer.

According to the *New York Post*, Rachel initially dismissed the pimple as a minor skin problem. However, when it continued to flake and showed no signs of healing over time, she decided to seek medical advice. A biopsy confirmed that the condition was not a simple pimple but basal cell carcinoma (BCC), a form of skin cancer. "I left it for a year, but when it never healed, I pushed to get it reassessed by specialists," Rachel explained to *news.com.au*. "They did a biopsy and confirmed it was cancer."

Rachel, who considered herself "sun-smart" among her friends and family, had always been cau-

tious about tanning. Despite this, she revealed that she had suffered a few severe sunburns during her teenage years, a factor that contributed to her skin cancer diagnosis. "I've never been someone to tan or sit in the sun. But I did have a few bad burns when I was younger, and that's all it takes," Rachel shared.

Basal cell carcinoma, the type of skin cancer Rachel was diagnosed with, is often caused by sun damage. It affects the basal cells in the skin's epidermis, the top layer of skin. While BCC is typically less aggressive than other forms of skin cancer, early detection is crucial for effective treatment and prevention of further complications.

Rachel's experience serves as a reminder of the importance of monitoring any skin changes, even those that seem harmless, and seeking medical advice when necessary. Her journey highlights how sunburns, even in the past, can have long-term consequences on skin health.

Japan's 1-Day Student Programme Offers Tourists A Glimpse Of Local School Life

A unique opportunity to experience Japanese school life is now available for foreign tourists through a program called "One-Day Student" offered by the Japanese company Undokaiya. For a fee of 30,000 yen, participants can immerse themselves in the world of Japanese secondary education, an experience that has garnered international interest due to its portrayal in popular manga and anime series.

The "Your High School" program, which started in November 2023, takes place in a repurposed secondary school in Chiba Prefecture, located in eastern Japan. The program is conducted in English and accommodates up to 30 participants per day. To kick off the experience, visitors are provided with traditional Japanese school uniforms, such as the iconic sailor shirt or a tuxedo, during a special opening session that prepares them for the day's activities.

The program offers several cultural experiences. One of the key activities is calligraphy classes, where visitors can

try their hand at carving Kanji characters, a traditional and artistic writing technique. Participants also engage in physical education activities, including sports games and emergency drills—an essential part of Japanese school life, given the country's frequent natural disasters. Additionally, the cultural immersion includes a Japanese-style school meal, where visitors can taste the typical lunches served in schools, and a social interaction section where

they meet local "classmates" who embody the playful, sometimes mischievous characters found in anime.

Japanese school culture has gained worldwide attention for its emphasis on teamwork, discipline, and personal growth—values prominently featured in well-known anime like **Slam Dunk** and **The Prince of Tennis**. This program caters to fans of such series who want to experience these aspects of Japanese life firsthand. Undokaiya's initiative also aims to promote tourism in rural areas by repurposing school buildings, providing a unique attraction for visitors.

Online reactions to the program have been enthusiastic. One observer commented, "As an Indian, I'd love to join this school. Honestly, this is my dream school: no academic or parental pressure." Another added, "Japan is always a place full of imagination and energy, and their school culture reflects that beautifully."



iPhone SE 4 to Feature 48MP Camera and Fresh Design

Apple's upcoming budget iPhone, the iPhone SE 4, is generating buzz as rumors continue to swirl around its potential features. While Apple has yet to officially confirm the details, a new report from the Korean publication ETNews suggests that the much-anticipated device will sport a 48MP primary camera, which aligns with earlier speculations.

The report indicates that the iPhone SE 4 (codenamed V59) will not only come with an upgraded camera system but also feature a fresh design, marking a departure from its previous iterations. According to the machine-translated version of the article, LG Innotek and LG Display will play a key role in supplying components for the device. LG



Innotek, in particular, has reportedly begun mass production of the camera modules for the iPhone SE 4 at a factory in Vietnam.

The camera system is expected to include a 12MP front camera and a 48MP rear camera, offering a significant upgrade in photography capabilities compared to previous models. This marks an important step for Apple's budget line, as the 48MP sensor is typically seen

in higher-end models, making it a notable feature for the iPhone SE 4.

Although Apple has not officially confirmed the release date or features of the iPhone SE 4, it is widely speculated that the device will be launched sometime in 2024. With the inclusion of an upgraded camera system and a new design, the iPhone SE 4 is expected to be a competitive option in the budget smartphone market, appealing to consumers looking for high-end features at an affordable price.

As always, fans will be eagerly awaiting official announcements from Apple in the coming months for more details on the iPhone SE 4's specifications and release timeline.

How Coffee Can Boost Longevity and Improve Health

Coffee, when consumed in moderation, has been linked to several health benefits that may contribute to a longer life. Packed with antioxidants and bioactive compounds, coffee plays a role in reducing inflammation and protecting cells from damage—key factors that help prevent chronic diseases and aging. Here's a look at how coffee can support your longevity:

Coffee is a powerful source of antioxidants, which help neutralize free radicals and protect the body from oxidative stress. This oxidative damage is linked to aging and chronic diseases like heart disease and cancer. By reducing oxidative damage, the antioxidants in coffee may lower the risk of conditions that could shorten lifespan.

Moderate coffee consumption has been associated with a reduced risk of heart disease. Studies suggest that coffee drinkers have a lower incidence of stroke and heart attacks. The bioactive compounds in coffee help improve blood vessel function, reduce inflammation, and lower blood pressure, all of which contribute to a healthier heart and potentially a longer life.

Drinking coffee regularly has been shown to lower the risk of type 2 diabetes. Coffee may improve insulin sensitivity and regulate blood sugar levels, preventing or delaying the onset of diabetes. This benefit is largely due to compounds like chlorogenic acid found in coffee, which help manage glucose metabolism.

Regular coffee consumption is linked to a reduced risk of neurodegenerative diseases such as Alzheimer's and Parkinson's. Caffeine, along with other



compounds, stimulates brain function and enhances cognitive performance. This can protect against cognitive decline, supporting better brain health as we age.

Coffee has been shown to lower the risk of various cancers, including liver, colorectal, and endometrial cancers. Its antioxidants and anti-inflammatory properties help protect cells from mutations that could lead to cancer, reducing cancer-related mortality rates.

Coffee supports liver health by reducing the risk of cirrhosis and liver cancer. It prevents fat buildup in the liver and protects against liver damage, lowering the risk of liver disease and contributing to a longer, healthier life.

In conclusion, moderate coffee consumption offers numerous health benefits that can contribute to increased longevity. However, it's important to consume coffee in moderation, as excessive intake can have negative effects on health.

Ultra-Processed Foods Accelerate Biological Aging, Study Warns

If you're someone who loves bingeing on ultra-processed foods (UPFs) like chips, biscuits, sausages, burgers, soft drinks, and instant noodles, it's time to reconsider your choices. A recent study from Monash University in Australia has revealed that a diet high in UPFs can accelerate biological aging.

Biological age, a relatively new health measurement, refers to how old a person seems based on molecular biomarkers, rather than their chronological age. A person with a healthy lifestyle can have a biological age younger than their chronological age, while poor lifestyle habits, including a diet rich in UPFs, can cause biological age to increase faster.

The study, published in the journal **Age and Aging**, involved 16,055 participants from the US, aged 20-79. The results showed that for every 10% increase in UPF consumption, biological age increased by approximately 2.4 months. Participants in the highest quintile of UPF consumption (68-100% of their energy intake) were biologically 0.86 years older than those in the lowest quintile (who consumed 39% or less of their energy from UPFs).

Dr. Barbara Cardoso, a senior lecturer in the University's Department of Nutrition, Dietetics, and Food, emphasized the importance of minimizing UPF consumption, suggesting that eating more unprocessed and minimally processed foods can significantly benefit long-term health. "Our findings are significant, showing that a 10% increase in energy intake from ultra-processed foods correlates with nearly a 2% higher risk of mortality and a 0.5% higher risk of chronic disease over two years," Dr. Cardoso added.

UPFs are industrial formulations containing ingredients rarely used in home cooking, such as hydrogenated oils, high-fructose corn syrup, and various flavor enhancers and emulsifiers. These foods tend to be high in unhealthy salts, sugars, and fats, offering convenience but at a cost to long-term health.





Shaheen Afridi Becomes Pakistan's First Bowler to Take 100 Wickets in Each Format

Shaheen Afridi has made history by becoming the first bowler from Pakistan to take 100 wickets in each format of international cricket. In the opening T20I against South Africa in Durban on Tuesday night, Afridi achieved this milestone by taking three wickets in the first innings. His performance helped him reach the rare feat, as he had previously taken 112 wickets in ODIs and 116 in Tests.

Afridi struck early in the powerplay, took another wicket in the middle phase, and added one more towards the end of the innings. His three-wicket haul took his T20I wicket tally to 100, making him the third Pakistani bowler to achieve this landmark after Haris Rauf and Shadab Khan.

In addition to his remarkable achievement for Pakistan, Afridi became the second-fastest player to reach 100 T20I wickets, doing so in 74 matches. Haris Rauf holds the record



for the fastest, achieving the feat in 71 T20Is. Afridi also became the youngest bowler to reach this milestone and joined the ranks of international bowling greats such as New Zealand's Tim Southee, Bangladesh's Shakib Al Hasan, and Sri Lanka's Lasith Malinga, who have also taken 100 T20I wickets.

During the match, Afridi's pinpoint yorker cleaned up Rassie van der Dussen for a golden duck and later sent in-form David Miller back to the pavilion before he could reach his century. Afridi then trapped Ngabayomzi Peter in front of the stumps, claiming his 100th T20I wicket and finishing with impressive figures of 3/22 from his four overs.

Despite Afridi's heroics, Pakistan fell short in the chase. Facing a challenging target of 184, Pakistan's captain Mohammad Rizwan top-scored with 74, but a lack of support from the other end saw them lose by 11 runs, failing to cross the finish line.

West Indies Beat Bangladesh By 7 Wickets In 2nd ODI

Brandon King and Jayden Seales were the standout performers as the West Indies secured a series-clinching seven-wicket victory over Bangladesh in the second ODI on Tuesday. With Bangladesh bowled out for 227, the West Indies comfortably chased down the target with 79 balls to spare, following their five-wicket win in the first ODI on Sunday.

King played a stellar knock, scoring 82 runs from 76 balls, including eight fours and three sixes. It was his seventh half-century in ODIs, adding to his three centuries. His innings was a perfect early birthday gift, as he turns 30 next Monday. King's opening partnership with Evin Lewis (49 off 62 balls) laid a solid foundation, with the duo putting on 109 for the first wicket.

After King's dismissal, Keacy Carty continued the momentum, contributing 45 runs before falling. West Indies captain Shai Hope (17) and Sherfane Rutherford (24) then guided the team to victory, with Rutherford finishing the game in style with a huge six off Shoriful Islam. Hope expressed satisfaction with the team's performance and emphasized the importance of every game in securing points for the 2027 World Cup qualification.

Earlier, Seales had a career-best performance, taking 4 wickets for 22 runs in nine overs. His brilliant spell saw him dismiss Soumya Sarkar, Litton Das, and Mehidy Hasan Miraz, reducing Bangladesh to 54-3. Mahmudullah, who scored 62 off 51 balls, and Tanzid Hasan (46) put up a fight,



but Seales' fourth wicket, that of Mahmudullah, ended Bangladesh's resistance. Bangladesh's total of 227 was never enough, with captain Mehidy acknowledging that 300-plus was required for a competitive total.

With the West Indies leading the series 2-0, the third ODI will be played at the same venue on Thursday before both teams face off in a three-match T20 series.

Brief Scores:

Bangladesh: 227 all out in 45.5 overs (Mahmudullah 62, Tanzid Hasan 46, Tanzim Hasan Sakib 45; Jayden Seales 4-22)
 West Indies: 230-3 in 36.5 overs (Brandon King 82, Evin Lewis 49, Keacy Carty 45)
 Result: West Indies won by 7 wickets
 Series: West Indies lead 2-0.

David Miller and George Lead South Africa to 11-Run Victory Over Pakistan in First T20I



A dynamic innings from David Miller and a career-best all-round performance by George Linde propelled South Africa to an 11-run win over Pakistan in the first T20I at Kingsmead on Friday. Miller's explosive 82 off 40 balls, featuring four boundaries and eight sixes, along with Linde's rapid 48, helped South Africa post a total of 183/9. Linde also impressed with the ball, taking four wickets for 21 runs to further tilt the match in South Africa's favor.

Pakistan fought hard, with captain Mohammad Rizwan scoring a valiant 74, but the target proved elusive. Rizwan's dismissal off the second ball of the final over left Pakistan needing too many runs to pull off the win.

Linde, who had been overlooked by South African selectors for more than three years, described his performance as "almost the perfect comeback." Despite a chaotic start to the day—where he missed the team bus and had to be escorted by police—Linde maintained composure both with bat and ball. His all-round display included taking two wickets in his final over, and he nearly secured a hat-trick when Haris Rauf was dismissed leg before wicket, though the decision was successfully reviewed.

Rizwan acknowledged the individual brilliance of Miller and Linde, saying their performances were the key difference. Despite Pakistan's disciplined bowling, led by Shaheen Shah Afridi, who took 3/22 and reached 100 T20I wickets, Pakistan couldn't capitalize on a strong start. Leg-spinner Abrar Ahmed also impressed with 3/37, though he was hit for three consecutive sixes by Miller.

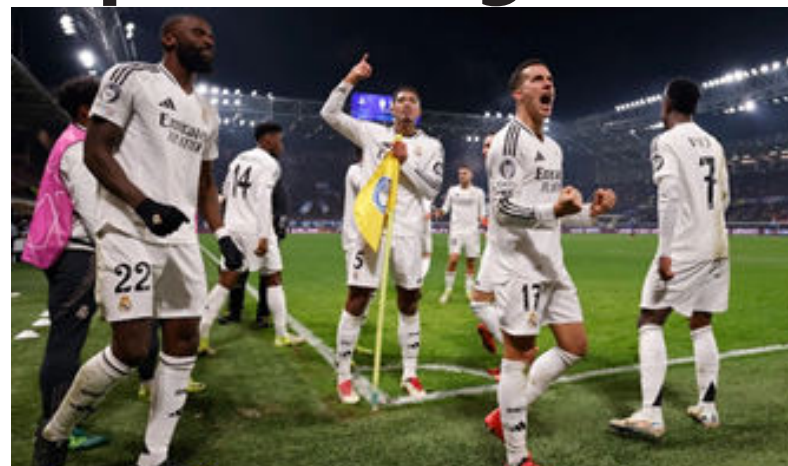
Miller was dismissed for 82 in the 14th over, leaving South Africa at 135/6. Linde, however, continued to shine, hitting four sixes in his 24-ball knock, including three in the final over, to secure a respectable total for the Proteas.

Real Madrid Triumphs 3-2 Over Atalanta to Boost Champions League Title Defense

Real Madrid revived their faltering Champions League title defense with a thrilling 3-2 victory over Italian league leaders Atalanta. The Spanish giants showcased their star power with goals from Kylian Mbappé, Vinicius Junior, and Jude Bellingham, though they were lucky to escape with the win after Mateo Retegui missed a golden opportunity to level the game in stoppage time, firing over from point-blank range.

The win marked only Madrid's third in the revamped league phase and left them in 18th place, just outside the seeding positions for the playoffs. Despite the result, coach Carlo Ancelotti acknowledged the difficulty of Champions League matches, saying, "We suffered and competed. In the Champions League, you have to suffer."

Pressure had been mounting on Madrid following three losses in their opening five



games, and the scrutiny on Mbappé, who had struggled to find his footing since joining the club, was intensifying. However, the French forward delivered when it mattered, scoring a brilliant 10th-minute goal to put Madrid ahead 1-0. The strike was significant not only for the early advantage it gave Madrid but also for marking Mbappé's 50th Champions

League goal at just 25 years old, making him the second-youngest player to reach the milestone after Lionel Messi.

Mbappé was substituted before half-time due to a potential injury, and Atalanta capitalized with a penalty from Charles De Ketelaere to equalize. However, Madrid quickly regained control in the second half, with two goals in quick succession. Vinicius Junior put them back in front, followed by Bellingham, who added a second to extend Madrid's lead. Atalanta's Ademola Lookman pulled one

back late, but Madrid held on for the 3-2 victory.

Despite the nervy finish, the win was crucial for Madrid as they look to recover from their early struggles in the competition and continue their pursuit of another Champions League title.

Gardner's Fifer Guides Australia to 83-Run Win, Completes 3-0 Whitewash

Ashleigh Gardner's all-around brilliance helped Australia seal an 83-run victory over India in the third Women's ODI, completing a 3-0 series whitewash at WACA on Wednesday. India's chase of a challenging 299 was anchored by Smriti Mandhana's elegant 105 off 109 balls, but her efforts were in vain as Australia bowled India out for 215 in 45.1 overs.

Opting to bowl first after winning the toss, India made early inroads, reducing Australia to 78 for 4. India's pacer Arundhati Reddy was the star, claiming four wickets in quick succession, including a career-best spell. Reddy removed openers Phoebe Litchfield (25) and Georgia Voll (26) in a stunning over, before adding the scalp of all-rounder Ellyse Perry (0) and Beth Mooney (0), leaving Australia struggling at 78 for 4.

However, Annabel Sutherland (110 off 95 balls) led a strong recovery for Australia, supported by Ashleigh Gardner (50) and captain Tahlia McGrath (56*), as they powered Australia to



298/6 in 50 overs. Sutherland's century was particularly impressive, with her aggressive stroke-play shifting the momentum back in Australia's favor.

In India's response, Mandhana's century kept them in the hunt, but her dismissal at a critical point put an end to India's hopes. Despite a solid 39 from Harleen Deol, India's middle order faltered. Gardner's superb spell of 5 wickets for 30 runs tore through the lower order, with key players like Harmanpreet Kaur (12), Jemimah Rodrigues (16), and Deepthi Sharma (0) failing to provide support.

India's poor fielding also cost them, as they dropped three difficult chances during the Australian innings. Despite Reddy's heroics with the ball, India couldn't stop the Australian recovery, and the hosts cruised to a comfortable win to complete the series sweep.



Vishwak Sen Teams Up with Director Anudeep for Family Entertainer Funky



Mass Ka Das Vishwak Sen has been consistently impressing audiences with his diverse film choices in recent years, solidifying his reputation as one of the most exciting performers in the industry. With each new project, he continues to gain a growing fanbase. His latest film announcement has created a wave of excitement, as he collaborates with the talented director KV Anudeep, known for the highly successful *Jathi Ratnalu*. The duo's first collaboration, titled *Funky*, promises to be a thrilling, fun-filled family entertainer.

Produced by the successful banners Sithara Entertainments and Fortune Entertainments, *Funky* is backed by top producers S. Naga Vamsi and Sai Soujanya. These banners

have had a highly successful year with films like *Lucky Baskhar* and *Tillu Square*. Sri-kara Studios is presenting the film, further raising anticipation around the project. The film was officially launched today in Hyderabad, with Vishwak Sen, director Anudeep, and the production team in attendance.

The pairing of KV Anudeep and Vishwak Sen has sparked tremendous buzz within film circles. Anudeep's unique sense of humor, which made *Jathi Ratnalu* a blockbuster, and Vishwak Sen's energetic and dynamic performances seem like the perfect combination for a family entertainer. This exciting collaboration is expected to bring a fresh, engaging experience to audiences.

A talented crew is onboard to bring *Funky* to life. The film boasts a team of accomplished professionals, including editor Navin Nooli, who won a National Award for *Jersey* and has worked on hits like *Pushpa 2*. The music for the film is being composed by the sensational Bheems Ceciroleo, known for his work in *Tillu Square* and *MAD*. Cinematographer Suresh Sarangam, who made waves with *Mathu Vadalara 2*, is also part of the team, ensuring the film will have top-notch visuals.

The regular shoot for *Funky* is set to begin in January 2025, and fans can't wait to see what this exciting new film has in store.

PUSHPA 2 Shatters Records, Becomes Fastest Indian Film to Cross Rs. 1,000 Crore

Allu Arjun's highly anticipated sequel, *Pushpa 2: The Rule*, directed by Sukumar, has taken the box office by storm, with Rashmika Mandanna leading the cast. The film is making waves not only for its gripping storyline and performances but also for its record-breaking success at the global box office.

In an unprecedented achievement, *Pushpa 2: The Rule* has become the fastest Indian film to reach the Rs. 1,000 crore mark worldwide, accomplishing this remarkable feat in just seven days. This groundbreaking milestone further solidifies the film's status as a major game-changer in the Indian film industry, demonstrating the immense popularity of the film among global audiences.

While the official collection figures are still awaited, the team behind the film shared a celebratory Godzilla-themed GIF on social media, accompanied by the hashtag #PUSHPA2HitsFastest1000Cr, to mark this historic achievement. The excitement among fans is palpable, as they eagerly await further records the film is poised to break in the coming days.

Pushpa 2 continues to dominate the box office with no signs of slowing down. The film has attracted an even larger audience, with ticket prices reduced in various regions, helping to increase its reach and boost its earnings. As the movie continues to gather momentum, industry experts predict that the film is set to break more records in the near future.



With its record-breaking start, *Pushpa 2: The Rule* is not just a commercial success but also a cultural phenomenon, captivating audiences across the globe. As the film keeps shattering box-office milestones, fans and industry insiders alike are eagerly waiting to see what new heights it will reach in the coming weeks. Stay tuned for more updates on *Pushpa 2*'s ongoing success.

Nazriya's Return with *Sookshmarshini* Crosses Rs. 50 Crore Mark at Box Office

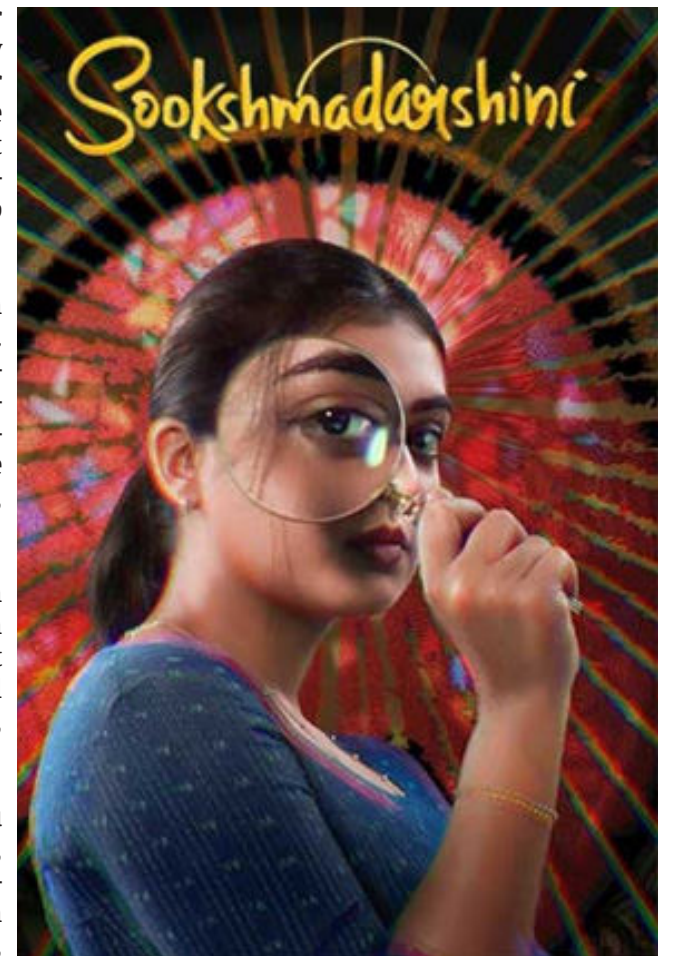
Sookshmarshini, the recent thriller starring Nazriya Nazim, marks her highly anticipated return to Malayalam cinema after a four-year hiatus. Directed by MC Jithin, the film also features Basil Joseph in a prominent role. Upon its release, *Sookshmarshini* garnered favorable reviews, which translated into a strong box office performance.

After a promising opening weekend, the film maintained a steady pace during the weekdays. As the second weekend approached, *Sookshmarshini* saw a significant surge in collections, reflecting its growing popularity. The latest update reveals that the film has crossed the impressive Rs. 50 crore gross mark worldwide, cementing its success at the global box office.

While the film's performance in Kerala has been decent, its success in other regions, especially in international markets, has been nothing short of spectacular. The movie has resonated well with audiences beyond the domestic market, helping it achieve this remarkable milestone.

Produced by renowned cinematographers Shyju Khalid and Sameer Tahir, along with AV Anoop, *Sookshmarshini* boasts a talented ensemble cast, including Deepak Parambol, Sidharth Bharathan, Merin Philip, Akhila Bhargavan, Pooja Mohanraj, and others in key roles. The gripping storyline and strong performances have contributed to the film's widespread success.

Nazriya's comeback has been well-received by fans and critics alike, and *Sookshmarshini*'s impressive box office performance indicates that



the actress's return has been a major draw for audiences. With the film continuing to perform well, it's clear that *Sookshmarshini* is on its way to becoming a significant hit in Malayalam cinema this year.



Pawan Kalyan Ranked Second Most Googled Actor Globally for 2024

Tollywood superstar Pawan Kalyan continues to juggle his demanding roles as both the Deputy Chief Minister of Andhra Pradesh and one of Indian cinema's biggest stars. Despite his hectic political commitments, he ensures to make time for his unfinished film projects, further solidifying his dedication to both his career and his fans.

In a remarkable achievement, Pawan Kalyan has been ranked as the second most Googled actor globally in the entertainment category for 2024. According to Google's *Year in Search* 2024 data, Pawan Kalyan is the only Indian actor to

feature on this prestigious list, a recognition of his immense global popularity and influence. This accolade reflects not only his widespread fanbase but also the significant impact he continues to have on the entertainment world.

On the professional front, Pawan Kalyan is focused on completing the final schedule of his highly anticipated film *Hari Hara Veera Malu*, which is expected to be a major release. Following that, he is set to travel to Thailand for the next phase of filming *They Call Him OG*, another project that has been generating considerable buzz among his fans.

In addition, Pawan Kalyan's upcoming film *Ustaad Bhagat Singh* is also eagerly awaited, with fans constantly looking for updates and teasers.

With such an impressive range of projects lined up, Pawan Kalyan shows no signs of slowing down. His remarkable achievement as one of the most Googled actors globally serves as a testament to his enduring star power and influence, both in India and internationally. Fans are eagerly awaiting more news as Pawan Kalyan continues to dominate both politics and cinema. Stay tuned for more updates on this iconic figure.

Balakrishna's 'Akhanda 2: Thaandavam' Begins Shoot, Set for Dussehra 2025 Release

Legendary actor Nandamuri Balakrishna, known as the "God of Masses," has been captivating audiences for over five decades with his powerful screen presence and unforgettable blockbusters. Alongside director Boyapati Sreenu, Balakrishna has delivered three massive hits: *Simha*, *Legend*, and *Akhanda*.

The duo's last collaboration, *Akhanda*, turned out to be their biggest success to date, with fans eagerly awaiting a sequel. The long-awaited follow-up, *Akhanda 2: Thaandavam*, was officially confirmed recently, and the movie has already generated immense buzz.

The regular shoot of *Akhanda 2* kicked off today with a high-octane action sequence being filmed at the prestigious Ramanaidu Studios (RFC). Balakrishna,

who plays the lead role, joined the sets to kickstart the sequence, while action choreographers Ram and Laxman are working their magic to execute the thrilling action in true Boyapati style.

The film promises to raise the bar with its high-budget production and intense action. *Akhanda 2: Thaandavam* is set for a grand release during Dussehra on September 25, 2025, further building excitement among fans.

Producers Raam Achanta and Gopi Achanta are overseeing the movie's production, while Tejaswini Nandamuri is presenting it. With the powerful combination of Balakrishna, Boyapati Sreenu, and a gripping storyline, *Akhanda 2* is poised to become another blockbuster in their successful collaboration.

