



Weather Forecast

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

BJP's Operation Amaravati via Telangana: A Strategic Power Play?

TPN Correspondent, Telangana, Dec-12: As the BJP prepares for the upcoming Jammili elections, the party is strategically focusing on increasing its influence in the Telugu states, especially Telangana and Andhra Pradesh. Currently, the BJP does not hold power independently in any southern state, but with its alliance in Andhra Pradesh (NDA), it is implementing a series of moves aimed at boosting its political presence in the region.



OBC (Other Backward Classes) section. These steps highlight the BJP's intent to consolidate its position in Telangana before the next elections.

In Telangana, the BJP has been working on shifting social equations, with particular attention to the BC (Backward Classes) community. A significant step in this direction was the recent appointment of BC leader R Krishnaiah to the Rajya Sabha, a move seen as aimed at gaining control over BC voters. During the state assembly elections, the BJP's campaign focusing on issues like SC classification and advocating for a BC Chief Minister helped increase its vote share and seats.

Meanwhile, in Andhra Pradesh, the BJP is expected to gain the support of TDP and Jana Sena in certain areas, especially for the Greater Hyderabad elections. The alliance of these three parties is likely to focus on contesting together in Hyderabad, leveraging their combined support base.

Sources indicate that the BJP plans to strengthen its presence in Telangana by appointing a BC leader as the new state party president. Additionally, several BC leaders already serve as MPs within the party, and the BJP has also appointed a leader from Telangana to oversee the

With the BJP aiming to grow independently while maintaining alliances in the region, the Modi government's positive response to the Telugu states signals more strategic decisions ahead. The party is keen on expanding its footprint among key social groups, particularly the BC community, in both states. This shift marks a significant phase in the BJP's southern expansion strategy as it works to increase its influence across the Telugu-speaking states.



CM Revanth's Key Meetings During Delhi Visit

TPN Correspondent, New Delhi : Telangana Chief Minister Revanth Reddy's visit to Delhi has sparked significant political interest. After completing a year in office, Revanth is expected to engage in key discussions during his stay. Following a brief visit to Jaipur for a wedding, he is set to meet Union ministers to discuss several important projects and state matters.

Revanth's agenda includes seeking approvals for new state projects, particularly the Hyderabad Metro project, and addressing financial issues with the Centre. His visit is also likely to focus on political matters, with discussions revolving around the expansion of his cabinet and the filling of nominated posts in the state. As several aspirants await decisions on these matters, the Chief Minister's talks with the Congress leadership in Delhi could result in significant political changes.

With the Telangana Assembly set to resume on December 16, Revanth's visit is also expected to include discussions about governance reforms, including changes to local body elections and revenue laws. The meetings with top party leaders and Union ministers are anticipated to shape the state's direction in the coming months.

Facial Recognition System for Attendance at Telangana Secretariat

TPN Correspondent, Hyderabad : Starting Thursday, December 12, all officers and employees at the Telangana Secretariat, including those on outsourcing, will log their attendance using a facial recognition system, as announced by Chief Secretary A. Shanthi Kumar.

In a notice issued, the Secretariat staff have been instructed to use the devices installed at entry points to mark their attendance when entering and exiting the premises. In case of any issues with attendance recording, employees can reach out to on-duty staff or contact the provided helpline numbers: 8179232111, 9704070011, or 9676621156.

This move follows complaints regarding irregularities with the manual attendance system, where employees were signing attendance registers. However, physical attendance records will still be maintained until December 13, as a transitional measure.



KCR Protested Due to Congress's Unfulfilled Promise of Telangana

TPN Correspondent, Telangana : Senior BRS leader and MLA Harish Rao has criticized the Congress party for failing to fulfill its promise of granting Telangana, which led to K. Chandrashekar Rao's (KCR) protest. Addressing a media conference in Sangareddy, Harish Rao highlighted the timeline of events leading to the formation of Telangana and questioned Congress's commitment to the cause.

Harish Rao pointed out that Congress, which was in power both at the state and the Center from 2004 to 2014, had allied with KCR in 2004 on the promise of creating Telangana. However, the failure to deliver on this promise compelled KCR to initiate protests.

"If Telangana had been granted before 2009, KCR would not have had to protest," he said, emphasizing that KCR's hunger strike, which began on November 29, 2009, forced the December 9 announcement on the statehood is-



sue. He dismissed claims that Sonia Gandhi's goodwill led to Telangana's formation, instead crediting KCR's leadership and the people's struggle for achieving statehood.

He accused Congress leader Revanth Reddy of rewriting Telangana's history. "Did Revanth Reddy ever participate

in the Telangana movement? When the JAC Chairman called for MLAs and MPs to resign for Telangana, Revanth did not act," he said.

Harish Rao asserted that Telangana's creation was not a result of any individual's mercy but a hard-fought battle led by KCR and the people of Telangana.

High Court Grants Interim Relief to Mohan Babu and Manchu Vishnu

TPN Correspondent, Hyderabad : The Telangana High Court has granted interim relief to actors Manchu Mohan Babu and his son, Manchu Vishnu, deferring their presence before the police until the next hearing on December 24. The actors had approached the court seeking relief from notices issued to them under Section 126 of the Bharatiya Nagarik Suraksha Sanhita, 2023, which deals with potential breaches of public peace.

Justice B. Vijaysen Reddy, while granting relief, noted that, prima facie, there appeared to be no breach of peace at the actors' residence. The court ruled that the petitioners' presence before the police would be dispensed with for now, and recommended the deployment of police personnel to maintain law and order in the area. However, when the Government Pleader for Home, Mahesh Raje, opposed the suggestion, stating that special 'Blue Colt' police teams would be stationed at the actors' residence, Justice Reddy directed the police to ensure peace without the need for constant surveillance.



Manchu Manoj Apologizes for Mohan Babu's Attack on Journalist

TPN Correspondent, Hyderabad : Telugu actor Manchu Manoj has publicly apologized to the media fraternity following his father, veteran actor Manchu Mohan Babu's, alleged attack on a journalist from a vernacular news channel.

Addressing the media at Jalpally on Wednesday, Manoj expressed deep regret over the incident, stating, "My father's actions towards the media have deeply hurt me. I sincerely apologize to all my media friends. My father is my life and has always been like God to me, but he was misled by Vinay, a friend of my brother, who portrayed me as an adversary."





Mohan Babu and Manchu Vishnu

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The case stems from a dispute within the Manchu family, with two factions: one led by Mohan Babu and Vishnu, and the other by younger son Manchu Manoj. The dispute escalated over Manoj's attempt to take possession of family property in Jalpally village, Rangareddy district. The petitioners' counsel argued that despite filing a complaint against Manoj's actions, no action was taken, and instead, show cause notices were issued to Mohan Babu and Vishnu.

During the hearing, Justice Reddy questioned the media's role in spreading false news about the family's private matters, expressing concern over the attention given to such issues. The court will resume hearings on December 24 to allow time for potential reconciliation. If unresolved by then, the legal aspects of the case will be examined further.

Mohan Babu's Attack on Journalist

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Manoj revealed personal challenges within the family, adding that his wife, Bhuma Mounika, and their seven-month-old daughter were being unnecessarily dragged into the dispute. He also disclosed that Vinay and others created obstacles in the toy company he recently launched with his wife.

The actor recounted his emotional ordeal, saying his father had physically confronted him, and his mother, who supported him, was sent away under false pretenses. "During this episode, my mother was convinced she would be able to mediate, but instead, she was kept away," Manoj added emotionally.

Despite the turmoil, Manoj expressed hope for a resolution and called on family members, friends, and well-wishers to support him in resolving the ongoing issues. Meanwhile, protests from journalists and media associations continue, criticizing Mohan Babu's behavior and demanding accountability.

President Draupadi Murmu to Visit Hyderabad for Winter Break

TPN Correspondent, Hyderabad, : President Draupadi Murmu is scheduled to visit Hyderabad on December 17 for a five-day winter break, during which she will participate in several key events in Andhra Pradesh and Telangana.

The President will begin her tour in Andhra Pradesh on the morning of December 17, attending the first convocation ceremony at AIIMS, Mangalagiri, as the chief guest. She is expected to arrive in Hyderabad by 5 PM the same day.

On December 20, President Murmu will visit the College of Defense Management in Secunderabad. Later that day, she will



host an 'At Home' program at Rashtrapati Bhavan, Bollaram, at 4 PM. The event will see participation from Governor Tamilisai

Soundararajan, Chief Minister K. Chandrashekar Rao, ministers, public representatives, and other dignitaries.

The highlight of her visit will be on December 21 when the President will inaugurate the centenary celebrations of Veeranari Chakali Ailamma Telangana Mahila University in Koti. The program is scheduled to commence at 11 AM. Following the event, President Murmu will depart for Delhi from Begumpet Airport via a special flight. The Telangana government has released the detailed schedule for the President's visit, and all arrangements are being made to ensure a smooth and successful tour.

Govt to Honour Telangana Poets for Their Contributions



TPN Correspondent, Hyderabad : The Telangana Congress government has announced plans to honor poets who played a crucial role in the state's formation. Chief Minister A. Revanth Reddy made the announcement at the Secretariat, revealing the government's initiatives to recognize their invaluable contributions.

Prominent poets such as Guda Anjaiah, Gaddar, Bandi Yadagiri, Andesri, Goreti Venkanna, Suddala Ashok Teja, Jayaraju, Pasham Yadagiri, and Ekka Yadagiri Rao have been acknowledged for their significant sacrifices for the cause of Telangana.

The Chief Minister announced that each of these poets would be provided with a 300-square-yard house plot, a cash reward of Rs. 1 crore, and a letter of felicitation in recognition of their contributions.

"These poets represent the soul of Telangana and have been instrumental in our struggle. Their sacrifices deserve lasting recognition," CM Revanth Reddy stated.

GMR Airports Launches AI-Powered Digital Twin to Revolutionize Airport Operations



TPN Correspondent, Hyderabad, Dec-12: GMR Airports has introduced a cutting-edge AI-powered digital twin platform at Rajiv Gandhi International Airport (RGIA), Hyderabad, aiming to transform airport operations and

enhance the passenger experience. This innovative platform also powers the next-generation Airport Predictive Operation Centre (APOC), a groundbreaking advancement in airport management.

The APOC integrates airside, landside, and terminal operations into a unified system, leveraging real-time data to streamline decision-making, minimize disruptions, and ensure seamless operations. This marks a significant milestone in airport management, providing real-time synergy among various stakeholders within the airport ecosystem.

Union Minister of Civil Aviation, Kinjarapu Ram Mohan Naidu, and Telangana's Minister of Roads and Build-

ings, Komatireddy Venkat Reddy, were present at the launch event alongside GBS Raju, Chairman, Airports, GMR Group; SGK Kishore, ED South & Chief Innovation Officer, GMR Airports; and Pradeep Panicker, CEO of GHIAL. Key features aimed at enhancing passenger experience include Intelligent Crowd Management, Flow and Queue Analytics, Passenger Experience Insights, and Behavior Analytics. Operational features such as Virtual Simulations, Smart Traffic Monitoring, and IoT Analytics further optimize airport functionality. The digital twin platform will be adopted as the standard operating model across all GMR-operated airports, reflecting a transformative shift in airport operations for smoother, smarter, and more efficient services.

Sandhya Theatre Moves HC Over Stampede at Allu Arjun's Pushpa 2 Premiere



TPN Correspondent, Hyderabad : The management of Sandhya Theatre in Hyderabad has approached the Telangana High Court to quash the FIR filed by the Chikkadpally police, following the tragic stampede during the premiere of Allu Arjun's Pushpa 2 on December 4. The incident resulted in the death

of 35-year-old Revathi and serious injuries to her son, Sri Tej.

The FIR was registered after a complaint by Revathi's husband, M Bhaskar, leading to the arrest of three theatre employees on charges of negligence. The theatre's management, represented by partners M Renuka Devi and M Sumeeth (also known as M Mittu), argued that the incident occurred during a benefit show arranged by Mythri Distributors, who had control over the theatre premises on December 4 and 5, including the day of the incident.

The petitioners stated that they had requested police support, including ACP, station house officer, and traffic police to manage the expected large crowds. However, they claimed that only limited police personnel were deployed on the day of the premiere.

The counsel for the theatre management argued that the charges invoked in the FIR, including culpable homicide not amounting to murder and voluntarily causing hurt, were not applicable. They stated that the management had no intent or knowledge that the event would result in such tragedy.

Telangana Sees Sharp Increase in Dengue, Chikungunya, Malaria Cases

TPN Correspondent, Telangana, : Telangana has witnessed a significant surge in vector-borne diseases, with dengue cases alone reaching 9,761 by October 31, surpassing the 8,016 cases reported in 2023. The rise in cases, particularly in September and October, underscores the impact of the monsoon season, which creates optimal conditions for Aedes mosquitoes—the primary vector for dengue.

The state had recorded 6,405 dengue cases by August 31, but that number increased by 3,356 cases in just two months. Dengue cases usually peak between July and mid-November, aligning with the monsoon and post-monsoon periods.

Alongside dengue, cases of chikungunya and malaria have also risen:

- **Malaria:** Cases increased to 235 by October 31, up from 200 in August, although this was fewer than the 420 cases reported in 2023.

- **Chikungunya:** Cases spiked from 178 in August to 435 by October's end. By November 21, the total had reached 447 after testing 13,320 samples. To address the outbreak, the Telangana Health Department has ramped up surveillance and report-



ing, conducted district coordination meetings, and intensified mosquito control efforts. Health facilities have ensured the availability of testing kits and medicines.

The Director of Public Health and Family Welfare emphasized the need for continued vigilance and public cooperation to manage the spread. Residents are being urged to maintain cleanliness and eliminate stagnant water near their homes to reduce mosquito breeding.



KTR Calls Out Congress Leadership Over Failures in Telangana Governance

TPN Correspondent, Telangana : BRS working president KT Rama Rao (KTR) issued a scathing critique of the Congress government in Telangana and its leader Rahul Gandhi, accusing them of betraying the people of the State and promoting a culture of corruption and inefficiency. In a strongly worded letter addressed to Rahul Gandhi, Rama Rao alleged that the Congress had dismantled Telangana's progress with unfulfilled promises, mismanagement, and policies that harm all sections of society.

"Broken Promises and Farmer Distress"

KTR condemned the Congress for failing to implement its electoral prom-



of neglecting youth employment, stating that out of the promised two lakh government jobs, only 12,527

positions had been filled in the past year. He pointed out the lack of action on providing interest-free loans

to youth, terming Congress's initiatives as "all talk and no action." Women voters, KTR said, were also betrayed, with promises like a ₹2,500 monthly honorarium and the Kalyana Lakshmi scheme left unfulfilled. He remarked, "Parents who waited for over a year for assistance now curse the Congress regime."

KTR accused the Congress government of attempting to erase Telangana's cultural heritage, particularly criticizing the installation of a statue of former Prime Minister Rajiv Gandhi at a site intended for the Telangana Thalli statue near the Secretariat.

"Your toxic political culture aims

to erase Telangana's identity," he charged, warning that such acts would provoke strong responses from the BRS. The BRS leader labeled the Congress government as "synonymous with scams," citing inflated costs in irrigation projects and the Musi River Rejuvenation project. KTR declared that the Congress's actions would haunt Telangana for decades. Rama Rao concluded his letter with a stern warning to Rahul Gandhi, stating, "Any attempts to loot the State, derail its progress, or erase its culture will not be tolerated." He demanded an apology from the Congress for its failures and called for immediate corrective action to address the pressing issues facing Telangana.

Telangana HC Directs Police to Return BRS MLA Kaushik Reddy's Phone



TPN Correspondent, Hyderabad : The Telangana High Court has ordered the police to return the mobile phone of BRS leader and Huzurabad MLA Padi Kaushik Reddy, which was seized during an investigation on December 6.

Justice B Vijaysen Reddy, while ruling on a writ petition filed by Reddy, stated that the case lacked sufficient gravity to justify retaining the device. The MLA had sought the return of his iPhone 14 Pro Max, alleging that it was confiscated without consent during a police visit to his residence on December 5.

Reddy's counsel, TV Ramana Rao, claimed that around 50 police personnel forcibly entered his home, creating a scene and unlawfully seizing the phone. He also asserted that the phone has not been returned since the incident.

In defense, the government pleader for Home argued that Reddy and his supporters obstructed police duties at the station, prompting the phone's seizure. The device, they stated, was sent to the Forensic Science Laboratory (FSL) for data extraction as part of an investigation into alleged conspiracies against the state. The court has scheduled further hearings on this matter for December 12.

KTR's Comments Reflect BRS State of Mind: Minister Sridhar Babu

TPN Correspondent, Hyderabad : Minister Sridhar Babu criticized BRS leader K.T. Rama Rao (KTR) for advising his party's MLAs to avoid attending government-organized training sessions for newly elected legislators. He described KTR's remarks as a reflection of the Bharatiya Rashtra Samithi's (BRS) state of mind. Speaking to a TV channel, Sridhar Babu accused the opposition of politicizing every issue and claimed that KTR's "high pedestal of hope" is fueling delusions about the party retaining power. He dismissed BRS's confidence, questioning if they will indeed return to power in four years. Sridhar Babu further criticized KTR for politicizing symbols of Telangana pride, including the Telangana Thalli issue, and emphasized that no one could erase the legacy of leaders like Indira Gandhi and Rajiv Gandhi. The minister urged a more constructive approach to governance rather than divisive rhetoric.



Medigadda Project Unaffected by Earthquake, Says Vinod Kumar



TPN Correspondent, Telangana : BRS senior leader Vinod Kumar has strongly defended the Medigadda project, asserting that it was unaffected by the recent 5.3 magnitude earthquake. Speaking at Telangana Bhavan in Hyderabad, Vinod Kumar recalled that the earthquake's epicenter was near Medaram in Mulugu but emphasized that the Medigadda barrage, despite its high water flow capacity, did not move even a millimeter.

He expressed confidence in the strength of the Medigadda project, stating that even the earthquake seemed to recognize its stability.

Vinod Kumar dismissed allegations from Congress leaders that the project had been compromised, calling it false propaganda aimed at defaming Chief Minister KCR.

He further criticized the delay in providing water through the Annaram and Sundilla projects, urging that water be made available by February and March without any further delays. He also questioned the lack of action by the Revanth Reddy government on the Medigadda barrage, particularly when it could help supply water to key districts like Purva Karimnagar and Warangal.

BRS MLC K Kavitha Slams Congress Over Unfulfilled Promises to BCs

TPN Correspondent, Hyderabad : BRS MLC K Kavitha criticized the Congress government for failing to deliver on its promises to the Backward Classes (BCs) even after completing a year in power. Speaking to Telangana Vaddera community leaders on Wednesday, Kavitha accused the government of neglecting critical commitments made in its election manifesto and the BC Declaration.

She pointed out that the Congress had yet to take action on constructing BC Unity (Aikya) buildings, which were promised Rs 50 crore per district, and on ensuring 42% reservation for BCs in local bodies. Kavitha also condemned the government for ignoring the welfare of caste-based professions, saying, "The Congress government is failing to prioritize the needs of the BC communities and to keep its word on inclusive development."

Kavitha reiterated her demand for the im-

mediate establishment of a dedicated ministry for Most Backward Classes (MBCs), emphasizing that such a move was necessary to address the unique challenges faced by marginalized sections within the BC community. In a separate statement, the BRS MLC raised concerns about recurring food poisoning incidents in residential welfare schools, including the recent hospitalization of six students from Kasturba Girls' School in Saranapur, Jagtial district. She directly held Chief Minister A Revanth Reddy, who also serves as the Education Minister, accountable for failing to ensure quality standards in welfare schools.

"Parents are deeply worried about their children's safety and well-being. Substandard food and poor conditions in welfare schools reflect the government's inefficiency," she said. Kavitha urged the Chief Minister to personally inspect welfare schools, review their conditions, and implement urgent reforms



to prevent such incidents in the future.

The MLC's remarks come amid mounting pressure on the Congress government to deliver on its promises to various communities in the state.

Andesree Clarifies the Absence of Crown on Telangana Talli Statue



TPN Correspondent : Public figure Andesree has clarified the rationale behind the absence of a crown on the Telangana Talli statue recently installed by the Congress government. Speaking in an interview with NTV channel after visiting Basara Saraswati Mata, Andesree addressed the ongoing criti-

cisms regarding the statue, particularly the lack of a crown accompanying the Bathukamma held by the figure.

Andesree explained that the form of Telangana Talli is meant to represent a nurturing mother rather than a deity. "If the form of a goddess has a crown, does the form of a mother require one? A crown is symbolic of divinity, but a mother in human form is revered for her essence and nurturing qualities, not adornments. Placing a crown on a mother would elevate her to temple worship, which is not the intent here," he said. Reflecting on the symbolism of Bathukamma in the statue, he added, "Bathukamma is synonymous with Telangana Talli. Does the mother carry her Bathukamma herself? No, it is her children, the people, who carry it. Telangana Talli represents the human connection to the land and life, not divinity defined by a crown."

Chief Minister's Vision

Chief Minister Revanth Reddy also weighed

in, defending the design of the statue. He emphasized that Telangana Talli embodies the spirit of humanity and motherhood. "Telangana Talli is the counterpart of our mothers, reflecting their human form. She does not need a crown to symbolize her divinity or power. Her essence lies in her blessings and nurturing presence," he said, referencing the statue's gesture of blessing.

Andesree reinforced this perspective, stating that Telangana Talli's design celebrates life and greenery, symbolizing the land's nurturing essence. "This form is a goddess of existence, representing our shared heritage and humanity. Her blessing hand reflects her care for her people, while her form honors the vibrancy of Telangana's culture," he concluded.

The clarification has brought fresh insights into the symbolic choices behind the statue, sparking a deeper appreciation for its cultural significance.



1.22 Lakh Manholes De-Silted in 70 Days - Hyderabad Water Board 96% of Sewage Water to Be Treated by December End

TPN, Hyderabad: As of Wednesday, December 11, the Hyderabad Water Board has successfully de-silted 1.22 lakh manholes and cleaned 1,602 kilometers of sewerage pipelines across 12,673 areas. The ongoing 90-day special drive, aimed at making the city "Sewage Overflow Free," has already achieved 50 percent of its target in just 70 days.

The drive addresses ongoing issues like sewage overflow, polluted water, and road silt, which have long affected the city. The board's goal is to complete the de-silting of 3,600 kilometers of sewerage pipelines and clean 3 lakh manholes by the end of the 90-day period. This initiative is being carried out without additional funding, using the existing fleet of 220 Air Tech machines and 146 silt removal vehicles.

Looking ahead, Hyderabad Wa-



ter Board's Managing Director, Ashok Reddy, has announced plans to complete the work by April next year.

This includes laying new sewer pipelines in areas identified

during the drive and addressing polluted water supply issues. In the final 20 days of the program, the focus will shift to reducing complaints further. The initiative also includes monitoring the city's reservoirs and sewage

treatment plants (STPs) to ensure optimal water distribution and sewage treatment.

By the end of December, 96 percent of the sewage water generated in Hyderabad is expected to be treated. Of the 31 planned Sewage Treatment Plants (STPs), 20 are currently operational, with five fully functional. The remaining plants are in trial-run stages and are expected to be operational soon.

The construction of the remaining nine STPs is on track for completion by December. Once all plants are operational, they will treat a total of 1,106 million liters of sewage daily, significantly reducing pollution and improving water quality in the region. This special initiative, running until December 31, aims to resolve long-standing sewerage challenges in the city.

Timely Action by TGCSB Saves Rs. 1.1 Crore in Fraudulent Bank Transaction

TPN, Hyderabad: The Telangana Cyber Security Bureau (TGCSB) showcased its efficiency by helping a victim recover Rs. 1.1 crore that was fraudulently withdrawn from his bank account. The swift intervention highlights the growing importance of cyber vigilance in safeguarding public funds.

On December 10, the victim reported to the 1930 call center that a massive Rs. 1.90 crore had been debited from his account. Responding promptly, the TGCSB teams coordinated with officials from various banks to freeze the fraudulent transactions.

Officials from two different banks successfully placed transactions amounting to Rs. 1.10 crore on hold and alerted TGCSB. However, Rs. 79.30 lakh had already been withdrawn or transferred to other accounts. Efforts are ongoing to recover the remaining amount.

Notably, the victim neither received suspicious calls nor shared OTPs, nor did he click on dubious links, making the fraudulent activity a concerning case of sophisticated cybercrime.

The TGCSB's proactive approach serves as a reminder of the importance of vigilance in handling cyber fraud and the need for continuous improvements in digital security.

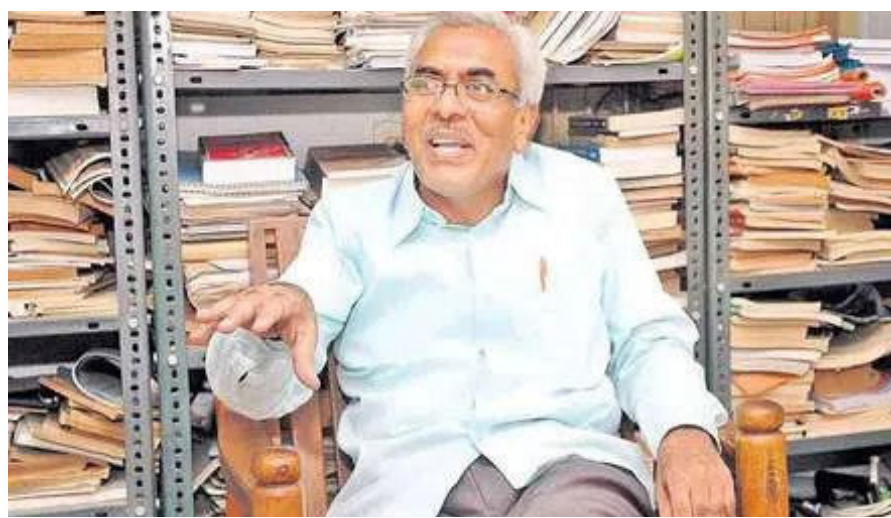
Siddha Reddy Rejects Congress Govt Honours, Sparks Cultural Debate in Telangana

TPN, Hyderabad: Renowned poet Nandini Siddha Reddy has declined honours from the Congress government, citing objections to the alteration of the Telangana Thalli design and the removal of Bathukamma, a cultural emblem of the state. Terming the changes a "direct assault" on Telangana's history, culture, and self-respect, Reddy stated he could not accept felicitation from a government that undermines the state's heritage.

The decision has drawn widespread support, with BRS working president KT Rama Rao praising Reddy's courageous stand. "Eliminating Bathukamma, the embodiment of Telangana, tarnishes our identity. Siddha Reddy's commitment is a source of pride and inspiration for every citizen dedicated to preserving our culture and self-respect," said KTR.

Former Minister and senior MLA T. Harish Rao also lauded Reddy's resolve. "By rejecting the Congress government's honours, Siddha Reddy upheld the dignity of Telangana. Bathukamma holds a special place in the hearts of crores of people, and any attempt to erase its significance insults the essence of Telangana," he said.

The poet's refusal has sparked a larger conversation on cultural preservation and the importance of safeguarding Telangana's rich heritage against political and artistic alterations.



Cyber Fraudsters Cheat Mother, Daughters of Rs. 5.5 Crore in 'Digital Arrest' Scam



TPN, Hyderabad: A 67-year-old woman and her two daughters from Basheerbagh were duped of Rs. 5.5 crore by cyber fraudsters who kept them under a 17-day digital surveillance ordeal. The scammers posed as officials from central law enforcement agencies to intimidate and deceive the victims.

The incident began on November 13 when the elderly woman received a call from a man claiming to be an employee of the Telecom Regulatory Authority of India (TRAI). The caller alleged that her Aadhaar-linked phone number was implicated in money laundering and drug-related cases.

Under pressure and fear, the victims transferred the sum in multiple transactions to the fraudsters, who assured them it was part of an investigation. The scam came to light when the trio visited the CBI zonal office in Sultan Bazaar, seeking to recover their money using fake documents provided by the scammers.

Following a complaint, the Telangana Cyber Security Bureau (TGCSB) registered a case under the IT Act, Bharatiya Nyaya Samhita, and banking regulations. Investigations are underway to trace the culprits and recover the money.

This incident highlights the growing sophistication of cyber scams and serves as a reminder for citizens to remain vigilant against such fraudulent tactics.

Elderly Couple Found Dead in Hyderabad's Uppal



TPN, Hyderabad: An elderly couple was found dead at their residence in Uppal, Hyderabad on Wednesday, December 11. The victims have been identified as Duruvula Shastri, 60, a retired government employee, and his wife Duruvula Jagadiswari, 54, a homemaker.

According to reports, the bodies were discovered by their son, D Sai Sushanth, an IT professional living in Kokapet, after he noticed a foul smell during a visit to their residence. Sushanth had last spoken to his parents on December 5, when they mentioned attending a conference in Delhi. Since then, their phones had been switched off, and he had not heard from them.

The police have registered a case, and the exact cause of death will be determined following a preliminary inquiry. Further investigation is underway.

CREDAI Hyderabad Celebrates 25 Years of Transforming Urban Development



TPN, Hyderabad: The Confederation of Real Estate Developers' Associations of India (CREDAI) Hyderabad marked its silver jubilee, celebrating 25 years of contributions to the city's urban development. Established in 1997 as the Builders Forum with just 28 members, CREDAI Hyderabad has grown into a robust organization with 330 members, driving ethical, professional, and innovation-focused transformation in the real estate sector.

On this milestone occasion, the organization honored its founder members for their vision and contributions. Over the years, CREDAI Hyderabad has played a pivotal role in shaping the city's skyline and ensuring sustainable urban growth.

Over 6,000 People, Including 684 Children, Still Missing Since 2020 In Telangana

TPN, Hyderabad: Shocking statistics reveal that 6,468 individuals, including 684 children, who went missing in Telangana since 2020, remain untraced. The data was obtained by Rajendra Painati, Founder of Youth for Anti-Corruption, highlighting a concerning issue in the state.

According to the report, a total of 1,03,494 people have been reported missing in Telangana over the past four

years. While the police have successfully traced 97,028 individuals, the fate of thousands remains unknown.

The situation underscores the need for enhanced investigative mechanisms and public awareness to address the alarming number of unresolved missing cases, particularly those involving children. Efforts are ongoing to trace the remaining individuals and provide closure to their families.



Telangana Secretariat to Implement Facial Recognition Attendance System from Dec-12



TPN, Hyderabad: The Telangana government is set to introduce a facial recognition system to record the attendance of employees at the Secretariat starting Thursday, December 12.

An order to this effect was issued by Chief Secretary A. Santhi Kumari on Wednesday. The system will apply to all regular Secretariat officers and

employees, as well as outsourcing staff across all departments whose payments are made from the Secretariat Heads of accounts.

Attendance will be recorded twice daily—at the time of entry in the morning and while leaving in the evening. In case of technical issues, employees have been advised to contact duty staff at the entry points or

reach out via designated WhatsApp numbers for immediate resolution.

To ensure a smooth transition, all departments have been directed to maintain the physical attendance system alongside the facial recognition system until December 13. This initiative marks a significant step toward enhancing efficiency and accountability in the Secretariat.



Disagreement within Telangana's Irrigation Department Over Medigadda Barrage's Fate

TPN Correspondent, Telangana : The fate of the Medigadda barrage and the broader Kaleshwaram Lift Irrigation Project (KLIP) has become a point of division within Telangana's Irrigation department. As the Rabi season approaches, officials are divided over how to proceed with the operationalization of the Medigadda barrage, with some pushing for its revival, while others believe the issues are being overstated.

A majority of officials support restarting two of the three barrages, but a few senior figures argue that the Medigadda barrage's structural problems are not as severe as portrayed by political opponents, particularly the Congress government. These officials advocate for lifting Pranahita water from the Medigadda pump house,



bypassing the need to impound water and avoid additional stress on the structure. This would meet the irrigation needs for the upcoming season, they argue, without jeopardizing the barrage's integrity.

However, the government's political leadership has firmly opposed reactivating the KLIP barrages, citing structural concerns. This opposition has led to internal rifts within the department, with senior officials feeling excluded from key decisions.

The National Dam Safety Authority (NDSA) was tasked with investigating the Medigadda barrage's structural integrity but has faced delays, largely due to procedural issues, lack of timely data from the state government, and unauthorized repairs undertaken without NDSA approval.

As of now, the NDSA investigation is scheduled to conclude by December 31, but the complexity of the study and ongoing delays suggest that this deadline might be missed. Should the final report be delayed further, it could worsen the already strained relationship with farmers who have suffered from irrigation disruptions. With mounting pressure from the farming community, the government's continued political focus on the issue may exacerbate tensions

and contribute to further unrest among affected stakeholders.

Key Timeline of NDSA Investigation:

- Oct 21, 2023: Two Medigadda barrage pillars were found sagging, leading to the temporary closure of the bridge.
- Oct 23-24, 2023: A six-member NDSA team visited the site for an initial assessment.
- Nov 4, 2023: NDSA released a report outlining planning and design flaws as causes for the damage.
- Feb 2024: NDSA officially commissioned by the Congress government to investigate KLIP barrages.
- May 7, 2024: NDSA submitted an interim report recommending safety measures for Medigadda.
- Dec 31, 2024: The NDSA is set to submit its final report, but delays are expected.

Peddapalli Collector Honored with Prestigious Award by President Droupadi Murmu

TPN Correspondent, Peddapalli : Chillapalli village in Manthani mandal has been awarded the second-best women-friendly panchayat for the year 2022-23. The honor was bestowed upon the village during a ceremony held in New Delhi, where Peddapalli Collector Koya Sree Harsha received the award on behalf of the panchayat from President Droupadi Murmu.

The award, which includes a cash prize of Rs 75 lakh, recognizes the village's efforts in promoting women's development. The Collector announced that the prize money would be utilized for further development initiatives in Chillapalli, emphasizing that more projects focused on the empowerment of women would be undertaken in the future.

In addition to the Collector, Additional Collector J Arunasree and other officials were present at the award ceremony. This recognition underscores the ongoing commitment to enhancing women's role in the community and ensuring their welfare and empowerment.



Man Found Murdered in Keesara

TPN Correspondent, Telangana : A gruesome murder came to light on Wednesday when the body of a man, identified as Mahipal Yadav (35) from Yellareddyguda, Kapra, was discovered in a secluded area of RGK Colony, Keesara.

Police revealed that Yadav was attacked with sharp weapons on his neck, head, and other vital parts, resulting in severe bleeding injuries that led to his death on the spot. Investigators suspect that the victim had accompanied

the assailants to the location, where an argument escalated, culminating in his murder. Local residents discovered the body early in the morning and alerted authorities. The Keesara police promptly began an investigation, transferring the body to Gandhi Hospital morgue for post-mortem examination.

Efforts are underway to identify the perpetrators through surveillance footage from cameras in the vicinity and along the routes leading to the crime scene.

Telangana Lok Adalat on December 14 Free Settlement for Civil and Criminal Cases

TPN Correspondent, Telangana : The Telangana State Legal Services Authority (TSLSA) will conduct a Lok Adalat on December 14 across Telangana, covering all levels from the High Court to Taluq level. This initiative aims to settle various civil and compoundable criminal cases, including pre-litigation and pending litigation matters.

The Lok Adalat offers a cost-free resolution process, with any court fees paid in pending cases being fully refunded upon settlement. Additionally, no appeal can be filed against the award passed by the Lok Adalat, ensuring a swift and binding resolution.

Ch Panchakshari, Member Secretary of TSLSA, encouraged the public to take advantage of this opportunity to resolve their disputes efficiently. Participants can attend either in person or virtually, providing flexibility and accessibility.



This initiative is a significant step toward reducing the backlog of cases in the judicial system and promoting amicable settlements, ensuring justice is accessible to all.

Share Market Losses Lead to Family's Suicide Attempt in Mancherial

TPN Correspondent, Mancherial : A tragic incident unfolded in Kasipet village, Thandur, where three members of a family died, and one is critically ill after a suicide attempt triggered by financial losses from the share market. The deceased have been identified as Samudrala Mondaiah (60), his wife Sridevi (50), and their daughter Chaitanya (30), who passed away on Tuesday night and Wednesday morning at MGM Hospital in Warangal. Their son, Shiva Prasad, remains in critical condition.

According to Thandur Sub-Inspector Kiran Kumar, the family attempted suicide by consuming weedicide, reportedly due to depression over significant financial losses from share market investments. The initial investigation suggests that Shiva, the son, was the one who made the investments, though the exact details are still under in-

vestigation.

The tragedy highlights the potential psychological impact of financial crises, particularly related to volatile investments like the stock market.



Jitender Reddy Elected as Telangana Olympic Association President

TPN Correspondent, Telangana : Former MP and current government sports advisor Jitender Reddy has been elected as the President of the Telangana Olympic Association (TOA) following a successful contest in the association's recent elections. Reddy secured a commanding victory with 43 votes, surpassing his opponent, Chamundeswarinath, who received only 9 votes.

Chamundeswarinath, who is also the Telangana Badminton Vice President, had filed nominations for both the President and Vice President posts. Despite his efforts, Reddy won by a margin of 34 votes. In other election results, Mallareddy was elected as Secretary, garnering 40 votes, while his opponent Baburao received 12 votes.

Jitender Reddy, born on June 26, 1954, in Pedda Amudyalapadu village, Nagarkurnool district, has had a diverse career spanning business and politics. He was first elected to the 13th



Lok Sabha in 1999 and has since held multiple influential positions, including membership in the Telangana Rashtra Samithi Polit Bureau in 2010. He also served as a member of several parliamentary committees and held leadership roles in food management and defense matters.

Reddy's involvement in sports, particularly his role as the Sports Advisor, has now culminated in this election win, marking a significant moment in his career.

Vikarabad Collector Responds to Food Poisoning Incident at Tandoor Tribal Welfare Girls Hostel

TPN Correspondent, Vikarabad : Vikarabad District Collector Prateek Jain expressed concern over the recent food poisoning incident at the Tandoor Tribal Welfare Girls Hostel, which left several students ill. Speaking to the media, the Collector termed the incident unfortunate and assured parents that steps are being taken to prevent such occurrences in the future.

"The students are being provided the best possible medical care," said the Collector. He revealed that the preliminary investigation confirmed the illness was caused by a gas problem stemming from improper cooking of rice. To ensure the safety and well-being of students across the district, he announced stringent measures to monitor food and water quality in educational institutions.

"We are conducting S2S (School-to-School) tests in every school and hostel to check the quality of drinking water," the Collector stated, emphasizing



the administration's commitment to maintaining health and hygiene standards. He also urged parents not to lose hope and assured them that the authorities are taking all necessary actions to address the situation. The incident has raised concerns among parents and residents, highlighting the need for enhanced oversight in the preparation of food and the quality of resources provided in welfare hostels. Authorities are expected to implement stricter protocols to prevent similar incidents in the future.

Body of Unidentified Woman Found Near Fuel Outlet in Jeedimetla

TPN Correspondent, Telangana : The body of an unidentified woman, believed to be in her thirties, was discovered with visible injuries on the pavement near a fuel outlet in Chintal, Jeedimetla, on Wednesday morning. The incident came to light when passing motorists noticed the body and alerted the police.

Police, along with forensic experts from the CLUES team, arrived at the scene and began an investigation.

The Jeedimetla police have registered a case and are exploring all possibilities, including sexual assault, murder, or suicide.

The body has been shifted to the Gandhi Hospital morgue for autopsy, and efforts are underway to establish the identity of the deceased. The case is being treated as a priority, with authorities scrutinizing available evidence to uncover the circumstances surrounding the incident.



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
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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.

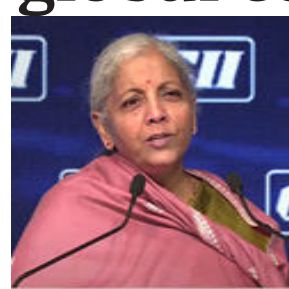
Participation in this window is optional, with trades executed here settled on the same day.

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.

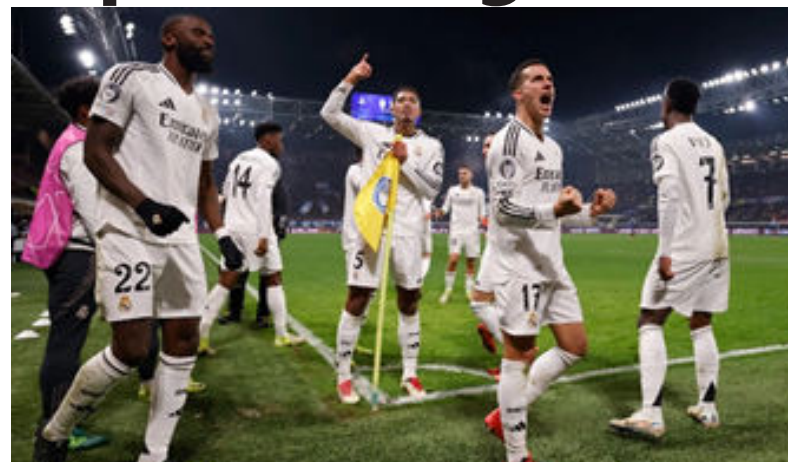
Miller was dismissed for 82 in the 14th over, leaving South Africa at 135/6. Linde, however, continued to shine, hitting four sixes in his 24-ball knock, including three in the final over, to secure a respectable total for the Proteas.

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

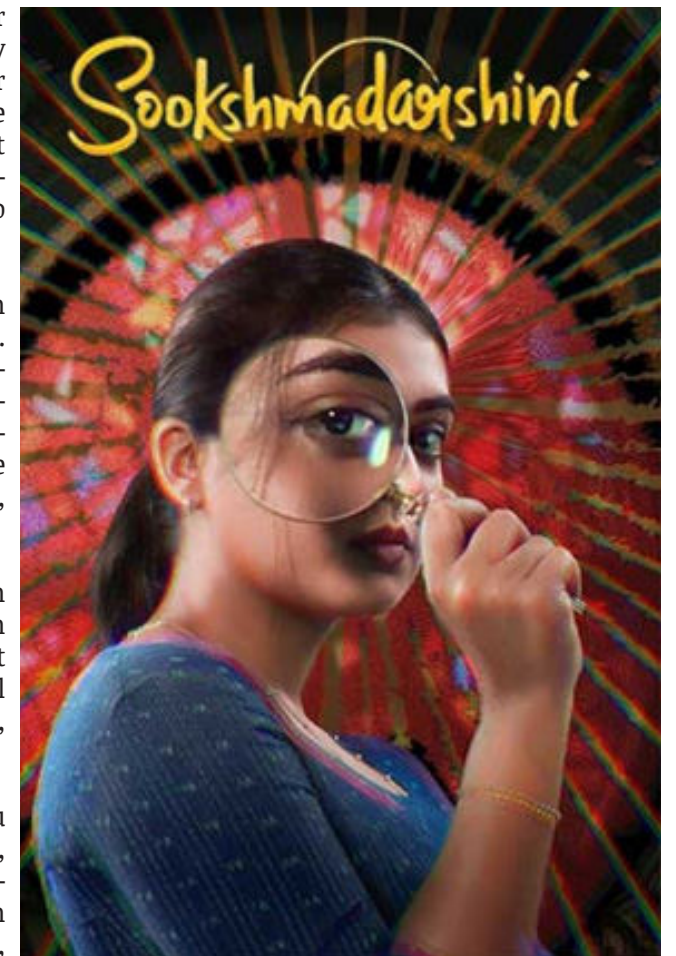
Sookshmarshini, the recent thriller starring Nazriya Nazim, marks her highly anticipated return to Malayalam cinema after a four-year hiatus. Directed by MC Jithin, the film also features Basil Joseph in a prominent role. Upon its release, *Sookshmarshini* garnered favorable reviews, which translated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

