



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

FIDE WORLD CHESS CHAMPIONSHIP SINGAPORE 2024

Gukesh Becomes World Chess Champion at 18, Draws Nationwide Praise



TPN Correspondent, Hyderabad : Indian Grandmaster D Gukesh has made history by becoming the world chess champion at just 18 years old, an extraordinary achievement that has brought pride to the nation. Leaders across the political spectrum extended their congratulations to the young chess prodigy for his remarkable accomplishment.

PM Narendra Modi called Gukesh's achievement "historic and exemplary," praising his talent, hard work, and determination. "His triumph has etched his name in chess history and inspired millions of young minds to dream big and pursue excellence. My best wishes for his future endeavors," he added.

Andhra Pradesh Chief Minister N. Chandrababu Naidu described Gukesh as "our very own Telugu boy," applauding his success as the youngest world chess champion. "The entire nation celebrates your incredible achievement.

Wishing you many more triumphs and accolades in the decades to come," he stated.

Telangana Chief Minister Revanth Reddy highlighted the significance of Gukesh's feat. "Becoming the world chess champion at such a young age is a historic and inspiring achievement for many. It's a testament to his talent, effort, and determination. Gukesh's accomplishment is an inspiration for the youth who dream big," he noted.

Deputy Chief Minister of Andhra Pradesh, Pawan Kalyan, expressed pride in Gukesh's success, saying, "His victory in the FIDE World Chess Championship is a matter of national pride. I hope his success instills sportsmanship in the youth."

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Farmer Taken to Hospital in Handcuffs, CM Orders Inquiry



TPN Correspondent, Telangana: Telangana Chief Minister A. Revanth Reddy has ordered an inquiry into the controversial incident of a farmer, Heerya Naik, being taken to a hospital in handcuffs. The farmer is accused in a November 11 attack on government officials in Vikarabad district during a public hearing on land acquisition.

The Chief Minister expressed serious concern over the incident and directed senior officials to submit a report, warning that such inhumane practices would not be tolerated. The official statement underlined the government's commitment to upholding human dignity.

Opposition leader and BRS Working President K.T. Rama Rao criticized the Congress government, terming the handcuffing of an unwell farmer as "inhuman" and demanding accountability. Heerya Naik, currently lodged in Sangareddy Central Prison, complained of chest pain and was taken to a government hospital on Thursday. A video aired by local TV channels showing Naik in handcuffs during the transfer has sparked public outrage.

Police officials confirmed that an inquiry is underway, led by the Superintendent of Police of Sangareddy district. "We are verifying if the decision to handcuff him was made by constables or jail authorities," a po-

lice official stated. The controversy traces back to a public hearing on land acquisition in Lagacharla village within the Kodangal assembly constituency, represented by CM Revanth Reddy. The hearing turned violent, leading to the arrest of over 25 people, including Naik.

The state government later withdrew the land acquisition plan for a proposed 'pharma village' in Lagacharla and a neighboring village, announcing plans for a multipurpose industrial park instead. This incident has further intensified political scrutiny over the Congress-led state government's handling of public grievances.

No Excuses, Only Action

Farmers Deserve Assurance, Not Delays



TPN Correspondent, Hyderabad: BRS Working President and former minister K.T. Rama Rao (KTR) has criticized the Congress government for its lack of action regarding promises made to farmers. Responding to announcements on the 'X' (Twitter) platform, where the government assured support for farmers by Sankranthi, KTR emphasized the need for tangible implementation of schemes rather than hollow assurances.

KTR accused the Congress-led administration of spending an entire year making announcements without delivering results. He highlighted the unmet promise of providing ₹15,000 per acre annually to farmers and lambasted the government for stalling progress under the guise of deliberations and cabinet sub-committee reviews.

He expressed frustration over the delay in implementing the cabinet

sub-committee report, claiming the government failed to address farmers' needs or deliver any meaningful relief. "In a year of Congress rule, farmers who were confident under KCR's decade-long governance have been pushed into debt," he stated, urging the government to prioritize immediate action over political excuses.

KTR also raised pertinent concerns regarding the uncertainty farmers face, questioning whether they can rely on irrigation water, electricity, and adequate investment returns. He called for an end to discrimination and excuses in addressing the needs of farmers, whom he described as the breadwinners of the nation.

The former minister demanded the Congress government to "open their eyes" and act swiftly to implement promised schemes, ensuring stability and support for Telangana's farming community.



Nationwide Praise

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Union Ministers Kishan Reddy and Bandi Sanjay also congratulated Gukesh, lauding his historic milestone. Kishan Reddy wished Gukesh many more successes, while Bandi Sanjay called him an inspiration for aspiring talents.

Telangana IT Minister K.T. Rama Rao (KTR) commended Gukesh for achieving greatness at such a young age. "At 18, many are figuring out their path in life, but you've already created a world record. These are proud moments for your family and our country. You will remain an inspiration for generations to come," he remarked.

The achievement of Gukesh has united the nation in celebration, with leaders acknowledging his perseverance, talent, and the inspiration he brings to young Indians everywhere.

Not everyone will be happy with the government's governance



TPN Correspondent, New Delhi : Telangana Deputy Chief Minister Mallu Bhatti Vikramarka acknowledged that not everyone may be completely satisfied with the government's governance, emphasizing that such diversity of opinion is inherent in a democracy. Speaking to the media in Delhi, he stated that while some level of opposition is expected, more than 50 percent of the people in the state are satisfied with the government's one-year rule.

The Deputy CM expressed confidence in the governance and highlighted efforts to address public concerns. He noted that initiatives like Hydra aim to curb encroachments without discrimination, ensuring justice for all, regardless of their economic status. He also remarked that Telangana Thalli had not been an official symbol in the past, hinting at changes reflecting the state's identity.

On the subject of cabinet expansion, Vikramarka revealed that the decision rests with the party's high command. He refrained from providing specific timelines but assured that any decision taken would reflect the party's priorities and commitment to effective governance.

Government Sets Deadline for Indiramma Housing Applications Approval

TPN Correspondent, Telangana : The Telangana government has announced that the verification and approval of applications under the Indiramma Housing Scheme must be completed by December 31, according to Revenue and Housing Minister Ponguleti Srinivasa Reddy. The state received a staggering 8 million applications for the housing program aimed at providing homes to the homeless.

During a video conference held on December 12 with Telangana Chief Minister's Advisor Vem Narendra Reddy and Chief Secretary Shanti Kumari, the minister discussed key issues, including the verification process for Indiramma applications, the conduct of Group-II examinations, and the ongoing caste survey.

The minister directed district collectors to involve Indiramma committees in the verification process and appoint one surveyor for every 500 applicants. Daily review meetings must be conducted to monitor progress, and all applicant details are to be updated in a dedicated mobile app. Additionally, toll-free numbers will be made

available at collectorates for complaints and suggestions.

Quality Checks in Hostels and Caste Survey Update

Minister Ponguleti Srinivasa Reddy also emphasized the need for inspections of hostels and residential schools to ensure the quality of food served to students. On December 14, MPs, MLAs, and MLCs will visit these institutions to share meals with students.

Regarding the ongoing caste survey, the minister revealed that 99.09% of the survey has been completed, with the final date for its conclusion set for December 13.

What is the Indiramma Housing Scheme? The Indiramma Housing Scheme 2024 was launched by the Telangana government to provide housing facilities to homeless citizens. The scheme offers financial assistance and other benefits to help individuals build permanent homes.

How to Apply for the Scheme:

1. Visit the official website and fill out the application form.



2. On the homepage, click "Apply Online."
3. Complete the application form with the required details and attach necessary documents.
4. Review your details and submit the form to finalize your application.

The government's comprehensive measures aim to streamline application approvals, ensure transparency, and deliver quality housing solutions for the people of Telangana.

High Court Criticizes Officials Over Illegal Construction Permits



The Telangana High Court has sharply criticized government officials for their role in granting construction permits for illegal structures, only to later issue demolition notices. Justice CV Bhaskar Reddy raised serious concerns about this repeated and wasteful practice, highlighting several key

issues:

- Granting permits for unauthorized constructions, which are later deemed illegal.
- Issuing demolition notices for these structures.
- Using public funds to pay compensation to those affected.

The judge suggested that officials who approve such illegal constructions should face consequences, potentially through criminal cases and confiscation of personal assets. Furthermore, the court emphasized the need to recover compensation amounts from those responsible for the approvals.

The case in question involves Sachin and two other petitioners, who were granted permits for houses in Mangarasikunta, Rangareddy district, only to receive demolition notices later. The court questioned how officials could initially approve these structures, which were now considered illegal. While supporting the conservation of water bodies, the court criticized the inconsistency in the government's approach to regulating such issues. It directed officials to define flood lines (FTL) and buffer zones clearly and to issue legal notices with a 15-day period for residents to respond, allowing petitioners to submit relevant documents.

Telangana Minimum Temperature Drops to Single Digit Amid Cold Wave



TPN Correspondent, Telangana : Cold wave conditions gripped Telangana, with minimum temperatures dropping to single digits in six districts on Thursday. The state's average minimum temperature was recorded at 14.3 degrees Celsius, 2.7 degrees below normal, according to the Telangana Development Planning Society (TGDPs).

Coldest Regions

- Temperature Dip: Minimum temperatures may remain 2 to 4 degrees below normal in many parts of the state.
- Yellow Warning: Issued for Adilabad, Kumuram Bheem Asifabad, Mancherla, and Nirmal districts due to expected cold wave conditions until December 15. Residents in northern Telangana have been advised to brace for cold winds and chilly mornings as the cold wave persists.

Adilabad emerged as the coldest district, with an average temperature of 9.3 degrees Celsius, while Bela in Adilabad recorded the state's lowest temperature at 7 degrees Celsius.

Other notable cold spots include:

- Sirpur (U), Kumuram Bheem Asifabad: 7.3°C
- Pembli, Nirmal: 8.3°C
- Shivampet, Medak: 9.4°C
- Kohir, Sangareddy: 9.5°C
- Mallapur, Jagtial: 9.7°C

In Hyderabad, the lowest recorded temperature was 12.7°C in Marepally, while the city's average minimum was 17.3°C.

The Indian Meteorological Department (IMD) has predicted dry weather across Telangana for the next three days, with low-level winds blowing from the north and northeast.

- Morning Mist/Haze: Likely in isolated areas.

Telangana's UPSC Support Programme Yields Results, 20 Clear Mains



TPN Correspondent, Telangana : In a significant achievement, 20 candidates from Telangana have successfully cleared the UPSC Mains 2024 examination with the support of the state's Rajiv Civils Abhaya Hastam programme. This initiative, which provided financial assistance of Rs. 1 lakh to 135 financially struggling aspirants, has proven to be a key enabler for many aspiring civil servants.

The programme, which aims to support candidates in their pursuit of civil services, received attention from Chief Minister A Revanth Reddy, who personally handed out cheques to the beneficiaries.

The successful candidates hail from various districts across the state, including Warangal Urban, Khammam, and Medchal-Malkajgiri, among others. The Chief Minister congratulated the candidates, noting that the programme not only offers financial aid but also serves as an inspiration for other aspiring civil servants in Telangana. This initiative highlights the state's commitment to fostering education and career development, providing crucial support to those with the potential to succeed in prestigious civil services exams.



Telangana Assembly to Introduce 'Best Legislator' Annual Award



TPN Correspondent, Telangana : In a significant move, the Telangana Legislative Assembly is considering the introduction of a new initiative to recognize outstanding contributions by legislators. The "Best Legislator Award" will honor members who demonstrate exceptional performance in the Assembly.

The announcement was made by Speaker Gaddam Prasad Kumar during the Legislator Orientation training program held at the MCHRD Institute on Wednesday, December 11. The program was inaugurated by Prasad Kumar alongside Legislative Council Chairman Gutha Sukender Reddy, Deputy Chairman Prakash, and Minister for Legislative Affairs Sridhar Babu.

The two-day orientation is designed to enhance the understanding of legislative affairs among MLAs and MLCs, enabling them to engage more effectively in debates and discussions within the Assembly. Prasad Kumar stressed that a thorough understanding of legislative processes is essential for lawmakers to contribute meaningfully.

Sukender Reddy noted that such training sessions had not been held for MLAs and MLCs in the past decade. However, the event faced a controversy as BRS MLAs and MLCs boycotted the program, accusing the Speaker of bias.

Despite this, the event saw strong participation, including TPCC Chief Mahesh Goud, several ministers, and 65 other legislators.

Issues Related to the People Should Be Discussed in the Assembly

TPN Correspondent, Telangana: Minister Ponnam Prabhakar emphasized that issues related to the people should be the primary focus of discussions in the Telangana Legislative Assembly. Speaking after the conclusion of a two-day training program for public representatives at the Marri Chenna Reddy Human Resource Development Center in Hyderabad, he stressed that every member of the assembly should uphold the value of the House and engage in debates in a democratic manner.

The training program, organized by the Department of Legislative Affairs, aimed to equip the newly elected MLAs and MLCs of the third Telangana Legislative Assembly with the tools to effectively address people's concerns. Minister Ponnam Prabhakar further emphasized that the assembly should be used effectively to fulfill the government's responsibilities toward the people, ensuring that the platform remains dedicated to democratic values.

He assured that similar training programs would be conducted in the future to ensure that elected representatives are better prepared to serve the people.



Jagga Reddy Slams Party Leaders Over Lack of Consultation

TPN Correspondent, Hyderabad : Telangana Congress Working President Jagga Reddy voiced strong discontent against his party leaders, accusing them of sidelining loyal party workers and making decisions without proper consultation. His sharp criticism was directed at AICC Secretary Vishnu and Deepadas Munshi during a media interaction on Thursday. Jagga Reddy expressed frustration over the lack of communication within the party, particularly regarding decisions that prioritize new members over long-serving loyalists.

"Does no one care about those who worked tirelessly for the party to secure electoral victories?" he asked. He criticized Vishnu for allegedly neglecting his responsibilities in Telangana and



questioned if he had shifted his focus to another state. "Where is Vishnu, who claimed to oversee Medak district? Is he

still working here or has he moved elsewhere?" he quipped.

Similarly, he questioned Deepadas Munshi's engagement in Telangana, humorously asking whether he, too, had shifted focus to another state.

Jagga Reddy underscored the importance of recognizing and rewarding party workers who contributed significantly to the party's success in the elections. He protested against the alleged lack of consultation and demanded that decisions be made transparently and inclusively. His remarks reflect growing dissatisfaction within the Telangana Congress ranks, signaling potential internal rifts as the party navigates its organizational challenges.

BRS will Rename Congress-Named Institutions Once in Power: KTR

TPN Correspondent, Telangana : KT Rama Rao, the working president of Bharat Rashtra Samithi (BRS), has announced that the party will rename institutions, schemes, and organizations currently named after Congress leaders such as Indira Gandhi and Rajiv Gandhi if it returns to power in Telangana. KTR criticized the Congress government for what he termed as "attention diversion politics" aimed at hiding its failures. He accused the ruling party of pushing Telangana into a crisis due to its mismanagement and claimed that BRS would resist any attempts to undermine the state's rich culture and heritage.

In an open letter to Congress leader Rahul Gandhi, KTR pointed out that symbols of Telangana culture, including the Kakatiya Kala Thoranam and Charminar, had been removed from the state emblem under the Congress-led government. He also highlighted the controversial placement of Rajiv Gandhi's statue in a location where a statue of Telangana Thalli should have been erected. KTR asserted that while Congress was making such changes, the BRS government, over the past decade, focused on reconstructing Telangana without renaming major landmarks, such as the Rajiv Gandhi International Airport or removing statues of leaders like Indira Gandhi. He further urged Chief Minister A Revanth Reddy to apologize to the people of Telangana for the failures of his administration and to fulfill the promises made during the 2023 Assembly elections.

Cabinet Expansion May Happen by the End of This Month

TPN Correspondent, Telangana : Telangana Minister Ponguleti Srinivas Reddy stated that the cabinet expansion in the state is expected to occur by the 31st of this month. Speaking to the media today, he expressed his hope that KCR would assume his role as the Leader of the Opposition in the Telangana Legislative Assembly, emphasizing that he should bring insightful suggestions and advice, given his vast knowledge from having read 80,000 books.

The Minister also criticized the treatment of a farmer arrested in the Lagacharla case, stating

that it was inappropriate to place shackles on him while taking him to the hospital. He expressed concerns about continuing controversies, particularly around Adani, and reaffirmed that his government has returned the Rs. 100 crore related to the issue.

Regarding pending financial matters, Ponguleti Srinivas Reddy assured that the overdue bills for the hostels would be cleared by the end of this month. He also raised questions about the BRS's silence on the Bayyaram Steel Plant, urging the party to take a stand on the issue.

Ex-BRS Ministers Detained While En Route to Meet Food Poisoning Affected Tribal Students

TPN Correspondent, Vikarabad : Former Bharat Rashtra Samithi (BRS) ministers, P Sabitha Indra Reddy (Maheshwaram MLA) and Satvathi Rathod (MLC), were taken into preventive custody by Vikarabad police on December 12 while en route to meet students hospitalized due to food poisoning at a Tribal Welfare Girls Hostel in Saipur, Vikarabad district.

On December 10, about 15 students from the hostel fell ill after consuming dinner at the facility. They complained of stomach pain, vomiting, and uneasiness the following morning. The affected students were admitted to a hospital in Tandur. Sabitha Indra Reddy and Satvathi Rathod, both former ministers in the previous BRS government, were on their way to visit the affected students when police intervened, citing potential law and order issues. The leaders, along with party workers, staged a protest by sitting on the



road against the police's decision. Eventually, the police shifted them into a vehicle and took them back to Hyderabad.

This incident has raised questions about the handling of the situation by local authorities.

Raja Singh Reacts to Mohan Babu's Attack on Journalist

TPN Correspondent, Hyderabad : BJP Goshamahala MLA Raja Singh has commented on the recent controversy involving veteran actor Mohan Babu, who attacked a journalist at his residence in Jalpalli. The journalist, injured in the altercation, is currently undergoing treatment in a hospital, and an attempt-to-murder case has been filed against Mohan Babu.

Addressing the incident, Raja Singh noted that the altercation stemmed from family disputes and criticized the decision to make such issues public. He pointed out that the journalists were present at Mohan Babu's residence only because they were invited by his son, Manchu Manoj. Raja Singh stressed that it would be better for family disputes to remain private and not escalate into public controversies.

He warned that leaving the incident unresolved could aggravate the situation further. Raja Singh advised Mohan Babu to acknowledge the mistake, apologize for the attack, and consider visiting the injured journalist as a gesture of goodwill. He emphasized the power of the media, stating that it has the ability to build someone's reputation or bring it down, and urged Mohan Babu to act responsibly in handling the aftermath of the incident.



Telangana Statehood Wouldn't Have Been Possible Without Sushma Swaraj

TPN Correspondent, Telangana : Former MLC and senior BJP leader N Ramchander Rao asserted that the formation of Telangana would not have been possible without the support of former Union Minister Sushma Swaraj. Speaking at a public meeting at the Dr. BR Ambedkar statue in Seethaphalmandi, Rao highlighted Swaraj's crucial backing during the parliamentary approval of the Telangana statehood bill.

Rao criticized both the Congress and BRS for attempting to claim credit for the formation of Telangana. He accused the Congress of attrib-



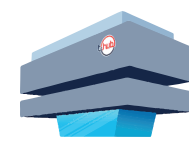
uting the state's creation to Sonia Gandhi and the BRS of crediting K Chandrashekhara Rao (KCR) for its formation.

He urged the public to give the BJP a chance in the upcoming elections, accusing the BRS and

Congress of deceiving the people of Telangana after multiple terms in power. The event, organized by BJP leaders and activists, was presided over by Mahakali district president Shyam-sundar Goud.

The meeting also saw protests from BJP workers against the Congress's six guarantees, labeling them as "66 frauds."

Prominent attendees included state general secretary Mekala Sarangapani, vice president Rachamalla Krishna Murthy, and various other local leaders.



“Alankrit Bharat Exhibition” Highlights India's Culture and Tradition



TPN Correspondent, Hyderabad : The “Alankrit Bharat Exhibition”, organized by Sri Aurobindo International School, was a grand celebration of India’s rich culture and traditions. The four-day event, held from December 12 to 15, showcased the creativity and dedication of the students, leaving visitors deeply impressed.

Each classroom represented a state of India, featuring its tourist attractions, famous personalities, and cultural heritage. The students’ vibrant presentations demonstrated their hard work and attention to detail, which resonated with visitors.

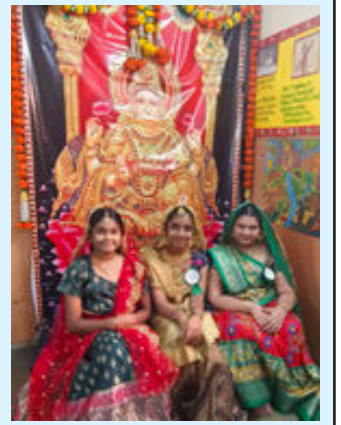
Parents lauded the event, with one saying, “It feels like a new way of education. The meticulous effort of the children to present the country’s history and culture is remarkable.”

Key highlights of the exhibition included:

- Accounts of the Indian freedom struggle.
- Showcasing the diversity of states’ traditions and tourist attractions.
- Biographies of freedom fighters and significant personalities.
- Representation of India’s cultural unity in diversity.

The event was a collaborative effort, with the school management and teachers supporting the students. This exhibition was a testament to the school’s Integral Education approach, emphasizing the importance of teaching culture and values alongside academics.

The success of the “Alankrit Bharat Exhibition” underscores Sri Aurobindo International School’s commitment to nurturing creativity while instilling a deep respect for India’s cultural heritage.



AIMIM MLA Visits Hyderabad School After Attack on Students



TPN Correspondent, Hyderabad: In the wake of an altercation at Sri Chaitanya High School, AIMIM Bahadurpura MLA, Mohd Mubeen visited the school on Thursday, December 12, to inquire about the incident involving Muslim students. He expressed concern over the safety of students and instructed the school management to take necessary measures to prevent such incidents in the future, emphasizing that the institution should be a safe space for children from all communities.

The school management responded by assuring the MLA that they would enhance security, including the installation of additional CCTV

cameras and the deployment of more security guards. The incident occurred on Tuesday, December 10, when a 13-year-old student observing ‘Ayyappa Deeksha’ was reportedly attacked by some Muslim students. The cause of the altercation remains unclear.

Tensions escalated the following day when several religious leaders, or swamyees, arrived at the school and allegedly forcibly removed the students involved in the fight, bringing them to the school office. The situation was brought under control after police intervention. As of now, no formal case has been registered regarding the incident.

DCA Seizes Overpriced Medicines During Raid in Kaghaznagar

TPN Correspondent, Telangana : The Drug Control Administration (DCA) conducted a raid at a medical store in Kaghaznagar, Komaram Bheem Asifabad district, and seized ITROCIDE-200 Capsules (Itraconazole Capsules 200 mg) after receiving a tip-off about a price violation. The Itraconazole Capsules, sold under the brand name ITROCIDE-200, are under the price control regulations set by the Drugs (Prices Control) Order 2013. The seized product had a Maximum Retail Price (MRP) of Rs. 330 for a pack of 10 capsules, which exceeds the government-prescribed price.

According to the National Pharmaceutical

Pricing Authority (NPPA), the ceiling price for Itraconazole Capsules 200 mg is Rs. 22.12 per capsule, meaning the total price for 10 capsules should be Rs. 221.2. Including 12% GST, the MRP should not exceed Rs. 247.74 for the pack. However, the medical store was found to be charging Rs. 83 more than the permissible price, violating the price control order.

The product, manufactured in Himachal Pradesh and marketed by Pharma Corporation Indore, was labeled with the batch number GC24004, and the excessive price constitutes a violation of the Drugs (Prices Control) Order 2013.

Mohan Babu Expresses Regret Over Attack on Journalist, Releases Audio Statement

TPN Correspondent, Hyderabad : Veteran Tollywood actor Manchu Mohan Babu has expressed regret for assaulting a journalist during a heated incident outside his residence. In an audio message released on Thursday, he clarified that his reaction stemmed from frustration when a microphone was abruptly thrust into his face, which he believed could have caused serious injury.

“What if I had lost my eye because of the mike? Then I would have had to file a case,” Mohan Babu said, addressing the incident.

Referring to the altercation as part of a family dispute, the actor defended his actions, stating that his son had forcibly entered his home with a group, making it difficult to identify who among them were journalists. “If I had beaten up someone outside my house, they could have filed cases against me. But this happened inside my home,” he argued.

The actor also criticized the media for allegedly sensationalizing the family feud, claiming it had disturbed his peace during a trying time.

Mohan Babu expressed remorse, particularly for the injury caused to the journalist. “I heard he sustained an injury on his face. I deeply regret



the incident and how it must have affected his family,” he said, adding that the altercation had occurred in a moment of stress.

Reiterating his respect for journalists and law enforcement, Mohan Babu highlighted his association with TV9 and shared that many students from his educational academy had gone on to become IAS and IPS officers.

The actor concluded by appealing for understanding, describing the incident as unfortunate and unintentional.

Police Commissioner Sudheer Babu Addresses Mohan Babu's Family Dispute

TPN Correspondent, Hyderabad : Rachakonda Police Commissioner Sudheer Babu clarified the police stance on the ongoing family dispute involving veteran actor Mohan Babu and his sons. Speaking to the media, he stated that while the conflict is a personal matter, the disturbances caused by the incidents at Mohan Babu’s residence in Jalpalli have necessitated police intervention. Three cases have been registered so far in connection with the dispute, and notices have been issued to Mohan Babu and his sons, Vishnu and Manoj, for creating public disorder.

Sudheer Babu emphasized that private individuals are no longer allowed near Mohan Babu’s residence to prevent further disturbances. The Pahad Shareef Police have been instructed to monitor the area every two hours to ensure law and order is maintained. He reiterated that it is essential for such personal issues to be resolved

without affecting public peace.

The Commissioner revealed that Manchu Manoj has complied with the notice issued to him and has been placed under a bind-over order for one year to ensure he does not engage in disruptive behavior. Meanwhile, Manchu Vishnu requested additional time to respond to the bind-over notice, which has been granted until December 24. Additionally, Mohan Babu’s manager was arrested based on a complaint filed by Manoj, further complicating the matter.

Sudheer Babu called for an amicable resolution to the family dispute, emphasizing the importance of not causing inconvenience to the public. He assured that the police are taking all necessary measures to maintain peace and public order in the area.



CM Revanth Reddy Meets Union Minister Kishan Reddy in Delhi



TPN Correspondent, Delhi : Telangana Chief Minister Revanth Reddy, currently on an official visit to Delhi, met with Union Minister Kishan Reddy to discuss funds due to Telangana and various development projects. The meeting is part of the CM's series of engagements with Union Ministers during his visit.

Revanth Reddy presented Kishan Reddy with a bouquet of flowers and a shawl, with Kishan Reddy reciprocating the gesture. The two leaders held discussions on several key issues related to Telangana's development.

The Chief Minister was accompanied by Congress MPs, who also participated in the meeting.

Following his meeting with Kishan Reddy, the CM met Union Education Minister Dharmendra Pradhan and Union Road Transport and Highways Minister Nitin Gadkari, continuing his efforts to secure central support for Telangana's development projects.

Telangana Govt Should Urge Centre to Set Up Bayyaram Steel Plant

TPN Correspondent, Telangana : Bharat Rashtra Samithi (BRS) MLC K Kavitha on Thursday, December 12, called on the Telangana government to pressurize the Centre for the establishment of the Bayyaram steel plant. She emphasized that the plant is not only Telangana's right but also a critical step towards generating employment in the state.

Kavitha recalled that in 2013, BRS chief K Chandrashekhar Rao had written a letter to then-Prime Minister Manmohan Singh requesting the plant's establishment. The MLC further claimed that Telangana has 300 million tons of iron ore reserves spread over 100,000 acres, making it an ideal location for the plant. She as-



serted that the State Reorganisation Act specifically mentions the plant's establishment in Telangana, regardless of which party holds power at the Centre. The BRS MLC also took a dig at

BJP MPs from Telangana, including Union Minister Kishan Reddy, accusing them of failing to raise key issues regarding the state's development in Parliament. Kavitha noted that while KCR had pressured the Centre for the plant, the BJP had made excuses regarding the quality of iron ore, claiming it wasn't suitable for the steel industry.

Kavitha reiterated that the Telangana government had even planned to source 100 million tons of iron ore from Chhattisgarh to facilitate the Bayyaram project. She also criticized Telangana Information Minister Ponguleti Srinivas, who had once raised the issue in Parliament as an MP but has remained silent since.

Teacher Beats Student, Breaking Her Hand

TPN Correspondent, Nizamabad : A disturbing incident occurred at Dubba Government School in Nizamabad, where a tenth-grade student, Aswitha, was allegedly beaten by her teacher, resulting in a broken arm. The incident came to light later when Aswitha, who had left school an hour earlier, was attacked by the teacher the following morning.



According to reports, the teacher's anger led to the violent assault, which left the student injured. Aswitha's parents were enraged upon learning about the attack and subsequently protested at the school. The parents filed a police complaint against the female teacher responsible for the assault, demanding strict action. Authorities have yet to confirm further details about the investigation. The incident has sparked outrage, raising concerns about the safety of students in schools.

Vikarabad District Collector Faces Protest During Hostel Visit



TPN Correspondent, Vikarabad : Vikarabad District Collector Praateek Jain faced protests during his visit to a girls' hostel in Tandoor on Thursday. The visit was aimed at inspecting the medical treatment provided BRS leaders and activists gathered at the hostel, raising slogans against the government and expressing dissatisfaction with the handling of the incident. They demanded that the affected girls be shifted to a hospital for proper treat-

ment, criticizing the authorities for inadequate healthcare measures at the hostel.

The situation highlighted growing concerns over the welfare and safety of students in hostels, with political groups calling for stricter accountability and better healthcare facilities. Further updates are awaited as officials investigate the cause of the illness and address the protesters' demands.

Chhattisgarh Witnesses Another Gunbattle: 12 Maoists Killed

TPN Correspondent, Chhattisgarh : In a major blow to Naxalite forces, 12 Maoists were killed in an intense gunbattle with security forces in Chhattisgarh. The encounter took place early today in the Abujhmad forest region of Narayanpur district, as part of an ongoing anti-Naxal operation.

The operation, which covers multiple districts including Narayanpur, Dantewada, Jagdalpur, and Kondagaon, intensified around 3 a.m. when security forces encountered a group of Maoists. The ensuing exchange of gunfire resulted in the deaths of 12 Maoists, according to official sources. The authorities confirmed that the operation is still underway, with security forces maintaining vigilance in the region to neutralize any further threats. The continued efforts are aimed at weakening the Naxalite influence in the region, with similar combing operations ongoing in other affected areas.



HC Issues Notices to Collectors of Four Districts Over Farmer Suicide Compensation



TPN Correspondent, Hyderabad : The Telangana High Court has issued notices to the collectors of Jangaon, Yadadri Bhuvanagiri, Jayashankar Bhupalapally, and Adilabad districts, questioning the non-payment of compensation to the families of farmers who committed suicide. This comes in response to a public interest litigation (PIL) filed last year, in which the state government had assured the court that compensation would be provided within four months.

However, the petition, filed by a person named Kondal Reddy, alleges that despite the government's promise, the compensation has not been paid even after a year. The High Court has now directed the district collectors to explain why this delay should not be considered contempt of court.

The case highlights concerns over the government's commitment to the welfare of distressed farming families, particularly those who have suffered due to the tragic suicides of farmers.

Minister Konda Surekha Seeks New Date in Nagarjuna Defamation Case



TPN Correspondent, Hyderabad : Telangana Minister Konda Surekha has requested a postponement in the defamation case filed against her by actor Nagarjuna Akkineni, citing official commitments as the reason for her absence in court.

During the scheduled hearing, Surekha's legal representative informed the court of her inability to attend due to official duties. They requested a new date, assuring compliance with the court's directive.

The case, filed in the Nampally Court, revolves around remarks Surekha allegedly made about Nagarjuna, prompting the actor to seek legal recourse. The court had earlier summoned the minister to appear in person.

The Nampally Court granted the request and rescheduled the hearing for December 19, allowing the minister more time to fulfill her legal obligations. This case has drawn significant public attention, with many awaiting further developments in the matter.

Minister Seethakka Orders Strict Action Against Contractors Supplying Substandard Goods



TPN Correspondent, Hyderabad : Minister for Women and Child Welfare, Satyavathi Seethakka, expressed strong dissatisfaction over the substandard food items being supplied to Anganwadi centers under the Balamrut scheme for children.

She emphasized that children's health and nutrition were paramount, and any compromise on the quality of food served to them would not be tolerated. Seethakka warned that action would be taken against both contractors and the cooperating officials who failed to ensure the proper quality of goods.

Angered by the quality defects, she ordered a strict inquiry and directed that notices be served to contractors responsible for supplying poor-quality food materials. The minister em-

phasized that such incidents do not recur and promised strict monitoring of the supply chain in the future.



Syria's Unexpected Collapse: A Parallel to Afghanistan's Fall

The sudden collapse of Syria's government has shocked the world, mirroring the events in Afghanistan where the Taliban quickly overtook Kabul in 2021. In Syria, rebel groups backed by Turkey, many with past ties to militant organizations, launched a surprise offensive from northwestern Syria and took control of Damascus. President Bashar al-Assad fled the country, and his regime crumbled without resistance. The Syrian Prime Minister handed power to the rebels, marking the end of over five decades of Assad rule.

Syria's descent is all the more striking due to the country's history as a progressive Arab nation. Under Assad, Syria had achieved 100% literacy, offered equal rights to women, and maintained secular governance despite

its alliance with Iran. It was also a key player in the Palestinian cause and staunchly opposed peace with Israel, especially over the Golan Heights. Despite the human cost of the civil war that began in 2011, Syria had been a bulwark against Sunni extremism, making the sudden collapse even more bewildering.

Various factors contributed to Syria's downfall, including the weakening of the military due to years of war, economic sanctions, and lack of reform. While Russia and Iran had initially provided military support, their resources were stretched thin, and they could not prevent the final collapse. Iran's warning in June about a rebel offensive went ignored, as Assad's trust shifted toward Arab partners, leading to a disastrous

political miscalculation. The situation raises concerns about Syria becoming a new Afghanistan. The main rebel faction, HTS, once linked to al-Qaeda, has taken control of Damascus. Though some suggest the group has moderated, it remains unclear whether these changes are genuine. With power vacuums in the country, international forces like Israel and Turkey may strengthen their positions, while the possibility of Kurdish independence or a resurgence of terrorist groups looms.

Ultimately, Syria's future depends on its resilient population. The sacrifices of its people, who have endured immense hardship, are the last hope for preventing Syria from becoming a breeding ground for extremism once again.



Bridging India's Healthcare Divide with Refurbished Medical Devices

India, renowned for its advanced medical technology and world-class hospitals, still grapples with significant healthcare disparities, especially in rural areas. While rural regions make up 70% of the population and contribute 46% of the national income, their healthcare infrastructure remains inadequate. The doctor-to-patient ratio in rural India is a staggering 1:25,000, far from the World Health Organization's recommended 1:1,000. As a result, 63% of rural patients are forced to travel out of their states for major treatments, according to studies by Transform Rural India and Sambodhi Research.

A potential solution to this crisis lies in the adoption of refurbished medical devices. These cost-effective alternatives to new equipment can help make advanced healthcare technologies accessible in underserved regions. The Indian medical device market, valued at over USD 11 billion, continues to grow, but high costs for essential equipment like MRI machines and CT scanners remain a significant barrier. Refurbished devices, offering savings of 30-70%, can help bridge this gap, enabling rural healthcare facilities to provide essential diagnostics and invest in infrastructure and workforce training.

By incorporating refurbished devices, rural clinics can offer critical services such as X-rays, ECGs, and ultrasounds, which are often unavailable in these areas. This strategy also aligns with India's push toward a circular economy and sustainable practices. Refurbishing medical devices reduces e-waste and supports environmental goals, as outlined in Prime Minister Modi's LiFE (Lifestyle for Environment) Mission. Quality and safety concerns regarding refurbished devices are addressed through strict reconditioning processes, ensuring compliance with international standards like those set by the WHO and NEMA. This ensures that refurbished equipment is reliable and meets safety benchmarks, gaining trust from healthcare providers and patients alike. Adopting refurbished devices not only enhances access to healthcare but also promotes local entrepreneurship and green jobs, reducing dependence on costly new imports. This approach supports the Atmanirbhar Bharat initiative, strengthening India's healthcare ecosystem and driving the nation closer to its vision of universal healthcare access by 2047.

The Importance of Narrative Sovereignty for Nations



Narrative sovereignty refers to a nation's ability to control its own narrative on the global stage. This is a crucial yet often neglected aspect of sovereignty. Historically, colonial powers manipulated narratives to justify exploitation by portraying colonized nations as uncivilized and unfit for self-rule. Today, international organizations, global media, and foreign governments continue to shape narratives that misrepresent countries like India. This pattern, rooted in Edward Said's concept of "Orientalism", perpetuates biases that align with geopolitical and economic interests.

Studies on global media coverage show that over 70% of articles from leading Western outlets portray developing countries negatively, emphasizing issues like conflict, corruption, and poverty. This misrepresentation affects international perceptions, with countries labeled unstable or corrupt often receiving 20-25% less foreign direct investment than their peers, regardless of actual performance. Such skewed narratives also impact sov-

ereign ratings and global standing. For nations, narrative sovereignty is essential to maintain their autonomy and legitimacy. It allows them to define their identity and shape their aspirations in a way that reflects the will of their people, rather than external actors. Hannah Arendt's view on power as relational highlights that controlling the narrative is central to a nation's influence. When foreign entities dominate this space, they erode domestic trust, destabilize public opinion, and shape policy discourse.

In the digital age, these challenges are amplified as information flows rapidly through digital platforms, often dominated by sensational or polarizing content. Algorithms on social media platforms, designed to maximize engagement, often prioritize provocative narratives that serve elite interests, distorting public perception. This asymmetry allows foreign actors to influence national discourse with minimal resistance, effectively "capturing" the national narrative for their own purposes.



South Korea's Martial Law: A Reflection of Political Turmoil and Civil-Military Tensions

On December 3, South Korean President Yoon Suk Yeol declared martial law for the first time since the country transitioned to a liberal democracy in 1987. This unprecedented move highlighted deep-seated institutional flaws, particularly the consolidation of political power in the hands of the president. It also exposed the fragility of civil-military relations, evoking painful memories of the military dictatorship that dominated South Korea from 1961 to 1987.

The declaration of martial law set off a political crisis. Former Defense Minister Kim Yong-Hyun was charged with treason for his involvement, sparking further debates on the military's role in this political decision. The military's

apparent alignment with the conservative faction of the government raised concerns about its partisan involvement in a politically motivated action. This raised questions about the independence and neutrality of the military in South Korea's democratic framework.

Following the lifting of martial law, the opposition Democratic Party launched an investigation into the reasoning behind the declaration, which had sent shock waves through the country's citizens and businesses. Lawmakers interrogated senior military and police officials who were linked to the episode to determine their role in the events. The investigation uncovered alarming revelations, such as testimony from

Lt. Gen. Kwak Yong-geun, head of the Army Warfare Special Command, who revealed during a National Assembly hearing that the president had ordered special forces to prevent opposition lawmakers from entering the National Assembly. This action, which blocked their constitutional rights, pointed to a clear political motive behind the martial law declaration.

This political crisis has deepened divisions in South Korea, casting doubt on the integrity of its democratic institutions. As the investigation continues, questions about the balance of power between the executive, military, and other branches of government remain at the forefront of South Korea's political discourse.

Will Take Maharashtra To Next Level Of Development: Fadnavis meets PM Modi

TPN CORRESPONDENT NEW DELHI
DECEMBER.13

Maharashtra Chief Minister Devendra Fadnavis met Prime Minister Narendra Modi on Thursday to discuss key issues related to the state, including the upcoming cabinet expansion. Fadnavis, who assumed office on December 5, made his first visit to Delhi to have a one-on-one with Modi regarding the formation of the state cabinet.

In a post on X (formerly Twitter), Fadnavis expressed gratitude for the Prime Minister's support over the past decade, noting that under Modi's leadership, Maharashtra has emerged as a leader in multiple sectors. He emphasized that the state now aims to elevate its growth trajectory further under the guidance of the Prime Minister. "In the last 10 years, with your support, Maharashtra is number one in almost every sector, and now aims to take this journey of development to the next level," Fadnavis said.

Meanwhile, the Maharashtra Cabinet expansion is expected to take place on Saturday, with the Bharatiya Janata Party (BJP) likely to hold over 20 of the 43 available Cabinet positions. The BJP is expected to distribute the remaining berths among its allies,



including the Shiv Sena and Nationalist Congress Party (NCP).

The BJP had previously informed its allies, including Sena and NCP, that the Home Ministry would remain with the Chief Minister, in line with the party's long-standing strategy in the state. Fadnavis' meeting with Modi comes as the political landscape in Maharashtra shifts with the cabinet reshuffle, which is closely watched as it may

define the future power dynamics within the coalition government.

Interestingly, Maharashtra Deputy Chief Minister Eknath Shinde, also from the Shiv Sena, did not accompany Fadnavis for the meeting, fueling speculation about intra-party differences as the cabinet expansion looms. The developments signal an ongoing power struggle within the ruling coalition as alliances continue to evolve in the state.



Jaishankar Assures CM Stalin on Efforts for Release of Detained Fishermen

TPN CORRESPONDENT CHENNAI
DECEMBER.13

Union External Affairs Minister S. Jaishankar has assured Tamil Nadu Chief Minister MK Stalin that his ministry will continue to make all necessary efforts to secure the early release and repatriation of 14 Indian fishermen detained by Pakistan. This assurance came in response to a letter from Stalin dated November 20, 2024, concerning the detention of these fishermen by Pakistani authorities on January 3, 2024.

The 14 fishermen, including seven from Tamil Nadu, were apprehended by the Pakistan Navy. Jaishankar highlighted in his response that the Indian High Commission in Islamabad had been actively seeking consular access for the fishermen. He urged Pakistan to ensure the safety and well-being of the detained individuals until their repatriation.

"The High Commission will continue to follow up on the matter and make all necessary efforts for their early release and repatriation," Jaishankar emphasized in his letter. He also mentioned that the Central government is fully aware of the situation and that consular access had been requested, but not yet granted.

The detained fishermen had set out from Porbandar, Gujarat, for a fishing expedition when they were captured by the Pakistan Navy along with their two mechanised fishing boats, Shri Vraj Bhumi and Mandeep. CM Stalin had raised concerns regarding the prolonged detention and the humanitarian impact on the fishermen. In his letter, he requested Jaishankar to take effective diplomatic action to ensure the immediate release of the fishermen.

The issue of Indian fishermen being detained by foreign navies has been a recurring problem. In recent months, Tamil Nadu fishermen have also faced arrests by the Sri Lankan Navy, with over 400 fishermen detained and dozens of boats seized since June 2024. These arrests have sparked protests in Tamil Nadu's coastal districts, calling for swift action by the Indian government to address the ongoing issue.

During a recent visit to Sri Lanka, EAM Jaishankar raised the issue with the Sri Lankan government, urging measures to prevent further detentions and boat seizures. However, the situation remains a challenge for both the Indian government and the fishing community.



Mayawati, Akhilesh Yadav Criticize Parbhani Incident, Call for Strict Action

TPN CORRESPONDENT LUCKNOW
DECEMBER.13

Bahujan Samaj Party (BSP) president Mayawati strongly condemned the recent damage to a replica of the Constitution near the statue of Dr. B R Ambedkar in Parbhani, Maharashtra, and called for calm amidst rising tensions. The replica, located outside the Parbhani railway station, was discovered damaged on Tuesday, sparking protests in the region. "The disrespect shown to the statue of Bharat Ratna Dr. Babasaheb Ambedkar and the Constitution is highly condemnable and shameful. The party is deeply saddened and concerned by this incident," Mayawati stated. She further urged the Maharashtra state government to take immediate and stringent legal action against the individuals responsible for the act, which she described as casteist and anti-social in nature. "If no action is taken, the situation could escalate further," she warned, appealing to the public to maintain peace and order.

The incident led to unrest in Parbhani, with Ambedkarite activists calling for a bandh on Wednesday. The protests turned violent as a mob engaged in arson, damaging shops, vehicles, and even the district collector's office.

Former Uttar Pradesh Chief Minister and Samajwadi Party (SP) president Akhilesh Yadav also criticized the Maharashtra government's handling of the situation, pointing fingers at the BJP-led coalition. He demanded a thorough investigation into the incident, questioning the authorities on who gave the orders to damage the Constitution replica.

I Try To Hide My Face In Meetings Abroad: Gadkari On Road Accidents

TPN CORRESPONDENT NEW DELHI
DECEMBER.13

Road Transport and Highways Minister Nitin Gadkari on Thursday expressed his concern over the increasing number of road accidents in India, admitting that the target set to reduce accidents by 50% when he first took office has not been met. Speaking during a discussion on road accidents in the Lok Sabha, Gadkari said, "When I go to international conferences on road accidents, I try to hide my face," underscoring his frustration with the situation.

The minister candidly acknowledged that, instead of a reduction, road accidents have continued to rise. "Forget about reducing accidents, I admit they have increased," Gadkari stated, adding that the issue is not only about improving infrastructure but also about changing human behavior and societal attitudes. He emphasized that for road safety to improve, there needs to be a shift in how society views traffic laws, and individuals must respect the rule of law.

Drawing from his personal experience, Gadkari shared that he and his family had been involved in a major accident several years ago, which left him hospitalized for an extended period. "By the grace of God, my family and I were saved, and I understand the consequences of road accidents firsthand," he remarked.

Gadkari also identified truck parking on roads and the lack of lane discipline as key contributors to road accidents in India. He said that the absence of proper enforcement regarding these issues poses significant challenges to road safety.

To improve the safety standards of vehicles, Gadkari mentioned that he has ordered the implementation of international standards for bus body construction in India. As part of these measures, he stated that buses would now be equipped with hammers near windows, making it easier to break the glass in the event of an accident.

Permanent solution to Manipur crisis will take time due to fragile situation: CM Biren

TPN CORRESPONDENT MANIPUR
DECEMBER.13

Manipur Chief Minister N. Biren Singh expressed on Thursday that while both the central and state governments are working diligently to resolve the ongoing crisis in the state, achieving a permanent solution will take time due to the fragile nature of the situation. His remarks came during a program to commemorate Nupi Lan, which honors the significant role of Manipuri women in resisting British colonial rule.

Addressing the gathering, Singh acknowledged the challenges the state is facing, stating, "The state and central governments have been putting in all efforts to bring a permanent solution. However, bringing a solution would take time as the situation has become chronic and fragile." His comments reflect the ongoing struggle to restore peace and stability in the region, which has been grappling with communal tensions.

In relation to the Armed Forces Special Powers Act (AFSPA), which was recently re-imposed in six police station areas, Singh mentioned that the state government had formally requested the Centre to review and consider withdrawing the act from these areas. The CM emphasized the need for public cooperation in restoring peace and tranquility to Manipur, urging citizens to support the government's initiatives. The program also paid tribute to the role of women in the state's history, particularly during the Nupi Lan struggles of 1904 and 1939, when Manipuri women led revolts against British colonial injustices. Singh further highlighted the bravery of Manipuri women in various historical events, including their role in ousting the Burmese during the Seven Year Devastation period.

Cabinet Clears 'One Nation One Election' Bill In Big Step Towards Simultaneous Polls

TPN CORRESPONDENT NEW DELHI
DECEMBER.13

The Union Cabinet has approved crucial bills aimed at implementing the "One Nation, One Election" proposal, which envisions simultaneous elections for the Lok Sabha and state assemblies, and eventually municipal polls. These bills, expected to amend at least five Articles of the Constitution, will likely be introduced during the ongoing Winter Session of Parliament.

The bills were cleared during a meeting chaired by Prime Minister Narendra Modi. Among the significant amendments is a change to Article 82, which governs the state-wise allocation of Lok Sabha seats and the division of states into constituencies following each national census. Additionally, two bills will modify the tenure and dissolution process for the Lok Sabha and state legislative assemblies.

Another amendment will link the tenures of the Lok Sabha and state assemblies, ensuring that elections occur together. Furthermore, three laws will be amended to align the legislative assemblies of union territories, such as Delhi, Jammu and Kashmir, and Puducherry, with state assemblies



and the Lok Sabha. These amendments, however, will not require the ratification of at least 50% of states.

However, any proposal to include local body elections in the simultaneous process will require the approval of at least 50% of the states, as it pertains to matters of state jurisdiction. Legal experts have cautioned that not securing such approval could lead to challenges over India's federal structure.

The move follows the recommendation of the Kovind Panel, which was tasked with creating a framework for "One Nation, One Election." The panel, led by former President Ram Nath Kovind, has garnered support from 32 political parties and several judicial figures. It claims that simultaneous elections would simplify the electoral process, reduce costs, and foster economic growth by creating a stable policy environment.



Malaysia PM Launches National AI Office to Foster Development and Regulation

KUALA LUMPUR: Malaysia has officially launched a national artificial intelligence (AI) office, marking a significant step in the country's digital transformation and its goal to become a regional hub for AI development. The office will focus on shaping policies, addressing regulatory challenges, and ensuring strategic planning for the AI sector. This initiative comes as Malaysia has attracted billions of dollars in investments from global tech giants seeking to build critical infrastructure for cloud and AI services in the region.

Prime Minister Anwar Ibrahim, who unveiled the office on Thursday, described the event as a "historical moment" in Malaysia's digital journey. The new AI office will serve as a centralized agency responsible for overseeing AI development, research, and regulation. Among its key functions, it will focus on developing a comprehensive AI regulatory framework, creating a code of ethics, and formulating a five-year action plan for AI technology development that extends through to 2030.

In its first year, the office aims to achieve several critical deliverables, including the establishment of AI governance standards and policies to ensure ethical and responsible development of AI technologies in the country. The office will also prioritize fostering innovation in AI, working closely with industry leaders, academic institutions, and regulatory bodies to create a conducive environment for AI breakthroughs.

Additionally, Malaysia announced strategic partnerships with major global companies such as Amazon, Google, and Microsoft, all of which have pledged investments in data centers, cloud computing, and AI projects within the country. These collaborations underscore Malaysia's growing position as a key player in the digital economy, with international firms seeing the nation as a vital location for expanding AI and cloud infrastructure to meet the increasing demand in Southeast Asia.

With these efforts, Malaysia is positioning itself to lead AI development in the region while ensuring that the benefits of these technologies are aligned with ethical guidelines and sustainable growth.



South Korea's President Yoon Defends Martial Law Decree, Vows To Fight "Till The End"

SEOUL: South Korean President Yoon Suk Yeol has defended his controversial decision to declare martial law last week, describing it as a necessary action to protect democracy. In a televised address on Thursday, Yoon lashed out at his political opponents, labeling them as "anti-state forces" and justifying his temporary suspension of civilian rule as essential for investigating the National Election Commission (NEC), which he claimed had been hacked by North Korea. Yoon emphasized that the martial law declaration was made to prevent "criminal groups" from undermining the government and disrupting state affairs. He argued that the refusal of the NEC to cooperate in an investigation into the 2024 election's integrity was a major factor in his decision to declare emergency rule. The NEC's alleged lack of cooperation following the hacking incident, which Yoon attributed to North Korea, raised questions about the legitimacy of the upcoming April elections.

The President's comments come amid growing political turmoil. His ruling party, the People Power Party (PPP), suffered a significant defeat in the April election, leading to the Democratic Party gaining overwhelming control of the National Assembly. This shift in power has fueled Yoon's accusations that the legislature has become a threat to South Korea's democratic order. Despite facing mounting pressure, including a criminal investigation for insurrection and a second impeachment vote scheduled for Saturday, Yoon vowed to fight against the opposition's attempts to remove him from office. In his address, Yoon expressed regret for causing anxiety among the public but insisted that his actions were driven by a deep commitment to the people. Meanwhile, the investigation into his declaration of martial law has intensified. Police attempted to raid the President's office, and several key figures, including former Defence Minister Kim Yong-hyun, have been arrested as part of the ongoing probe into the emergency decree.

Israel Destroys 80% Of Syrian Strategic Military Assets After Assad's Ouster



DAMASCUS: Following the abrupt ouster of Syrian President Bashar al-Assad after 24 years in power, Israel has launched an extensive military campaign targeting Syria's strategic military infrastructure. In the wake of Assad's removal on Sunday, the Israeli Defense Forces (IDF) have conducted more than 400 airstrikes over a span of 48 hours, successfully destroying an estimated 70-80% of Syria's critical military assets.

According to the Israeli military, the strikes focused on key "strategic weapons stockpiles" across Syria, aiming to prevent these resources from falling into the hands of insurgent and terrorist groups. Israel's operations were carried out in several Syrian cities, including

the capital, Damascus, and other strategic locations.

The Israeli strikes targeted a range of military assets, including naval vessels and anti-aircraft systems. Among the high-value targets were 15 naval ships stationed at Syria's Al-Bayda and Latakia ports, which Israel claims were capable of launching sea-to-sea missiles with ranges between 80-190 kilometers. These missiles, which Israel deemed a serious threat to both civilian and military maritime vessels, were destroyed in the strikes.

Additionally, the attacks hit weapons production sites and anti-aircraft batteries, further crippling Syria's defense capabilities. The of-

fensive occurred in the buffer zone east of the Israeli-annexed Golan Heights, where Israeli troops have also been stationed to secure the region. The strikes are seen as part of Israel's broader strategy to weaken Syria's military power and prevent hostile forces from gaining access to advanced weaponry.

Israel has long been concerned about the potential for Syria to become a launchpad for attacks against Israeli territory, particularly with Iran-backed groups operating in the region. The destruction of Syria's military assets is viewed as a significant blow to those forces and a demonstration of Israel's readiness to act decisively to protect its security interests.

Khamenei Accuses U.S. and Israel of Orchestrating Assad's Downfall in Syria



DAMASCUS: Iran's Supreme Leader Ayatollah Ali Khamenei has accused the United States and Israel of masterminding the fall of Syria's former president, Bashar al-Assad, and pushing Iran out of the country. In his first public comments since a crucial component of Iran's "axis of resistance" was weakened, Khamenei claimed that the collapse was part of a joint plan orchestrated by the U.S. and Israel.

Speaking in Tehran, Khamenei emphasized, "There should be no doubt that what happened in Syria is the result of a joint American and Zionist scheme. While a neighboring government in Syria has played a role in this, the main conspirators, the masterminds, and the command center are in America and the Zionist regime."

This statement reflects Iran's frustration and growing concern over its diminishing influence in Syria. Khamenei's comments highlight the broader geopolitical struggle, with the U.S. and Israel working to undermine Iran's alliances in the region, particularly its relationship with Assad's regime. Syria has been a battleground for competing regional and global powers since the outbreak of the civil war in 2011, with Iran backing Assad's government while the U.S. and Israel have supported rebel forces and sought to limit Iran's military presence in the country. Khamenei's remarks suggest that Tehran views the loss of Assad's influence and the weakening of its position in Syria as a strategic setback.

Khamenei's criticism of the U.S. and Israel underscores Iran's broader regional ambitions and its long-standing adversarial relationship with both countries. The collapse of Assad's hold on key parts of Syria represents a significant shift in the balance of power in the region, and Iran's leadership appears determined to challenge what it sees as foreign interference in the sovereignty of Syria and its own regional interests.

Trump Invites Xi Jinping To Inauguration After His 'Tariff' Threat Towards China



WASHINGTON DC: US President-elect Donald Trump has extended an invitation to Chinese President Xi Jinping to attend his inauguration on January 20, 2025, despite Trump's tough stance on China. The invitation, made in early November after Trump's election victory, marks an unprecedented move, as foreign leaders have not traditionally attended US presidential inaugurations. Official records indicate that no foreign leader has ever participated in a US transfer-of-power ceremony, which has generally been limited to diplomats and ambassadors.

While it remains unclear whether Xi will attend, the invitation signifies a bold diplomatic gesture by the incoming US president. Trump's team has suggested that other global leaders may also be invited to the swearing-in ceremony at the Capitol, with inauguration officials currently making plans. "World leaders are lining up to meet with President Trump because they know he will soon return to power and restore peace through American strength around the globe," said Karoline Leavitt, a spokesperson for Trump's transition team.

Hungarian Prime Minister Viktor Orban, a far-right leader with close ties to Trump, is also reportedly considering attending the event, having recently visited Trump at his Mar-a-Lago estate.

Despite this invitation, US-China relations remain fraught, with Trump previously threatening to impose tariffs of up to 100% on BRICS countries, including China, if they create a rival currency to the US dollar. His administration has also set a January 19 deadline for TikTok's Chinese parent company, ByteDance, to sell the app or face a ban in the US. These moves are part of Trump's broader approach to counter China's growing influence on the global stage.

Trump's approach to foreign policy has long been focused on cultivating strong relationships with world leaders, which he views as key to securing international deals. In a recent interview, Trump revealed that he and Xi "got along very well," signaling the potential for a complex but cooperative relationship between the two leaders moving forward.



Markets Slip Amid Broad-Based Selling

Sensex Drops 236 Points, Nifty Holds Above 24,500

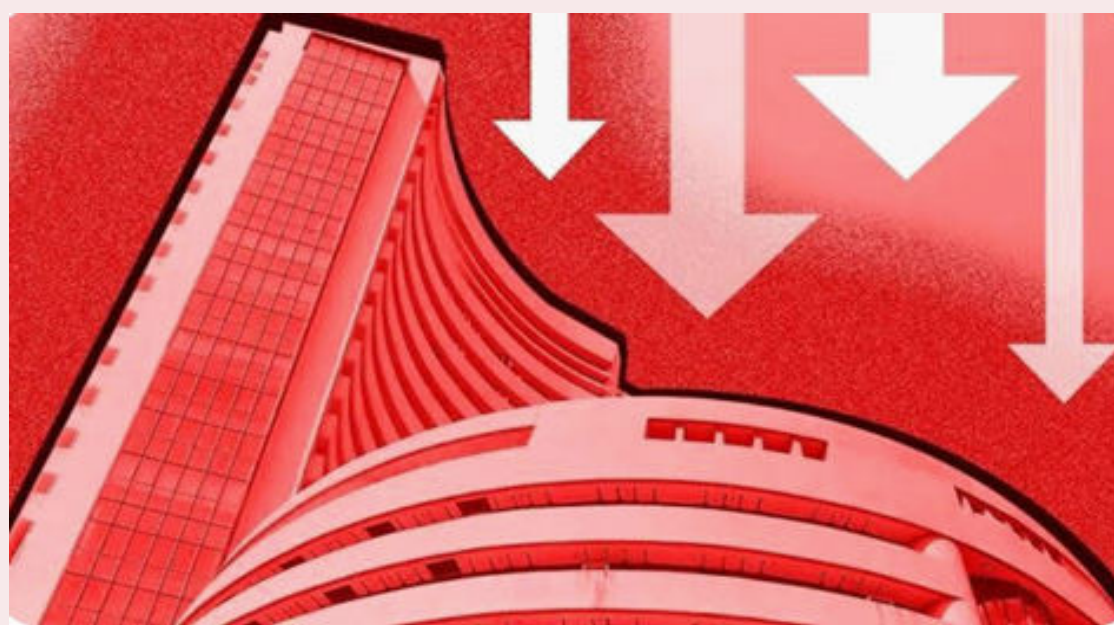
Domestic stock markets fell on Thursday. Although it initially moved in a range-bound manner, it fell into losses as time passed. Despite an attempt to recover in the afternoon, it fell due to selling in heavy-weights. The Nifty, which fell by 93 points, ended above 24,500, which is a good sign. The highest buildup in the weekly derivatives ending on December 19 is at 23000 call and 26000 put. The index is sure to move between these two points until a decisive move is made. Today, all sectoral shares, except IT and metal, were hit by a selling wave.

The BSE Sensex, which closed at 81,526 in the previous session, opened at 81,476 today. It touched an intraday low at 81,211. It reached an intraday high at 81,680. It ended down 236 points at 81,289. The NSE Nifty, which opened at 24,604 on Thursday, touched a low of 24,527 and a high of 24,675. It closed down 93 points at 24,548. The Bank Nifty fell 174 points to settle at 53,216.

Of the Nifty50, 14 companies gained while 35 lost. Adani Enterprises, Bharti Airtel, IndusInd Bank, Tech Mahindra and Adani Ports were the top gainers. NTPC, Hindustan Unilever, Coal India, Hero Moto and BFL lost the most. Buying was seen only in the IT and metal sectors today. Selling pressure was on shares of media, FMCG, PSE, CPSE, auto, PSU bank, energy, infra and tourism sectors.

The breadth of the NSE turned in favor of sellers. Of the 2893 stocks traded, 1914 lost. Only 906 gained. Shares of 101 companies reached 52-week highs while 19 touched 52-week lows.

The rupee weakened by 2 paise to settle at 84.86 against the dollar. Shakti Pumps received an order worth Rs 754 crore. 10 lakh shares changed hands in Power Grid. Green energy and power sector shares performed strongly today. Almost all shares rose by 7% with the start of Adani's new green project in Rajasthan. By the evening of the second day, MobiKwik IPO received a response of 15.58 times. Vishal Megamart was subscribed 1.15 times. Antique gave a sell rating to Rally India. Sai Life Sciences IPO received a response of 1.03 times on the second day. Muthoot Finance shares reached a record high. 17 lakh shares changed hands in a block deal in Bharti Airtel. 16 lakh shares changed hands in ITC. Anand Rathi maintained a buy rating on CEAT with a target price of Rs. 3800. Hitachi India shares rose for the fifth consecutive day. RVNL received LOA for a project worth Rs. 110 crore in Southern Railway. 40 lakh shares changed hands in Reliance Industries. Motilal Oswal has given a buy rating to ICICI Bank with a target price of



Rs 1550. SEBI has issued an administrative warning letter to HDFC Bank. Grasim Industries will issue non-convertible debentures worth Rs 2000 crore.

1. Bharti Airtel Limited (BHARTIARTL)

Bharti Airtel is a leading global telecommunications company with operations in 18 countries across Asia and Africa. It offers services such as mobile voice and data, broadband, and digital TV. Net profit more than doubled to ₹35.93 billion, driven by the first tariff hike in over two years, which increased the average revenue per user (ARPU) by 10% to ₹233. The company is expected to continue raising mobile plan prices in the coming years to enhance profitability. Strong market position, increasing ARPU, and strategic tariff hikes. Potential customer churn due to price increases and competitive pressures.



2. Tech Mahindra Limited (TECHM)

Tech Mahindra provides IT services and solutions to various industries, including telecommunications, manufacturing, and financial services. The company has shown consistent revenue growth, supported by its diversified service offerings and global client base. Shares reached a 52-week high recently, indicating positive investor sentiment. Diversified portfolio, strong client relationships, and a focus on digital transformation services. Exposure to global economic conditions and currency fluctuations.



3. ICICI Lombard General Insurance Company Limited (ICICIGI)

ICICI Lombard is one of India's leading private sector general insurance com-

panies, offering a wide range of insurance products, including motor, health, and travel insurance. The company has maintained steady growth in gross written premiums and profitability, supported by a diversified product portfolio. Shares have reached a 52-week high, reflecting strong market confidence. Robust distribution network, strong brand recognition, and a diversified product range. Regulatory changes and competition from both private and public sector insurers.



4. Torrent Power Limited (TORNTPOWER)

Torrent Power is involved in the generation, transmission, and distribution of electricity, serving customers in Gujarat, Maharashtra, and Uttar Pradesh. The company continues to expand its renewable energy portfolio, aligning with global sustainability trends. Integrated operations, strong financial performance, and a focus on renewable energy. Regulatory challenges and exposure to fluctuations in fuel prices.



5. Tata Steel Limited (TATA STEEL)

Tata Steel is one of the world's largest steel producers, with operations spanning India, Europe, and Southeast Asia. The company is focusing on cost optimization and increasing the share of high-value products to improve margins. Diversified operations and a strong domestic market presence. Cyclical nature of the steel industry and exposure to global economic conditions.



SEBI Launches Nationwide Survey to Boost Retail Participation and Risk Awareness



The Securities and Exchange Board of India (SEBI) is set to conduct a nationwide survey aimed at increasing retail participation in the capital markets, raising risk awareness, and addressing gaps within the market ecosystem. This initiative is part of SEBI's broader strategy to foster a more inclusive and informed investor base.

Ananth Narayan, a whole-time member of SEBI, highlighted the regulator's focus on expanding access to capital markets across India. The survey will provide valuable insights into investor behavior and the existing barriers to market participation, especially among retail investors. SEBI aims to bridge these gaps by improving investor education and ensuring that more people understand the risks and opportunities in the capital markets.

Narayan also noted that despite the volatility in global markets, Indian markets have remained relatively stable. This stability was evident during the outflow of foreign portfolio investments (FPIs) in October and November, which amounted to \$14 billion. However, domestic investors, including mutual funds, balanced this out by contributing an equivalent amount of capital, demonstrating the resilience of India's retail investment base.

He emphasized that while the growth of domestic investors is encouraging, complacency should be avoided. Narayan pointed out that India still needs foreign investment to maintain its status as an attractive global investment destination. Foreign capital plays a critical role in funding the country's economic growth, and efforts must be made to ensure that India remains appealing to international investors.

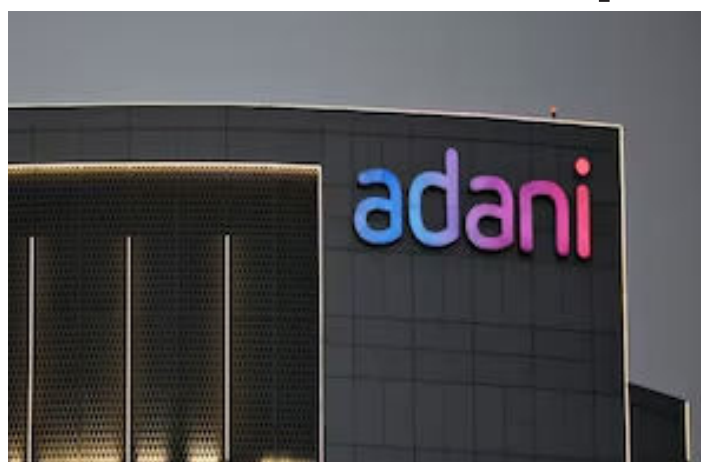
At the CII Global Economic Policy Forum 2024, Narayan reinforced the need for a balanced approach that encourages both domestic and foreign investment to support India's future growth and development. By empowering retail investors and improving market accessibility, SEBI hopes to build a stronger, more resilient capital market ecosystem in India.

Adani Group Stocks Surge, Adding Rs 27,000 Crore to Market Cap

Adani Group stocks saw a significant surge on December 12, with Adani Green Energy leading the charge. The rally in the shares of various group companies added nearly Rs 27,000 crore to investors' wealth, boosting the conglomerate's total market capitalization to approximately Rs 13.6 lakh crore.

Adani Green Energy, the flagship company of the group, posted an impressive 8.78% increase in its share price, reaching Rs 1,249 on the National Stock Exchange (NSE). This surge was fueled by the announcement that its subsidiary had successfully commissioned a 250 MW solar power project in Rajasthan. This move brought the company's total renewable energy capacity to 11,434 MW, marking a significant milestone in Adani Green's expansion and positioning it as a key player in the country's renewable energy sector.

Other companies in the Adani Group also benefited from the rally, with stocks such as Adani Power, Adani Transmission, and Adani Ports seeing notable gains. The upward movement in these stocks was a result of positive investor sentiment surrounding the group's overall growth prospects, particularly in the renewable energy and infrastructure sectors.



The sharp gains on December 12 reflect the confidence investors have in the long-term growth potential of the Adani Group, despite the challenges it faced earlier in the year. The company's focus on expanding its renewable energy capacity, along with its diversified portfolio in sectors like power, ports, and infrastructure, continues to draw investor interest.

As a result of the gains, the market capitalization of the Adani Group surged to Rs 13.6 lakh crore, cementing its position among the top conglomerates in India. The significant increase in value also highlighted the strong recovery of the group's stocks, which had faced volatility in recent months. With its focus on sustainable energy and infrastructure development, the Adani Group appears to be on track to further enhance its market position in the coming years.

India Needs \$2.2 Trillion in Infrastructure to Reach \$7 Trillion Economy by 2030

India's aspiration to become a \$7 trillion economy by 2030 hinges on a massive \$2.2 trillion investment in infrastructure, according to a new report by Knight Frank, a leading real estate consultancy. The report, titled 'India Infrastructure: Reviving Private Investments*', emphasizes the urgent need for this investment to maintain the country's projected compound annual growth rate (CAGR) of 10.1% between 2024 and 2030.

To achieve this ambitious economic target, the country must focus on a comprehensive overhaul and expansion of its infrastructure across sectors such as transportation, energy, and urban development. However, the report raises concerns over the diminishing role of private sector participation in funding infrastructure projects, which has seen a significant decline in recent years.

Between 2009 and 2013, private investments accounted for \$160 billion, or 46.4% of total infrastructure investments in India. However, this contribution has fallen sharply, with private sector investments plummeting to just \$39.2 billion,



or 7.2%, between 2019 and 2023. This steep decline has put increased pressure on both the central and state governments to meet the financing needs, thereby raising concerns about the sustainability of such investments, especially in a fiscal context where controlling deficits remains crucial for long-term economic stability.

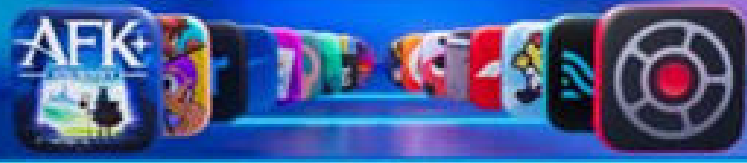
The report highlights that reviving private investment is critical for sustaining India's infrastructure growth.

It suggests that a robust policy framework and incentives for private players will be necessary to encourage greater participation and alleviate the financial burden on the public sector.

In addition to government efforts, the report calls for innovative financing models, including public-private partnerships (PPP), to bridge the investment gap and ensure the country's infrastructure can support its economic aspirations. Achieving these goals will be pivotal not only for economic growth but also for improving the quality of life and overall competitiveness of India on the global stage.



Apple Names Kino as iPhone App of the Year and Highlights Cultural Impact Winners



Apple has revealed its prestigious App Store Award winners for 2024, celebrating the year's top apps and games. In a press release issued on December 11, the tech giant named *Kino* as the iPhone App of the Year, a highly innovative app designed to help videographers unlock the full potential of their smartphone cameras. The app stood out for its exceptional user experience and design, making it a top choice for mobile filmmakers.

Alongside *Kino*, Apple also awarded *AFK Journey* as the iPhone Game of the Year. This game, praised for its engaging mechanics and immersive gameplay, impressed App Store Editors for its creativity and overall design. These awards, along with others across various categories, were selected from 45 finalists, showcasing the best apps and games available on the App Store in 2024.

Apple emphasized that these winners represent the pinnacle of innovation, user experience, and design, celebrating a diverse range of creators

from solo entrepreneurs to large teams. The company noted that the App Store Awards are a recognition of how apps have impacted users' lives, whether through productivity, creativity, entertainment, or innovation.

In addition to the main awards, Apple also highlighted six apps as cultural impact winners. These apps, chosen for their significant influence on society and culture, reflect the changing role of technology in daily life. While the names of these six apps were not disclosed in the press release, they are recognized for shaping trends and making a meaningful impact on their users.

The announcement of the 2024 App Store Award winners comes as Apple continues to support and celebrate the incredible talent within the global app developer community. The company's commitment to innovation is clear as it recognizes those who continue to push boundaries and create apps that make a real difference in the world.

Google unveils AI agent that can use websites on its own

Chatbots have come a long way in recent years, evolving from basic programs that answer simple questions to advanced systems capable of performing a wide range of tasks. Today, these AI-driven tools can answer inquiries, compose poems, and even generate images, showcasing their growing versatility. However, as technology continues to evolve, the capabilities of chatbots are expected to expand even further, enabling them to autonomously carry out complex tasks.

In the near future, chatbots could take on responsibilities beyond traditional conversational roles, such as managing online shopping or interacting with productivity tools like spreadsheets. Imagine a chatbot that could automatically research products, make purchasing decisions based on your preferences, and even compare prices across multiple websites—essentially acting as your personal shopping assistant. This would mark a significant shift from chatbots being reactive tools to becoming proactive agents, anticipating user needs and carrying out tasks without constant input.

Moreover, chatbots could be integrated with advanced tools like spreadsheets, allowing them to automate data entry, analyze trends, and even generate reports based on user-defined parameters. This could revolutionize

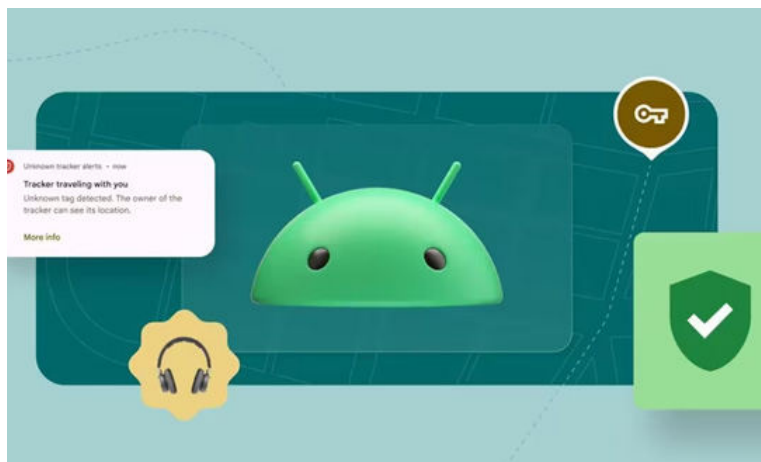


industries that rely heavily on data management, streamlining workflows and improving efficiency. For example, a chatbot could analyze a company's financial data and offer insights or predictions, allowing employees to make more informed decisions without needing to manually input and analyze the data themselves.

As these AI tools become more sophisticated, the line between human and machine tasks will blur, creating a future where chatbots are not just assistants, but integral parts of everyday tasks. This evolution of chatbots could change how we interact with technology, offering new opportunities for automation and efficiency in both personal and professional spheres.

The journey of chatbots is far from over, and their future promises to be filled with even greater possibilities that will shape the way we live and work.

Google Enhances Android Safety Features with Tracker Location Alerts and Privacy Controls



Google has rolled out an important update to its safety features for Android smartphones, offering enhanced capabilities to protect users from unknown Bluetooth trackers. This new update introduces the option to "pause" location updates temporarily, allowing users to safeguard their privacy when an unknown tracker is detected nearby. Additionally, users will now be able to locate and disable hidden trackers that are compatible with Google's Find My Device network, helping to prevent potential misuse of Bluetooth tags.

The updated feature, called "Temporarily Pause Location," empowers Android users to stop their devices from sharing location updates for up to 24 hours when an unwanted Bluetooth tracker is detected. This is particularly useful for safeguarding privacy, as it ensures that a hidden tracker cannot access or share the device's location during this time. By pausing location updates, users gain a layer of protection against unwanted surveillance and tracking attempts.

In addition to the ability to pause location updates, the update also makes it easier for users to locate and disable unknown Bluetooth trackers. Once detected, users can find the hidden tracker using the Find My Device network and take action. This may involve disabling the tracker, often by removing its battery, effectively rendering it useless. In more extreme cases, users can discard the tracker to eliminate any further threat.

This update comes as a significant step in addressing growing concerns over privacy and security, especially with the increasing use of Bluetooth trackers that can be used for malicious purposes, such as stalking or unauthorized monitoring. Google's new feature is designed to help users take proactive steps in preventing such activities, giving them more control over their personal information and whereabouts.

By providing tools to detect, locate, and disable unwanted Bluetooth tags, Google is enhancing Android's security and empowering users to protect their privacy in an increasingly connected world.

WhatsApp and Instagram Experience Widespread Outages Across India

WhatsApp and Instagram, two of the most popular apps in India, are experiencing significant outages, leaving many users unable to send messages or access content. The disruption, which appears to be widespread, has left users frustrated as they encounter issues with basic functions on both platforms.

WhatsApp, the widely used messaging app, has been facing difficulties for several hours, with users reporting an inability to send or receive messages. Notifications are delayed, and conversations are unable to load for many, causing major inconvenience. Instagram, Meta's popular photo-sharing platform, is also seeing similar issues, with users unable to refresh their feeds or upload content. Complaints about both apps' functionality have been surfacing on social media platforms, with users voicing their frustration over the ongoing disruptions.

Instagram Launches Trial Reels Feature for Creators to Test New Content

Meta-owned Instagram has unveiled a new feature called "Trial Reels," offering creators a unique way to share content with users who don't follow them and gauge its performance. This feature is designed to help creators experiment with content beyond their usual niche and expand their reach on the platform.

Instagram explains that Trial Reels provide an opportunity for creators to step outside of their typical content boundaries and see how new types of posts resonate with a wider audience. By sharing these trial pieces of content with users who may not follow them, creators can test new ideas, themes, or styles to see if they attract more engagement and reach. This could be especially valuable for creators looking to grow their following or break into new content areas.

Currently, Trial Reels are available exclusively to professional accounts, a move that aligns with Instagram's focus on sup-



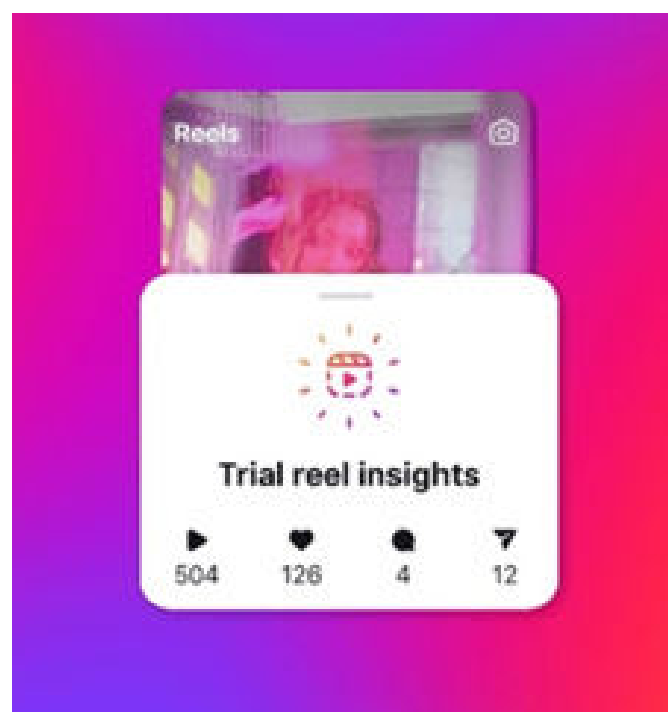
Despite the growing number of complaints, Meta, the parent company of both WhatsApp and Instagram, has not yet issued an official statement addressing the outages. There has been no confirmation on the cause of the problem or when ser-

vice will be restored. This lack of communication has led to increased speculation among users, some of whom have turned to other social media platforms to share their experiences.

The outages are affecting millions of users across India, where both WhatsApp and Instagram are essential for daily communication and entertainment. The disruption has sparked concern about the reliability of these platforms, especially considering their widespread use for personal, professional, and business-related activities.

While such outages are not uncommon for large-scale services, this incident highlights the growing dependence on

these platforms for communication. Users are hoping for a swift resolution, and many are eagerly awaiting an update from Meta regarding the issue. As of now, there is no clear timeline for when the apps will be fully functional again.



stages, with Instagram rolling it out to a select group of creators. While this restriction limits its availability for now, the platform may expand the feature in the future based on feedback from users and creators.

With this new tool, Instagram aims to provide creators with more flexibility and insights into their content strategies. The ability to test different types of content in a low-risk manner could help creators refine their approach and make more informed decisions about what resonates with their audience. The Trial Reels feature is expected to be an exciting addition to Instagram's suite of tools for creators, helping them boost engagement and potentially reach new followers.

As Instagram continues to evolve its offerings for professional users, it will be interesting to see how creators use Trial Reels and what impact it has on content trends and audience interaction on the platform.

porting content creators who use the platform for business or monetization purposes. However, the feature is still in its early



Smriti Mandhana Makes History with Fourth ODI Century in a Calendar Year

Indian cricketer Smriti Mandhana etched her name in history on December 11, becoming the first player in the world to score four centuries in a calendar year in women's One Day Internationals (ODIs). Mandhana achieved this remarkable feat during the third ODI between India and Australia at WACA Ground in Perth.

Opening the innings for India in a challenging 299-run chase, Smriti played a brilliant knock, scoring 105 runs from 109 balls. Her innings included 14 boundaries and one six, showcasing her aggressive yet calculated approach. Mandhana's century was a crucial contribution in keeping India's hopes alive in the game. She formed a strong partnership with Harleen Deol, adding 118 runs for the second wicket. Deol's knock of 39 runs also helped in stabilizing India's innings.

However, after Deol's dismissal, India's momentum faltered. The team was eventually bowled out for 215 runs in 45.1 overs, falling short of the target by 83 runs. Despite the loss, Smriti's century was a historic achievement, marking her as the first female cricketer to score four centuries in a



single calendar year in ODIs.

This achievement further cements Mandhana's reputation as one of the best women cricketers in the world. Her consistency and ability to perform in high-pressure situations have made her a key player for India. As a left-handed batter, she has consistently delivered outstanding performances, making her a role model for aspiring cricketers globally.

Mandhana's incredible feat highlights not only her individual brilliance but also the growing recognition and success of women's cricket on the international stage.

India Suffer 0-3 Series Whitewash After 83-Run Defeat to Australia in Third ODI

India suffered a crushing 83-run defeat to Australia in the third Women's ODI on Wednesday, completing a 0-3 series whitewash. Despite Mandhana's stellar knock, India's pursuit of a challenging target of 299 ended in disappointment as they were bowled out for 215 in 45.1 overs.

Australia, after winning the toss and opting to bat first, were initially on the back foot, finding themselves at 78 for four. However, middle-order batter Annabel Sutherland turned the game around with a stunning 110 off 95 balls, supported by half-centuries from Ashleigh Gardner (50) and captain Tahlia McGrath (56 not out). Their collective efforts propelled Australia to a competitive total of 298 for six in their allotted 50 overs at the WACA Ground in Perth.

In response, India's chase was anchored by the elegant Mandhana, who played a sublime knock of 105 runs off 109 balls. With 14 boundaries and a six, the left-handed opener provided hope for the visitors. Her partnership with Harleen Deol (39) added 118 runs for the second wicket, keeping India in the hunt. As long as Mandhana was at the crease, India remained in with a chance.



However, her dismissal at a crucial moment turned the tide in Australia's favor. Once Mandhana was out, India's hopes of a consolation victory faded. Despite late contributions from other batters, India fell short, bowled out for 215, leaving Australia with a comprehensive victory.

This defeat handed India a whitewash in the three-match series, as they failed to chase down Australia's challenging total. Smriti Mandhana's outstanding century, however, remained the highlight of the match, further solidifying her status as one of the finest players in women's cricket.

Zimbabwe Clinches Last-Ball Victory Over Afghanistan in First T20

Zimbabwe triumphed over Afghanistan by four wickets in a thrilling finish to the first match of their three-match Twenty20 series at Harare Sports Club on Wednesday. With just 11 runs needed off the final over, Tashinga Musekiwa played a match-winning knock, scoring the required runs to secure Zimbabwe's victory and reach their target of 145 with six wickets down.

Afghanistan, after winning the toss and opting to bat, posted a total of 144/6. Their innings was bolstered by a solid 79-run partnership between Karim Janat, who remained unbeaten on 54, and veteran all-rounder Mohammed

Nabi, who contributed with a valuable 28 runs. Zimbabwe's Richard Ngarava was the standout bowler, claiming impressive figures of 3/28 in his four overs to keep Afghanistan's total in check.

In response, Zimbabwe's chase got off to a steady start thanks to a solid partnership between Brian Bennett and Dion Myers. Bennett top-scored with 49 runs, while Myers supported him with 32 runs. Their 75-run stand laid a strong foundation for Zimbabwe's pursuit of the target. Despite a few wickets falling in the middle, Zimbabwe maintained the pressure and stayed in contention throughout the in-

nings.

As the game came down to the wire, Musekiwa kept his cool, ensuring Zimbabwe reached the target with one ball to spare. The dramatic victory handed Zimbabwe a 1-0 lead in the series, with the second match scheduled for Friday at Harare Sports Club.

The thrilling finish highlighted the resilience of Zimbabwe's batting, while Afghanistan's



fightback through their middle-order partnership kept them in the game. Both teams will be looking to build on their performances as the series continues.

D Gukesh Becomes Youngest Ever World Chess Champion, Defeats Ding Liren

In a historic moment for Indian chess, 18-year-old D Gukesh has become the youngest-ever World Chess Champion, defeating China's Ding Liren in the 14th and final game of the 2024 FIDE World Chess Championship. With this victory, Gukesh has etched his name in the annals of chess history, becoming the first Indian to claim the prestigious title since Viswanathan Anand's triumph in 2012.

The final game began with both players tied at 6.5 points each, setting the stage for a thrilling conclusion. Despite the match looking destined for a draw, a late blunder by Ding Liren opened the door for Gukesh to seal his victory. The young Indian grandmaster seized the opportunity, demonstrating remarkable composure and skill in securing the win.

This victory caps off a remarkable year for Gukesh, who has been in scintillating form throughout 2024. In addition to his World Chess Championship title, Gukesh also won the Candidates Tournament earlier in the year and helped lead India to gold in the



Chess Olympiad. His victory marks a significant milestone for Indian chess, following in the footsteps of Anand, who was the last Indian to hold the World Chess Championship title.

With this win, Gukesh becomes not only the youngest World Chess Champion in history but also the first teenager to ever achieve the feat, showcasing the future of chess in the country and the world. His exceptional talent and determination have earned him global recognition, and he now stands as a beacon of inspiration for aspiring chess players worldwide.

Gujarat Giants Appoint Pravin Tambe and Daniel Marsh Ahead of WPL 2025

Gujarat Giants have announced key coaching appointments ahead of the 2025 Women's Premier League season. Former Indian leg-spinner Pravin Tambe has been appointed as the team's new bowling coach, while Australian Daniel Marsh will join as the batting coach. Michael Klinger, who was the head coach last season, will continue in his role for the upcoming season.

Tambe, who made his IPL debut for Rajasthan Royals at the age of 41 in 2013, brings a wealth of experience as a player and coach. He has previously worked with Kolkata Knight Riders and Lucknow Super Giants, honing his skills in shaping young bowlers. Expressing his excitement, Tambe said, "I'm eager to work with this talented group of players to sharpen their skills and help them excel."

Daniel Marsh, known for his extensive coaching experience, will take on the role of batting coach. Having served as head coach of Tasmania's men's team from 2013 to 2017, and as assistant coach of the Australian women's cricket team since 2022, Marsh is ready to bring his expertise to the Giants. "I look forward to developing a fearless approach to



our batting with the aim of making our team one of the strongest batting units of the WPL," Marsh said.

The Gujarat Giants have also finalized their retained players ahead of the WPL 2025 auction, keeping key players like Ashleigh Gardner, Beth Mooney, and Laura Wolvaardt. Other retained players include Dayalan Hemalatha, Harleen Deol, Phoebe Litchfield, Meghna Singh, and Priya Mishra, among others. The team has released several players, including Sneha Rana, Kathryn Bryce, and Lea Tahuhu.

With a strong coaching staff and a solid team foundation, the Gujarat Giants are preparing to make a significant impact in the upcoming season of the Women's Premier League.



Keerthy Suresh and Anthony Thattil Tie the Knot: A Beautiful Beginning

National Award-winning actress Keerthy Suresh has officially entered a new chapter of her life as she marries Anthony Thattil. The couple's wedding has captured widespread attention, with their photos going viral across social media platforms. The marriage was celebrated by family, friends, and well-wishers from the entertainment industry, all congratulating the newlywed couple as they begin their journey together.

The ceremony was a traditional South Indian affair, with Anthony Thattil following the custom of placing three thorns around Keerthy's neck, a significant ritual symbolizing their union. The couple looked stunning in their traditional wedding attire. Keerthy Suresh, known for her grace and elegance, shared moments from the celebration on Instagram, captioning them with the hashtag #ForTheLoveOfNyke, expressing her joy and excitement as she embarked on this new journey.

Keerthy's fans and well-wishers from all over the world flooded her social media with congratulatory messages, marking a joyous moment in her personal life. The wedding also marks a milestone in her career, as she continues to shine in the film industry.

Keerthy Suresh, who gained national fame for her performances in various successful films, is all set to make her Bollywood debut with the



movie **Babyjaan**, alongside actor Varun Dhawan. The movie is scheduled to hit the screens on December 25, 2024. This exciting new venture into Hindi cinema adds to Keerthy's growing list of accomplishments.

As the couple steps into this new phase of life, fans eagerly await both Keerthy's upcoming film and her future endeavors.

Aamir Khan Promotes 'UI The Movie' Ahead of Its December 20 Release

The much-anticipated Pan-India film **UI The Movie**, directed by and starring Kannada superstar Upendra, is all set to hit theaters worldwide on December 20, 2024. The film will be released in multiple languages, including Kannada, Telugu, Tamil, Malayalam, and Hindi, catering to a wide audience. As the release date approaches, Upendra is actively engaged in promoting the film, and the trailer has already caught significant attention for its impressive visuals and storyline.



The film has generated buzz not only due to Upendra's involvement but also because of a special promotional event that brought in Bollywood megastar Aamir Khan. Upendra, who is also the film's narrator and director, recently shot scenes in Jaipur with Aamir Khan, and during this schedule, Khan took the opportunity to promote the movie.

In a heartfelt message, Aamir Khan expressed his admiration for the trailer, calling it "mind-blowing" and praising the efforts behind its creation. He further added, "I am a big fan of Upendra. The trailer is unbelievable, and I am sure it will captivate audiences, especially the Hindi-speaking viewers. I want this movie to be a huge success." Aamir Khan's support has added a significant boost to the

film's promotional efforts, especially as the movie gears up for its multi-lingual release.

Upendra, humbled by the praise, thanked Aamir Khan for his kind words, and the video of this interaction is now going viral on social media, further building excitement for the film.

UI The Movie also features Reeshma Naniiah in the lead female role. The music and background score for the film are composed by Ajanish Loknath, who gained fame for his work in **Kantara**. The film is jointly directed by Manoharan and Srikanth KP, and produced by Lahari Films and Venus Entertainers. As the countdown to its release begins, anticipation continues to build, with fans from all over eagerly waiting to witness this high-budget, multilingual film in theaters.

Satyadev's 'Zebra' Gains Success, Set for OTT Release on Aaha

Satyadev, the young actor who made a remarkable impact with his film **Zebra**, continues to enjoy success after the movie's hit release. Directed by Eswar Karthik, the film has been well-received by audiences, marking a significant milestone for the actor's career. Produced jointly by SN Reddy, Balasundaram, and Dinesh Sundaram under the banners of Old Town Pictures and Padma Films, **Zebra** was released in multiple languages including Telugu, Tamil, Malayalam, Kannada, and Hindi on November 22.

The movie garnered positive attention for its engaging storyline and strong performanc-

es, making a notable impact on the theater audience. Building on this success, the film is now ready to reach an even broader audience. In a recent announcement, the popular OTT platform Aaha revealed that **Zebra** will soon be available for streaming. Along with the announcement, the platform shared an exciting new poster, generating buzz among fans eager to watch the movie from the comfort of their homes.

This digital release marks an important step in expanding the film's reach, offering fans who may have missed the theatrical release a chance to enjoy it. With its multi-language

appeal and the strong performances of Satyadev and the rest of the cast, **Zebra** has already captured the attention of viewers, and its OTT release is expected to further amplify its popularity.

The film's success in theaters, combined with its upcoming availability on Aaha, underscores the growing trend of regional films gaining widespread recognition across various platforms, showcasing the diverse talents and stories from Indian cinema. Fans are now eagerly awaiting the chance to watch **Zebra** on Aaha and experience the cinematic magic from their homes.



Kiara Advani Dazzles in Harper's Bazaar Cover Shoot, Blending Fashion and Elegance

Kiara Advani shines brightly in her latest Harper's Bazaar cover shoot, captivating with every frame. Much like a diamond that reflects light into a burst of brilliance, the actress's style steals the spotlight in this stunning spread. Known for her powerhouse performances in Telugu blockbusters like **Naa Naa Hyraanaa** alongside Ram Charan, Kiara is now taking the fashion world by storm. From a sultry red gown to a sleek black ensemble and a regal velvet masterpiece, she brings bold elegance to the fore, blending thigh-high slits, high boots, and daring one-shoulder designs.

Styled by the renowned Anaita Shroff Adajania, Kiara's versatile charm is on full display, seamlessly transitioning from fierce and glamorous to unapologetically chic. Each look is crafted to highlight her impeccable ability to balance sensuality with sophistication—whether it's her smoldering gaze in a crimson silhouette or the powerful stance in luxurious velvet paired with towering boots. The shoot goes beyond just fashion, feeling more like a haute couture masterclass that showcases the star's commanding presence.

While Kiara continues to set the fashion world ablaze, her film career remains equally on fire. With her much-awaited film **Game Changer** set for release on January 10, followed by high-profile projects like **Toxic** and **War 2**, the actress is on a roll. As one fan cheekily commented after seeing her Harper's Bazaar cover, "If Kiara's this dangerous in velvet and slits, imagine what she's cooking up in **Toxic**!" With her stunning blend of talent, charisma, and undeniable style, Kiara Advani is truly the gift that keeps on giving—both on and off screen.



Rajinikanth's Birthday Surprise: 'Coolie' Delivers a Mass Treat for Fans

Kollywood superstar Rajinikanth, fondly referred to as Thalaivar by his loyal fans, received a special birthday gift this year in the form of a thrilling treat from the much-awaited film **Coolie**. Directed



by Lokesh Kanagaraj, the movie has been one of the most talked-about projects, and the filmmakers promised fans a memorable birthday surprise. True to their word, this evening, the first glimpse of **Coolie** gave fans exactly what they were hoping for.

Rather than a simple teaser or glimpse, director Lokesh Kanagaraj surprised fans with a high-energy treat that left them buzzing with excitement. The preview not only featured Rajinikanth's trademark stylish and energetic dance steps but was also accompanied by Anirudh's catchy tunes, which gave the mass number an extra kick. It was a perfect blend of Rajinikanth's iconic style and the high-octane music, making it clear that **Coolie** is set to be an action-packed, mass entertainer. For Rajinikanth's fans, this birthday treat could not have been better.

Produced by Sun Pictures, **Coolie** has generated a lot of anticipation with Rajinikanth leading the cast. Adding even more excitement to the project is the presence of Tollywood star Nagarjuna, who is also part of the film. The star-studded cast and the promise of an action-packed storyline have made **Coolie** one of the most highly anticipated films of the year.

With this stunning birthday surprise, the makers of **Coolie** have ensured that Rajinikanth's fans are in for an unforgettable cinematic experience. The special glimpse, filled with the superstar's charisma and energy, is a perfect way to celebrate the legend's birthday and set the stage for the movie's upcoming release. Fans are now eagerly waiting for the full film, which is expected to offer even more of the mass appeal that Rajinikanth is known for.