



POINT

Weather Forecast

HYDERABAD	VIJAYAWADA	TIRUPATHI
H 27° C L 14° C	H 30° C L 19° C	H 26° C L 21° C

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RP SISODIA WILL BE NEW CHIEF SECRETARY?

G Avinash | TPN

RP Sisodia may be the new Chief Secretary to the Government of Andhra Pradesh. As Mr. Neerabh Kumar Prasad is going to retire on 31st December 2024, a new one has to take over from January 2025 onwards. Actually, Mr. Neerabh Kumar Prasad was supposed to retire by 30th June 2024. The present Government has extended his service for six months. It is learned that there is no chance of extending his service again. So, he has to retire from his duties on 31st December 2024. Now, discussions are going on in the administrative circles about the new appointee.

As per seniority, there are three probables. One is Mr. Vijayanand, second is Mr. Sai Prasad, and the final one is Mr. RP Sisodia. As per the buzz, most of the chances are in favor of Mr. RP Sisodia. In the Alliance Government, there are three power centers, which nobody has ruled out. One is obviously Mr. N. Chandrababu Naidu, second is Mr. Lokesh Nara, who is controlling total governance, and Mr. Pawan Kalyan, who is influencing total governance with his words and actions. Here, Mr. RP Sisodia has merits from the three power centers.

Why? Because Mr. Sisodia is an efficient and talented officer. He not only looks into the books, but he also looks into the lives of the people. This fact was revealed from the books written by this IAS cum Author. In 2018, he was appointed as Special Chief Secretary to the Governor. When Mr. Suryanarayana of the NGO's union met the then Governor and complained



against the YS Jagan's Government, alleging that they were harassing him, Mr. YS Jaganmohan Reddy & Co assumed that Mr. Suryanarayana got the appointment of the Governor only with the influence of RP Sisodia. That is why they transferred him to the Human Rights Development Institute as a punishment.

After the Alliance Government assumed power, Chief Minister Mr. N. Chandrababu Naidu brought up Mr. Sisodia and appointed him as Special Chief Secretary of Revenue. As there were many misappropriate measures taken in the YSRC Government regarding lands, and many lands

were encroached and grabbed by changing the records allegedly, the new Government appointed Sisodia, thinking that he was capable of dealing with all those issues.

After assuming his new duties, he was assigned to deal with the Madanapalli Sub Registrar fire accident

case. He scrutinized every small detail and cornered Ex-Minister Peddireddy Ramachandra Reddy & Co. He exposed that many assigned lands were procured by Peddireddy's family, which was illegal.

Because of all these activities, Mr. N. Chandrababu Naidu and Mr. Lokesh have developed a good impression and confidence in Mr. RP Sisodia.

The interesting thing is that Mr. Pawan Kalyan was impressed not only by RP Sisodia's work but mostly by his ideology, thought process, and approach towards the people. In some instances, Mr. Pawan Kalyan had an interaction with Mr. Sisodia and got impressed. In the present scenario, Mr. Pawan Kalyan has also opined that Mr. Sisodia is capable and suitable. We all witnessed a scene at the recent Collector's conference, where Mr. Pawan Kalyan followed the speech of Sisodia with full attention and even laughed at his jokes.

Mr. RP Sisodia is from Uttar Pradesh and was successful in his first attempt at the civil service exams. He has rendered services with the Union Government of India as well. There is some hesitation among a few leaders of the Government, thinking that Mr. RP Sisodia might become a barricade for illegal activities going on in the ground, such as sand, liquor, and PDS rice. However, Mr. Pawan Kalyan is pushing his recommendation and has succeeded in the decision to make Mr. RP Sisodia the new Chief Secretary of the Government, it seems.

Jamili Elections Only in 2029, Not 2027



TPN Correspondent
Andhra Pradesh, Dec 15

Amid growing speculation about the timing of joint elections, Andhra Pradesh Chief Minister Chandrababu Naidu has clarified that even if the Joint Election Bill is passed, Jamili (joint) elections will only be held in 2029, not 2027. This comes as the Central Cabinet has already approved the concept of Jamili elections, and the Jamili Election Bill is expected to be introduced in Parliament on Monday, with an anticipated approval soon after. Naidu, addressing concerns over the political discourse in the state, criticized YSRC leaders for claiming that joint elections would occur as early as 2027. He accused them of not fully understanding the issue and using it to serve their own political interests. He pointed out that the public has grown increasingly distrustful of YSRC leaders' statements, dismissing their remarks as merely a source of amusement for the people. Additionally, Naidu reiterated his party's support for the "One Nation, One Election" initiative, while stressing that the timeline for the joint elections remains set for 2029. He also emphasized the importance of promoting the "Swarna Andhra Vision 2047" document among the people, particularly in educational institutions, to foster a better understanding of the state's future development goals.

Naidu expressed confidence in the success of Vision 2047, drawing parallels with the achievements of Vision 2020, and urged that the youth take part in shaping a prosperous future. He announced upcoming changes to the Collector's Conference, where meetings will be more interactive, with an emphasis on questions and answers rather than lengthy deliberations. Future meeting agendas will be shared in advance with collectors and SPs, who will be expected to respond to key issues.



ALLU ARJUN'S ARREST, A WARNING BELL FOR INDUSTRY?

G Avinash | TPN

Almost everybody was shocked by Actor Allu Arjun's arrest. The episode, which lasted for 18 hours, has garnered the attention of the common people, political circles, and especially people from Tollywood. Many eyebrows were raised at the approach of the police towards Allu Arjun's arrest and the prolonged time spent at Chanchalguda jail, even after the orders of the High Court, which led to Allu Arjun sitting in the barrack for an entire night. Even though it was only a single night, as per records, Allu Arjun was imprisoned.

Mr. Allu Arjun had made a controversy during the elections in AP by supporting a YSRC MLA candidate in the name of friendship. This caused him to distance himself from the supporters of Pawan Kalyan and also from the Mega family due to the comments he made during the ongoing dispute. It also had a negative impact on his latest movie Pushpa 2. On social media, some have doubted the Mega family's involvement in this arrest episode. However, the presence of Mr. Chiranjeevi, Nagababu, and others from the Mega family at Allu Arjun's residence immediately after the arrest has dispelled those doubts.

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Minister Narayana Announces Long-Term Road Development Plan for Amaravati

With Seamless National Highway Connectivity

TPN Correspondent
Amaravati, Dec 15

Minister Narayana announced that the construction of roads in Amaravati, the state capital, is being designed with a long-term vision, aiming to connect the city directly to national highways while ensuring minimal disruption to residents and private properties. The roads are being planned with a 30-year horizon, focusing on sustainable development and seamless connectivity. The Minister emphasized that roads will connect Amaravati to National Highway No. 16, specifically through the extension of E11 and E13 roads. Designs for these roads have already been prepared by Lee Associates, and inspections were conducted in villages like Mangalagiri, Navuluru, and Errabalem to assess the field-level situation and routes for the new roads. The development will extend from the seed capital to national highways, significantly improving accessibility. While highlighting the importance of the project, Narayana assured



the public that efforts will be made to avoid significant damage to private properties. The government is taking precautions to minimize the impact, especially in areas where homes might be affected. He urged cooperation from those whose properties may be impacted, stating that

officials and public representatives will discuss the matter with affected individuals and ensure fair compensation and justice. Narayana also inspected the Vijayawada West Bypass, a key road project passing through Amaravati, and suggested improvements to the Na-



tional Highways Authority of India. The Minister confirmed that every kilometer of the West Bypass would be well-connected to roads within the capital. The road development initiative is part of an extensive infrastructure plan that includes 16 roads running

east to west and 18 running north to south, aiming to enhance the city's connectivity and promote smoother travel, with a targeted speed limit of 80 to 100 km per hour. The government is focused on building Amaravati into a well-connected, sustainable city for future generations.



Minister Kandula Durgesh Inaugurates Mega DSC 2024-25 Free Training Classes in Rajamahendravaram

TPN Correspondent
Rajamahendravaram, Dec 15

Andhra Pradesh State Tourism, Culture, and Cinematography Minister Sri Kandula Durgesh, along with District Collector P. Prashanthi, participated in the inauguration ceremony of the Mega DSC 2024-25 free training classes at the Andhra Pradesh Government Backward Classes Study Center, located next to the Arts College in Rajamahendravaram. The event was also attended by Rajamahendravaram City MLA Adireddy Vasu.

The Mega DSC training initiative aims to provide free educational support and guidance to students from backward classes, equipping them with the skills necessary to succeed in the upcoming DSC exams. Minister Durgesh highlighted the importance of education in empowering youth and improving the overall socio-economic development of the state.

Speaking at the event, Durgesh emphasized the government's commit-

ment to providing quality education and training opportunities to the underprivileged sections of society. He stated, "These initiatives are designed to bridge the gap in educational opportunities and help the youth of backward classes realize their potential. We are committed to ensuring that every student has access to the resources they need to succeed."

District Collector P. Prashanthi also praised the initiative, highlighting the critical role of free training programs in ensuring equal opportunities for all. MLA Adireddy Vasu extended his support to the program and urged the community to take full advantage of the training classes. Minister Durgesh's presence at the inauguration underscores his dedication to both education and cultural development in the state. As part of his ongoing efforts to promote tourism and cultural heritage, Durgesh continues to advocate for initiatives that contribute to the growth and empowerment of the people of Andhra Pradesh.

Minister Athechannaidu Reviews Oil Palm Cultivation and Horticulture Initiatives



TPN Correspondent
Vijayawada, Dec 15

Minister Athechannaidu conducted a detailed review on oil palm cultivation with senior officials from the Agriculture and Horticulture Departments at the Vijayawada camp office. The review focused on several key areas aimed at boosting the state's agricultural growth. Discussions were held on the allocation of new mandals for oil palm cultivation, which will help expand the state's capacity for producing this high-demand crop. The construction of a new oil palm factory within the Oil Fed was also discussed as a critical step toward supporting local farmers and increasing production. In addition, the review highlighted micro-farming initiatives and the

establishment of fruit cultivation clusters across the state. These clusters are expected to play a significant role in diversifying the state's horticultural offerings and improving farmers' access to markets. Minister Athechannaidu emphasized that special steps are being taken to enhance the quality of horticultural products and boost exports. The government is committed to ensuring that agricultural products from the state meet international standards, thereby increasing their competitiveness in global markets. The review concluded with a commitment to continue strengthening the agricultural and horticultural sectors through strategic initiatives that benefit farmers and improve overall productivity.

YCP Boycotted Irrigation Society Elections Throughout State

MP Accuses TDP Leaders of Manipulating Irrigation Society Elections



TPN Correspondent
Kadapa, Dec 15

MP Avinash Reddy has made sensational allegations against TDP leaders, accusing them of manipulating the irrigation society elections in Kadapa district. During a media conference, Avinash Reddy criticized TDP leaders for arresting officials and obstructing the work of revenue and police authorities in order to secure a victory in the elections. He specifically targeted Pulivendula TDP in-charge B.Tech Ravi, accusing him of orchestrating the entire process, likening his actions to writing a movie script. Avinash Reddy claimed that TDP leaders, in an effort to influence the elections, detained officials, including VROs, who were unavailable to issue no-due certificates at tehsildar offices. He expressed frustration over what he described as a campaign of false politics by the TDP, attacking the media and hindering the election process. "Is this how elections are going to be held? Are the officials going to be arrested and elections manipulated?" Reddy remarked.

He further criticized the TDP for making false promises to farmers during their time in power and claimed they were aware they would lose the irrigation society elections. According to Reddy, the TDP's actions were a desperate attempt to hold elections by any means, even if it meant arresting officials. He contrasted the situation with the previous YSRCP government's free and fair elections, suggesting that the current environment under TDP was anything but transparent. The elections were held under tense circumstances, with clashes between YCP and TDP workers in various parts of Kadapa, including Pulivendula, Jammalamadugu, and Badvel.

ALLU ARJUN'S ARREST, A WARNING BELL FOR INDUSTRY?

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However, the Chief Minister, Revanth Reddy, made remarks about this episode during an interview with a national channel in Delhi. These remarks sparked further doubts. He also clarified that there was no intention behind his actions and that the law had simply followed its course.

At the success meet of Pushpa 2, Mr. Allu Arjun was unable to speak the name of Mr. Revanth Reddy and took a long pause before saying it. This became viral on social media. Many suspected that this might have hurt the ego of the CM and that the arrest

could be a consequence. However, this aspect was ruled out by close circles of Allu Arjun.

Then, what is the reason? Many legal experts have also raised the point that the police did more than necessary in this episode. But why? A theory is circulating as a reason for it.

Earlier, during the BRS government, industry people were closely aligned with Mr. KTR. Mr. KTR attended many movie functions during that time. In the drugs case episode, many actors were irked. Allegedly, Mr. KTR helped them come out of that case, which brought him closer to celebrities. If we recall, during that time, Mr. Revanth

Reddy made allegations against this.

However, in the present government's regime, industry people are not responding as per the Congress party circles. They are reportedly not acknowledging Mr. Komati Reddy Venkat Reddy, the concerned minister. At the time of the announcement of the Gaddar Awards, Mr. Revanth Reddy urged the industry people to engage in public service by participating in awareness programs against drugs.

According to rumors, after the dismantling of N Convention by Mr. Akkineni Nagarjuna, industry people had an unofficial meeting. They reportedly felt that Mr. Revanth Reddy

was behaving rudely toward them, and they felt suffocated in Hyderabad. They even discussed the idea of shifting to AP. Allegedly, the agenda and discussions were leaked to Mr. Revanth Reddy.

All these situations made Mr. Revanth Reddy wait for a chance to warn the industry, according to rumors. Mr. Allu Arjun's neglectful behavior shown at Sandhya Theatre reportedly gave him an opportunity, and Mr. Revanth utilized it. Many believe this is a clear-cut signal to industry people. Now, everyone is watching to see whether the industry will adapt to the situation or become hostile against it.



TDP Sets New Record in Membership Registration - CM Chandrababu

TPN Correspondent
Mangalagiri, Dec 15

Telugu Desam Party (TDP) chief and Andhra Pradesh Chief Minister Chandrababu Naidu announced that the party has achieved a milestone in its membership registration drive, with the total number of members reaching a record 73 lakh. Speaking at a review meeting held at the party office, Naidu congratulated party workers and leaders for their efforts in achieving this remarkable feat.

Highlighting the top-performing constituencies, Chandrababu revealed that Rajampet, Nellore, Kuppam, Palakollu, and Mangalagiri are leading in membership numbers. He also noted that a significant number of youth and women have joined the party, marking a positive trend in TDP's membership demographics.

Focus on Cadre Welfare and Responsibility
During his address, Chandrababu emphasized the importance of strengthening the party through dedicated service to the people. "You can sustain a career in politics only by fortifying the party and delivering on responsibilities. Recognition comes from performance and commitment," he remarked.

The TDP chief urged party members to view positions as responsibilities and warned against complacency. "It is unacceptable for members to neglect the party after obtaining posts. Some are shirking their duties after becoming MLAs. Being part of the party demands consistent hard work and dedication, irrespective of positions," he added.

Chandrababu reaffirmed TDP's commitment to both the



welfare of its cadre and the development of all sections of society. He stressed that the party's growing strength is a collective achievement and called on members to continue working towards its vision.

The record-breaking membership figures reflect the growing support for TDP and its ongoing efforts to engage the youth and women, ensuring the party's relevance and strength ahead of upcoming challenges.

Somireddy Chandramohan Reddy Criticizes Jagan Over Agriculture Policies

TPN Correspondent
Nellore, Dec 15

MLA Somireddy Chandramohan Reddy launched a scathing attack on Former Chief Minister YS Jaganmohan Reddy, accusing him of neglecting the agricultural sector and harming the livelihoods of farmers in Andhra Pradesh. Speaking to the media in Nellore on Saturday, Somireddy alleged that Jagan, while comfortably residing in the Tadepalli Palace, has failed to conduct a single meaningful review of the agriculture department since assuming office.

Somireddy questioned whether Jagan was prepared to release a white paper on the performance of the agriculture department, as farmers continue to face mounting challenges. He asserted that the Swarnandhra Vision 2047 document, introduced by opposition leaders, places significant emphasis on agriculture and farmer welfare—a stark contrast to the current government's approach.

Criticizing Jagan's administration, Somireddy claimed that Andhra Pradesh now ranks first in farmer suicides, a tragic consequence of mismanagement and lack of support. He accused Jagan of dismantling key agricultural initiatives, such as micro-irrigation, nutrient subsidies, and other farmer incentives, leaving farmers in distress. "The extent of the agricultural decline under Jagan can be best explained by the farmers of Pulivendula themselves," he remarked, referring to Jagan's home constituency.

Somireddy further alleged that the government has been involved in corrupt practices, including export-



ing ration rice through dubious intermediaries to earn crores, while ignoring the dire situation of local farmers. Drawing attention to the financial burden on farmers, he pointed out that the average per capita debt of farmers in Andhra Pradesh has skyrocketed to ₹2.45 lakhs, far exceeding the national average of ₹74,500.

He demanded that the Chief Minister take accountability for the agricultural crisis and release a detailed report on the sector's performance. "Is Jagan ready to face the truth, or will he continue to destroy the state by turning a blind eye to the suffering of farmers?" Somireddy asked, urging immediate reforms and action to revive the struggling sector.

Fulfillment of Division Promises Key to Andhra Pradesh's Growth - YS Sharmila

TPN Correspondent
Andhra Pradesh, Dec 15

APCC Chief YS Sharmila sharply criticized successive governments for failing to fulfill the promises made during the bifurcation of Andhra Pradesh. Speaking to the media on Saturday, Sharmila stated that the state's path to becoming number one lies not in visions like Swarna Andhra Vision - 2047, but in the immediate realization of commitments made by the Center a decade ago.

Sharmila recalled that during the state's division, the Congress-led UPA government had promised special status to Andhra Pradesh, along with significant infrastructure and financial projects. However, she lamented that these promises have remained unfulfilled, leaving the state at a disadvantage.

Unmet Promises Under the Bifurcation Act
Sharmila highlighted key projects included in the Andhra Pradesh Reorganization Act that have stalled:

- Polavaram Project: Promised national status but still incomplete.
- Kadapa Steel Plant & Duggarajupatnam Port: Yet to materialize.
- Infrastructure Development: Visakhapatnam-Chennai Industrial Corridor, petroleum university, new railway zone, and metro rail projects in Vijayawada and Visakhapatnam remain dreams.
- Special Financial Package: Aimed at backward districts, but never implemented.
- She argued that if these projects were completed, Andhra Pradesh would have seen significant industrial growth, job creation, and urban development.

Sharmila accused Prime Minister Narendra Modi, TDP leader Chandrababu Naidu, and CM YS Jagan Mohan Reddy of betraying the state. She claimed Modi failed to deliver on his promises, while Chandrababu misled the people with false assurances about lifetime special



status. Jagan, she added, has failed to hold the Center accountable, despite his earlier claims of leveraging 25 MPs for Andhra Pradesh's benefit.

Sharmila called for immediate action, stating that the only path to Andhra Pradesh's development is the grant of special status. She demanded that Chandrababu and Jagan pressure the Prime Minister to fulfill the division promises, asserting, "Special status is the vision for Andhra Pradesh's future."

Sharmila concluded by urging the people to hold the leaders accountable and push for the implementation of the long-overdue commitments, which she described as critical to changing the state's direction and prosperity.

Minister Nadendla Manohar Criticizes YCP Govt Over Farmers Issues

TPN Correspondent
Andhra Pradesh, Dec 15

Andhra Pradesh Civil Supplies Minister Nadendla Manohar took to Twitter (X) to criticize YSRCP leaders over their failure to address farmers' issues during their regime. He assured the public that the coalition government is committed to resolving farmers' problems and standing as a strong support for their welfare.

In his post, Manohar highlighted the stark contrast between the grain procurement figures of the previous YCP government and the current coalition government. He revealed that during the last Kharif season under YCP's rule, only 9,40,936 metric tons of grain were collected by December 13. In comparison, the coalition government has already collected 16,34,151 metric tons in the ongoing Kharif season, showcasing its efficiency and commitment to farmers. The minister accused YCP leaders of indulging in publicity stunts by carrying grain bags to collectors for photo opportunities, instead of addressing systemic procurement issues. He questioned why grain collection was not carried out in key districts such as



Guntur, Visakhapatnam, Anakapalle, Anantapur, and Prakasam during the last Kharif season, leaving farmers in these areas to suffer.

Nadendla Manohar emphasized that the coalition government is actively working to ensure fair and timely procurement, providing farmers with the support they deserve. He reiterated that the government stands as a guarantee for farmers, unlike the YCP leadership, which he accused of neglecting their needs.

Manohar's remarks reflect the coalition government's efforts to contrast their governance with YCP's alleged failures, as they strive to build a more farmer-centric administration.

CPI Leader Ramakrishna Demands to Cancel All the Deals With Adani

TPN Correspondent
Andhra Pradesh, Dec 15

CPI State Secretary K. Ramakrishna has called for the immediate cancellation of the solar power agreements signed with Adani, citing them as a massive burden on the public. He alleged that these agreements would cost the people ₹1 lakh crore over the next 25 years and benefit Rajasthan more than Andhra Pradesh.

In a letter to Chief Minister Chandrababu Naidu, Ramakrishna claimed that producing solar power in Rajasthan instead of Andhra Pradesh would yield ₹8,000 crore in taxes for Rajasthan and provide lease benefits to farmers for 30 years, along with 14,000 jobs. This arrangement, he argued, neglects the interests of Andhra Pradesh while unfairly enriching another state.

Ramakrishna also pointed out that the US Securities and Exchange Commission (SEC) had reportedly revealed that 86% of bribes worth ₹1,750 crores linked to Adani occurred during the previous YSRCP government. He demanded that the agreements be revoked in light of these allegations and ongoing legal proceedings.

Highlighting further issues, Ramakrishna noted that Andhra Pradesh has yet to receive 3,000 MW of solar power as promised by October 2024. He criticized the decision to buy power from SECI at a high price of ₹2.49 per unit, compared to Gujarat, which procures it at ₹1.89 per unit.



Meanwhile, the High Court recently held a hearing on the contentious agreements. Senior Supreme Court lawyer Adinarayana Rao, representing the petitioners, questioned the rationale behind additional charges for transporting electricity from Gujarat to Andhra Pradesh. He argued that the agreements are unnecessary, as cheaper alternatives are available.

The state government, represented by Advocate General Dharmmalapati Srinivas, requested time to prepare a counter-argument. The High Court has adjourned the hearing for two weeks. Opposition leaders, including Minister Payyavula Keshav, have also filed petitions challenging the agreements, alleging corruption and mismanagement.

Ramakrishna concluded his letter by urging the government to act decisively to cancel these agreements, address corruption allegations, and protect the state's financial and developmental interests.

YCP to Boycott Irrigation Society Elections - Botsa

TPN Correspondent
Visakhapatnam, Dec 15

YCP senior leader and Leader of Opposition in the Legislative Council, Botsa Satyanarayana, announced that his party would boycott the elections of irrigation societies, accusing the coalition leaders of undermining the democratic process. Addressing the media at the party office in Lawsons Bay Colony, Visakhapatnam, Botsa stated that the election process had been reduced to a mockery.

He alleged that Village Revenue Officers (VROs) were refusing to issue No Objection Certificates (NOCs) to YCP candidates intending to contest the irrigation society elections. Botsa also criticized the involvement of the police in the election process, questioning the rationale behind their interference. "Due to these irregularities, we are compelled to boycott the elec-



tions," he said. Botsa highlighted the success of YCP's protest programs held on statewide under the banner 'Supporting Farmers,' emphasizing the party's commitment to addressing farmers' issues.

On a different note, Botsa urged the government to show restraint and avoid taking hasty actions against film actors Allu Arjun and Mohan Babu. He also revisited the tragic stampede during the Godavari Pushkaram, which claimed 20 lives, demanding a thorough investigation into who was held accountable for the incident.

The boycott of irrigation society elections and Botsa's remarks underline the YCP's growing dissatisfaction with the current coalition government and its handling of administrative and election processes.

CM Chandrababu Received Petitions From People at TDP Central Office

Victims Seek Justice from CM

TPN Correspondent
Mangalagiri, Dec 15

At the TDP central office, Chief Minister Chandrababu Naidu received numerous petitions on Saturday, shedding light on injustices faced by the public during the previous YSRCP government. Complaints ranged from personal tragedies and land disputes to withheld pensions, showcasing the extent of grievances under the former administration.

Nishankara Shankarleela, from Gujjanagulla in Guntur district, tearfully recounted the tragic murder of her daughter, a final-year degree student, who went missing on July 4, 2022. She alleged that Anand, an auto driver, along with his brothers and relatives, tortured her daughter for 14 months, ultimately killing her. Despite her family's two-year-long fight for justice, they have faced harassment, including false cases filed against them. The accused reportedly claimed connections to former minister Vidadala Rajani and MLC Lella Appireddy.

Shankarleela alleged that even the police turned against them, with a former Nallapadu CI using abusive language instead of addressing their grievances. She pleaded with the CM to ensure the accused face severe punishment. Moved by her plight, Naidu assured her that justice would be delivered, regardless of the influence of those involved.



Boppana Suresh Babu, from Rajahmundry Rural Mandal, narrated his struggle to claim 17 acres of land purchased in 2021. He accused local YSRCP leaders, allegedly supported by former Home Minister Taneti Vanitha, of preventing his entry to the land and threatening his life. He urged the CM to help him reclaim his rightful property.

Numerous individuals, including disabled citizens, complained about pensions arbitrarily removed by the previous government. Akkala Roja and her husband, Jawan Gyananand, detailed harassment they faced for building permissions, while others shared stories of extortion and debt.

Naidu empathized with the petitioners, providing financial aid to those in immediate need and promising swift resolutions. He reaffirmed his government's commitment to justice and the welfare of all citizens. These grievances highlight the challenges faced under the previous administration, with the TDP government taking proactive steps to address public concerns.

Anam Rama Narayana Reddy Launches App for Indrakeeladri Ammavari Temple Devotees

TPN Correspondent
Vijayawada, Dec 15

Endowment Minister Anam Rama Narayana Reddy inaugurated a special app aimed at enhancing the experience of devotees visiting Indrakeeladri Ammavari Temple. This app allows Bhavani devotees to pre-register their arrival and provides real-time updates on the number of devotees visiting each day. The Minister urged devotees to make use of the app, which is part of broader efforts to streamline arrangements for the large influx of visitors.

Minister Reddy highlighted that over five lakh devotees typically visit the temple annually during Malavirama, which begins on the 21st. Comprehensive arrangements have been made, including setting up three homagundas in Kanakadurga Nagar and special counters for Irumudi rice distribution. Holding areas have also been designated for Bhavani devotees who arrive on foot from distant locations.

In the evening, the Kalisha Jyothila Mahotsavam will be held with grandeur, starting from Ramkoti. The Minister expressed pride in welcoming devotees and assured that plans are in place to secure central government funds for the tem-



ple's development. Chief Minister Chandrababu Naidu and Deputy Chief Minister Pawan Kalyan have already initiated discussions, and efforts are underway to expedite funding.

Meanwhile, RSS Chief Mohan Madhukar Bhagwat visited Indrakeeladri to offer prayers. He was warmly welcomed by Minister Rama Narayana Reddy, Endowment Commissioner Satyanarayana, and temple EO KS Rama Rao with Poonakumbha honors. Bhagwat performed special pujas to the Goddess and received Vedic blessings from scholars. Temple officials presented him with a portrait of the Goddess, laddu prasadam, and ceremonial offerings as part of the visit.

The government reaffirmed its commitment to ensuring a seamless and spiritually enriching experience for all devotees participating in the sacred festivities at Indrakeeladri.

MP Kesineni Chinni and SAP President Review Plans for Sports Complex Development

TPN Correspondent
Vijayawada, Dec 15

In a bid to boost sports infrastructure in Vijayawada, Andhra Cricket Association President and MP Kesineni Sivanath, along with SAP President Ravi Naidu, inspected the Labor Colony ground in Vidyadharapuram on Saturday. The inspection focused on exploring possibilities to transform the ground into a state-of-the-art sports complex.

The initiative aligns with the vision of Chief Minister Chandrababu Naidu to advance sports development across the state. MP Sivanath reiterated his commitment to creating a vibrant sports culture in Vijayawada, leveraging modern infrastructure to nurture local talent and host national-level events.

The delegation included SAP MD Girisha IAS, Siddharth from Populus Global Architects, and Venkat from NV Architects, who conducted a thorough review of the site. They engaged in detailed discussions regarding the design, feasibility, and logistical aspects of the proposed sports complex.

The team examined various factors, including the layout of the ground, poten-



tial amenities, and the scope for incorporating advanced facilities that cater to multiple sports disciplines. This project is expected to provide a significant boost to Vijayawada's sports ecosystem, fostering opportunities for young athletes and improving the city's standing as a hub for sports.

The development of the sports complex is seen as a key step in fulfilling the state government's aspirations for holistic development, combining sports, health, and youth empowerment. Further planning and consultations with experts are underway to ensure the project meets global standards.

The initiative reflects the proactive approach of the government and local leaders in promoting sports as a cornerstone of community development.

District Collector Promotes Fuel Savings for a Sustainable Future



TPN Correspondent
Vijayawada, Dec 15

NTR District Collector Dr. G. Lakshmi emphasized the importance of fuel conservation and renewable energy adoption to safeguard the environment for future generations. Speaking at the inauguration of the National Energy Conservation Week (December 14-20) rally held at the Collector Camp Office in Vijayawada, she urged the public to take collective responsibility for sustainable energy usage.

The event, organized by the State Energy Department - Energy Conservation Mission (SECM) and the District Electricity Department, included a rally followed by a program at the Indira Gandhi Municipal Ground. Posters and pamphlets raising awareness about energy conservation were unveiled.

Dr. Lakshmi highlighted the environmental harm caused by the excessive use of conventional fossil fuels and stressed the need to transition to renewable energy sources. She urged citizens to utilize the Pradhan Mantri Surya Ghar Muft Bijli Yojana to install rooftop solar systems with government subsidies, reducing electricity costs while promoting sustainability. Reg-



istration for the scheme can be done easily through www.pmsuryaghar.gov.in.

The Collector also encouraged the use of energy-efficient appliances, such as 5-star-rated devices and LED bulbs, to lower electricity bills and reduce pollution. She announced plans for awareness programs, workshops, webinars, essay writing, and painting competitions during the week to engage the public, especially students, in energy conservation efforts.

APCPDCL CGM (O&M) Sambasiva Rao outlined the benefits of energy-saving appliances and electric vehicles under the Urjaveer program, while GM Vijayakrishna elaborated on renewable energy options like solar, wind, and green hydrogen. Superintendent Engineer A. Muralimohan called for daily adherence to fuel-saving practices to inspire future generations.

The event concluded with prize distribution to quiz competition winners, performances on fuel conservation, and a pledge by attendees to conserve energy. DRDA PD K. Srinivasa Rao, students, officials, and community members participated enthusiastically in the program.

1535 Youth Secured Jobs at Enikepadu Mega Job Fair - MLA Yarlagadda

TPN Correspondent
Enikepadu, Dec 15

In a significant step towards fulfilling election promises, Gannavaram MLA and Government Whip Yarlagadda Venkatarao announced that 1,535 youth were offered jobs at a mega job fair held at the Telugu Desam Party (TDP) office in Enikepadu on Saturday. The event aimed at providing employment opportunities to the youth was organized under the leadership of the MLA, inspired by Minister Nara Lokesh's pledge during the Yuvagalam Padayatra to create jobs within six months of coming to power.

Speaking at the inauguration of the event, MLA Yarlagadda Venkatarao criticized the previous YSRCP government for neglecting industrial development and causing widespread unemployment. He alleged that during YSRCP rule, youth were left directionless and became addicted to substances like marijuana. In contrast, the current coalition government, led by CM Chandrababu Naidu, has revitalized industrial corridors and worked relentlessly to bring corporate companies back to the state.



Highlighting the success of the job fair, the MLA said it received an overwhelming response, with 3,125 participants, out of which 1,535 secured positions in 53 participating companies. He emphasized the importance of industrial development for creating sustainable job opportunities and mentioned the revival of the Mallavalli Industrial Corridor as an example of the government's efforts.

Venkatarao took the opportunity to question the YSRCP leadership for their failure to address unemployment and alleged that they prioritized providing jobs only to their political affiliates. He praised the TDP's founder, NTR, for introducing transformative schemes like subsidized rice, which benefited the poor, and criticized the previous government for mismanaging such initiatives.

The MLA concluded by expressing gratitude to the participating companies and distributed job certificates to the selected candidates, reaffirming the coalition government's commitment to building a prosperous and employed Andhra Pradesh.

Vijayawada Prepares for Potti Sriramulu Atmaarpanam, VMC Commissioner Inspects Arrangements

TPN Correspondent
Vijayawada, Dec 15

Vijayawada Municipal Corporation (VMC) is leaving no stone unturned in its preparations for the Amarjeevi Sri Potti Sriramulu Atmaarpanam program, scheduled to take place at Tummalapalle Kshetraya Kalakshetra. Commissioner Dhyanchandra conducted a comprehensive inspection of the arrangements to ensure the event is executed flawlessly.

During his visit, the Commissioner emphasized that the arrangements must be impeccable. He instructed the officials to ensure a constant supply of drinking water, maintain cleanliness through continuous sanitation, and implement effective monitoring mechanisms to address any issues promptly. "Every attendee should have a seamless experience, and there should be no deficiencies in the facilities provided," he stated. The Commissioner also called for diligent efforts by the municipal staff before, during, and after the event to guarantee its success. Special focus has been placed on sanitation and crowd management to avoid any inconvenience to the public.

Key officials who accompanied the Commissioner during the inspection included Chief Engi-



neer R Srinath, Chief City Planner GVGSV Prasad, Superintending Engineers Satya Kumari and Satyanarayana, Assistant Medical Health Officer Dr. Rama Koteswara Rao, and Assistant City Planners Rambabu and Mohan Babu.

The team assured that all necessary measures are being taken to provide a pleasant and well-organized experience for the participants. The Amarjeevi Sri Potti Sriramulu Atmaarpanam program is expected to draw significant public attention, and the VMC is working diligently to uphold its reputation for excellence in hosting such events. With meticulous planning and dedicated efforts by the VMC team, the program is poised to be a grand success.



Fake Currency Racket Busted in Srikakulam, YCP Leader Among Accused

TPN Correspondent, Srikakulam: Srikakulam police have uncovered a massive fake currency racket with the arrest of two gangs involved in printing and circulating counterfeit notes. This crackdown has created a stir, especially with the involvement of a political leader. DSP Tekkali Murthy and CI Avtaram revealed that fake notes worth approximately ₹50,000 were initially seized from Tammireddy Ravi, a resident of Santalakshmiipuram village in Meliyaputti mandal, near the Andhra-Odisha border. Based on information provided by him, police arrested five others, including Kusi Reddy Durvasulu (Shankar Reddy), Tammireddy Delhi Rao, Dasari Kumaraswamy, Dasari Ravikumar, and Dummu Dharma Rao, from Palasa, Meliyaputti, and Vajrakotturu mandals.

During the operation, authorities seized fake notes amounting to ₹57.25 lakh, along with



a color printer, four mobile phones, and a scooter used in the production and transportation of counterfeit currency. The involvement of Dasari Ravikumar, a YCP MPTC member from Karajada, has added a political dimension to the case and heightened public interest.

In a parallel operation, the police arrested two other suspects, Ganagalla Ravi from

Kothadibpalapaleni in Etcherla mandal and Rajesh from Laver, while they were attempting to circulate ₹15 lakh worth of counterfeit notes in Salur in Vizianagaram district and parts of Odisha. Investigations revealed that the duo sourced fake notes from Parlakhemundi and Gunupuram in Odisha. They were also found to have collaborated with Rapaka Prabhakar alias Pratap Reddy and Krishnamurthy, who are currently absconding. Ravi and Rajesh had reportedly procured chemicals for manufacturing the notes from Bhadrachalam.

The police are continuing their efforts to apprehend other suspects and have assured stringent action against those involved. This operation has raised alarms about the growing menace of fake currency in the region and its potential links to larger criminal networks.

Pulivendula Constituency Irrigation Union Elections, A Historic Unanimous Outcome



TPN Correspondent, Pulivendula: Pulivendula constituency witnessed a historic moment as the irrigation union elections concluded unanimously. Addressing the media after the results, Betech Ravi emphasized the significance of this achievement, stating that the Indian Constitution has consistently triumphed in Pulivendula since 1978. He commended the people for their unwavering dedication to democratic principles and their rejection of attempts to disrupt the established constitutional order associated with the Raja Reddy faction.

Ravi highlighted that this unanimous decision reflects the unity and collective spirit of the people of Pulivendula. He praised their determination to uphold harmony and stability, essential for the progress of the region's irrigation and agricultural sectors. He further noted that the residents have consistently demonstrated their commitment to protecting democratic values and standing firm against divisive forces.

This outcome, Ravi remarked, is a powerful message of solidarity and progress. The unanimous elections not only strengthen the local governance structure but also showcase the people's resolve to work together for the betterment of their community. The election result marks a milestone, reinforcing Pulivendula's legacy of unity and democratic integrity. Ravi concluded by acknowledging the efforts of all those who contributed to this significant achievement and expressed hope that the region would continue to set an example of collective decision-making and cooperation in the future.

Janasena President Seeks Resolution of Issues Faced by SKU Academic Consultants



TPN Correspondent, Anantapur: Jana Sena President and Urban Constituency In-charge Chairman Sri T.C. Varun has pledged to bring the concerns of academic consultants at Sri Krishna Devaraya University (SKU) in Anantapur to the attention of Deputy Chief Minister Sri Pawan Kalyan.

In a petition submitted to Sri T.C. Varun, the academic consultants, who specialize in Arts and Sciences, expressed serious concerns over their minimum wage. They stated that the current compensation has become a significant burden on their families. Despite having completed higher studies and PhDs, they are not being paid in accordance with established rules and regulations.

Varun responded positively, assuring that their issues would be raised with Deputy Chief Minister Pawan Kalyan for resolution. The academic consultants, including Dr. Sri Jayalakshmi (Department of Commerce), Dr. Sri Ganesh Kumar, Dr. Sri Gurumurthy, Dr. Sri Raju Sake, and Dr. Sri Muthyalappa (Department of Statistics), participated in the program and expressed their hopes for a timely solution to their concerns.

Illegal Constructions Demolition in Srikalahasti Political Tensions Flare Over Demolition

TPN Correspondent, Srikalahasti: rikalahasti has become a political battleground once again, with tensions escalating over the removal of alleged illegal structures along the embankment of the Swarnamukhi River. The controversy intensified as municipal officials arrived with JCBs to demolish the perimeter wall of a hotel owned by a relative of a former MLA from the YSRCP party.

The demolition drive, led by town planning officials, was met with strong resistance from former Srikalahasti MLA Chenchu Reddy. Accusing the officials of partisan actions, Chenchu Reddy argued that if they were following proper procedures, they should have demolished other structures deemed illegal before targeting his relative's property. The former MLA claimed that the structures were built on private land and not on encroached government property.

As evidence, the hotel owners presented notices issued by irrigation authorities and land



ownership records to substantiate their claims. Despite this, the municipal officials proceeded with the demolition, which led to a heated argument between Chenchu Reddy and the Municipal Commissioner. The situation turned tense as followers of the former MLA gathered at the hotel to oppose the demolition. This led to a standoff between the municipal authorities and the hotel owners, creating unrest in the area. Police were called to the scene to manage the situation and mediate between the two groups.

The incident has added to the political friction in the constituency, with questions being raised about the impartiality of the enforcement actions and the validity of the demolition orders. As tensions remain high, the issue continues to stir debate among the local populace.

Former MLA Chennakesava Reddy Arrested Amid Tensions in Emmiganur



TPN Correspondent, Kurnool: Former MLA Chennakesava Reddy was arrested in Emmiganur constituency, Kurnool district, sparking tension in the area. The incident occurred when police intervened to prevent the former legislator from visiting Kalugottla village in Emmiganur mandal in connection with the ongoing irrigation society elections. Reddy expressed his displeasure at the police action, leading to a heated exchange between him and law enforcement officials. The local Circle Inspector (CI) ordered Reddy to leave the area, emphasizing the need for him to maintain his dignity. Unyielding, the former MLA reacted strongly to the CI's remarks and refused to comply, choosing instead to sit on a chair at the scene.

The standoff caused unease in the village, with residents witnessing the escalating confrontation. The situation eventually led to Reddy's arrest as police sought to diffuse tensions and restore order in the locality.

This incident highlights the charged atmosphere surrounding the irrigation society elections and the involvement of political leaders, underscoring the challenges in maintaining law and order during such events.

MLA Panchakarla Ramesh Babu Inaugurates Drinking Water Pipeline in Tadi Village

TPN Correspondent, Visakhapatnam: MLA Panchakarla Ramesh Babu inaugurated a newly constructed drinking water pipeline in Tadi village, part of the 80th ward under Visakhapatnam GVMC. The project, funded with Rs. 10 lakhs from GVMC, was implemented under the leadership of 80th ward corporator Konatha La Neelima Bhaskar.

Speaking at the event, MLA Panchakarla Ramesh Babu highlighted his commitment to addressing the key issues in the Pendurthi constituency, emphasizing Tadi village's challenges. He announced plans to relocate Tadi village and construct a modern township equipped with all necessary facilities for its residents, acknowledging the village's significant contribution to his electoral suc-



cess. The inauguration ceremony witnessed the participation of 80th ward corporator Konatha La Neelima Bhaskar, along with local leaders and activists, including Madamsetty Neelababu, Boddapalli Apparao, Komati

Suribabu, Gollavilli Nagaraju, Achibabu, and Srinivasa Rao. The event reflected the collaborative efforts of local representatives and leaders to enhance the living conditions in the region.

MLC Duvvada Srinivas Responds to Police Notices Amid Rising Political Tensions

TPN Correspondent, Tekkali:

In a move that has stirred political tensions in Andhra Pradesh, YSRCP MLC Duvvada Srinivas has been served with a 41A notice by Tekkali police, summoning him for questioning. The notice follows a complaint filed by Jana Sena activists accusing Duvvada Srinivas of making harsh remarks against their party leader, Pawan Kalyan. Responding to the police action, MLC Srinivas asserted that he is undeterred by the number of notices issued against him. He criticized the police for allegedly adopting a selective approach, claiming that while a case was filed against

him based on his comments from two years ago, no action has been taken against the abusive posts and threats made by Jana Sena activists against him. Srinivas alleged that after the TDP-led coalition government came to power, Jana Sena activists have been emboldened to make inappropriate comments, threaten to burn his car, and even issue death threats. Despite presenting evidence to the authorities, he claimed, the police registered an FIR but took no further action. He also highlighted that complaints made by Divvala Madhuri, who has faced similar online harass-

ment, were ignored by the police.

In a stern warning, Srinivas accused the coalition government of political vendetta and vowed to retaliate in kind when the time comes. Drawing on Newton's third law of motion, he declared, "Every action has an equal and opposite reaction," signaling his intent to confront the alleged harassment once his party regains power. Srinivas reiterated that he would not bow to pressure, regardless of how many cases are filed against him, and expressed his dissatisfaction with the current state of law enforcement under the coalition government.



Gukesh's Historic Chess Victory: A New Era of Indian Supremacy

Gukesh Dommaraju, at the age of 18 years, 6 months, and 14 days, has stunned the world by becoming the youngest-ever World Chess Champion. On December 12, 2024, the teenage chess prodigy from India triumphed over defending champion Ding Liren of China in a thrilling final game that lasted over five hours. The 14-game series culminated in a dramatic endgame, which, despite expectations of a draw, saw Gukesh emerge victorious, showcasing his exceptional skill and composure.

Gukesh's victory marks a historic moment for both India and the world of chess. He became the 51st World Chess Champion and the 18th individual to achieve this prestigious title, joining the ranks of legends in chess history. His win also signifies a remarkable milestone in Indian chess, as it continues to dominate the global stage, following the success of Vishwanathan Anand, India's first World Chess Champion. Anand, who has been a mentor to Gukesh, expressed immense pride in his student's achievement, calling it a moment of great significance for Indian chess.

The victory is especially meaningful as it places Gukesh as the youngest World Chess Champion in history, surpassing the previous record held by Garry Kasparov, who won the title at 22 years old in 1985. Gukesh's journey to the top has been nothing short of meteoric. Beginning his chess career at the age of six, Gukesh quickly rose through the ranks. By 2015, at just 9 years old, he won the Asian School Junior Championship, and soon after, claimed titles at the World Youth Chess Championship in the Under-12 category. His rapid ascent continued, and by



2019, Gukesh became the third youngest Grandmaster in history at the age of 12.

The past year has been a particularly impressive one for Gukesh. In addition to his World Chess Championship victory, he was a key player in India's historic gold medal win at the 2024 Chess Olympiad in Budapest. Gukesh's performance, alongside fellow grandmasters like Arjun Erigaisi and Divya Deshmukh, helped India secure its first-ever gold in both the open and women's categories. These successes have solidified India's position as a chess powerhouse, with a rapidly

growing number of Grandmasters and International Masters.

Gukesh's victory is a symbol of the rising tide of Indian talent in the world of chess, with the country now producing some of the best players in history. His success not only honors India's chess legacy but also inspires countless young players around the world to dream big. With Gukesh's stunning performance, India has entered a new era of 'Indian Supremacy' in chess, and the world can expect more Indian champions to follow in his footsteps.



India's Agricultural Policy: A Price Check is Needed

India's agricultural policy has long focused on expanding markets and integrating technology into the sector. While these efforts are commendable, they often overlook the crucial issue of fair farm-gate prices for farmers. Without addressing existing logistical bottlenecks and the dominance of buyers in the market, the policy risks being ineffective in improving the economic conditions of farmers.

The Draft National Policy Framework on Agricultural Marketing, introduced by the Government of India, aims to tackle structural inefficiencies in agricultural marketing and enhance farmers' incomes. It identifies key problems, such as fragmented markets, poor infrastructure, and the lack of digital integration. However, these solutions often fail to address the most pressing issues farmers face — price volatility, supply-demand imbalances, and buyer cartelization.

Farmers' incomes are largely driven by the prices they receive for their produce. Unfortunately, these prices remain volatile, often subject to price crashes, and distortions caused by supply chain inefficiencies. Cartelized buyer behavior further exacerbates this issue, as middlemen and large corporate buyers can suppress prices, leaving farmers with minimal earnings. In such a scenario, technological advancements or market expansion become moot if farmers cannot sell their products at a fair price.

The framework does acknowledge important agricultural achievements, such as record food grain production and increased exports. It also recognizes challenges like fragmented landholdings and limited market access. However, it does not go far enough in addressing the core issue of low farmer incomes, which is primarily a result of price fluctuations and inadequate market access. While the policy addresses structural barriers such as high production costs and inefficient supply chains, it falls short of providing clear and actionable solutions to ensure fair price realization for farmers.

The framework envisions a vibrant, competitive, and transparent marketing ecosystem, emphasizing the adoption of innovative technologies and value chain-centric marketing. However, the focus on competition and transparency fails to address the ongoing power imbalance between farmers and buyers. Cartels often exploit the lack of transparency, preventing farmers from receiving their fair share of the value they generate.

For India's agricultural policy to be truly effective, it must go beyond market expansion and technological integration. It must ensure that farmers are paid fairly for their hard work, addressing the market's structural inefficiencies and the dominance of exploitative buyer cartels. Until these issues are resolved, farmers' incomes will continue to remain volatile, hindering the growth and sustainability of India's agricultural sector.

Syria's Struggle: Caught Between Dictatorship and Islamist Extremism

Syria's ongoing crisis has left its people caught between two equally troubling realities: the brutal Assad regime and the rise of Islamist groups. The fall of Bashar al-Assad's government, replaced by Islamist factions with ties to al-Qaeda and ISIS, underscores the complex, grey nature of the region's political landscape. This shift reveals the difficult choices facing ordinary Syrians, who are left wondering whether a change in leadership will truly bring peace or simply replace one form of oppression with another.

For over 50 years, the Assad family ruled Syria with a mix of fear, brutality, and authoritarian socialism. While their governance was harsh, it was not driven by

religious extremism. The Assads promoted a secular form of socialism, which, while repressive, allowed some space for moderate cultural and religious diversity. However, the lack of political freedoms and a lack of meaningful reforms led to growing resentment and the eventual uprising that erupted in 2011.

In the wake of the Assad regime, various Islamist factions, including those affiliated with al-Qaeda and ISIS, have stepped in to fill the power vacuum. Groups like Hay'at Tahrir al-Sham, which evolved from al-Qaeda's Syrian affiliate, now promise a new, Islamic state. However, their rhetoric of fairness and inclusivity toward minority groups rings hollow, considering their historical record and

ideological roots. Just as the world once believed in the promises of a "moderate" Taliban, there is a growing concern that these Islamist groups, too, will revert to hardline policies once in power, sidelining the country's secular legacy.

The situation is further complicated by Syria's turbulent history. Prior to the Assads, Syria endured centuries of Ottoman control, followed by French colonial rule. After gaining independence, Syria saw a series of unstable governments dominated by elite political families, none of which were able to bring lasting peace or stability. The rise of Islamist movements can be seen as a response to the failure of secular dictatorships to address the people's needs and aspirations.

Layers Surrounding Allu Arjun's Arrest: Revanth Reddy's Handling of Arjun Arrest Sparks Controversy

Telangana Chief Minister Revanth Reddy recently made waves with his remarks about movie stars, saying, "I am the star; I should have my own fan following. Why should I be someone else's fan?" He was responding to a question about his favorite movie stars during an interview. Known for his sharp political acumen and smart appearance, Reddy has worked to restore the Congress party's prominence in Telangana. However, his recent comments, especially regarding the arrest of Telugu cinema star Allu Arjun, have raised eyebrows.

Reddy showed little sympathy for the film industry and its business practices when discussing the stampede that led to the death of a 39-year-old woman and the injury of her son at a movie event attended by Allu Arjun. The Chief Minister dismissed the role of entertainment figures in such incidents, stating that they merely "invest money, earn profits, and go home."

However, the main issue at hand is whether Reddy, who also serves as the Home Minister, followed due process when the police arrested Allu Arjun. Reports suggest that the actor was detained in a manner that lacked basic decency, with police reportedly entering his bedroom and



taking him to the station without allowing him time to change clothes or speak to his family. Despite securing bail, Allu Arjun spent the night in jail.

The bigger question is whether there was enough evidence to charge the actor with culpable homicide not amounting to murder, as suggested by Reddy. The Chief Minister argued that Allu Ar-



jun's actions, such as standing on his car and waving to the crowd, were enough to implicate him. However, this view overlooks the common practice in the film industry of engaging with fans to promote movies.

Further complicating matters, a letter from the theatre management requesting additional security for the event on December 4, well before

the incident, seems to suggest that the police were aware of the crowd's size and the presence of film stars. This raises the question: should the police have done more to coordinate with the theatre and prevent the tragedy?

Reddy's decision to proceed with the arrest, despite his personal connection to the actor, also raises concerns about political influence and selective accountability in such matters.

Congress Can Never Erase Taint Of Emergency: PM On Constitution Debate

TPN CORRESPONDENT DELHI
DECEMBER.15

Prime Minister Narendra Modi launched a scathing attack on the Congress party during a debate on the Constitution in Parliament, accusing the party of imposing Emergency to preserve political power. Speaking on the 75th anniversary of India's Constitution, Modi asserted that the Congress would never be able to erase the stain of the Emergency period, which he said turned India into a "prison" and stripped citizens of their rights.

"I expected a healthy debate on the Constitution, but some chose to grieve their political losses," Modi said, alluding to the Opposition. Reflecting on the history of India's Constitution, he reminded the house that when it completed 25 years, it was "snatched" by the imposition of Emergency, which Modi referred to as a "sin" that Congress cannot wash off.

The Prime Minister then pointed to former Prime Minister Indira Gandhi's actions, accusing her of having no regard for the Constitution. "Even Indira Gandhi's election was declared void, yet she invoked Emergency in rage to save her seat, misusing the Constitution for personal gain," he said. Modi further criticized



her leadership, highlighting the thousands of people imprisoned during this period and the government's lack of empathy toward the suffering public.

Modi also condemned the actions of Indira Gandhi's son, Rajiv Gandhi, accusing him of overturning the Supreme Court's Shah Bano verdict in favor of a vote bank. He claimed that the Congress party's political dynasty continued a legacy of disregarding justice for personal

or political advantage. "Nehru ji started it, Indira ji took it forward, and Rajiv Gandhi followed the same path," Modi added.

The Prime Minister also targeted the National Advisory Council (NAC) under the UPA government, describing it as a body of unelected members who advised the Prime Minister, further reflecting on Congress's alleged misuse of power throughout the years.

Vijayendra Tried To Bribe Minority Commission On Waqf Wssue

TPN CORRESPONDENT BENGALURU
DECEMBER.15

Karnataka Chief Minister Siddaramaiah on Saturday accused BJP state president B.Y. Vijayendra of attempting to bribe Anwar Manippady, the former Chairperson of the Minority Commission, with Rs 150 crore to suppress an investigation into Waqf property encroachment during the previous BJP government.

Siddaramaiah claimed that Manippady had publicly stated that Vijayendra visited his house during the tenure of former Chief Minister B.S. Yediyurappa and offered him the bribe to remain silent about the encroachment report on Waqf properties. According to Siddaramaiah, Manippady rejected the offer and immediately reported the incident to Prime Minister Narendra Modi and the BJP President.

"There is no immediate response from either Manippady or Vijayendra. However, it raises suspicions about why Prime Minister Modi has remained silent on this serious allegation," Siddaramaiah said in a statement. He questioned the BJP leadership's apparent protection of Vijayendra and others involved in the Waqf property issue.

The Chief Minister also raised concerns about the BJP's involvement in the mismanagement of Waqf properties, citing the actions of former Chief Ministers B.S. Yediyurappa and Basavaraj Bommai. Siddaramaiah alleged that their tenure was marked by an unprecedented number of notices issued concerning Waqf properties, adding to the controversy.

Siddaramaiah's call for an investigation into the matter has intensified the political discourse, urging Prime Minister Modi to break his silence and order a CBI probe into the allegations. The claims have not yet been addressed by Vijayendra or Manippady, and the opposition is pressing for further clarification and accountability on the matter.



Delhi Being Called Crime Capital Under Your Watch: Kejriwal writes To Shah

TPN CORRESPONDENT DELHI
DECEMBER.15

Aam Aadmi Party (AAP) chief Arvind Kejriwal has expressed grave concerns over the worsening law and order situation in Delhi, labeling the city as the "crime and extortion capital of the world." In a letter addressed to Union Home Minister Amit Shah, Kejriwal raised alarms about recent bomb threat incidents and called for immediate attention to the city's escalating crime problems.



Kejriwal's letter highlighted the rising fears among residents and businesses due to increasing criminal activities,

particularly extortion cases, and the inability of the Delhi Police to effectively address these issues. He pointed out that the city's reputation is suffering due to these ongoing threats, which have caused widespread anxiety.

In his communication, Kejriwal requested a meeting with Amit Shah to discuss the matter in greater detail, stressing the need for urgent action to restore public safety and confidence. Given that Delhi's police force operates under the Union Home Ministry, Kejriwal urged Shah to intervene and ensure that the police are equipped and supported to handle the rising crime rate effectively.

The Delhi Chief Minister also referenced specific incidents involving bomb threats in recent times, which have further amplified concerns about public safety. The threats, he said, are reflective of the growing lawlessness and organized crime in the city, which, according to Kejriwal, demands immediate and decisive action from the central government.

Words and Actions Shouldn't Tarnish India's Global Image: Rijju During Constitution Debate

TPN CORRESPONDENT NEW DELHI
DECEMBER.15

Union Minister Kiren Rijju, while participating in a debate on the 75th anniversary of the adoption of India's Constitution, emphasized the importance of safeguarding the nation's image on the global stage. Rijju, speaking in the Lok Sabha on December 14, 2024, asserted that India has granted equal voting rights to all citizens, countering claims that minorities have no rights in the country.

He pointed out that India not only ensures legal protection for minorities but also has provisions for affirmative action to safeguard their interests. Rijju cautioned that the words and actions of leaders should not tarnish the country's reputation in international forums.



Rijju acknowledged that successive Indian governments have worked towards the welfare of minorities, including the Congress-led governments. He emphasized that his remarks were not meant to undermine the role of the Congress in this regard but to stress the broader, continuous commitment to minority welfare across various administrations.

The minister's comments came as part of a broader debate marking 75 years since the adoption of India's Constitution, which enshrines equality and justice for all citizens, regardless of their religion, caste, or creed. Rijju's speech highlighted the constitutional guarantees and historical efforts made by the country to ensure the well-being and protection of its minority communities.

Country Will Be Run By Constitution, Not Manusmriti: Rahul targets BJP



TPN CORRESPONDENT DELHI
DECEMBER.15

Leader of Opposition Rahul Gandhi on Saturday launched a scathing attack on the BJP, citing Hindutva ideologue V.D. Savarkar's criticism of the Indian Constitution to accuse the ruling party of defaming its own values. Gandhi referenced Savarkar's assertion that there was "nothing Indian about the Constitution," and alleged that the BJP is undermining the very foundation of the nation by claiming to protect it.

Gandhi further criticized the BJP and its ideological ally, the RSS, calling them "supporters of Manusmriti," an ancient text considered to promote caste-based discrimination. In contrast, he emphasized that the country is governed by the Constitution, which guarantees rights and justice for all.

Drawing a parallel with the mythological story of Eklavya, Gandhi argued that the BJP government is metaphorically "chopping off the thumb" of various sections of society. He referred to the creation of monopolies by the Adani Group, the introduction of the Agnipath scheme, the violent crackdown on protesting farmers, and the introduction of lateral entry and paper leaks as examples of how the government is harming the livelihoods of youth, farmers, backward classes, and the poor.

Gandhi used the thumb as a symbol of livelihood and skill, suggesting that these policies are stripping away opportunities for millions of Indians to prosper. "By these actions, the government is taking away the thumb, the symbol of their livelihood, from the people," he said.

Participating in the debate on the 75th anniversary of the adoption of the Constitution, Gandhi asserted that while the Constitution protects the rights of every poor and marginalized person in India, the BJP is constantly attacking it. He called on the nation to stand firm in protecting the Constitution, despite the ruling party's efforts to weaken it.



Omar Abdullah Criticizes Dual Governance in J&K, Urges Statehood Restoration

TPN CORRESPONDENT JAMMU & KASHMIR
DECEMBER.15

Jammu and Kashmir Chief Minister Omar Abdullah has sharply criticized the dual governance model in the Union Territory, where he shares power with the lieutenant governor, calling it a "recipe for disaster." In a candid interview, Abdullah called on the Centre to fulfill its promise and restore statehood to Jammu and Kashmir at the earliest, emphasizing that a unified administrative structure is essential for the region's progress.

This marks Abdullah's first in-depth interview since taking office in October, and he voiced cautious optimism regarding the Centre's commitment to restoring the region's statehood. He referred to repeated assurances made by Prime Minister Narendra Modi and Home Minister Amit Shah during election campaigns, signaling hope that the promises would soon be honored.

Abdullah's comments reflect the political complexities in Jammu and Kashmir since its special status was revoked in 2019. His remarks point to the challenges of governing under the current system, where the region is run by both a local chief minister and a centrally appointed lieutenant governor, leading to divided authority.

The chief minister likened the situation to corporate leadership, arguing that organizations do not thrive under multiple leaders. "Having two power centres anywhere is a recipe for disaster," Abdullah said, stressing that no successful entity operates without a clear, unified leadership structure. He further emphasized that even in sports, teams do not function effectively under two captains, highlighting the need for clarity and consistency in leadership.

By calling for the restoration of statehood, Abdullah is pushing for a return to a more defined administrative framework for Jammu and Kashmir, which would empower the elected government and provide a singular focus for governance. His stance challenges the current system, advocating for greater autonomy and a return to the status quo that existed before the revocation of Article 370.



South Korea President Yoon Impeached, PM Han Duck-so Becomes Interim President

SEOUL: South Korea's President Yoon Suk Yeol has been impeached following his attempt to impose martial law, leading to his suspension from presidential duties. Prime Minister Han Duck-so has stepped in as the acting president in line with the constitution, taking on the crucial task of managing the country through its most significant political crisis in decades.

Han, 75, is a career technocrat with a distinguished background, which includes decades of service in key governmental roles under five different presidents, both conservative and liberal. Known for his rationality and experience in diplomacy, economics, and governance, Han's moderate demeanor has earned him respect across political factions. His tenure as acting president will be critical, especially with South Korea facing threats from its nuclear-armed neighbor North Korea and a sluggish domestic economy.

Having served as prime minister since Yoon's administration began in 2022, Han is familiar with the role, having also held the position under former President Roh Moo-hyun in 2007-2008. His reputation for competence has led him to high-profile positions, including ambassador to the United States and finance minister. Fluent in English, Han's work on the U.S.-South Korea Free Trade Agreement further cemented his standing in international relations.



Han's interim leadership will continue until the Constitutional Court decides whether Yoon's impeachment will stand or if his powers will be reinstated. If Yoon is permanently removed, a presidential election must be held within 60 days, with Han continuing as acting president in the interim.

Han's leadership is not without controversy, as the opposition Democratic Party

has filed a complaint against him, claiming he failed to block Yoon's martial law attempt. If parliament moves to impeach Han, the finance minister would become the next acting president. While South Korea's Constitution does not explicitly define the prime minister's powers in such a scenario, it is generally believed that Han's authority is limited to preventing a government paralysis rather than full presidential powers.

China Plans to Invest USD 1 Billion in Pakistan for Medical City Development

CHINA: A Chinese business delegation has expressed interest in investing USD 1 billion to establish a state-of-the-art medical city in Karachi's Dhabeji Economic Zone, marking a significant step in the growing economic ties between China and Pakistan. During a meeting with Pakistan's President Asif Ali Zardari on Thursday, the investors outlined their plans to create Pakistan's first fully integrated pharmaceutical and medical ecosystem. This project is expected to contribute to the development of the health sector while benefiting the broader economy.

The Dhabeji Economic Zone, located outside Karachi, Pakistan's largest city and financial hub, is set to become the site for the medical city. The initiative has been hailed as a symbol of the strong bilateral relations between China and Pakistan, which have long collaborated on several investments and development projects, including the China-Pakistan Economic Corridor (CPEC), a critical infrastructure and trade initiative for Pakistan's economy.



The delegation's visit also underscored China's increasing interest in diversifying its investments in Pakistan. In addition to the medical city, the Chinese investors have expressed intentions to explore opportunities in other sectors such as agriculture, livestock, energy, transport, and manufacturing. This move reflects China's commitment to enhancing its economic footprint in Pakistan, particularly

in key industries that could drive future growth.

During the meeting, President Zardari emphasized the importance of strengthening economic and trade cooperation between the two countries. He reassured the investors that the government is dedicated to facilitating and supporting Chinese investments in Pakistan. "We welcome Chinese investors and are determined to provide them with every possible support," Zardari stated.

The Sindh government, represented by Chief Minister Syed Murad Ali Shah, also demonstrated its commitment to fostering closer ties with China. The province has introduced Chinese language courses to overcome potential language barriers and enhance cultural exchange between the two nations.

This proposed medical city project is expected to bring significant advancements to Pakistan's healthcare sector while further deepening the economic relationship with China.

18000 Indians Face Deportation Risk As Trump Vows Immigration Crackdown

WASHINGTON: As US President-elect Donald Trump prepares to take office, stricter immigration policies are already taking shape, with significant implications for undocumented immigrants. The US Immigration and Customs Enforcement (ICE) has compiled a list of 1.45 million people slated for deportation, which includes approximately 18,000 undocumented Indians.

In the past three years, around 90,000 Indians have been apprehended attempting to illegally cross the US border, with most coming from states like Punjab, Gujarat, and Andhra Pradesh, according to the Times of India. For many of these undocumented individuals, the path to legalizing their status is fraught with bureaucratic hurdles, with waiting periods often extending two to three years.

While India is not the country with the highest number of undocumented immigrants in the US, it ranks 13th in Asia, with 17,940 individuals on the list. Countries bordering the US, such as Honduras and Guatemala, have the highest number of undocumented immigrants, with 261,000 and 253,000 individuals respectively. In Asia, China leads with 37,908 undocu-



mented individuals.

India has been classified as one of the "uncooperative" countries in the deportation process, along with Bhutan, Cuba, Iran, Pakistan, Russia, and Venezuela. This lack of cooperation could complicate diplomatic relations between India and the US. The ICE document outlines that issues like conducting timely interviews, issuing travel documents, and accepting

deportees via scheduled flights are part of the challenges.

With Trump pledging the largest deportation process in American history, thousands of undocumented Indians who have final orders of deportation will likely be sent back to India. The evolving immigration landscape under Trump's administration is set to affect many, with legal, diplomatic, and social ramifications for both the US and India.



Macron Appoints François Bayrou as France's New Prime Minister

PARIS: In an effort to stabilize France's political landscape, President Emmanuel Macron has appointed his centrist ally, François Bayrou, as the country's new prime minister. This move comes in the wake of a historic parliamentary vote that ousted the previous government last week, marking a critical moment in the nation's political crisis.

Bayrou, 73, is a seasoned politician with decades of experience and has long been a crucial figure in Macron's centrist alliance. His appointment is seen as a strategic step to address the current political deadlock, as no single party holds a majority in the National Assembly. Macron's office confirmed that Bayrou has been entrusted with the task of forming a new government, with a focus on resolving the country's ongoing challenges.

Known for his moderate political stance, Bayrou's reputation for pragmatism and experience in French politics is expected to help bridge the divides in the country's fractured political environment. As a prominent figure within the French political establishment, his leadership could provide the much-needed stability and cooperation between various factions that have struggled to find common ground in recent years.

With the parliamentary situation in flux, Bayrou's role will be pivotal in navigating France through this period of uncertainty. His appointment is viewed as an effort to maintain governance and continue Macron's vision of a more centrist, cooperative approach to politics. The coming weeks will reveal how effective Bayrou will be in uniting the fractured political landscape and managing the complexities of forming a functional government.



Blinken meets Iraq PM discuss Syria, vows to fight against ISIS

IRAQ: In an unannounced visit to Baghdad on Friday, December 13, 2024, US Secretary of State Antony Blinken met with Iraq's Prime Minister, Mohammed Shia al-Sudani, to discuss the political future of neighboring Syria. The two leaders focused on the ongoing situation in Syria, particularly the challenges of a post-Bashar al-Assad regime. Blinken emphasized the importance of establishing a non-sectarian administration in Syria as part of the political transition process, highlighting the need for inclusive governance that could bring stability to the region.

Blinken's visit to Iraq comes amid heightened regional tensions and ongoing instability in Syria, where the Assad regime's actions have caused severe humanitarian and political fallout. The collapse of Assad's regime has left Syria in turmoil, with various factions vying for power and control. Blinken stressed that a political transition that includes all ethnic and sectarian groups is crucial for Syria's future. The US has long advocated for a government in Syria that represents the diversity of its people, rather than one dominated by any single sectarian or ethnic group.

During the discussions, Blinken and al-Sudani also touched on broader regional security concerns, with particular attention given to Iran's influence in the Middle East. The two leaders discussed the importance of continued cooperation in stabilizing the region and supporting efforts to ensure security and governance in both Iraq and Syria. The US and Iraq have been working closely together to address the challenges posed by extremist groups and foreign interference in the region.

Blinken's visit underscored the Biden administration's commitment to strengthening its relationships in the Middle East and pursuing diplomatic solutions to the ongoing conflicts in the region. The discussions in Baghdad were seen as part of the US's broader strategy to support regional partners and promote stability in the wake of Syria's ongoing political crisis.

Sri Lanka Supports Adani Group's Self-Funding for Colombo Port Project

Sri Lanka's government has expressed its support for the Adani-led conglomerate's decision to use its own resources to fund the ongoing deep-water container terminal project at the Colombo port. Ports Minister Bimal Rathnayaka emphasized that the government is eager to see the successful completion of the project, which is critical for the country's revenue generation.



In a recent statement, Rathnayaka confirmed that the Sri Lankan government had no objections to the Adani Group's decision to fund the Colombo West International Terminal (CWIT) project through its own internal accruals. This move follows a previous agreement by the US International Development Finance Corporation (DFC) to provide a USD 553 million loan to support the development and construction of the terminal. However, Adani Ports and SEZ Ltd announced in a filing on Tuesday that it would now proceed with the project using its own financial resources, aligning with its broader capital management strategy.

The CWIT project, part of the ongoing development of the Port of Colombo, is seen as a vital infrastructure project for Sri Lanka, with significant implications for the coun-

try's trade and economic growth. Rathnayaka highlighted the importance of the terminal, noting that it would contribute to both the port's revenue and the broader economy.

While the US-based DFC's funding was initially part of the plan, the Adani Group's decision to withdraw from the arrangement and fund the project independently has been described as an internal business decision. The Sri Lankan government, however, remains fully supportive, underscoring that the project's completion is a priority.

With the project scheduled for commissioning by early next year, the Adani-led initiative is expected to enhance the port's capacity, boosting Sri Lanka's position as a key player in global maritime trade.

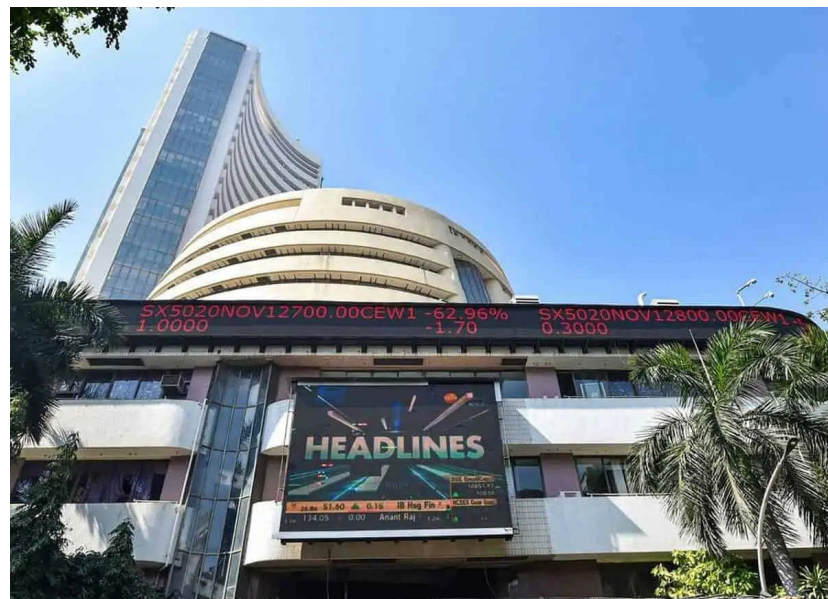
India's Economic Recovery Expected in FY25, with Positive Outlook for Equity Markets

India's economic growth is expected to rebound in the second half of FY25, driven by a recovery in government capital expenditure post-elections, rural consumption recovery, and strong festive season demand, according to a report by Motilal Oswal Private Wealth (MOPW). The report, titled the Alpha Strategist Report, highlights that India is poised to maintain its position as one of the fastest-growing major economies globally, characterized by stable growth and relatively low volatility.

The report notes that the Indian economy continues to show resilience, positioning the country for gradual growth as it recovers from the recent slowdown. It also points out that the equity markets are currently in a consolidation phase, following a 10-12% correction in the benchmark indices. Despite the correction, the report indicates that large-cap valuations now appear attractive for investors.

In light of the market's recent performance, the report recommends that investors adopt a balanced strategy, considering lump-sum investments in Hybrid, Large, and Flexi-cap funds. For mid- and small-cap strategies, the report suggests a more staggered approach over three months to mitigate risks and capitalize on potential market rebounds.

The report also highlights the recent return of foreign institutional investors (FII) to the Indian markets, with a net infusion of Rs 9,947 crore after 38



sessions of net selling. This indicates growing investor confidence in India's economic recovery and prospects.

While maintaining a positive long-term outlook for the equity markets, the report advises caution, recommending that investors align their strategies based on their risk profiles. It suggests increasing equity allocation if it is lower than desired levels, using a lump-sum investment strategy for large-cap and hybrid strategies and a phased approach for mid- and small-cap funds.

Regarding fixed income investments, the report suggests an overweight position in accrual strategies and a neutral stance on duration-based strategies, considering the evolving interest rate environment.

Indian Auto Components Industry Sees Robust Growth in H1 FY25



The Indian auto components industry has witnessed impressive growth in the first half of FY25, with its market size increasing by 11.3% from USD 36.1 billion in H1 FY24 to USD 39.6 billion in H1 FY25, according to a report by the Automotive Component Manufacturers Association (ACMA).

Key trends have emerged in the market, with consumers increasingly opting for larger and more powerful vehicles across all segments. The Passenger Vehicle (PV) segment saw a significant 13% growth in demand for Utility Vehicles (UVs), with UV1 models (measuring 4000 to 4400 mm in length and priced under Rs 20 lakh) witnessing a 25% rise in sales. Similarly, the two-wheeler market experienced a notable 74% growth in sales of motorcycles with engine capacities between 350cc and 500cc.

Electric vehicles (EVs) have also gained significant momentum, with sales rising by 22% in H1 FY25 compared to the previous year. While electric two-wheelers (e-2Ws) saw a 26% increase in sales, electric passenger vehicles (e-PVs) ex-

perienced a 19% decline.

Exports from the auto components sector have been strong, growing by 7% with a trade surplus of USD 150 million. The USA, Germany, and Turkey emerged as the leading destinations for Indian auto component exports, while China, Germany, Japan, and Korea were the primary sources of imports.

In terms of industry turnover, the total stood at Rs 3.32 lakh crore (USD 39.6 billion) in H1 FY25, up from Rs 2.98 lakh crore (USD 36.1 billion) in H1 FY24. This growth is driven by an 11.2% rise in supply to Original Equipment Manufacturers (OEMs), which amounted to Rs 2.83 lakh crore (USD 33.8 billion). The aftermarket segment also saw a 5% increase, reaching Rs 47,416 crore (USD 5.7 billion).

Exports from the industry grew by 8.7%, totaling Rs 93,342 crore (USD 11.1 billion), up from Rs 85,870 crore (USD 10.4 billion) in H1 FY24, further demonstrating the sector's robust global performance.

India's Export Growth to the US: A 30-Year Success Story

India's exports to the United States have seen steady growth, reaching USD 77.5 billion in FY24, reflecting a compounded annual growth rate (CAGR) of 10.3% over the past 30 years, according to a report by Bank of Baroda. This increase highlights the growing importance of the US as a destination for Indian goods.

The report notes that the growth in exports to the US has consistently outpaced India's overall export growth, particularly after the global financial crisis in 2008, which temporarily slowed growth until FY10. Since then, US-bound exports have steadily climbed, underscoring the significance of the American market for India.

India's export trajectory to the US has mirrored the country's overall export growth since 1991, when India began its economic reforms. As of FY24, the US accounted for 18% of India's total exports, an increase from 16.4% in FY92, though still below



the peak of 22.8% in FY00. After dipping to 10.1% in FY11 due to the financial crisis, the share has gradually rebounded.

Despite this growth, the report recommends diversifying export markets to reduce dependency on any single destination, especially given the shifting global political dynamics. The US continues to

be a crucial market for key Indian industries, with the top five export commodities in FY24—drugs and pharmaceuticals, pearls and precious stones, petro products, telecom instruments, and ready-made garments—accounting for 40% of total exports to the US.

Other significant exports to the US include yarn, marine products, and electronic goods, although these face strong competition from other Asian countries. Certain industries, such as drugs and pharmaceuticals, pearls and precious stones, telecom instruments, and ready-made garments, have the highest exposure to the US market, with over 30% of their turnover linked to American demand.

Additionally, sectors like carpets, electronic products, yarn, and marine products continue to have a significant percentage of exports to the US, despite their smaller overall export value.

SEBI to Review Algo Trading Rules to Boost Retail Participation

On Friday, the Securities and Exchange Board of India (SEBI) announced plans to review the existing regulatory framework for algorithmic trading (algo trading) in order to enhance the participation of retail investors. The move comes as part of SEBI's efforts to modernize the market structure and encourage wider engagement in the stock markets.

Algorithmic trading, or algo trading, involves the use of automated execution logic to generate and place orders in the financial markets. These trades are executed at high speed and with precise timing, which can provide significant advantages, such as improved efficiency and reduced costs. By automating the trading process, algo trading eliminates the need for manual intervention, allowing for quicker and more accurate order execution.

The proposed review of the algo trading framework aims to make it more accessible to retail investors, who have traditionally been at a disadvantage compared to institutional traders that use advanced



Currently, the regulatory environment for algorithmic trading is primarily tailored to institutional traders, with stringent requirements regarding infrastructure, risk management, and compliance. SEBI's review will focus on identifying potential changes to the rules that could encourage retail investors to adopt algorithmic strategies, while ensuring that safeguards are in place to prevent market disruptions and ensure investor protection.

The move is expected to create new opportunities for retail investors, empowering them to leverage the power of algorithms for better trade execution and portfolio management. It also aligns with SEBI's broader objective of enhancing market efficiency and fostering a more inclusive trading ecosystem.

technologies for high-frequency trading. SEBI's initiative seeks to level the playing field by introducing measures that will allow retail participants to benefit from the same technological advantages, thus increasing their market participation.

With the increasing role of technology in the financial markets, SEBI's review of the algo trading framework signals a forward-looking approach to adapt to the evolving trading landscape.



Teacher's Unique World Map Carved on a Lemon Captivates the Internet



Narasingha Das, a geography teacher from Paschim Medinipur district in West Bengal, has captured the imagination of the internet with an extraordinary work of art—a world map intricately carved onto a single lemon. This impressive feat of creativity and craftsmanship has drawn attention for its stunning detail and the innovative concept behind it.

Narasingha, who has always had a deep passion for art and handicrafts, brought together his love for geography and creativity to produce this miniature world map. Even as a child, he was fascinated by creative activities, and his interest in artistic endeavors has remained strong throughout his life. While he continues to teach and inspire his students in the classroom, Narasingha also dedicates his free time to pursuing artistic hobbies at home.

This lemon-carved world map is a remarkable testament to his artistic talent and meticulous attention to

detail. The work, which has garnered widespread admiration on social media platforms, highlights Narasingha's unique approach to combining education and art. The intricacy with which he carved the continents and countries onto such a small surface has left many in awe of his skills.

Though Narasingha has been recognized for his various artistic creations over the years, this lemon map stands out as a special accomplishment. His work is not just a representation of his artistic capabilities, but also an example of how teachers can inspire creativity beyond the classroom. His dedication to both his craft and his students continues to make an impact, proving that learning and creativity can go hand in hand.

Narasingha Das's remarkable lemon art is now winning hearts online, reminding us all of the boundless potential for creativity in even the simplest of objects.

Stay in Arnie the Army Truck: A Unique Hotel Experience



In the world of unique and unconventional hotels, Arnie the Army Truck stands out as a fascinating option for travelers. Originally a bomb disposal truck built in 1987, it has been transformed into a cozy and pet-friendly hotel, offering a one-of-a-kind experience. Located in the village of Hatch Beauchamp, England, this repurposed military vehicle provides a luxurious stay, blending the charm of history with modern comforts.

Arnie the Army Truck charges around Rs 10,000 per night for a stay, making it an affordable yet unusual getaway. Despite its origins as a military vehicle, the interior of the truck is surprisingly opulent. The truck's transformation includes a comfortable bed, stylish furnishings, and all the amenities one might expect from a high-end hotel. It is designed to accommodate two guests, making it an ideal choice for couples or small groups. For those traveling with pets, the truck is also pet-friendly, adding another layer of

appeal to its unique design.

This extraordinary hotel concept is part of a growing trend of repurposed accommodations that provide tourists with novel experiences. From underwater hotels to treehouses, the travel industry has been embracing unusual designs to attract visitors seeking something different. Arnie the Army Truck fits perfectly into this trend, offering a memorable stay with a historical twist.

The truck's location in Hatch Beauchamp provides a peaceful and secluded setting, perfect for those looking to escape the hustle and bustle of city life. Guests can enjoy the novelty of staying in a former army vehicle while still indulging in the luxury of modern amenities. Whether you're looking for a quirky getaway or a unique place to spend the night, Arnie the Army Truck offers a memorable experience that combines history, comfort, and a touch of adventure.

WhatsApp's New Poll Feature: A Quick Way to Gather and Make Decisions

In 2024, India made a significant mark on Instagram, as trends from the country went global, capturing attention worldwide. The platform's Year-in-Review highlighted how Indian creators and trends shaped the digital landscape, with Indian content resonating across borders.

Indian artists made waves with collaborations that transcended boundaries. Diljit Dosanjh teamed up with American rapper Saweetie for the track *Khutti*, while King joined forces with Nick Jonas for the hit *Maan Meri Jaan*. Canadian artist Connor Price collaborated with Harsh Likhari on *Customs*, blending genres and reaching international audiences. These partnerships not only bridged cultures but also showcased India's growing influence in the global music scene.

One of the standout trends this year was the Asoka makeup look, which gained global popularity. The dramatic and bold makeup style, inspired by the 2001 Bollywood film *Asoka*, took over Instagram feeds in countries like Indonesia, Nigeria, and Slovakia. The trend also sparked a wave of creators across the world experimenting with Indian-inspired looks. Meanwhile, in Japan, creators embraced Bollywood nostalgia, lip-syncing to dialogues from classics like *Kabhi Khushi Kabhie Gham*, connecting with global audiences who shared a love for Indian cinema.

In addition to makeup, Indian regional music dominated Instagram Reels, with songs like the Haryanvi track



Jale 2 and Punjabi hit *Ve Haaniyaan* inspiring millions of reels. Marathi, Tamil, and Bhojpuri songs also gained global attention, with tracks like *Gulabi Sadi*, *Aasa Kooda*, and *Bandookk* becoming favorites. Indian music's influence continued with global hits such as *Big Dawgs* and *Taambdi Chaambdi*, further fueling Instagram trends.

In 2024, India's vibrant culture and creative output not only captivated local audiences but also made a massive impact on the global digital stage, proving that Indian content is truly a force to be reckoned with.

The Worrying Trend of Weekend Drinking

In India, the consumption of alcohol has been steadily rising despite repeated health warnings. After a long work week, many individuals unwind by relaxing with alcohol, a trend that has become more prevalent, especially among "weekend drinkers." These individuals typically indulge in heavy drinking on Fridays and Saturdays, abstaining from alcohol during the week. While this behavior might not seem harmful initially, the cumulative effects of binge drinking over the weekend can lead to serious health and lifestyle issues.

The phenomenon of "weekend alcoholism" is a growing concern. A 2009 study published in *The Lancet* highlighted a concerning 8% increase in alcohol sales over three years, and that one-fifth of alcohol drinkers in India were classified as dependent drinkers, requiring professional help.

What's more alarming is the sharp decline in the age of initiation into drinking, with the average age dropping from 19 years to just 13 years in the last decade. This trend signifies that alcohol consumption is increasingly being normalized at an early age, raising concerns about its long-term consequences on physical and mental health.

Another issue exacerbating this problem is the preference for spirits, which account for 95% of alcohol consumption in India. Spirits, which typically contain at least 20% alcohol by volume, pose a greater risk to health compared to beers or wines due to their higher alcohol



content. According to recent statistics from Statista, alcohol consumption in India has significantly increased, from 4.86 billion liters in 2020 to 6.21 billion liters in 2024. Furthermore, over 88% of Indians under the age of 25 have reported drinking alcohol, underscoring the widespread nature of the issue.

Despite the growing concern, efforts to address the health risks associated with alcohol consumption remain insufficient. With the rise of weekend drinking habits, the impact on public health is likely to become even more pronounced in the coming years.

TikTok will Be banned unless ByteDance divests It By Jan.19

TikTok is racing against the clock to appeal to the US Supreme Court after a ruling from a US appeals court denied its request for an extension to challenge a law requiring its Chinese parent company, ByteDance, to sell the app by January 19. The decision puts TikTok at risk of being shut down, a scenario the company is keen to avoid.

Earlier this week, TikTok and ByteDance filed an emergency motion with the US Court of Appeals for the District of Columbia, asking for more time to present their case before the Supreme Court. The companies argued that without legal intervention, the law would lead to TikTok's forced closure, which would significantly impact its more than 170 million monthly US users.

The potential shutdown of TikTok has become a critical issue in the ongoing debate over data privacy and national security concerns related to Chinese-owned companies. US lawmakers have expressed fears about the app's data practices and its potential to be used for espionage, prompting calls for a ban or forced sale of the platform. TikTok has strongly denied these allegations, insisting that it stores US user data securely and operates independently from its Chinese parent company.



In their legal filings, TikTok and ByteDance emphasized the app's role as a vital platform for free speech and its deep integration into the daily lives of millions of Americans. They argued that the forced sale of the app could have far-reaching consequences, not only for users but also for content creators and businesses that rely on TikTok's unique platform for communication and commerce.

As the clock ticks down to the January 19 deadline, TikTok's future in the US hangs in the balance, with both the company and its millions of users anxiously awaiting the outcome of their legal battle.



Harry Kane to Remain England's Captain, Confirms Thomas Tuchel

England's manager, Thomas Tuchel, has confirmed that Harry Kane will continue as the country's captain, putting an end to any speculation regarding changes in leadership. Kane, the Bayern Munich striker, has been instrumental in England's recent successes, and Tuchel expressed his full confidence in him. Speaking to the media following the 2026 FIFA World Cup qualifying draw, Tuchel stated, "There is at the moment no need to think about change. Harry was always a top captain for England. So why even think about it right now?"

Tuchel, who succeeded Gareth Southgate in October, emphasized that while Kane's captaincy remains secure, he intends to approach his new role with a fresh perspective. The German manager noted that he would assess all players individually and allow everyone to start with a clean slate as he takes full responsibility of the team. "We will be in touch with everyone and get a feel for St George's Park and the players," Tuchel explained. "Until March, there is a lot of football to be played."

The new England manager is also looking to reconnect with Arsenal defender Ben White, who left the squad during the 2022 FIFA World Cup for personal reasons. White's future with the national team had been uncertain due to rumors of a fallout with Southgate's staff, but Tuchel expressed his openness to reintegrating the 26-year-old. "I will reach out to him. It should be a clean start," Tuchel said, adding that he would begin watching games from January and speak with all players, including White.

With the 2026 World Cup qualifiers set to be-



gin in March, Tuchel's England project will kick off in earnest. The condensed schedule offers limited time for Tuchel to assess his squad. He plans to attend Premier League games in January to ensure a comprehensive understanding of the player pool. "I will respect their schedules," Tuchel said, recognizing the busy calendar ahead. His approach aims to build relationships with players while focusing on long-term success in the upcoming World Cup.



Mohammad Amir Announces Retirement from International Cricket

Pakistan pacer Mohammad Amir has announced his retirement from international cricket, making the decision public on Saturday. His retirement follows a day after all-rounder Imad Wasim also announced his exit from international cricket, marking the end of an era for both players, who were integral parts of Pakistan's squad in recent years. Amir's decision to retire comes just months after he featured for Pakistan in the 2024 T20 World Cup.

Amir, 32, made his international debut in June 2009 and went on to represent Pakistan in 36 Tests, 61 ODIs, and 62 T20Is. Throughout his career, Amir was known for his pace, swing, and ability to deliver under pressure. He was a crucial part of Pakistan's bowling attack in all formats, playing a key role in numerous memorable victories.

However, Amir's career was not without controversy. In 2011, he was banned for five years due to

his involvement in a spot-fixing scandal during Pakistan's tour of England. Despite the setback, Amir made a successful comeback to international cricket in 2016 and regained his place in the national team, earning the admiration of fans and critics alike for his resilience and performance.

Amir's retirement brings an end to a career that spanned over a decade and saw him achieve numerous accolades, including playing a significant role in Pakistan's victory in the 2017 ICC Champions Trophy, where he delivered a match-winning spell in the final against India.

His decision to retire has been met with mixed reactions, as he leaves behind a legacy of both triumph and controversy. Amir's exit from international cricket marks the end of an era for Pakistan's fast-bowling attack, and his contributions to the sport will continue to be remembered by fans and cricket enthusiasts worldwide.

Harmanpreet Kaur Under Pressure Ahead of WT20I Series Against West Indies



Indian women's cricket captain Harmanpreet Kaur is under intense scrutiny following a disappointing series against Australia. With her leadership and selection decisions constantly questioned, Kaur will need to quickly bounce back as India gears up for their three-match WT20I series against the West Indies. The series will begin with the opening game soon, and Kaur's captaincy will be in the spotlight once again.

India has a strong record against the West Indies in recent T20I matches, winning their last eight encounters in the format since November 2019. However, maintaining this dominant run will not be easy. India is grappling with depleting resources and a lack of confidence after a tough few months, and Kaur will need to rally her team and lead from the front if they are to continue their winning streak.

Kaur's leadership has come under criticism recently, especially after questionable

selection decisions during the ODI series against Australia. These moves raised concerns about her future as captain, particularly with Smriti Mandhana, one of India's most consistent performers, emerging as a potential successor. The pressure on Kaur has only intensified after India's early exit from the T20 World Cup, where their only consolation came from a hard-earned victory over Pakistan.

This upcoming series against the West Indies will be crucial for Kaur to regain control and demonstrate her leadership qualities. India will be looking to turn the page and rebuild their confidence, especially after the disappointing World Cup campaign. With a series win, Kaur can silence her critics and strengthen her position as captain, but it will require a focused, collective effort from the entire team. As the squad looks ahead to the West Indies series, all eyes will be on Kaur to lead with confidence and inspire her team to success.

Rain Disrupts Third India vs Australia Test at the Gabba

The opening day of the third Test between India and Australia at the Gabba was washed out by heavy rain, leaving fans disappointed. Australia, having been invited to bat, managed to face only 13.2 overs before persistent showers forced the players off the field. At the end of the shortened day, Australia was 28 for no loss, with Usman Khawaja (19 not out) and Nathan McSweeney (4 not out) at the crease.

The day started with steady drizzle, which briefly halted play in the sixth over. However, the weather worsened, and a second spell of heavy rain led to the abandonment of any further play for the day. Despite the weather interruptions, the two Australian openers handled the new ball well, seeing off the Indian pacers in the brief period of play.



India's bowlers, Jasprit Bumrah (0/8 in 6 overs), Mohammed Siraj (0/13 in 4 overs), and debutant Akash Deep (0/2 in 3.2 overs), all had limited opportunity to make an impact due to the rain delays. The wet conditions made it difficult for the bowlers to maintain any rhythm, and the batsmen took advantage of the small window of play.

With only a few hours of action on the first day, the match is now set to resume on day two, with both teams hoping for better weather conditions. India will look to break the opening partnership early, while Australia will aim to build on their solid start. The forecast for the coming days remains uncertain, and both sides will be hoping for more playing time to settle into the contest.

Gukesh Crowned World Chess Champion: A Dream Come True

Indian Grandmaster Gukesh D was crowned the 18th World Chess Champion in Singapore, an achievement that marked the pinnacle of his remarkable journey in the game. The victory, however, was overshadowed by controversy, as the president of the Russian Chess Federation suggested that Ding Liren had deliberately lost the final game. Despite this, Gukesh's triumph was celebrated by fans and chess enthusiasts around the world.

Along with the prestigious World Championship trophy, Gukesh won a cash prize of Rs 11.45 crore, with an additional Rs 5 crore announced by the Tamil Nadu government. Ding, despite finishing as the runner-up, earned a prize of approximately Rs 9.75 crore. The chess body, FIDE, also incentivized thrilling games by announcing a cash award of Rs 1.69 crore for each game won. Gukesh won three games, while Ding secured two victories. The players shared the \$1.3 million prize pool, making it a rewarding experience for both.



FIDE president Arkady Dvorkovich presented the trophy to Gukesh amidst loud cheers from the audience. Gukesh, known for his composure and humility, delivered an emotional speech upon receiving the trophy. "I have lived this moment a million times in my mind," he shared. "Every morning when I woke up, this moment was the reason I woke up. To hold this trophy and live this reality means more than anything else in my life."

The newly crowned World Chess Champion also expressed admiration for his opponent, Ding Liren, calling him a "true champion" and acknowledging the incredible fight they had in the series. Gukesh's gratitude extended to his parents, team, and fans who supported him throughout his journey. "This journey has been nothing short of a dream," he said, reflecting on the highs and lows that shaped his path. "I wouldn't change a single thing, and it's been beautiful because of the people I've had with me."



Mad Square: A Highly Anticipated Sequel Set for 2025 Release

The youthful and lively entertainer *Mad*, which starred Narne Nithin, Sangeeth Shobhan, and Ram Nithin in lead roles, became a massive hit at the box office. The film's success not only made waves at the ticket windows but also sparked excitement among fans for a sequel. The follow-up, titled *Mad Square*, promises to be an even crazier ride, with the original cast returning and new faces joining in. The film is set to hit the big screens on Maha Shivaratri 2025, which coincides with the release of Nithin's highly anticipated *Thammudu*. Though *Mad Square* was initially slated for a 2024 release, the film's launch was delayed for undisclosed reasons.

The sequel will see the return of the original lead trio, Narne Nithin, Sangeeth Shobhan, and Ram Nithin, along with the stunning Gouri Priya, Ananthika Sanilkumar, and Gopika Udayan, who will reprise their roles as the female leads.

Adding to the excitement, actress Priyanka Jawalkar has reportedly joined the cast and will play a significant role in the film, bringing her charm and glam to the mad-cap entertainer.

The makers of *Mad Square* have already generated buzz with the release of the song *Laddu Gaani Pelli*, which quickly became a chartbuster, fueling anticipation for the film. The direction is once again helmed by Kalyan Shankar, who directed the first film, ensuring that the same energetic and



fun-filled vibe continues in the sequel. The film is produced by Haarika Suryadevara and Sai Soujanya under the banners of Sithara Entertainments and Fortune Four Cinemas, with Bheems Ceciroleo composing the music.

Fans of the original *Mad* are eagerly awaiting *Mad Square*, and with a stellar cast, catchy music, and the signature madness that made the first movie a hit, the sequel is shaping up to be one of the most exciting releases of 2025.

Suriya and Trisha Reunite for Suriya45: A Rural Entertainer with a Legal Twist

Kollywood star Suriya's upcoming project, *Suriya45*, has generated immense excitement, especially with the announcement that Tamil film icon Trisha will be playing the female lead. The duo will be reuniting on screen after nearly 19 years since their last collaboration in the 2005 film *Aaru*. This long-awaited reunion has thrilled fans of both superstars, marking their hat-trick collaboration and raising anticipation for the film's release.

A major update regarding the film reveals that both Suriya and Trisha will be portraying lawyers in *Suriya45*, a legal drama directed by RJ Balaji. This marks the third time in just four movies that Suriya has taken on the role of a lawyer. His previous performances as a lawyer in the critically acclaimed *Jai Bhim* and *Etharkkum Thunindhavan* were widely praised, and his fans are eager to see him return to this role. The pairing of Suriya and Trisha in these distinct lawyer roles has generated considerable excitement, with many curious to see how their characters evolve throughout the story.

Set against a rural backdrop, *Suriya45* is expected to be an entertainer with a mix of drama, action, and legal intrigue. The film is being produced by SR Prakash Babu and SR Prabhu under the Dream Warrior Pictures banner, a production company known for its commitment to quality cinema. The film's music is composed by Sai Abhyankar, adding to the expectations surrounding the project.

As more details about *Suriya45* unfold, fans are eagerly awaiting further updates on the plot, supporting cast, and release dates. With Suriya and Trisha back together on screen and the promise of an



engaging rural entertainer with a legal twist, *Suriya45* is shaping up to be one of the most highly anticipated films in Kollywood.

Daaku Maharaj: Balayya's Grand Pre-Release Event in the US



With a large and passionate Indian community in the US, particularly among Telugu cinema fans, filmmakers are increasingly organizing special events abroad to build excitement ahead of film releases. While actor visits to US theaters before a film's release have become common, this trend is set to become the new normal. Following the footsteps of Ram Charan's *Game Changer*, which will have a grand pre-release event in Dallas, Texas, on December 21st, 2024, another highly anticipated film, *Daaku Maharaj*, will also host its own grand event in the US.

Directed by Bobby Kolli, *Daaku Maharaj*, starring the charismatic Balakrishna (Balayya), is all set for a grand pre-release event in Dallas, Texas, on January 4th, 2025, beginning at 6 pm. The film, which will be released on January 12, 2025, as part of the Sankranti season, has already built considerable buzz among fans. Balayya will attend the event, along with director Bobby

Kolli, to engage with the fans and promote the film. More details regarding the event are awaited, but fans are eager to see the star and team of *Daaku Maharaj* in person.

The promo for *Daaku Maharaj*, titled *Daaku's Rage*, was released recently, adding to the growing excitement. The full song will be released on December 14th, 2024, making it a highly anticipated musical treat. The film features a stellar cast, including Shradha Srinath, Urvashi Rautela, Pragya Jaiswal, and Chandini Chaudhary as the female leads. The music for the film has been composed by Thaman, ensuring that it will be an unforgettable auditory experience for the audience.

Daaku Maharaj is produced by Naga Vamsi and promises to be an action-packed entertainer. As the film gears up for its January release, the grand US event is expected to take the anticipation for the movie to new heights, further cementing Balayya's global fanbase.

Gamechanger Gears Up for Worldwide Premiere on January 9th, 2025

Mega Powerstar Ram Charan's much-anticipated film, *Gamechanger*, is set for a grand release during Sankranti 2025. Directed by the acclaimed Shankar, the film stars Kiara Advani as the female lead. Fans are eagerly awaiting the movie, with its worldwide premiere confirmed for January 9th, 2025, ahead of its official release on January 10th, 2025.

The makers of *Gamechanger* have announced that the film will have a grand premiere in the USA on January 9th, with bookings opening today. The official social media update read, "Let the games begin! GameChanger Overseas bookings open now Worldwide premieres on Jan 9th!" This marks the beginning of what is expected to be an exciting promotional journey for the film. Additionally, while USA premieres are confirmed for January 9th, there are reports that premieres will also be held in other locations globally on the same date.

However, there's uncertainty surrounding whether the premiere will happen in the Telugu States on the same day. Telangana's Cinematography Minister, Komatireddy Venkata Reddy, has already confirmed that there will be no permissions granted for benefit shows in the state. If the team plans to hold the premieres in Telangana on January



9th, they would need to obtain special permissions. Additionally, the filmmakers are reportedly making arrangements so that no official attendees, including the team and cast, will be present during the show.

Gamechanger is being produced by Dil Raju under the Sri Venkateswara Creations banner. With Shankar's direction and Ram Charan in the lead, *Gamechanger* is expected to be a major box office hit. Fans are eagerly awaiting both the global premieres and the official release, marking the film as one of the most awaited events of 2025.

Bachhala Malli Trailer: A Promising Blockbuster in the Making

Allari Naresh is gearing up for a standout performance in his upcoming film *Bachhala Malli*, where he plays the titular role. Directed by Subbu Mangadevi, the film has already generated significant buzz, with the teaser and three song releases receiving positive reactions. Adding to the excitement, Natural Star Nani unveiled the official trailer, further raising anticipation for the film's release.

The trailer offers a glimpse into the transformation of Allari Naresh's character, from a rebellious, brawling man to someone who becomes gentler after falling in love. His character, despite having a troubled past and bad habits, evolves completely for the woman he loves. However, their relationship faces a major hurdle when her father disapproves, adding a layer of emotional conflict to the story.



Allari Naresh delivers a powerful and nuanced performance, embracing a bold and intense character. His portrayal of a troubled yet defiant individual is both captivating and gripping. Amritha Aiyer, playing his love interest, brings a calm and composed presence to the screen, perfectly complementing Naresh's energy.

Director Subbu Mangadevi's choice of an intense, emotionally charged sto-

ryline ensures that the audience stays hooked, with tight pacing that builds tension throughout. Cinematographer Richard M. Nathan's visuals are a perfect match for the film's tone, while Vishal Chandrasekhar's music and background score elevate the emotional stakes of the narrative. The production values, under Razesh Danda and Balaji Gutta's Hasya Movies, are exceptional, adding depth to the overall experience.

With the trailer sparking excitement and showcasing clear blockbuster potential, *Bachhala Malli* has quickly become one of the most anticipated releases of the year. The film is set to hit theaters on December 20th, and audiences are eagerly awaiting what promises to be an intense and emotional cinematic experience.