

Weather Forecast

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

Parthasarathi Apologizes to TDP Workers

Clarifies Misunderstanding Over Jogi Ramesh's Presence

TPN Correspondent
Vijayawada, Dec-18:

Andhra Pradesh Information, Civic Relations, and Housing Minister Kolusu Parthasarathi has expressed regret over an incident that occurred during the unveiling of a bronze statue of Sardar Gauthu Lachanna, a leader known for his fight for social justice and the upliftment of weaker sections. Addressing a press conference at the TDP central office in Mangalagiri, Parthasarathi clarified his position and sought forgiveness from TDP workers who were upset over the presence of former YSRCP minister Jogi Ramesh at the event.

The minister emphasized that the program, organized by the Gowda Sangham, was planned independently and without any involvement from the TDP leadership, including national or mandal-level office bearers. He said he was unaware of Jogi Ramesh's participation and explained the sequence of events leading to his presence at the ceremony.

Parthasarathi recalled that the Gowda Sangham approached him for assistance in organizing the event, and he agreed to support the unveiling of the statue. The program's date was finalized based on his suggestion after consultations with the Sangham members. However, due to his commitments with an I&PR meeting, he initially informed them that he could not attend. The organizers, however, rescheduled the event to accommodate his presence, and he attended after completing his prior obligations. "I was shocked to see 'that person' (referring to Jogi Ramesh) at the event. Since it was entirely organized by the Gowda Sangham, I had no involvement in the arrangements or guest in-



vitations," Parthasarathi clarified. He reiterated his respect for Chandrababu Naidu and Nara Lokesh, adding that their trust and the unwavering support of TDP workers have been invaluable to him.

No Personal Ties with Jogi Ramesh

Parthasarathi categorically denied any personal relationship with Jogi Ramesh, asserting that allegations of his association with YSRCP were false and baseless. He reminded workers of his consistent stance against YSRCP and his efforts to strengthen the TDP since joining the party before the elections.

Addressing accusations regarding his role in the recent water association elections, Parthasarathi clarified that he did not interfere in the process or endorse any candidates, except to insist on the inclusion of SC, ST, and BC candidates. He reaffirmed his commitment to party principles and the

leadership.

"I have worked to bring people from the Congress and YSRCP into the TDP, strengthening our party at the grassroots level. I assure workers that I will continue to uphold their trust and work for the party's growth," he stated. Commitment to TDP Workers The minister emphasized that any misunderstanding caused by the incident was unintentional and regretted that the sentiments of party workers had been hurt. He vowed to take greater precautions in the future to prevent similar issues.

"I will never forget the respect given to me by Chandrababu Naidu and Lokesh. My focus remains on strengthening the TDP and ensuring that the flag of our party flies high in future elections," Parthasarathi said. He urged workers not to believe misleading reports and reiterated his loyalty to the party and its leadership. Parthasarathi concluded by expressing confidence in the TDP's future and its ability to win the local body elections.

President Draupadi Murmu Concludes Andhra Pradesh Visit



TPN Correspondent
Andhra Pradesh:

President of India, Draupadi Murmu, concluded her one-day visit to Andhra Pradesh on Monday. The President arrived at Gannavaram Airport in Vijayawada, where she was accorded a warm welcome by Andhra Pradesh Chief Minister N. Chandrababu Naidu, Deputy Chief Minister Pawan Kalyan, and Governor S. Abdul Nazeer. TDP MPs, BJP leaders, and senior officials were also present to receive her with floral bouquets. The police presented a guard of honour to mark the occasion.

From Vijayawada, President Murmu traveled to Mangalagiri to attend the first convocation ceremony

of AIIMS Mangalagiri as the chief guest. During the event, 49 MBBS graduates were conferred with their degrees. Addressing the young doctors, President Murmu urged them to prioritize providing medical services in rural areas and emphasized their role in building an inclusive national healthcare system.

The ceremony was attended by Chief Minister Chandrababu Naidu and State Education Minister Nara Lokesh, who joined the graduates and faculty in celebrating this milestone for AIIMS Mangalagiri.

After the convocation, President Murmu returned to Gannavaram Airport, where she departed for Hyderabad on a special flight, marking the conclusion of her visit to Andhra Pradesh.

One Nation, One Election!!

TDP and YSRCP Align, but with Different Motives



TPN Correspondent
Delhi, Dec-18:

The long-awaited One Nation, One Election bill took a decisive step forward as it was tabled in Parliament on Tuesday. Union Law Minister Arjun Ram Meghwal introduced two bills aimed at facilitating simultaneous elections to the Lok Sabha, state assemblies, and Union Territories.

With the NDA government holding a clear majority, the bill sailed through the house with 269 MPs voting in favor and 198 MPs opposing it. The Congress party, which led the opposition, criticized the bill, calling it a violation of the constitutional framework.

"The Congress party firmly and comprehensively rejects the One Nation, One Election bill. We oppose its introduction and demand its referral to a Joint Parliamentary Committee for further scrutiny. This bill is unconstitutional," stated the Congress leadership.

In a notable political development,

Telugu Desam Party (TDP) and YSR Congress Party (YSRCP) both supported the bill, albeit for contrasting reasons.

As an ally of the NDA, the TDP's backing of the bill was expected, aligning with its coalition commitments. Meanwhile, YSRCP's approval appears to be driven by political strategy. The party reportedly sees the bill as a potential accelerator for early elections, which it hopes will offer an opportunity to recover from its recent electoral setbacks.

With the bill now passed, it will move to a Joint Parliamentary Committee (JPC), which will oversee the planning and framework for its implementation.

However, despite its swift approval in Parliament, the One Nation, One Election bill is not expected to be operational immediately. Experts confirm that the proposed changes will likely come into effect only after the 2029 elections, allowing time for necessary structural and logistical preparations.



Former Deputy CM Alla Nani to Join TDP Today

TPN Correspondent
Eluru, Dec 18:

Former Deputy Chief Minister Alla Nani, who resigned from the YSR Congress Party (YSRCP) two months ago, is set to formally join the Telugu Desam Party (TDP) today at 11 a.m., TDP MLA Badeti Chanti confirmed.

Chanti acknowledged that while there were reports of discontent among certain party members over Alla Nani's induction, the TDP leadership carefully deliberated and made a decisive call. "We respect the leadership's decision," he asserted.

He also hinted at a growing shift in political alignments, stating that several leaders, including former ministers and MLAs close to the YSRCP leadership during Y.S. Jagan Mohan Reddy's tenure, are now leaning toward the TDP.

Sources close to the development emphasized that Alla Nani is joining the TDP voluntarily, without seeking any promises or specific assurances from the party leadership.

Ration Rice Scam: Lookout Notices Issued Against Perni Nani's Family

TPN Correspondent
Machilipatnam, Dec-18

Authorities have issued lookout notices against the family of former minister Perni Nani in connection with the ongoing ration rice scam to prevent them from fleeing the country. The notices follow allegations of large-scale misappropriation related to missing ration rice sacks.

The accused had filed bail petitions, but the hearing, scheduled for yesterday, was postponed to December 19. In response to official demands for repayment of the value of the missing rice, Perni Nani's family submitted three demand drafts worth ₹1 crore on December 13 as the first installment. Yesterday, they made an additional payment of ₹70 lakh through drafts, raising the total to ₹1.7 crore so far.

Critics argue that these payments may allow Perni Nani's family to sidestep legal consequences. While the initial reports cited 3,708 sacks of ration rice as missing, officials now suspect the actual number could be much higher. A revised

statement confirming the quantity is expected soon.

On December 10, police filed cases against warehouse owner Jayasudha and manager Manas Teja for their alleged involvement in the scam. Jayasudha, considered a key player, filed a bail petition on December 13, but the hearing was deferred to Thursday. To ensure she



does not evade justice, authorities also issued a lookout notice against her.

Following the ₹1.7 crore payment, Perni Nani made his first public appearance yesterday. He was seen at his residence in discussions with former ministers Merugu Nagarjuna, Jogi Ramesh, and former MLA Kaile Anil Kumar.



Minister Nara Lokesh Champions Mangalagiri Handlooms

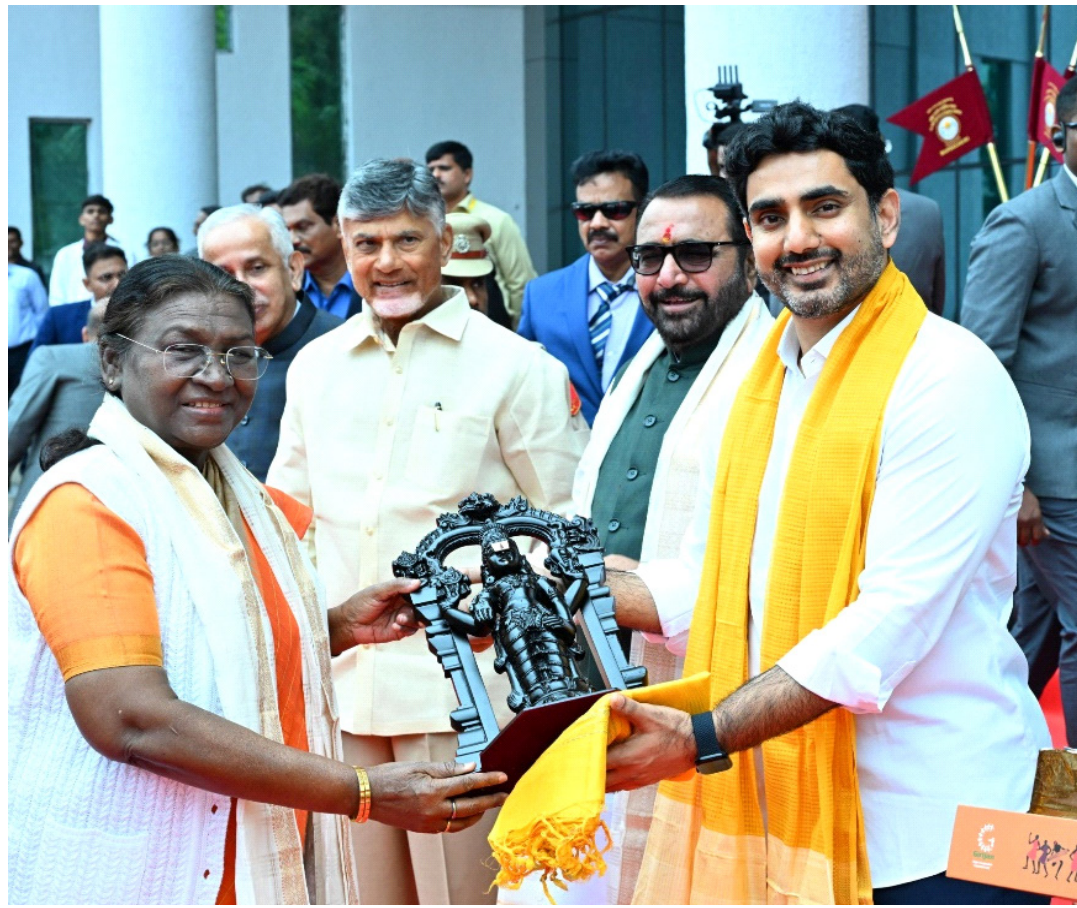
Takes on Role of Brand Ambassador

TPN Correspondent
Mangalagiri, Dec 18

Minister Nara Lokesh has emerged as a passionate advocate for Mangalagiri handlooms, taking on the role of an unofficial brand ambassador for the traditional craft. His commitment to preserving and promoting the handloom industry goes beyond words, as he actively promotes Mangalagiri textiles at every available opportunity.

Recently, during the convocation ceremony at AIIMS, President Draupadi Murmu was presented with a shawl woven from Mangalagiri handlooms, highlighting the ongoing recognition of the craft at national levels. This gesture mirrors a tradition in which Prime Minister Narendra Modi has also honored dignitaries with Mangalagiri shawls.

Lokesh's wife, Brahmani, and mother, Bhuvanewari, have followed in his footsteps, often seen wearing Mangalagiri sarees, further supporting the handloom sector. Minister Lokesh's advocacy has extended to practical steps as well. While in opposition, he initiated the establishment of a weavers' workshop in Mangalagiri and created a linkage system with Tata Tannery for marketing the handloom products, addressing the challenges faced by local weavers.



Lokesh's efforts to revive the Mangalagiri handloom industry, which had been in decline, are helping empower the local weavers and ensure the continued relevance of this age-old craft. His ongoing support is garnering attention and inspiring many to embrace Mangalagiri handlooms, securing a brighter future for the industry.

4840 Bags of Rice Missing from Perni Jayasudha's Godown

Announces Investigation and Legal Action



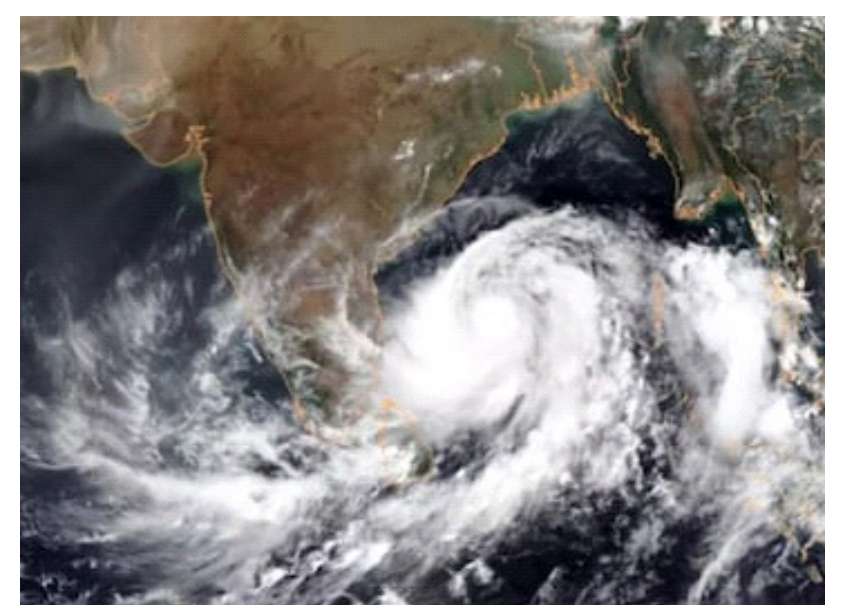
TPN Correspondent
Tenali, Dec 18

State Civil Supplies and Food Minister Nadendla Manohar addressed the media on December 17, 2024, revealing alarming details about the disappearance of ration rice from the JS godown, owned by Perni Nani's wife, Perni Jayasudha. Minister Manohar confirmed that not 3,000, but 4,840 bags of rice had gone missing, prompting a thorough investigation by the police, revenue, and civil supplies departments.

The investigation follows suspicions that the missing rice was being diverted and evidence destroyed. Minister Manohar expressed outrage at attempts to cover up the theft, warning that those responsible would face severe legal consequences. "We will not spare anyone who has done wrong," he stated, stressing that evidence of the misconduct would be made public. He also mentioned that further suspicions surround the second godown linked to the JS godown.

Minister Manohar outlined the steps taken to uncover the truth. Following the implementation of a new "Warehouse Management System" by Civil Supplies MD Shri Manajir on November 26, the department conducted inspections to track stock levels. On December 4, based on stock records, it was confirmed that 3,708 bags were missing—far more than initially reported. Subsequently, the Civil Supplies MD imposed penalties and blacklisted JS godown, filing a police complaint for criminal action.

A special three-member committee, including officials from the RDO, Civil Supplies, and Legal Metrology Departments, was formed to investigate. Despite issuing notices for inspections on December 16, JS godown management did not cooperate, prompting authorities to conduct a panchanama and move the remaining stock to mandal-level stocking points for further scrutiny. Minister Manohar also accused JS godown management of tampering with stock registers and Weybridge systems to destroy evidence, with an FIR already filed. The minister reiterated that all illegal activities would be thoroughly investigated, and justice would be served.



Heavy Rainfall Expected in Andhra Pradesh Due to Low Pressure Area

TPN Correspondent
Andhra Pradesh, Dec 18

The Andhra Pradesh Disaster Management Authority (APDMA) has issued a weather alert, warning of heavy to very heavy rainfall in Andhra Pradesh over the next two days. A low-pressure area has developed over the southwest Bay of Bengal, with the depression extending up to 5.8 km above sea level. The system is expected to intensify and move west-northwestward toward the Tamil Nadu coast. The APDMA has predicted significant rainfall in several districts, starting with Wednesday, December 18. Heavy to very heavy rainfall is expected in isolated areas of Vizianagaram, Visakhapatnam, and Anakapalle districts. Light to moderate rain is also expected in parts of Srikakulam, Parvathipuram, Alluri Seetharamaraju, Konaseema, East Godavari, West Godavari, Eluru, Krishna, Nellore, YSR, Annamayya, Chittoor, and Tirupati districts.

On Thursday, December 19, Srikakulam, Vizianagaram, Alluri Seetharamaraju, Visakhapatnam, Anakapalle, Kakinada, and Konaseema are expected to experience heavy to very heavy rainfall. Light to moderate rainfall is likely in Parvathipuram, East Godavari, West Godavari, Eluru, Krishna, and Nellore districts. Farmers have been advised to take necessary precautions while conducting agricultural work. The public has been urged to remain alert and prepared for possible weather disruptions.

This information was shared by Ronamki Kurmanath, Managing Director of the AP Disaster Management Authority, urging the public to stay updated on the latest weather forecasts.

Andhra Pradesh Unveils New Tourism Policy to Boost Sector- Minister Durgesh



TPN Correspondent
Vijayawada, Dec 18

Andhra Pradesh's Tourism, Culture, and Cinematography Minister, Kandula Durgesh, unveiled the state's new Tourism Policy for 2024-2029 at a Tourism Investors' Conference in Vijayawada. The event, supported by the Confederation of Indian Industry (CII) and AP Chambers, saw the participation of over 200 investors, eager to invest in the state's tourism sector.

Minister Durgesh assured that the coalition government is committed to revitalizing Andhra Pradesh's tourism industry, which had stagnated in recent years. He promised the government's full support for investors and emphasized that the

new policy focuses on sustainable tourism, economic growth, and employment generation, especially for youth.

The new policy includes the development of anchor hubs, tourism circuits, and thematic approaches, such as eco-tourism, wellness tourism, and temple tourism. The government plans to establish 50,000 hotel rooms to accommodate the growing number of visitors. There will be an increased focus on creating tourism circuits that connect significant cultural, religious, and natural heritage sites across the state.

Key highlights of the policy include the establishment of river and cruise tourism circuits, beach tourism in coastal regions like Visakhapatnam and Machilipatnam,

and the development of the Buddhist tourism circuit. The government is also prioritizing tourist safety and the creation of jobs in local communities.

Tourism Secretary V. Vinay Chand and Managing Director Amrapali Kata presented the new policy's key features, including the goal of attracting Rs. 25,000 crore in investments. The new tourism strategy aims to elevate Andhra Pradesh to a leading tourist destination in India, promising long-term economic growth and employment opportunities for locals. The event attracted wide support from industry leaders, including the AP Hotels Association and CII, who lauded the government's efforts to transform the tourism sector.

AP Finance Minister Payyavula Keshav Meets Union Minister Nirmala Sitharaman

Requests Pending Funds for AP

TPN Correspondent
Delhi, Dec 18

Andhra Pradesh Finance Minister Payyavula Keshav met with Union Finance Minister Nirmala Sitharaman on Tuesday in Delhi. During the meeting, Payyavula Keshav made a courtesy call and highlighted the financial challenges faced by the state. He appealed to the central government to release the funds that are due to Andhra Pradesh.

Minister Keshav brought to the attention of Nirmala Sitharaman that the state is in urgent need of financial support due to the previous YSRCP government's failure to implement many central schemes. He also emphasized that, over the last five years, about 93 central government schemes were not implemented in AP, but under the current coalition govern-



ment, efforts have been made to revive these programs.

As part of the government's efforts to rectify this, Payyavula Keshav informed the Union Minister that 73 central schemes have been revived and are now being im-

plemented in the state. The state government has already contributed its share to these schemes in the last five months. In light of this, Minister Keshav requested the release of the funds that are still pending from the central government.

Minister Narayana Criticizes YSRCP Governance



TPN Correspondent
Nellore, Dec 18

Andhra Pradesh Municipal Administration Minister Ponguru Narayana accused the YSRCP government of mismanaging public funds and neglecting urban development in Nellore over the past five years. Speaking at the swearing-in ceremony of Srinivasulu Reddy (Seenayya) as the chairman of the Nellore Urban Development Authority (NUDA), Narayana pledged full government support for NUDA's development and emphasized the importance of prioritizing urban growth. Narayana claimed that the YSRCP government had misused Rs. 3,200 crore in taxes collected from Nellore's residents, setting aside laws and regulations. "The previous TDP government created 14 urban development authorities and implemented various projects, but the YSRCP weakened these institutions during its tenure," he said. The minister highlighted the growing urban population in Andhra Pradesh, which has risen from 24% to 36% and is projected to reach 50% by 2030. "Urban authorities must be proactive in addressing this growth. Projects such as underground drainage and 365-day

drinking water supply for Nellore city will soon be completed," Narayana added. He criticized irregularities in urban planning, such as the unauthorized approval of 9-meter-wide roads in areas requiring 12-meter-wide roads, and assured that the government would simplify permissions for multi-story buildings. Narayana also announced forthcoming regulatory changes aimed at streamlining urban development processes by the end of the month. Drawing comparisons, he suggested emulating the Mumbai Sikko Urban Authority for sustainable development. He stressed the need to secure land for future projects and revealed plans to generate funds for NUDA by selling plots on government lands within its jurisdiction. Looking ahead, Narayana pledged to revive stalled projects, including the construction of Necklace Road and TIDCO housing for eligible beneficiaries, and to allocate 10% of TIDCO premises for handicraft artisans. "NUDA's development requires strategic planning, and we are committed to ensuring its success under the leadership of Chairman Srinivasulu Reddy," Narayana concluded.

Sensational Allegations Against MP Vijayasai Reddy Spark Controversy

TPN Correspondent
Andhra Pradesh, Dec 18

Madan Mohan, an assistant director at the Indian Institute of Packing (IIP), made explosive allegations against YSRCP MP Vijayasai Reddy during a visit to Nara Lokesh's Praja Darbar at Undavalli. Claiming his wife, Kalingiri Shanti, was taken away by Vijayasai Reddy, Madan Mohan accused the MP of not only breaking his family but also looting prime lands worth ₹1,500 crore from RK Beach to Bhimili in Visakhapatnam. Madan Mohan alleged that Vijayasai Reddy used his influence to send him to America between 2022-23, during which the MP allegedly cohabited with his wife, Shanti, and fathered a child. "I strongly believe that Vijayasai Reddy is the father of the child born in my absence," he stated, demanding DNA tests to confirm his claims. He revealed that he had approached the President, the



Prime Minister's Office, and the State DGP seeking justice and has now sought help from TDP General Secretary Nara Lokesh. Minister Lokesh assured him of intervention and promised to raise the issue with higher authorities to ensure justice. The allegations have sparked a storm across Telugu states, with media and social media abuzz with discussions. Shanti, an Assistant Commissioner in the Endowments Department, has reportedly come forward to address the allegations. Meanwhile, Vijayasai Reddy has responded to the controversy, further fueling public and political debate. This high-profile controversy intertwines personal accusations with claims of large-scale land grabbing, making it a headline-grabbing issue. The unfolding saga shows no signs of resolution, with more statements and counter-statements expected to emerge in the days ahead.

Malladi Vishnu Criticizes Chandrababu for Dismantling Volunteer System

TPN Correspondent
Andhra Pradesh, Dec 18

Former MLA Malladi Vishnu has sharply criticized TDP leader Chandrababu Naidu, accusing him of dismantling the volunteer system established under the YSR Congress Party (YSRCP) government. Speaking to the media, Vishnu highlighted the significant role of volunteers in ensuring the transparent distribution of pensions during YS Jagan Mohan Reddy's tenure. Vishnu stated that under the YSRCP government, pensions were provided to over 66 lakh beneficiaries, including the disabled, elderly, and sick. Volunteers played a key role by visiting every household to ensure that pensions reached the needy without delays or discrepancies. He asserted that this system symbolized the government's commitment to standing by the most vulnerable sections of society. However, Vishnu alleged that Chandrababu Naidu, upon gaining in-



fluence, had sidelined this efficient system by filing complaints with the Election Commission. This, he claimed, effectively made the volunteer system non-existent, disrupting pension distribution. The former MLA further criticized Chandrababu for allegedly removing three lakh beneficiaries from the pension scheme, leaving them without support. He added that while two lakh new applications for pensions had been submitted, many deserving individuals were still waiting for their rightful benefits. Vishnu emphasized that the YSRCP is strongly opposing the removal of these pensions, as it affects the lives of those who depend on them. Vishnu's comments underline the ongoing political tensions between the YSRCP and TDP over welfare schemes and governance priorities, particularly regarding the support provided to the state's vulnerable populations.



TPN Correspondent
Andhra Pradesh, Dec 18

Former minister Kakani Govardhan Reddy has alleged that TDP chief and former Chief Minister Chandrababu Naidu is making calculated efforts to weaken the corruption cases filed against him. Speaking to the media, he accused Chandrababu of violating bail conditions and manipulating systems to evade justice. Reddy claimed that as soon as the coalition government came to power, Chandrababu began conspiring to dilute key cases, including the Skill Development, IRR, Assigned Lands, and Fiber Net scams. He alleged that Chandrababu is

Minister Kollu Ravindra Alleges Massive Corruption by Perni Nani

TPN Correspondent
Vijayawada, Dec 18

State Mines, Underground Resources, and Excise Minister Kollu Ravindra launched a scathing attack on former minister Perni Nani during a press meet, accusing him and his family of involvement in large-scale corruption, including a massive ration rice scam.



Minister Ravindra alleged that Nani was caught red-handed in the illegal smuggling of Public Distribution System (PDS) rice. He claimed that 3,708 bags of rice, equivalent to 187 tons and valued at approximately ₹90 lakhs, were smuggled from Nani's own godown via lorries to the port. "This is only the tip of the iceberg. Many more irregularities will come to light soon," he added.

Ravindra criticized Nani for exploiting the poor, stating that the godowns used for smuggling were constructed by seizing lands from the underprivileged and illegally excavating soil. "The rice meant for the poor has been stolen and sold corruptly. Nani's actions have not only cheated the needy but also ruined the livelihoods of workers in Chilakalapudi and Karagraharam godowns," he said.

The Minister lambasted the YSRCP, calling it a "party of thieves," and accused its leaders, including Jagan Mohan Reddy, of indulging in widespread

corruption. "The central government itself has reported that nearly 5 lakh tonnes of ration rice have gone missing," he alleged. Ravindra also pointed to irregularities in civil supplies during the tenure of former Civil Supplies Minister Kodali Nani, claiming that officials favorable to him facilitated these scams.

Highlighting the TDP government's commitment to transparency and accountability, Kollu Ravindra stated that under the leadership of Chief Minister Chandrababu Naidu, the state is being governed responsibly. He vowed to expose all past scams and take strict legal action against those involved, warning, "Thieves, wherever they are, will not be spared."

Ravindra emphasized that the government is focused on implementing welfare schemes and leading the state toward development, ensuring that corruption is rooted out.

Buddha Venkanna Expresses Outrage Over Jogi Ramesh's Presence at TDP Event

TPN Correspondent
Vijayawada, Dec 18

Telugu Desam Party (TDP) leader Buddha Venkanna voiced his displeasure and anguish over the presence of former YSRCP minister Jogi Ramesh at a statue unveiling event in Nuzvidu, Eluru district. The event, held to honor the late leader Gauthu Lachanna, witnessed Jogi Ramesh sharing the stage with TDP leaders, sparking controversy within the party. Buddha Venkanna criticized TDP leaders for associating with Jogi Ramesh, whom he accused of previously insulting TDP chief Chandrababu Naidu by attempting to storm his residence. Displaying photographs from the incident, Venkanna recalled how Jogi Ramesh's actions had caused significant pain to Chandrababu and TDP supporters. "This incident is like a kick in the heart of Chandrababu," said Venkanna. He questioned the judgment of TDP leaders who allowed such a situation to occur, expressing disappointment and calling for accountability.



in the party, I will remain loyal to the Chandrababu family. They are my idols," he stated, praising the leadership of Chandrababu and his family, including Nara Bhuvaneshwari, for their dedication to the welfare of the state.

Buddha Venkanna demanded that the party leadership address the incident and provide clarity to the cadre. "Leaders and activists who shared the stage with Jogi Ramesh must be held accountable. Apologies alone are not enough," he emphasized. He urged the leadership to ensure that figures like Jogi Ramesh, who have openly criticized Chandrababu, are not associated with TDP events.

Venkanna admitted to grappling with doubts about whether to continue in the party, citing a lack of strong responses to attacks on Chandrababu by political opponents. "We need guidance from the leadership to know how to fight and move forward," he said, adding that the incident in Nuzvidu has left the cadre demoralized. The episode has reignited internal discussions within the TDP about leadership, discipline, and strategic alliances as the party navigates its path forward.

Kakani Govardhan Reddy Alleges Conspiracy by Chandrababu to Weaken Corruption Cases

influencing officials by appointing his loyalists to crucial positions in the respective departments, thereby compromising the integrity of ongoing investigations. Highlighting the Fiber Net scam, Reddy said funds were diverted to shell companies operating under a single common address, raising serious concerns about misuse of public money. He also accused Chandrababu of creating biases against investigating officials to derail the cases. Reddy further revealed that during Chandrababu's tenure as Chief Minister, the Finance Department had raised objections regarding the Skill Develop-

ment project, stating that it offered no tangible benefits. Despite these warnings, Chandrababu allegedly forced the release of funds for the project. The former minister criticized Chandrababu for exploiting every possible avenue to escape accountability, undermining the judicial process and bail conditions. He called for strict action to ensure that justice is served in the corruption cases that have plagued Chandrababu's administration. The allegations add fuel to the ongoing political feud between the YSR Congress Party and the TDP, highlighting the contentious issue of governance and corruption in Andhra Pradesh.

Efforts to Establish a Pensioners' Community Hall in Jaggayyapet: Samineni Venkatakrishna Prasad

**TPN Correspondent
Jaggayyapet, Dec 17:** Jana Sena Party youth leader Samineni Venkatakrishna Prasad participated in the Pensioners Day program organized by the Jaggayyapet Pensioners Department at Old NSP Colony in Jaggayyapet town, NTR district, on the occasion of National Pension Day.



Addressing the gathering, Samineni Venkatakrishna Prasad highlighted the significance of December 17, 1982, when Justice Chandrachud delivered the historic judgment ensuring pension security for government employees. He added that Pensioners Day is celebrated in honor of the late D.S. Nakara, who

played a crucial role in securing this landmark judgment.

During the program, the Jaggayyapet Pensioners Department raised the need for a dedicated community hall for pensioners. In response, Prasad assured the gathering that efforts would be made to address

their request. He conveyed that, through NTR District Jana Sena President Samineni Udayabhanu, Deputy Chief Minister and Jana Sena Party President Konidala Pawan Kalyan has committed to working towards the construction of the community hall.

Vijayawada Hosts Awareness Program on Drug Abuse and Cybercrime Prevention

Police Commissioner Participated as the Chief Guest

**TPN Correspondent
Vijayawada, Dec 18**

The City Police Commissioner, Sri. S.V. Rajasekhara Babu IPS, participated as the chief guest in an awareness program titled "Voices for Change: No to Drugs, Yes to Life," organized by Andhra Loyola College. The program aimed to raise awareness about the growing issue of drug abuse and encourage youth to lead drug-free lives.

Speaking at the event, City Police Commissioner Sri. S.V. Rajasekhara Babu highlighted the severe consequences of drug abuse on individuals, families, and society as a whole. "Drug abuse not only weakens individuals but also harms families and the community. This is a matter of great concern, with over 11 million young people across the country addicted to drugs," he said. He emphasized that the problem cannot be solved by law enforcement alone and called for collective action from society to tackle the issue. He urged the youth to set an example by living drug-free lives.

The program also included discussions on precautions to prevent falling victim to cybercrimes and digital arrests, another growing concern in today's digital age.



The event saw the participation of several dignitaries, including Central ACP Sri. Damodar, Machavaram Inspector Prakash, Principal Rev. Fr. G.A.P. Kishore, Program Coordinator P.T. Parker, Women's Cell Coordinator Tabitha, Animator- AICUF Moses Vandan, and Dr. Samuel Dayakar, Coordinator of MAGIC. Students from Andhra Loyola College also actively participated in the awareness program.

This initiative aims to create a positive impact by educating the public, especially youth, about the dangers of drug abuse and the importance of staying vigilant against cyber threats.

TDP Leaders Accused of Illegal Soil Excavations in Vijayawada Villages



**TPN Correspondent
Vijayawada, Dec 18**

Tensions have escalated in the villages of Kothuru, Tadepalli, Velagaleru, and Patapadu in the NTR district as locals accuse TDP leaders of conducting illegal soil excavations. The situation has raised concerns about the impact on the environment and public peace, with residents alleging that soil is being excavated for personal gain under the guise of development.

The controversy gained attention when Kothuru Tadepalli TDP President Mendu Jamalaya was reportedly caught engaging in illegal soil digging activities. Last night, villagers intervened when they discovered the excavations, leading to a confrontation between Jama-

laya and the locals. The situation prompted a formal complaint to the Mandal Tahsildar, who seized two tractors (API6TJ1824) and handed them over to the Kothapet police. A case was registered based on the complaint.

Locals allege that TDP leaders, including Jamalaya, are collecting large sums of money from these illegal excavations, with some accusing him of benefiting from illegal soil digging activities during the previous YSRC government as well. The excavation of forest lands, revenue hills, and soil from the Polavaram canal during the previous regime had already sparked public outcry, and now the same practices are being observed under the coalition government.

The noise from JCBs, tractors, and lorries working late into the night has caused disturbances for residents, with some claiming that soil worth nearly two crore rupees has been illegally transported from the area. The locals have appealed for immediate action from the authorities, citing that the illegal activities are disrupting the peace of the village. They have threatened to file a formal complaint with the MLA at the public darbar if the issue is not addressed promptly.

The controversy highlights ongoing concerns regarding illegal land practices and the growing unrest among villagers, who are demanding swift action to prevent further damage to the local environment and community.

International Kuchipudi Dance Festival to be Held at Natya Kshetra

**TPN Correspondent
Vijayawada, Dec 18**

The first-ever "International Kuchipudi Dance Festival" will be held from December 27 to 29, 2024, at Kuchipudi Agraharam, organized by the Kuchipudi Heritage Arts Society. This festival is set to celebrate the rich tradition of Kuchipudi dance under the auspices of the Heritage Arts Society, with special focus on promoting the cultural heritage of the art form. The event was officially announced by Dr. Vedantham Venkata Naga Chalapathi Rao, a prominent founder and Natyacharya of the Kuchipudi Heritage Arts Society, who shared details about the upcoming festivities. TDP leader and former Minister Devineni Umamaheswara Rao was warmly welcomed at the Gollapudi office on Tuesday, where he expressed his support for the event.

Devineni Uma Maheswara Rao spoke about the significance of the festival, mentioning that with the blessings of Vidya Vakyan Chakravarthy Acharya Sri Vadlamudi Venkateswara Rao, the "Natya Pataka Golden Festival" would be celebrated at Sri Siddhayendrayogi Natya Kalapeetham in Kuchipudi, Movva Mandal. The event will feature dance performances, enlighten-



ing speeches to increase awareness of Kuchipudi, and in-depth discussions with scholars, alongside a Mahabrin-da Natyam, where ten thousand artists will perform together to honor the Kuchipudi Pataka Geetha.

A highlight of the festival will be the unveiling of a 50-foot high flag stupa designed to honor the art form. The flag was created by renowned painter Bhagavatula Ramakrishna Sharma under the guidance of Natyacharya Vedantham Parvateesham, and it reflects the deep historical roots of Kuchipudi. Prominent dance masters such as Tadepalli Sai Krishna Potti, Bismilla Khan Awardee Dr. Tanta Ravi Balakrishna, and Dr. Tadepalli, the CEO of the National Institute of Cultural Research and Training, also participated in the event, adding to the excitement surrounding this grand celebration of Kuchipudi dance.

MLA Yarlagadda Venkatrao Welcomed President Draupadi Murmu at Gannavaram Airport

**TPN Correspondent
Vijayawada, Dec 18**

President Draupadi Murmu was given a warm and grand welcome upon her arrival at Gannavaram Airport, as she arrived to participate in the convocation of the All India Institute of Medical Sciences (AIIMS), Mangalagiri. The prestigious event saw a reception by several prominent leaders, including State Governor Abdul Nazeer, Chief Minister Chandrababu Naidu, Deputy Chief Minister Pawan Kalyan, and Gannavaram MLA and Government Whip Yarlagadda Venkatrao. MLA Yarlagadda Venkatrao, along with the other dignitaries, presented a bouquet to President Murmu as part of the ceremonial welcome. After the warm reception, the President departed for Mangalagiri by road to attend the AIIMS convocation ceremony. The



event marked another significant occasion in the state's ongoing efforts to enhance the healthcare and educational infrastructure.

The arrival of President Murmu in the region added to the excitement surrounding the ceremony and highlighted the ongoing collaboration between the state government and key national institutions.

New Statues of Vangaveeti Mohana Ranga Unveiled in Pamarru Garden

Vangaveeti Radhakrishna Participated as the Chief Guest

**TPN Correspondent
Vijayawada, Dec 18**

A newly installed statues of the late Vangaveeti Mohana Ranga were unveiled at Pamarru Garden, marking a significant moment of tribute to the iconic leader. The unveiling ceremony was attended by a host of political leaders, including former MLA Vangaveeti Radhakrishna, Pamarru MLA Varla Kumar Raja, Penamaluru MLA Bode Prasad, and Pedana MLA Kagita Krishna Prasad.

Speaking at the event, Vangaveeti Radhakrishna shared heartfelt remarks about his late brother, Vangaveeti Mohana Ranga, highlighting his enduring legacy. "Even after three or four decades, a leader like Vangaveeti Mohana Ranga is still cherished in the hearts of the people. He fought tirelessly on behalf of the people, irrespective of caste,



religion, or political affiliation," said Radhakrishna. He further emphasized Mohana Ranga's strong ties with the people of Pamarru, noting the leader's deep connection with the community. The unveiling of these statues stands as a lasting tribute to a leader who continues to hold a special place in the hearts of the local population. The ceremony was attended by numerous supporters and admirers, reflecting the lasting impact Vangaveeti Mohana Ranga had in the region.

**TPN Correspondent
Vijayawada, Dec 18**

Serious allegations have surfaced against town planning officials in Vijayawada, accusing them of indulging in corruption and turning a blind eye to illegal constructions across the city. It is alleged that officials are collecting bribes from building owners at the rate of slabs constructed, while ignoring critical government regulations and fitness certifications.

The town planning officials are reportedly neglecting the structural integrity of decades-old buildings, some of which lack fitness certificates. Regardless of the type of construction, officials are allegedly approving projects on government lands as long as bribes are paid. This has led to a complete disregard for government rules, raising questions about the effectiveness of the department.

Allegations of Corruption and Negligence in Vijayawada Town Planning Department



A recent example involves the Urvashi Matching Center, whose owners purchased a 30-year-old building near Navrang Theater on Congress Office Road. Despite the absence of a fitness certificate, they have begun remodeling the structure without any intervention from the town planning of-

officials. When questioned, lower-level staff reportedly blamed the inaction on political pressure, citing the local corporator, Nelibandla Bala Taluka.

There are widespread allegations that tens of lakhs of rupees have exchanged hands in this illegal construction. It is also claimed that the current city planning officer is being transferred, and

a successor is vying for the position by allegedly paying a bribe of ₹1 crore to the local MLA. If true, this raises serious concerns about the integrity of the department and the extent of corruption within its ranks.

Citizens are growing increasingly frustrated as illegal constructions flourish, while lawful remodeling and safety protocols are ignored. Despite repeated complaints, the department remains inactive, fueling demands for immediate action from Anti-Corruption Bureau (ACB) officials.

The rampant allegations highlight the urgent need for accountability and transparency in Vijayawada's town planning system. With public safety at stake, all eyes are on the authorities to take swift and effective action to address the corruption and enforce regulations.

1,320 Tons of PDS Rice Seized from Ship at Kakinada Port



TPN Correspondent ,Kakinada: Kakinada District Collector Shanhman Sagili has announced the seizure of 1,320 tons of Public Distribution System (PDS) rice found aboard the Stella L Panama ship. Speaking at a press meet, the Collector confirmed that the discovery followed a comprehensive inspection ordered by Deputy Chief Minister Pawan Kalyan.

A special team comprising five departmental units inspected the vessel, initially confirming the presence of 640 tons of rice. However, a detailed examination revealed a total of 1,320 tons of PDS rice onboard.

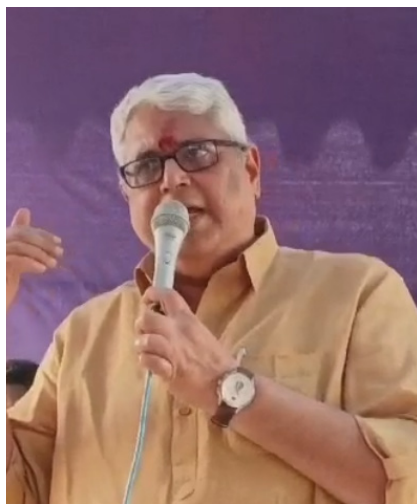
"The government has directed that the rice be removed within 48 hours, and the panchnama process will be completed before seizing the cargo," said Collector Sagili. He emphasized that strict action would be taken against anyone found exporting PDS rice and reiterated the government's focus on maintaining transparency and accountability in trade operations.

The Collector also clarified that while business at Kakinada Port is encouraged, illegal activities such as the export of ration rice will not be tolerated. "Kakinada Port is open for legitimate business, but traders must adhere to the law. The government is committed to the development of Kakinada, and strict measures will be enforced against violators," he added.

Meanwhile, port operations continue to thrive, with 12 ships ready for loading at Kakinada Anchorage Port. The swift action by the authorities has highlighted the government's commitment to curbing illegal practices and ensuring the efficient functioning of Kakinada's trade network.

TIDCO Chairman Vemulapati Ajay Kumar Inspects Housing Colonies in Peddapuram

TPN Correspondent , Kakinada: Andhra Pradesh TIDCO Chairman Vemulapati Ajay Kumar visited the TIDCO housing colonies in Samarlakota and Peddapuram to assess their condition and address residents' grievances.



During his inspection, Ajay Kumar alleged that the current Jagan government has deliberately weakened the TIDCO housing initiative, leading to numerous issues for beneficiaries. He stated, "We are actively working to resolve the disputes between TIDCO beneficiaries and bankers to ensure a smooth process."

To address concerns regarding the safety and habitability of the housing units, a technical team committee has been formed to conduct a detailed evaluation. Ajay Kumar assured residents that the committee's findings would guide improvements to infrastructure and help resolve outstanding issues.

"We are committed to solving the problems faced by TIDCO beneficiaries and ensuring these housing colonies are livable. Necessary infrastructure will be

developed to support the residents," he added.

Accompanying Ajay Kumar during the inspection were Kakinada Urban Development Authority Chairman Tummala Ramaswamy, TDP State Executive Secretary Raja Suribabu Raju, Nimmakayala Ranganag, TIDCO housing officials, and other coalition leaders and activists.

The visit highlights the TDP's efforts to strengthen housing initiatives and address beneficiaries' concerns amidst criticism of the state government's handling of the TIDCO project.

Visakhapatnam Police Solve 73 Theft Cases, Recover Property Worth ₹89.33 Lakh

TPN Correspondent , Visakhapatnam: The city police have successfully solved 73 out of 104 theft cases reported last month, recovering property worth ₹89.33 lakh. Commissioner of Police (CP) Dr. Shankabrata Bagchi shared these details during a 'Crime Recovery Mela' organized at the Temple of Learning Hall in the Police Commissionerate premises.

Addressing the gathering, CP Bagchi revealed that 87 individuals involved in thefts were arrested during the month-long investigation. The recovered property includes 1.1 kg of gold, 4.61 kg of silver, ₹3.50 lakh in cash, 21 motorcycles, an auto, a car, 305 mobile phones, and two laptops.

During the event, the Commissioner personally handed over recovered valuables



such as gold and silver ornaments, cash, vehicles, and cell phones to their rightful owners. This gesture was well-received

by the victims, who expressed their gratitude to the police for their swift and efficient action.

CP Bagchi emphasized the police department's commitment to combating crime and ensuring justice for the victims. He also encouraged citizens to remain vigilant and cooperate with law enforcement to prevent such incidents.

The Crime Recovery Mela highlights the effectiveness of the Visakhapatnam police in tracking and recovering stolen property, boosting public confidence in the force.

This initiative serves as a reminder of the importance of community and police collaboration in addressing theft and other crimes in the city.

Special Camps for Aadhaar Registration in Tirupati

TPN Correspondent , Tirupati : The Tirupati Municipal Corporation has launched special camps for Aadhaar registration, targeting children aged 0-6 years who do not yet have an Aadhaar card. Municipal Commissioner N. Maurya announced this initiative in a statement on Tuesday, urging residents to make use of the facilities provided.

The camps will be conducted in two phases during December 2024. The first phase will run from December 17 to 21, and the second phase will take place from December 26 to 28. These camps aim to ensure that all children in the city are enrolled for Aadhaar, a vital identity document.

Dedicated centers have been set up in Anganwadi facilities across key locations in the city, including:

- Dobi Colony**
- Saptagiri Nagar**
- Yashoda Nagar**
- Vinayak Nagar**
- S.T.V. Nagar**
- Bhagat Singh Colony**
- Bhavani Nagar**
- Pusala Veedhi**
- Tata Nagar**
- Nawabpet**

Commissioner Maurya emphasized the importance of Aadhaar registration and urged parents of eligible children to take advantage of this opportunity. The initiative reflects the corporation's commitment to ensuring that all children have access to government services and benefits linked to Aadhaar.

Residents are encouraged to visit the nearest Anganwadi center during the specified dates to complete the registration process.



Woman Stages Dharna Against Betrayal in Komaraju Lanka Village



TPN Correspondent , Ambedkar : A dramatic protest unfolded in Komaraju Lanka village, Kothapet constituency, as a young woman, Yamana Jhansi, staged a dharna in front of the house of Gandrothu Hari Krishna, accusing him of betrayal and abandonment.

Yamini alleged that Hari Krishna, a resident of the village, had been in a relationship with her for over a year, promising marriage. However, he later refused to marry her, leading her to confront him at his residence. With the support of villagers, Yamini demanded justice and in-

sisted that Hari Krishna honor his commitment. The situation escalated when Hari Krishna's parents allegedly insulted Yamini, broke her locket, and forcibly threw her out of their house. Yamini also accused them of torturing her and discriminating against her based on caste. Despite the humiliation, she vowed to continue her fight until Hari Krishna agreed to live with her.

Speaking to the media, Yamini clarified that her intentions were not driven by financial gain or inheritance from her aunt and uncle's properties but solely by her desire to be with Hari Krishna. She called upon village elders to intervene and ensure justice in the matter.

The protest has drawn attention from the local community, with villagers supporting Yamini in her demand for resolution. The case highlights ongoing challenges related to caste discrimination, broken promises in relationships, and the need for social accountability.

Police Solve Nakarikallu Double Murder Case in Palnadu District

TPN Correspondent , Palnadu : Sattenapalli DSP Hanumantha Rao revealed shocking details of the Nakarikallu double murder case during a press conference held at the Nakarikallu Police Station. The case, which involved the gruesome killing of two brothers, has been solved, exposing a disturbing conspiracy for financial gain. According to the DSP, the accused, Krishnaveni, orchestrated the murders of her own brothers, Durga Ramakrishna and Constable Gopikrishna, over a family dispute regarding their late father's benefits. Their father, a govern-

ment teacher, left behind financial entitlements that became the source of conflict. Krishnaveni, along with her accomplice Danayya, who was living with her, and four minors, carried out the heinous crime. The investigation revealed that Krishnaveni first drugged her brothers and then got them intoxicated before executing the murders. After committing the crime, the accused used Danayya's bike to transport the bodies and dumped them in nearby canals. One of the bodies was later discovered near Muppall, prompting the

police to launch a detailed investigation. Through meticulous efforts, the police unraveled the truth behind the double murder, bringing the accused to justice. DSP Hanumantha Rao commended the investigative team for their swift action and thorough probe, which brought the shocking details of the case to light. The case has sent shockwaves through the Palnadu district, highlighting the extremes of familial disputes and the lengths to which greed can drive individuals. Legal proceedings against the accused are underway.

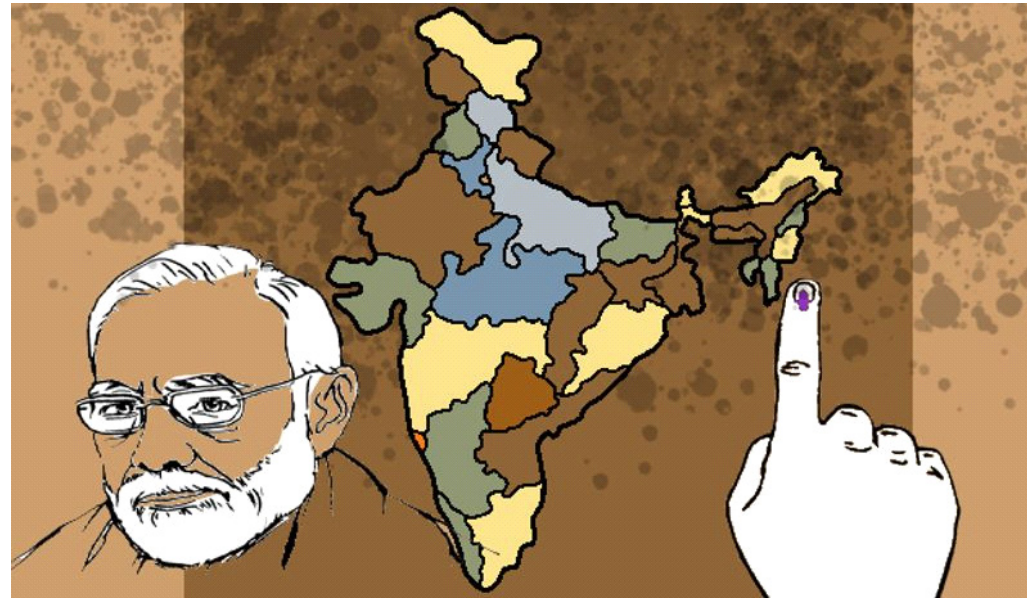


One Nation, One Election: A Controversial Reform Facing Opposition

The BJP-led NDA government's proposal for **"One Nation, One Election"** (ONOE), a reform aimed at synchronizing parliamentary and state assembly elections, has sparked significant opposition as the government prepares to introduce two key Bills in the Lok Sabha. These include the **"Constitution (129th Amendment) Bill"**, which seeks to facilitate simultaneous elections at the Centre and state level, and the **"Union Territories Laws (Amendment) Bill"**, which aims to synchronize assembly polls in Delhi, Jammu & Kashmir, and Puducherry. However, the government has delayed the introduction of these Bills, which were initially slated for presentation today, to later in the week, toward the end of the current winter session of Parliament.

ONOE is seen as a potentially transformative electoral reform, one that the BJP and its allies argue would save valuable time, money, and resources while eliminating the disruptions caused by frequent impositions of the Model Code of Conduct. Supporters believe this change could streamline the election process, ensuring that elections occur simultaneously, reducing the frequency of electoral campaigns and their impact on governance.

However, Opposition parties, particularly the Congress, have raised concerns, arguing that ONOE could undermine



India's federal structure. They fear that synchronizing national and state elections would lead to an undue advantage for the party in power at the Centre, as voters may be more inclined to vote for the same party at both levels. This could stifle regional diversity in voting preferences, as seen in recent elections where state-level outcomes have diverged significantly from national results. For instance, while the BJP-led alliance emerged victorious in Maharashtra's Lok Sabha elections, the Congress-led coalition, Maha Vikas Aghadi, triumphed in the subsequent assembly polls, highlighting how separate elections can produce differing outcomes. Another important aspect of the ONOE

proposal is its long timeline for implementation. Even if the Bills pass Parliament, experts suggest that it could take up to a decade to fully implement the reform. Given the significant implications for voters, political parties, and the country's democratic framework, critics question the urgency behind pushing for such a monumental change.

In light of these concerns, a more democratic approach would be for the government to refer the Bills to a **"Joint Parliamentary Committee"** for further scrutiny and for efforts to be made to build a broad consensus across political parties before moving forward with this high-stakes reform.



Everyone is Gifted: Gukesh Dommaraju's Journey to Becoming the World's Youngest Chess Champion

(Gukesh is the 18th World Chess Champion at 18!)

On a day of remarkable achievement, when millions celebrate the triumph of Gukesh Dommaraju, I find myself reflecting on the deeper meaning behind his historic success. Gukesh's victory is not just another sporting milestone; it is a story of focus, dedication, and the nurturing of natural talent.

At just 18 years old, Gukesh Dommaraju has become the youngest World Chess Champion, a feat that has made the entire nation proud. This extraordinary accomplishment, however, did not happen overnight. It is the result of years of perseverance, discipline, and the unwavering support of his family and mentors.

Gukesh's parents, Dr. Rajnikanth Dommaraju and Dr. Padma Kumari, played a pivotal role in shaping his journey. Rather than pushing him into the traditional rat race of marks and ranks, they chose to nurture his curiosity and love for chess. They gave him the freedom to pursue his passion, showing us the importance of patience, long-term vision, and trust in a child's abilities.

This journey also highlights the invaluable role played by Gukesh's teachers, coaches, and mentors, whose guidance turned his raw talent into world-class skill. Their combined sacrifices and efforts have culminated in a moment that will inspire generations to come.

Qualities That Made Gukesh a Champion

Gukesh's success holds life lessons that extend far beyond the chessboard. The qualities that brought him to this stage are ones we can all learn from:

- Unwavering Focus
- Continuous Practice and Discipline
- Resilience and Mental Strength
- Strategic Thinking
- Passion-Driven Excellence

These traits are not just the foundation for champions but essential lessons for everyone—be it students, parents, or professionals striving for greatness.

A Message to Parents

Gukesh's journey teaches us a powerful lesson: every child is gifted in their own way. As parents, we must ask ourselves if we are creating an environment that nurtures our children's natural curiosity and talents. Are we encouraging them to follow their interests, or are we steering them into predefined paths?

Gukesh's parents understood that success comes not from fitting into a mold but from mastering a craft driven by passion. Their approach should inspire all of us to support and guide our children in



Venu Bhagavan
Author, Speaker, and Believer in the Power of Gifts

discovering their unique abilities. **The Power of Curiosity**

Gukesh's story began with a simple curiosity about chess. It was this curiosity, nurtured by his parents, that set him on the path to becoming a world champion. This reinforces an important truth: curiosity is the key to unlocking potential. When children are encouraged to explore what excites them, they find purpose and direction.

The World Needs Masters, Not Commodities

In today's rapidly changing world, success is no longer about following the crowd; it is about mastering one's unique craft. Gukesh's journey is a shining example of what happens when passion aligns with purpose. It reminds us that we need to guide our children to become masters in their fields, rather than commodities in a competitive world.

To everyone reading this, I ask:

- What is your gift?
- Have you discovered it?
- Are you developing it?
- Are you using it to make a difference?

Every one of us has been given a gift, and it is our responsibility to develop it and use it to its fullest potential. Gukesh has shown us what is possible when talent meets dedication. His story is a call to action for each of us to embrace our own gifts and bring value to the world.

As we celebrate Gukesh's success today, let us also reflect on our own journeys. Whether you are a student, a professional, or a parent, remember that the world is waiting for the light that only you can bring.

Congratulations to Gukesh, his family, and his mentors for this extraordinary achievement. May his journey inspire us all to discover, develop, and share our unique gifts.

The Future of Test Cricket: Will It Survive the T20 Era?

As the world of cricket continues to evolve, the future of Test cricket remains a topic of significant debate. Despite the massive popularity of T20 formats, particularly franchise leagues, Test cricket continues to capture attention, but for how long? With shifting viewership patterns, shorter formats like T20 are dominating the cricketing landscape, but the allure of Test cricket still has a place, even if it's dwindling.

In 2024, 23 bilateral men's Test series are scheduled, but most feature fewer matches than in the past. Of these, 12 consist of just two games, five have three, and only two series—England vs India and India vs Australia—will have five matches. This reduction reflects a growing trend where Test series are becoming more compact and less frequent, with many teams playing fewer Tests against each other.

Interestingly, the viewership patterns are showing a dichotomy. While the demand for Test cricket may have shifted towards T20, some high-profile Test matches continue to draw large crowds. For example, the day-night Test between Australia and India in Adelaide attracted over a million viewers per session, while the Perth Test set a record for stadium attendance. This reveals a crucial fact: Test cricket still commands a solid fanbase, especially when major cricketing nations are involved. But outside of these marquee matchups, many



fans are less inclined to watch Tests, especially when their own country isn't participating.

This poses a significant challenge for the format's future. While T20 leagues, such as the Big Bash League, continue to grow in popularity, attracting global audiences—particularly from India—Test cricket is struggling to capture similar attention. The rise of franchise-based T20 leagues is evident in the choices made by players themselves. For instance, Quinton de Kock retired from Test cricket at 29 to focus on T20s, while Kane Williamson stepped down as New

Zealand's white-ball captain to participate in the SA20 tournament. These developments raise questions about the long-term sustainability of Test cricket in an age dominated by shorter formats. Moreover, the stark gap between the top cricketing nations and lower-ranked teams creates another hurdle. While teams like Australia, India, South Africa, and England maintain high interest, lower-ranked nations like Afghanistan, Zimbabwe, and Ireland rarely generate excitement. For Test cricket to regain its appeal, it needs more unpredictable results—such as when Afghanistan upset Australia in the 2024 T20 World Cup.

Another Pandemic Is Inevitable: Are We Prepared?

Every week, experts issue another warning that the H5N1 bird flu is steadily advancing toward a potential pandemic. Despite the lessons learned from the Covid-19 pandemic that struck just a few years ago, the U.S. still lacks a comprehensive plan to manage a new crisis. Furthermore, there has been little effort from government leaders to incorporate the lessons from their flawed response to Covid-19 into future preparedness strategies.

The Covid-19 pandemic highlighted significant shortcomings in the public health system. Many lives were lost because authorities were slow to issue warnings, delayed in creating essential testing protocols, and sluggish in adjusting their response to evolving data about the airborne transmission of the virus. One of the biggest criticisms was the handling of lockdowns, which, had they been implemented

more strategically and adjusted based on data about risk levels, could have saved more lives.

Unfortunately, the same mistakes are already emerging in the response to H5N1. Originally confined to poultry, the virus has now begun affecting dairy cows in the U.S. Last week, the U.S. Department of Agriculture announced it would begin testing the nation's milk supply for the virus. In California, a recall was issued for certain raw milk and milk products after they tested positive for the H5N1 strain. The slow and reactive response echoes the failures seen during the earlier pandemic and raises concerns about the nation's preparedness for a more widespread outbreak. The lack of preparedness is further compounded by the political landscape. President-elect Donald Trump's appointments to lead public health

agencies have drawn alarm from scientists and health experts. One controversial pick is Robert F. Kennedy Jr., a vocal vaccine skeptic with ties to the California farm involved in the recent milk recall. Appointing such figures to lead crucial health agencies raises serious concerns about the direction of the U.S. pandemic response, especially if H5N1 begins spreading more rapidly. To prevent another public health disaster, the U.S. needs to overhaul its approach to pandemic preparedness, learning from the mistakes made during Covid-19. It must implement more agile and data-driven strategies for dealing with emerging health threats, invest in timely research and testing, and appoint leaders with the expertise needed to guide the country through future health crises. Without these steps, the country remains vulnerable to the next pandemic, whether it's H5N1 or another viral threat.



Congress Promoted water Disputes Between States, Does Little For Farmers: PM Modi

TPN CORRESPONDENT JAIPUR
DECEMBER.18

Prime Minister Narendra Modi, while attending the 'Ek Varsh-Parinaam Utkarsh' event in Jaipur on Tuesday, launched a scathing attack on the Congress party, accusing it of making false promises to farmers while failing to deliver on its commitments. Addressing a public gathering in Dadiya, Jaipur, to mark the completion of one year of the Rajasthan government, Modi criticized the delay in the implementation of the Eastern Rajasthan Canal Project (ERCP), which he claimed was evidence of Congress's lack of action on farmer welfare.

"Congress talks big in the name of farmers, but they neither take concrete steps for their well-being nor allow others to do so," Modi said. The Prime Minister referred to the ERCP delay as a clear demonstration of Congress's intentions, arguing that the project's prolonged stalling had directly affected the welfare of farmers in the region.

During the event, Modi also inaugurated and laid the foundation stones for 24 key infrastructure projects in Rajasthan, totaling an investment of over Rs 46,300 crore. These projects are focused on crucial sectors such as energy, roads, railways, and water, aimed at driving the state's development and improv-



ing the quality of life for its citizens.

The 'Ek Varsh-Parinaam Utkarsh' event marked the completion of the first year of the state government, and the Prime Minister emphasized the importance of such initiatives in fostering economic growth. Modi stressed that the ongoing development projects would not only benefit the people of Rajasthan but also enhance the state's infrastructure, creating long-term positive impacts on its econ-

omy and development trajectory.

As Modi addressed the crowd, his comments on Congress's failures resonated with the public, signaling his continued push for political and infrastructural reforms in the state. The event served as both a celebration of Rajasthan's achievements under the current government and a strategic moment for the Prime Minister to call attention to ongoing challenges.

Uddhav Thackeray Meets Devendra Fadnavis For 1st Time After Poll Rout



TPN CORRESPONDENT MUMBAI
DECEMBER.18

In a surprising move, Uddhav Thackeray, the leader of the Shiv Sena (Uddhav Balasaheb Thackeray), met Maharashtra Chief Minister Devendra Fadnavis in Nagpur on Tuesday for the first time since last month's Assembly elections. Despite his party's ongoing protests regarding the credibility of Electronic Voting Machines (EVMs) after their poor performance in the polls, Thackeray congratulated Fadnavis on the victory of the ruling coalition.

Aaditya Thackeray, Uddhav's son and a senior leader in the party, accompanied his father to the meeting and described it as a step toward political cooperation. Speaking to the media, Aaditya emphasized that both parties needed to demonstrate political maturity. "We may be in the opposition, and they may be in the ruling coalition, but we are all elected representatives. They (the ruling parties) can also listen to us, and this could lead to constructive actions for Maharashtra's benefit," he said.

Sources revealed that the meeting, held in Fadnavis' chambers at the Vidhan Bhavan during the ongoing winter session of the Assembly, was a courtesy call. Thackeray, who was the leader of the united Shiv Sena before parting ways with the BJP in 2019, congratulated the Chief Minister on the coalition's victory. The Shiv Sena, under Thackeray, had been in an alliance with the BJP until a disagreement over the Chief Minister's post led to a split. Thackeray later formed a government with the Nationalist Congress Party (NCP) and Congress, but his administration collapsed in 2022 following a rebellion by Eknath Shinde, who later became the Chief Minister with Fadnavis as his deputy.

The meeting marks a significant moment, given the history of rivalry between Thackeray and Fadnavis. Both leaders have clashed over ideological differences, particularly regarding the interpretation of 'Hindutva.' While Thackeray's alliance with Congress and NCP had a strong showing in the 2019 Lok Sabha elections, it faced a crushing defeat in last month's Assembly polls, with the BJP winning a landslide.

Despite this, the Shiv Sena, NCP, and Congress have continued to raise concerns about the integrity of the elections, claiming that the ruling coalition's success was due to alleged EVM manipulation. This controversy has sparked protests and accusations within the Assembly.

'One Nation, One Election' Bill introduced in Lok Sabha with 269 votes in favour



TPN CORRESPONDENT DELHI
DECEMBER.18

In a significant move, the government introduced two Bills in the Lok Sabha on Tuesday, outlining the framework for simultaneous elections across India. The Bills, which include a Constitution amendment Bill and an ordinary Bill, aim to implement the 'One Nation, One Election' concept. However, the pro-

posal sparked a fiery debate, with opposition parties vehemently criticizing the draft laws, calling them an attack on the federal structure of India.

The government, on the other hand, rejected these claims, asserting that the Bills would streamline the electoral process and ensure greater efficiency. Following the debate, opposition parties demanded a division of votes.

The voting process, conducted electronically with a subsequent count using paper slips, saw 269 members voting in favor of the Bills and 198 against them. This marked the first use of the electronic voting system in the new Parliament House.

The 'One Nation, One Election' proposal has been a subject of intense political discourse, with supporters arguing that simultaneous elections would reduce election-related costs, prevent election fatigue, and bring about greater governance stability. Critics, however, argue that it could weaken India's federal structure by diminishing the autonomy of state governments and potentially sidelining regional issues in favor of national concerns.

The introduction of these Bills marks an important step in the government's push for electoral reform. While the government aims to expedite the process of simultaneous elections, it remains to be seen how the proposed changes will be received in the Rajya Sabha and beyond, where further debates and discussions are expected.

One Nation, One Election: Kiren Rijiju slams Congress for 'baseless' opposition

TPN CORRESPONDENT NEW DELHI
DECEMBER.18

Union Minister Kiren Rijiju on Tuesday strongly criticized the Congress party for its opposition to the 'One Nation, One Election' (ONOE) proposal, calling their stance "baseless and contradictory." Rijiju's comments came in response to Congress' claims that the initiative would harm India's federal structure and was unconstitutional. He pointed out that similar elections were held simultaneously for two decades after 1947 under the leadership of Jawaharlal Nehru, asking, "If elections were held together then, was the Nehru government unconstitutional?"

Rijiju, who has been vocal in defending the proposal, emphasized its importance for India's progress. He also took aim at Congress' historical governance, stating, "Congress ruled for six decades and left the country in poverty. Under Prime Minister Narendra Modi's leadership, India is now moving towards becoming a 'Viksit Bharat.' Yet, Congress continues to obstruct national progress instead of collaborating."

Rijiju's remarks were made on the same day the Bharatiya Janata Party (BJP) introduced the ONOE bill in the Lok Sabha, with the party issuing a three-line whip for MPs to attend the session. While opposition leaders raised concerns about potential difficulties, such as the dissolution of Assemblies or scenarios where the state or Union government may fall before completing their tenure, Rijiju urged them to view the proposal from a broader perspec-



tive of national development.

The minister also weighed in on the ongoing controversy surrounding Electronic Voting Machines (EVMs). The Congress party has raised questions about the reliability of EVMs, even though the party has benefited from them in past elections. Rijiju pointed out that Congress won elections in 2004 and 2009 using the same EVMs, asking, "Were their victories illegal?" He further criticized Congress for questioning a system that has helped their own party come to power.

Rijiju concluded by urging opposition parties to work constructively for the nation's development instead of hindering reforms.

Amit Shah Accuses Congress of Treating Constitution as 'Private Fiefdom' to Retain Power

TPN CORRESPONDENT NEW DELHI
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Union Home Minister Amit Shah launched a strong critique of the Congress party on Tuesday, accusing it of treating the Indian Constitution as the "private fiefdom" of one family and making several amendments to ensure its continued grip on power. Speaking during a discussion on the "Glorious Journey of 75 Years of the Constitution of India," Shah said that the Congress party had altered the Constitution for its own benefit rather than for the greater good of the nation.

Shah highlighted various amendments made by the Congress over the years, suggesting that these changes were designed to serve the party's interests and help it maintain political control. He also took aim at the Congress for its stance on reservations, accusing the party of being "anti-reservation" and claiming that it had failed to work for the advancement of backward classes.

The Home Minister's remarks extended to the issue of electronic voting machines (EVMs), with Shah criticizing the Congress for blaming the EVMs after its electoral defeats. He referred to the party's complaints about the credibility of EVMs as an attempt



to avoid responsibility for their loss in elections.

Shah emphasized that the Indian Constitution, which marks its 75th anniversary, has played a crucial role in strengthening the country's democracy by ensuring peaceful transitions of power. He praised the Constitution for its resilience and the smooth transfer of power, which, according to him, happens without any violence or bloodshed.

The Home Minister's statements served as a sharp reminder of the long-standing political battle between the Congress and the ruling Bharatiya Janata Party (BJP), with Shah accusing the opposition party of undermining the integrity of India's democratic institutions. His remarks on the amendments, reservations, and the controversy over EVMs were a direct attack on Congress's track record and its approach to governance.



Trump Urges Zelenskyy To Prepare For Negotiations To End Russia-Ukraine War

WASHINGTON: Former President Donald Trump has urged Ukrainian President Volodymyr Zelenskyy to be ready to negotiate a deal to end the ongoing Russian invasion. Speaking at his Mar-a-Lago club in Florida, Trump downplayed the importance of recovering occupied territories and emphasized the need for a settlement to stop the bloodshed. He stated, "He should be prepared to make a deal, that's all," adding that too many lives were being lost in the conflict.

Trump, reflecting on the devastation of Ukrainian cities, argued that it could take a century to rebuild areas leveled by Russian forces. He questioned the value of recapturing the territory, saying, "You look at some of those cities, and not one building standing. So you know, when you say, 'Take over the country,' take over what?" Trump emphasized the long-term challenge of reconstruction, calling it a "110-year rebuild."

The former president also criticized the Biden administration for its approval of using U.S. weapons, including Army Tactical Missile Systems (ATACMS), to strike deeper into Russian territory. The missiles have a range of about 300 kilometers



ters (190 miles). Trump suggested that such actions might escalate the conflict and indicated that, under his leadership, U.S. support for Ukraine would be significantly reduced.

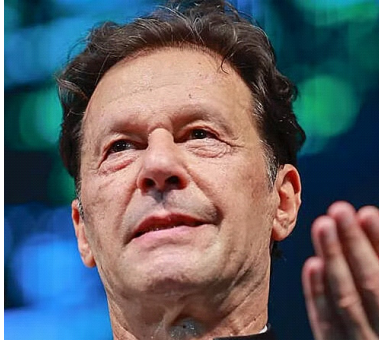
Trump's remarks signal a shift in his approach to the conflict, suggesting that if he were president, he would pursue a more isolationist stance regarding Ukraine. He argued that Russia would not have invaded Ukraine if he were still in office, further criticizing President

Biden's handling of the situation. While Trump's position contrasts with the Biden administration's support for Ukraine's right to decide its course of action, the White House reaffirmed that it is up to Zelenskyy to decide when and under what terms to negotiate with Russia. National Security Council spokesperson John Kirby emphasized, "Nothing about Ukraine without Ukraine," underlining the administration's commitment to supporting Ukraine's sovereignty and decisions regarding negotiations.

Former PM Imran Khan And Bushra Bibi's Bail Extended In Toshakhana Case

ISLAMABAD: Pakistani court has extended the interim bail of former Prime Minister Imran Khan and his wife, Bushra Bibi, in the second Toshakhana case until January 7. The hearing was conducted on Tuesday at the District and Sessions Court in Islamabad, where Judge Muhammad Afzal Mujoka presided over the bail petitions.

Khan, who remains in custody due to other ongoing cases, and his wife Bibi, who was released in October following the Islamabad High Court's approval of her post-arrest bail, both face charges related to the alleged violation of Toshakhana rules during Khan's tenure as prime minister. The case involves accusations that they illegally retained a set of Bulgari jewelry gifted to them during a trip to Saudi Arabia in May 2021.



The Toshakhana case, often referred to as Toshakhana 2.0, centers on allegations that the couple unlawfully kept valuable gifts from foreign dignitaries, violating the rules of the state gift repository. In the latest development, both Khan and Bibi were formally indicted last week by a trial court, where Special Judge Shahrukh Arjumand read out the charges against them. Following the indictment, the court postponed further proceedings until December 18, when the prosecution, led by the Federal Investigation Agency (FIA), is set to present its first batch of witnesses.

The ongoing case has drawn significant attention, given Khan's high-profile political career and his contentious relationship with the ruling government. The Toshakhana case is one of several legal battles the former cricketer-turned-politician faces. Khan's political future remains uncertain as he confronts multiple charges, with the legal proceedings continuing to unfold.

"Preposterous": China On Spying Claims Involving UK's Prince Andrew

BRITAIN: China has dismissed claims that businessman Yang Tengbo used his links with Prince Andrew to spy for Beijing, calling the accusations "preposterous." The allegations, which emerged last week, have raised significant concerns within the UK government, leading to heightened scrutiny of China's actions in the country.

Yang, a businessman who had been banned from entering the UK, was reportedly invited to Prince Andrew's birthday party in the past. He has strongly denied the spying allegations, asserting that he had "done nothing wrong or unlawful." In a statement, Yang claimed to have been caught in a shifting "political climate" and emphasized that the label of "spy" was completely untrue. He also noted that he had waived his anonymity and was appealing the UK's decision regarding his exclusion.

The UK government has expressed growing concern about China's increasing influence, particularly regarding alleged espionage activities. Prime Minister Keir Starmer, speaking during a visit to Norway, acknowledged the challenge China poses but defended his strategy of "engagement" with Beijing. He emphasized that Britain seeks to cooperate with China on issues like climate change, while also challenging Beijing when necessary.

In response to the allegations, a spokesperson for China's foreign ministry stressed that accusations of espionage were unfounded, calling them "preposterous." Lin Jian, the spokesperson, also underscored the importance of developing strong China-UK relations, which he argued were beneficial for both countries and crucial for addressing global challenges. The UK's decision to ban Yang from entering the country was upheld by British judges, who agreed that the government's actions were justified. The judges noted that Yang's position made him well-placed to foster relationships between senior Chinese officials and prominent UK figures, potentially leading to political interference.

Reverse Gear To Overdrive: Ajit Doval's Top China Meet To Boost Border Talks



DELHI: India and China have shown a renewed commitment to improving their bilateral ties, especially following the disengagement along the Line of Actual Control (LAC) just over a month ago. The relationship between the two countries had been strained since the military standoff in Ladakh more than four years ago. However, in a surprising turn of events, both sides seem to be accelerating efforts to repair their ties, recognizing the importance of resolving their boundary dispute for lasting peace in Asia.

National Security Adviser Ajit Doval is set to meet Chinese Foreign Minister Wang Yi on December 18 for high-level discussions on the boundary issue. Although New Delhi has not officially confirmed the meeting, Beijing's foreign ministry has announced it. This marks the 23rd meeting in a series of talks between the two countries aimed at finding a resolution to the long-standing boundary question.

The two nations, which share a border spanning over 4,000 km, have often experienced military face-offs due to their differing perceptions of where the LAC lies. The LAC, located in the harsh and challenging terrain of the Himalayas, lacks clear demarcations, which has contributed to regular border tensions. Historically, the boundary between India and Tibet was understood as the boundary between India and China after China's takeover of Tibet in 1959. Over the years, multiple military clashes have occurred, notably the deadly skirmish in Galwan Valley in 2020, which led to casualties on both sides.

The last such high-level meeting was held in December 2019, but the progress in discussions halted after the Galwan Valley clash. It took over four years of diplomatic and military dialogue to reach an agreement for disengagement, with both sides reaching an understanding in October 2023. This agreement culminated in a rare meeting between Indian Prime Minister Narendra Modi and Chinese President Xi Jinping on the sidelines of the BRICS summit in Russia.

As India and China continue to prioritize the resolution of their border dispute, the upcoming meeting between Doval and Wang Yi is seen as a critical step toward de-escalation and peaceful coexistence between the two nations.



Sri Lankan President Dissanayake Prays at Mahabodhi Temple

BIHAR: Sri Lankan President Anura Kumara Dissanayake visited Bodh Gaya in Bihar's Gaya district on Tuesday, where he offered prayers at the Mahabodhi Temple, a UNESCO World Heritage site. Dissanayake's visit marked a significant moment as he paid his respects at one of the holiest sites in Buddhism, associated with the life and enlightenment of Lord Buddha.

Upon his arrival at Gaya International Airport, the Sri Lankan President was warmly received by Bihar ministers Prem Kumar and Santosh Kumar Suman, along with senior district administration officials. Dissanayake, accompanied by key local figures including Gaya District Magistrate Thiyagarajan SM and Mahashweta Maharathi, the secretary of the Bodhgaya Temple Management Committee (BTMC), made his way directly to the historic Mahabodhi Temple.

The Mahabodhi Temple, which dates back 1,500 years, is one of the four primary sites that commemorate significant events in Lord Buddha's life, particularly his attainment of Enlightenment. The temple is renowned for its sacred connection to Buddhism, and the President's visit underscored the spiritual importance of the site.

In addition to offering prayers at the temple's sanctum sanctorum, President Dissanayake also paid homage to the sacred Bodhi Tree. This tree is believed to be a direct descendant of the original Bodhi Tree under which Buddha attained Enlightenment. The President placed flowers and offered prayers at this revered location, further honoring the legacy of Lord Buddha.

The BTMC secretary shared that Dissanayake's visit included a tour of other significant areas within the temple complex, all of which are deeply connected to the life and teachings of Buddha. The visit highlighted the ongoing cultural and religious ties between Sri Lanka and India, particularly in the context of shared Buddhist heritage.

India's Diplomatic Move In North Korea Marks Significant Shift In Policy

DELHI: As global attention remains focused on the conflicts in the Middle East and Europe, India has quietly shifted its focus eastward, pursuing its Act East policy. One of the significant developments in this strategy is New Delhi's renewed efforts to strengthen diplomatic ties with North Korea, a country often shrouded in secrecy.

In July 2021, India made the decision to shut its embassy in Pyongyang, with Ambassador Atul Malhari Gotsurve and the entire diplomatic staff returning to New Delhi via Moscow. Although the Indian Ministry of External Affairs never officially declared the embassy's closure, the government attributed the withdrawal to the COVID-19 pandemic when questioned. Since then, there had been no updates on India's diplomatic presence in North Korea. However, in a surprising move this month, India decided to resume normal operations at its



embassy in Pyongyang. A team of technical and diplomatic personnel was dispatched to North Korea to reestablish the mission, which had been closed for over three years.

The embassy now requires a thorough inspection and cleaning before it can resume full functions. Given North Korea's reputation for surveillance and espionage, the embassy building will need

to be carefully checked and "debugged" before it becomes operational. This process, along with the bureaucratic delays common in North Korea, suggests that the arrival of a new ambassador and the full diplomatic team could take several months.

North Korea's growing military capabilities, particularly in nuclear and missile technology, make its diplomatic importance significant for India. Maintaining a presence in Pyongyang is crucial for India, especially to prevent any transfer of such technology to adversaries like Pakistan. Furthermore, North Korea's increasing alignment with Russia, China, and Iran poses a challenge to the Quad alliance, which includes the US, Japan, India, and Australia. With strong ties already established with Moscow and Tehran, India's cautious engagement with North Korea remains vital to countering this growing geopolitical influence.

Markets Tumble on Global Cues and Profit Booking

Sensex Falls 1,064 Points, Nifty Ends at 24,336

Domestic stock market indices continued to fall on Tuesday. They unexpectedly ended with huge losses. This was due to negative signals from international markets, foreign institutional investors resuming their selling in the wake of the US Fed meeting, and investors taking profits at peak levels. Largecap shares in particular fell the most. Nifty 300 and Sensex rose more than 1000 points. On the other hand, sectoral indices suffered limited losses. Banking, finance and metals shares were volatile. Depending on the US Fed's announcement on interest rates, the markets are likely to move in a decisive direction.

The BSE Sensex, which closed at 81,745 in the previous session, opened at 81,511 today. It touched an intraday low of 80,612. It reached an intraday high of 82,613. It eventually fell 1064 points to close at 80,684. The NSE Nifty, which opened at 24,584 on Tuesday, touched a low of 24,303 and a high of 24,624. It fell by a total of 332 points to close at 24,336. The Bank Nifty fell 746 points to settle at 52,834.

In the Nifty50, 2 companies gained while 48 lost. Cipla and ITC were the top gainers. Shriram Finance, Gramsim, Hero Moto, Bharti Airtel and JSW Steel were the biggest losers. While the media index ended flat, all other sectoral indices turned red. Bank, auto, finance, metal, PSU bank, private bank, consumer durables, oil and gas indices fell the most.

Market breadth on NSE turned completely in favor of sellers. Of the 2899 shares traded, 955 gained, 1862 fell. Shares of 122 companies reached 52-week highs while 17 stocks reached 52-week lows.

Rupee strengthened by 3 paise to settle at 84.90 against the dollar. Infosys strengthened its strategic partnership with Google Cloud. Pidilite Industries shares suffered the most losses in seven months today. Gulf Oil Lubricants renewed its partnership with Pogo Vehicles. Ion Exchange shares recovered from four consecutive days of losses. Jefferies maintained its buy call on IndiGo. NMDC has set December 27 as the record date for the issue of bonus shares. Lemon Tree and Indian Hotels shares rose more than 20% in the month due to the travel, tourism and wedding season. Maruti Suzuki produced 20 lakh vehicles this calendar year. Zen Technologies shares rose for the tenth consecutive session. Asian Energy shares rose after receiving an order of Rs 200 crore from Assam Gas Company. International Gemological Institute IPO received a response of 11.93 times.



service offerings and has been investing in emerging technologies to stay competitive in the rapidly evolving IT landscape.

PB Fintech Limited (POLICYBZ)



As a pioneer in the Indian insurtech space, PolicyBazaar holds a significant market share, leveraging technology to simplify insurance purchases for consumers. The company has experienced substantial revenue growth, driven by increased adoption of digital insurance platforms. However, it has also reported net losses, attributed to high marketing and customer acquisition costs. PolicyBazaar has been expanding its product portfolio and enhancing its technological infrastructure to improve user experience and operational efficiency.

Max Healthcare Institute Limited (MAXHEALTH)



The company operates a network of hospitals and has a strong brand presence in the Indian healthcare sector. Max Healthcare has shown steady revenue growth, with improving profit margins, indicating effective cost control and increased patient volumes. The company has been focusing on expanding its facilities and services, as well as adopting advanced medical technologies to enhance patient care.

HealthCare Global Enterprises Limited (HCG)

As a dedicated cancer care provid-



er, HCG has established itself as a leader in oncology services in India. The company has reported revenue growth, though profitability has been impacted by high operational costs and investments in expanding its network. HCG continues to invest in new centers and advanced treatment technologies to broaden its reach and improve patient outcomes.

Arvind Limited (ARVIND)



Arvind Limited is a leading textile manufacturer in India, known for its denim production and apparel brands. Arvind is a prominent player in the textile industry, with a diversified product portfolio and a strong presence in both domestic and international markets. The company has experienced fluctuations in revenue growth, with a recent decline in sales. Return on Equity (ROE) has also declined compared to the three-year average, standing at 8.2%. Arvind has been focusing on sustainability initiatives and expanding its technical textiles segment to drive future growth.

India's Iron and Steel Imports Drop 28% Amid Concerns from MSMEs



India's iron and steel imports saw a significant decline of 28% in November, according to official data released on Monday. The fall, from \$2.4 billion in November of the previous year to \$1.7 billion this year, has raised concerns among Micro, Small, and Medium Enterprises (MSMEs) regarding the availability of affordable imported steel.

The reduction in imports comes as the Steel Ministry faces delays in issuing No Objection Certificates (NOCs) for steel consignments at ports, which has hindered the timely entry of cheaper imported steel into the market. The import restrictions have been further exacerbated by the lobbying efforts of large steel manufacturers, who have pushed for the imposition of safeguard duties to limit the entry of foreign steel. These efforts aim to protect domestic steel producers but have sparked concerns among smaller businesses, particularly MSMEs.

MSMEs, which rely heavily on access to affordable steel for manufacturing and production, have expressed fears that these protective measures could severely impact their operations. They argue that the restricted access to cheaper imported steel would lead to higher costs for raw materials, making it difficult for them to compete in the market. Additionally, smaller businesses may find it challenging to meet the increased prices of domestically produced steel, which could ultimately affect their production capacity and exports.

The Indian government's move to curb steel imports through safeguard duties has drawn mixed reactions. While large steel companies argue that these measures are necessary to protect domestic industries and jobs, MSMEs stress that such steps could have a detrimental effect on the broader economy, particularly for smaller enterprises that do not have the same bargaining power as larger manufacturers.

As the debate over import restrictions continues, MSMEs are calling for a balanced approach that ensures affordable steel remains accessible to all businesses, without harming the growth prospects of small and medium-sized enterprises that are crucial to the country's industrial ecosystem.

India Sees Rise in Per Capita Availability of Fruits and Vegetables: Report

India has witnessed a significant increase in the per capita availability of fruits and vegetables over the past decade, according to a recent report by SBI Research. The availability of fruits per person has risen by 7 kg, while vegetables have increased by 12 kg. The report highlights that the primary growth in production has been observed in states such as Madhya Pradesh, Uttar Pradesh, Punjab, and Jammu & Kashmir, where agricultural output has seen substantial improvements.

Currently, India produces 227 kg of fruits and vegetables per person annually, which exceeds the general dietary recommendation of 146 kg per person each year. However, despite the increase in production, a significant portion of the produce is lost due to its perishable nature. Losses occur during harvesting, storage, grading, and transportation, reducing the actual availability for consumption.

The report also sheds light on the negative impact of extreme climate events on foodgrain production. Extreme weather, including heat and cold waves, has

adversely affected agriculture production and supply chains in recent years. The report indicates a negative correlation between foodgrain production and extreme weather conditions in most states. For example, the Indian Council for Agricultural Research notes that a 1-degree Celsius rise in temperature above 30 degrees Celsius during the grain-filling period can reduce wheat yields.

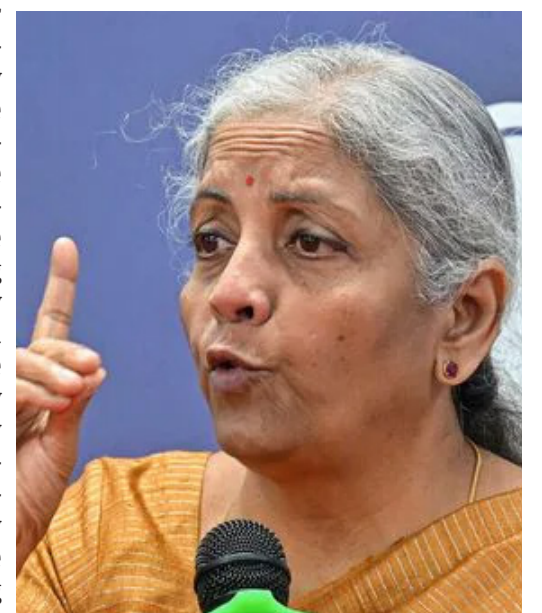
These climate shocks have also contributed to a rise in food inflation, pushing prices up by 3-4% in recent years. Additionally, the report mentions that increased urbanization in states like Uttar Pradesh and Rajasthan is also contributing to higher demand for fruits and vegetables. Urbanization, which has grown by more than 5% in the past decade, is driven by factors such as rising incomes and better job opportunities in cities, leading to a greater need for fresh produce.

As urbanization continues to increase, the demand for fruits and vegetables is expected to rise, further shaping India's agricultural landscape and consumption patterns.



India's Q2 Economic Growth Weaker Than Expected: FM Sitharaman

Finance Minister Nirmala Sitharaman on Tuesday downplayed the lower-than-expected GDP growth rate of 5.4% for the second quarter of the fiscal year, calling it a "temporary blip." She reassured lawmakers that the Indian economy would see healthy growth in the coming quarters, asserting that the country continues to be the fastest-growing major economy in the world.



my would recover strongly in the upcoming quarters.

During a debate in the Lok Sabha on the first batch of Supplementary Demands for Grants, Sitharaman highlighted that India's GDP growth has averaged 8.3% over the past three years, reflecting "steady and sustained" growth. The second quarter's 5.4% growth was a dip from the 6.7% growth recorded in the first quarter (April-June) of the year, but the finance minister emphasized that there was no cause for long-term concern.

Sitharaman further stated that there is no broad-based slowdown in the manufacturing sector, noting that half of the sectors within the overall manufacturing basket remain robust. She attributed the minor dip in growth to temporary factors and insisted that the econo-

On inflation, the finance minister pointed out that inflation control has been more effective under the National Democratic Alliance (NDA) government, contrasting it with the double-digit inflation witnessed during the United Progressive Alliance (UPA) era. Sitharaman highlighted that retail inflation for the period of April-October 2024-25 stood at 4.8%, the lowest since the Covid-19 pandemic, further bolstering the government's track record on economic stability.

With these remarks, Sitharaman assured the Parliament that the Indian economy, despite the temporary slowdown, remains on a solid growth trajectory, supported by strong fundamentals and effective governance.



Is Alkaline Water Good For Health?



Alkaline water has recently gained popularity, with many health influencers promoting its supposed benefits. A First Check reader asked whether drinking alkaline water offers any health advantages. This query reflects the growing interest in alkaline water, which is often marketed as a solution to health issues such as weight loss and acidity. But is it really beneficial?

Alkaline water, also known as alkaline ionized water, has a higher pH level than regular drinking water. pH measures the acidity or alkalinity of water on a scale from 0 to 14, with 7 being neutral. While regular drinking water typically has a pH between 6.5 and 8.5, alkaline water is artificially created by adding minerals such as calcium and magnesium, then electrolyzing the water to produce a pH of 9-10. Proponents suggest that drinking alkaline water can help neutralize acid in the body, improving health and aiding in weight loss.

However, the idea that altering the body's pH with alkaline foods or drinks can lead to significant health benefits is unsupported by scientific evidence. The body maintains a tightly controlled pH balance, espe-

cially in the stomach, where the pH typically ranges from 1 to 3.5. Even if alkaline water slightly raises the pH of the blood, the kidneys quickly work to restore balance, making any lasting changes from drinking alkaline water negligible.

One minor benefit of alkaline water is that it may provide temporary relief from acidity and heartburn by neutralizing excess stomach acid. However, there is no solid evidence to support long-term health benefits, and drinking large amounts of alkaline water may have unintended side effects. For example, water with a pH of 9 or above can have a bitter taste and may interact negatively with certain medications, especially those used to reduce stomach acidity. It can also potentially harm individuals with kidney disease by altering potassium levels, leading to conditions such as hypokalemia, which can result in serious issues like cardiac disease or kidney failure.

In conclusion, while alkaline water may offer short-term relief from acidity, there is no compelling evidence to suggest it provides any significant health benefits.



One In A Billion Perfect Sphere Egg Sold For Around Rs 21,500 In England

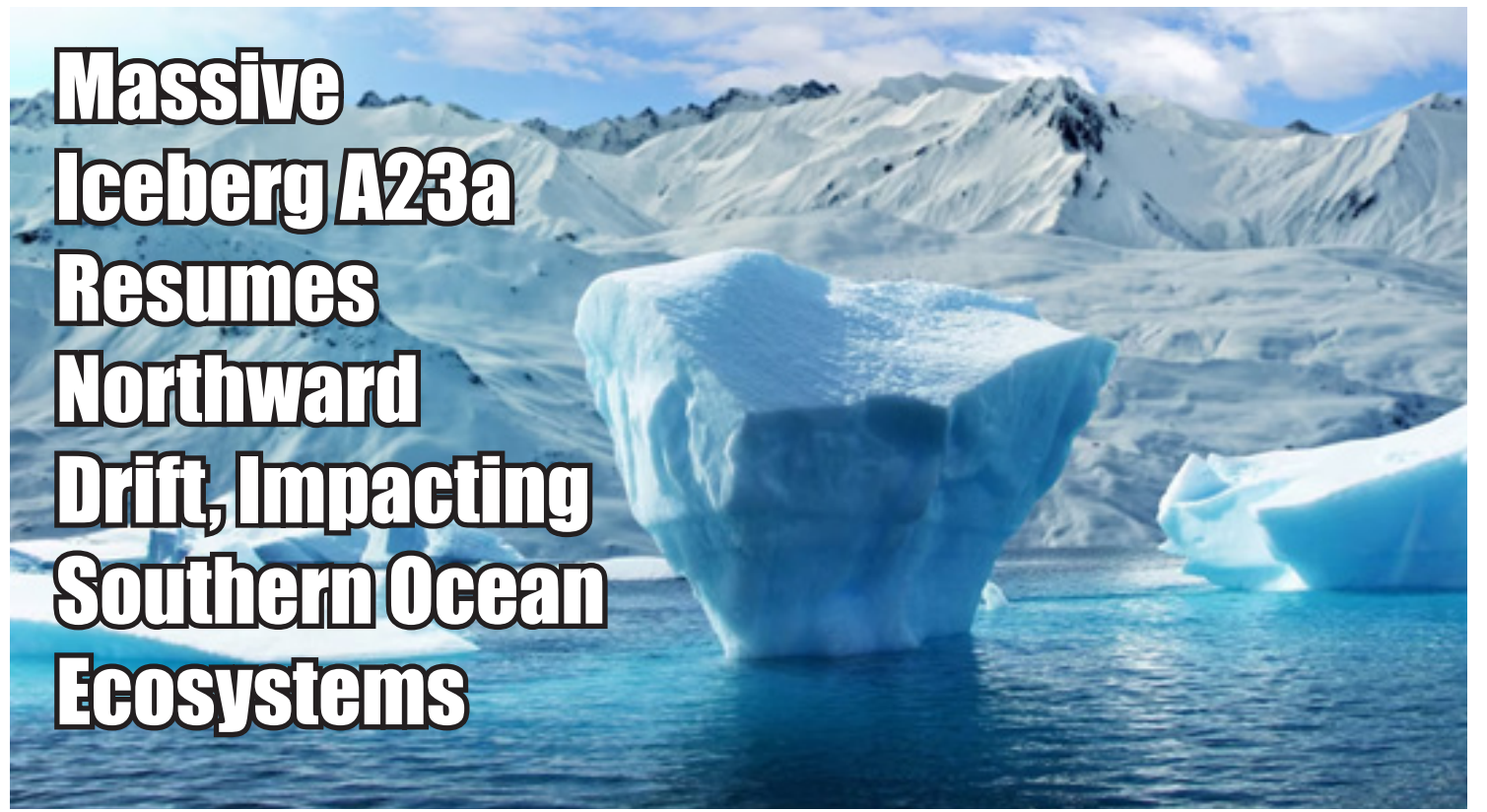
A rare spherical egg has been sold for £200 (around Rs 21,500) in Oxfordshire, England, after being donated to the Iuventas Foundation, a non-profit organization that supports young people with mental health issues, life coaching, and mentorship. The egg, originally bought by Ed Pownell, was sold as part of a charity auction that raised a total of £5,000 for the foundation's programs.

Roz Rapp, a representative for the Iuventas Foundation, expressed her delight over the sale, stating, "We're delighted and thrilled that the egg is sold, as it means we can continue our work." She clarified that the spherical hen's egg was just one of many items featured in the auction. The funds raised will go toward helping 13-25-year-olds struggling with mental health challenges, enabling the foundation to support more young people who are on long waiting lists for assistance.

The rare egg was originally discovered in a box of eggs from a local grocery store in Ayr, Scotland, by a woman who found the spherical shape unusual. According to David Miller from the auction firm Thomson Roddick Callan, where the egg was sold, spherical eggs are considered a "one-in-a-billion" phenomenon. This unique feature contributed to the egg's appeal at the auction, making it a highly sought-after item.

The money raised from the auction will help the Iuventas Foundation extend its outreach to more youths in need, providing crucial support for mental health and well-being. This sale highlights the power of community involvement, where a rare item can make a significant impact on a worthy cause, enabling the charity to reach more young people who need help and guidance.

Massive Iceberg A23a Resumes Northward Drift, Impacting Southern Ocean Ecosystems



The massive iceberg A23a, which is both the largest and oldest iceberg in the world, has resumed its northward movement after being trapped in a rotating water column near the South Orkney Islands for several months. Weighing around one trillion tonnes and covering an area twice the size of Greater London, A23a had been stationary in the Weddell Sea for over three decades before beginning its gradual drift in 2020. Recent reports indicate that it is now being carried by the Antarctic Circumpolar Current, which could potentially lead it towards South Georgia.

A23a's temporary stall was caused by a rare oceanographic event known as a Taylor Column. This phenomenon

occurs when rotating water above an underwater seamount prevents objects from moving freely. The Taylor Column trapped A23a in the Weddell Sea, stalling its anticipated drift. Dr. Andrew Meijers, an oceanographer at the British Antarctic Survey (BAS), explained the significance of this change in movement. He noted that the BAS team is now eager to track whether A23a will follow the same path as other large Antarctic icebergs, and assess its potential effects on the surrounding marine ecosystems.

Scientists aboard the British Antarctic Survey vessel, RRS *Sir David Attenborough*, have been monitoring A23a to better understand its impact on local ecosystems. The iceberg's influence

on nutrient distribution and carbon cycles is a focus of the BIPOLE project, which aims to assess how large icebergs affect the Southern Ocean's ecology. Laura Taylor, a biogeochemist involved in the study, stated that large icebergs, like A23a, often enrich the waters they pass through, stimulating biodiversity in otherwise barren areas. Further research will investigate how the size and origin of an iceberg influence these environmental processes.

As A23a continues its drift, its effects on the Southern Ocean ecosystem remain a key area of study for scientists monitoring this colossal iceberg's journey.

Instagram Introduces Feature to Schedule Direct Messages

Meta-owned Instagram is quietly rolling out a new feature that allows users to schedule Direct Messages (DMs), making it easier for individuals and creators to manage their interactions on the platform. The feature enables users to send memes, text messages, or updates at a specific time, ensuring that the recipient sees it at the right moment, whether they're awake or engaged with their phone.

This functionality is particularly useful for creators who want to engage with their followers at optimal times, or for users who prefer to send messages later but don't want to forget. Whether it's a friendly message, an important reminder, or a funny meme, the scheduling feature ensures the message is delivered exactly when intended.

Meta confirmed the feature is being gradually rolled out to users globally, with Instagram's parent company noting that it would be available to everyone soon. To schedule a message, users need to type out their DM and then long-press the send button until the option to 'Schedule message' appears. From there, they can select the date and time they want the message to be sent.

This addition to Instagram's suite of features offers



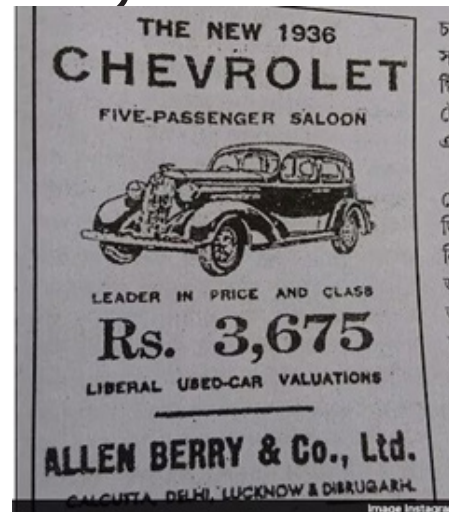
more flexibility for users, giving them the power to manage their interactions more effectively. Whether for personal or professional use, the ability to schedule messages ensures that communication is more timely and efficient.

With this new feature, Instagram continues to evolve as a more user-friendly platform, offering tools that cater to both casual users and content creators looking to engage with their audience more strategically.

Vintage Chevrolet Ad for a 5-Seater at Rs 3,600 Stuns Social Media

A vintage newspaper advertisement featuring a Chevrolet 5-seater priced at just Rs 3,600 has recently gone viral, sparking both nostalgia and amazement online. The ad offers a fascinating glimpse into a time when automobiles were not only emerging as a mode of transport but also becoming a symbol of status for the masses.

The ad, published in a bygone era, highlights a "cheap and best" Chevrolet motorcar available for just Rs 2,700, showcasing the affordability of cars during that time. The advertisement goes on to present an upgraded 5-seater version of the same vehicle, priced at Rs 3,675, making it an attractive proposition for potential buyers. Additionally, one version of the ad specifies that the car is available in Lucknow, while another mentions delivery options to various cities, including Calcutta, Delhi, Lucknow, and Di-



bugarh.

In today's market, a budget-friendly 5-seater car in India starts at several lakhs, making the Rs 3,600 price tag feel almost like a dream from a bygone era. Social media users have been quick to react to the ad, with many expressing awe at the vast difference in pricing between then and now.

Several commenters pointed out that when adjusted for inflation, the Rs 3,600 from the past would be equivalent to several lakhs in today's money.

This discovery has ignited discussions on the changing value of money and how far the automobile industry has come over the decades. While cars today are packed with advanced technology and safety features, the simplicity and affordability of the past have left many internet users reflecting on a time when a car was an achievable dream for the average person.



New Zealand Celebrates Tim Southee's Farewell with Dominant Win Over England

New Zealand wrapped up their Test series against England with a massive 423-run victory on December 17, 2024, at Hamilton's Seddon Park, offering a perfect farewell to Tim Southee in his final Test match. After a dominant 3-0 sweep of India earlier this year, the Black Caps had been outplayed in the first two Tests in Christchurch and Wellington. But they bounced back in style, rediscovering their form to claim their biggest-ever win by runs, and leaving England with one of their heaviest defeats.

The match, which concluded in just four days, saw New Zealand's Mitchell Santner shine with both bat and ball. The recalled spinner took 4-85 in England's second innings, ending with a match tally of seven wickets. Santner also contributed with the bat, scoring 76 and 49 runs in the two innings. His performance earned him the

Player of the Match award.

However, it was a collective team effort that secured the win. Kane Williamson played a key role, scoring a remarkable 156 in the second innings, pushing England's victory target into record-breaking territory. Will O'Rourke also impressed with a spell of tight bowling on day one, further contributing to the team's strong performance.

For New Zealand, this win was a welcome relief after the heavy losses in the earlier matches of the series. It was also a fitting tribute to Southee, who led his team to victory in front of a home crowd as he played his final Test match. With this victory, New Zealand not only sent Southee off on a high note but also claimed a consolation win in a series that had otherwise been dominated by England.

India to Host World Boxing Cup Final and Congress in 2025

The Boxing Federation of India (BFI) announced on Tuesday that India has been awarded the hosting rights for two major international boxing events—the World Boxing Cup Final 2025 and the World Boxing Congress 2025. These prestigious events are scheduled to take place in November 2025, marking a significant milestone in India's growing prominence in the global sports arena.

The World Boxing Cup Final 2025 will serve as the culmination of three World Boxing Cups held earlier in the year, bringing together the world's top boxers to compete for the highest honours and solidify their global rankings.

This elite event is expected to showcase the best of boxing, providing a platform for athletes to make their mark on the international stage.

In addition to the Cup Final, the World Boxing Congress 2025 will bring together boxing stakeholders, officials, and dignitaries from around the globe. The Congress will focus on key developments in the sport, as well as discussions on future strategies and the direction of boxing in the coming years.

BFI President Ajay Singh expressed his pride in India's ability to host such high-profile events, stating, "It is a proud moment for India to be recognised by World Boxing for hosting these presti-



gious events. This opportunity highlights India's organisational excellence and our commitment to ensuring that boxing remains a vital part of the Olympic movement. We are honoured to contribute to the sport's legacy and look forward to welcoming the global boxing community to India in 2025."

The hosting of these events is expected to inspire young athletes, attract global attention to Indian boxing, and further cement India's position as a major player in international boxing. Preparations are already underway to ensure that the World Boxing Cup Final and the World Boxing Congress set new standards for hosting world-class sporting events in the country.

India Fights Back with Rain Threatening Final Day of Gabba Test

India's resilience on the fourth day of the third Test in the Border-Gavaskar Trophy at the Gabba gave them a fighting chance to avoid a follow-on and potentially stave off an innings defeat. Despite facing a challenging target set by Australia, India finished the day at 252/9, trailing by 193 runs.

KL Rahul (84) and Ravindra Jadeja (77) provided the backbone of India's fight-back, helping the team recover from early setbacks. Their half-centuries, along with a crucial 39-run partnership between Bumrah (10*) and Akash Deep (27*), kept India in the game. However, with just one wicket remaining, they have a long way to go to reach Australia's first innings total of 445 all out.

the middle," he said. "It was a challenge for both teams, stopping and starting again."

Australia, having dominated the first half of the match, are on course for victory, but rain could disrupt their plans. The Bureau of Meteorology has forecast a "high chance of showers" on the final day, with the possibility of a severe thunderstorm during the late morning and afternoon. This could affect the progress of the match and India's hopes of securing a draw or better.

KL Rahul, speaking after the day's play, expressed his frustration with the weather interruptions. "I think I got more tired running up and down from the dressing room than I did being in

the middle," he said. "It was a challenge for both teams, stopping and starting again."

India's struggle began when they chose to field first on day one, with Australia quickly moving to a strong position. Steve Smith and Travis Head's 241-run partnership turned the tide in Australia's favour, despite Bumrah's (5/72) efforts. India then fought hard on day four, with Rahul and Jadeja's efforts to avoid the follow-on.

With rain looming, India faces a race against time to avoid defeat as they seek to push past Australia's formidable total.



Chelsea's Mykhailo Mudryk Fails Doping Test, Club Supports Investigation

Chelsea forward Mykhailo Mudryk has been provisionally suspended after failing a doping test, the Premier League club confirmed on Tuesday. The Football Association (FA) informed Chelsea of an "adverse finding" in a routine urine sample provided by the 23-year-old Ukrainian winger.

In an official statement, Chelsea FC said, "Both the club and Mykhailo fully support the FA's testing programme and all our players, including Mykhailo, are regularly tested." The statement also clarified that Mudryk had categorically denied knowingly using any banned substances and pledged to work with the relevant authorities to determine the cause of the adverse result.

Mudryk himself addressed the issue on Instagram, expressing shock at the news. He said, "I have been notified that a sample I provided to the FA contained a banned substance. This has come as a complete shock as I have never knowingly used any banned substances or broken any rules, and am working closely with my team to investigate how this could have happened." He added that he is confident he has done nothing wrong and remains hopeful about returning to the pitch soon. He also emphasized his commitment to maintaining confidentiality as the investigation continues.

The UK Anti-Doping Agency (UKAD) warns athletes that intentional use of banned substances can lead to a four-year ban. However, if the violation involves a specified



substance or contaminated product, and the athlete can demonstrate no significant fault, the ban could be reduced to two years or a reprimand.

Mudryk has made 15 appearances for Chelsea this season, scoring three goals, including one in their 2-0 win over German side Heidenheim in the Conference League on November 28. He has not featured in Chelsea's past five matches across all competitions. The winger joined Chelsea in January 2023 from Shakhtar Donetsk for a reported £88.5 million (\$112 million).

Chelsea, currently second in the Premier League and top of the Conference League, is closely monitoring the situation as Mudryk works through the process.



Smriti Mandhana Climbs to Top 3 in Both ODI and T20I Rankings

India's star batter, Smriti Mandhana, has achieved a significant milestone by securing a place in the top 3 of both the ICC Women's ODI and T20I rankings. In the latest rankings update, Mandhana has risen three spots to second in the Women's ODI batting rankings, and moved up one place to third in the T20I rankings. Her impressive performances in recent series against Australia and the West Indies have been instrumental in this ascent. Mandhana's 105 runs in the final ODI against Australia in Perth and her 54 in the opening T20I against the West Indies in Mumbai have solidified her position among the world's elite players.

Mandhana is the only Indian

batter to feature in the top 10 of both formats, with her captain, Harmanpreet Kaur, dropping two spots to 13th in the ODI rankings. Meanwhile, Jemimah Rodrigues made a notable climb of six places to 15th, and Harleen Deol surged nine places to 64th. In the bowling rankings, Deepti Sharma slipped two places to fifth.

In addition to the Indian players' movements, several international players also made strides in the rankings. England's Tammy Beaumont climbed two places to 11th following her unbeaten 65 against South Africa, while Australia's Ashleigh Gardner moved up to third in the bowling rankings with a stellar five-wicket haul in Perth. Gardner also climbed from fourth to second

in the all-rounders' list. Annabell Sutherland's match-winning 110 saw her move up 15 places to 29th.

In the T20I rankings, Kaur returned to the top 10, while Rodrigues' fine 73 against the West Indies helped her rise six spots to 15th. Deepti Sharma's solid bowling performances saw her climb to second in the T20I bowling rankings. Meanwhile, Titas Sadhu also made progress, moving up to 52nd.

Among the West Indies players, all-rounder Deandra Dottin made a significant jump, advancing 21 places to 59th after a half-century, with Qiana Joseph and Karishma Ramharack also making notable gains.



Mohanlal's Directorial Debut "Barroz" Unveils Fascinating Fantasy Trailer

Mohanlal, the celebrated actor known for his versatility, is all set to make his directorial debut with the highly anticipated fantasy film *Barroz*. The film, which has already generated buzz, recently released its Telugu trailer, offering a glimpse of the magical world it will transport audiences to. *Barroz* is set for a Pan-India release on December 25, with the distribution rights for the Telugu version acquired by Mythri Movie Makers.

The trailer highlights Mohanlal in a dual role—both as the director and the lead actor. He plays the character of a genie who has been entrusted with the monumental responsibility of guarding the hidden treasure of the famed explorer Vasco da Gama. This treasure, consisting of im-

mense riches like gold and diamonds, has been safeguarded by the genie for over 400 years, patiently awaiting the arrival of its rightful heirs. The story revolves around this fascinating quest, blending elements of fantasy, adventure, and mystery in a captivating narrative.

The trailer suggests a thrilling and fun-filled adventure that will likely appeal to audiences of all ages, especially children, with its magical elements and action-packed sequences. The film is produced under Mohanlal's own production banner, Aashirvad Films, with Antony Perumbavoor as the producer. This ambitious project marks a significant milestone in Mohanlal's illustrious career as he steps behind the camera to direct a film that brings his vision to life.



Barroz is set for a global release in five languages—Telugu, Hindi, Tamil, Kannada, and Malayalam—ensuring that the film will reach audiences across the country. As Mohanlal takes

on this exciting new venture, *Barroz* promises to be a visual spectacle, combining state-of-the-art 3D technology and an engaging story that is sure to capture the imagination of viewers.

Mrunal Thakur Replaces Shruti Haasan in Adivi Sesh's Dacoit

Tollywood actor Adivi Sesh is celebrating his birthday today while gearing up for a string of exciting film releases, with one of the most eagerly awaited being **Dacoit**. Directed by newcomer Shaniel Deo, the film is a gripping love story that has already piqued the interest of audiences. In a recent update, the makers revealed an exciting change in the lead cast, announcing that Mrunal Thakur will be replacing Shruti Haasan in the heroine's role.

To tease this change, the film's team unveiled two new posters featuring Mrunal. In the first, Adivi Sesh is seen with a serious expression, gazing into the distance, while Mrunal's face reflects sadness, hinting at a troubled past between the characters. The second poster presents a more intense contrast, with Sesh stylishly sitting in a car, lighting a cigarette, while Mrunal drives the car, her stern gaze accompanied by a gun in hand. These images highlight the complexity of their characters and

their volatile relationship, building anticipation for the film.

Dacoit tells the story of two former lovers who are forced to come together for a series of daring robberies that will ultimately change the course of their lives. The film promises to be an action-packed, emotional rollercoaster, with the chemistry between the leads playing a pivotal role.

Produced by Supriya Yarlagadda, co-produced by Suniel Narang, and presented by Annapurna Studios, **Dacoit** is a bilingual project being shot in both Hindi and Telugu. The screenplay and story are written by Adivi Sesh and Shaniel Deo, and the film is currently being shot in Hyderabad, followed by an extensive schedule in Maharashtra. Fans are eagerly awaiting more updates as the film progresses, with the new casting change further raising expectations.



Nithiin's Robinhood Postponed: New Release Date to Be Announced Soon

Nithiin's much-anticipated film **Robinhood**, which was slated for a grand release on December 25th, has been officially postponed. The team behind the film confirmed the delay and shared a statement regarding the change in the release schedule.

"Due to unforeseen circumstances, *Robinhood* will not be releasing on December 25th as planned. A new release date will be announced soon. Hold on to your excitement. The entertainment will be worth the wait. This adventurous entertainer promises to be an unforgettable experience when it arrives in theaters!" said the team in an official update.

Fans of Nithiin were eagerly awaiting the film's release during the holiday season, and the sudden delay has left many disappointed. However, the makers reassured the audience that the film, described as an "adventurous entertainer," will deliver plenty of excitement and entertainment once it hits the big screen.

Directed by Venky Kudumula, *Robinhood* stars Nithiin alongside Sreeleela in the lead roles, with music composed by the talented GV Prakash Kumar. The film is being produced by Mythri Movie Makers, a banner known for its successful ventures. With a promise of high-octane action and captivating performances, *Robinhood* is expected to offer a thrilling cinematic experience.

Although the delay has created some uncertainty regarding the film's release date, the team expressed confidence that the final product will be worth the wait. Fans are now eagerly awaiting the official announcement of the new release date, while holding onto their excitement for what is sure to be an entertaining and adventurous journey on the big screen.



The theatrical trailer for **Sri-kakulam Sherlock Holmes**, a crime thriller featuring renowned comedian Vennela Kishore in the lead role, has been unveiled, creating a buzz among fans. Written and di-

rected by Writer Mohan, the film is produced by Vennapusa Ramana Reddy under the banner of Sri Ganapathi Cinemas, with Lasya Reddy presenting it. The trailer offers a gripping glimpse into the suspenseful world of the film, building anticipation for its release.

The plot centers around a series of murders on a beach, with the murder of a young girl named Mary becoming a media sensation. Struggling to crack the case, the police hire a private detective known for his proactive and creative methods. The detective narrows

down the list of suspects to seven, including a pair of lovebirds from the village, portrayed by Raviteja Mahadyam and Ananya Nagalla.

The story, penned by Writer Mohan, promises to keep viewers on the edge of their seats, with engaging twists and a tightly woven narrative. Vennela Kishore takes on the role of the detective, bringing the character to life with his distinctive charm and conviction. Siya Gautam plays a crucial role as a police constable, while Bahubali Prabhakar and Muralidhar Goud contribute to the ensemble cast in pivotal roles.

Mallikarjun N's cinematography adds depth and intensity to the film, perfectly capturing the suspenseful atmosphere of the thriller. Sunil Kashyap's impactful background score heightens the tension, ensuring a captivating cinematic experience.

Vennela Kishore's Sri-kakulam Sherlock Holmes – Trailer Unveiled

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Shriakulam Sherlock Holmes is set to release theatrically on December 25th, and Vamsi Nandipati, known for distributing successful films like *Ka*, *Polimer 2* is handling its distribution. Fans of crime thrillers can look forward to an exciting and suspense-filled journey when the film hits the theaters this holiday season.

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Upendra UI – A Psychological Thriller Set for Pan-Indian Release

After an eight-year hiatus, star actor and director Upendra is making a grand return to the director's chair with his highly anticipated film **UI**. The movie, which Upendra also stars in, is set for a pan-Indian release on December 20, 2024. The recently released trailer has generated immense excitement, leaving audiences eager to see what the versatile actor-director has crafted this time.

During the film's promotions in Telugu, Upendra described **UI** as a psychological version of **Kalki 2898 AD**, a statement that has only added to the growing anticipation. The comparison to the iconic **Kalki** has sparked curiosity, raising expectations for a unique and thought-provoking cinematic experience.

Known for his humility and simplicity, Upendra won the hearts of Telugu audiences during his media interactions. Despite his star status, he continues to maintain his down-to-earth na-



ture, making him even more beloved by his fans.

UI is produced by Lahari Films, G. Manoharan, and Venus Entertainers, with K. P. Sreekanth as the producer and Naveen Manoharan as the co-producer. The film features a stellar ensemble cast, including Sunny Leone, Reeshma Nanaiah, Murali Sharma, Nidhi Subbaiah, Sadhu Kokila, Murali Krishna, and Indrajit Lankesh in significant roles. The music for **UI** is composed by the talented Ajaneesh B Loknath, promising a captivating soundtrack to complement the film's intense narrative.

With its psychological thriller elements, strong performances, and Upendra's return to the director's seat, **UI** is poised to be a major hit across India. The film's release on December 20 is eagerly awaited, and fans are excited to see how Upendra once again pushes the boundaries of storytelling in his latest venture.