

POINT

Weather Forecast

| HYDERABAD | VIJAYAWADA | TIRUPATHI |
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TWO MLAs INVOLVED IN CHEATING & LAND KABJA WORTH Rs.5 Cr



TPN, Avinash: Yanamalakuduru, a part of Vijayawada, is witnessing a land kabja allegedly involving Mr. Bode Prasad, MLA of Penamaluru, and Mr. Sriram Tataiah, MLA of Jaggayyapeta. On the night of the 28th, around 50 individuals attacked the land and removed the container placed as a symbol of ownership of the site. These attackers are reportedly a "blade batch." The question now arises—who sent them? The land, measuring 66 cents, is located in Yanamalakuduru on the Avanigadda Road. It belongs to a person named Ganesh and was registered in his mother's name. Mr. Chanti, the former owner of the Kalaniketan group, approached Ganesh's family, requesting the land as collateral security for a loan. The family agreed and later received cheques from Mr. Chanti

as part of the transaction, with a sale deed executed in his favor. Subsequently, Mr. Chanti sold the entire Kalaniketan group for Rs. 300 Crores, according to sources. Despite this massive deal, he allegedly failed to clear the payment owed to Mr. Ganesh. The cheques provided were reportedly dishonored. Discussions between the two parties to resolve the issue ended in vain. Mr. Chanti, who is the brother-in-law of Mr. Sriram Tataiah, MLA of Jaggayyapeta, allegedly used his political connections to intimidate the victims. He is accused of registering a gift deed for the land in the name of Mr. Azad of Penamaluru, a close associate of Mr. Bode

Prasad, MLA. Locals claim that the two MLAs colluded with Mr. Chanti while attempting to avoid public exposure. With the gift deed in place, Mr. Azad attempted to claim possession of the land. In response, Mr. Ganesh fenced the property, which was later removed by individuals allegedly linked to Mr. Azad. To assert his ownership, Mr. Ganesh placed a container on the land, but this was lifted by the "blade batch" and left on the road after resistance from Ganesh's supporters. Allegations have surfaced that the police are supporting Mr. Chanti and Mr. Azad due to the influence of the two MLAs. The victims are now urging the TDP top leadership to intervene and address the involvement of the MLAs, seeking justice and resolution at the earliest.

Pawan's Smuggling Claims Raise Storm

Chandrababu's Late Response Sparks Debate



TPN, Andhra Pradesh: Deputy Chief Minister Pawan Kalyan's visit to Kakinada Port, alleged to be a hub for smuggling ration rice in Andhra Pradesh, has triggered intense political discussions. Pawan's claims that authorities delayed his entry to Kakinada Port for two months and later prevented him from boarding a ship have become a hot topic. His pointed criticism of the silence of Kakinada TDP MLA Kondababu has further fueled the controversy. On Friday, Pawan Kalyan expressed concerns that Kakinada Port could potentially be used for smuggling not only ration rice but also drugs and explosives, posing a national security threat. He warned of the risk of terrorists, like Kasab, entering the country through such routes. Pawan also announced his intention to write to Home Minister Amit Shah regarding the security of the port. Despite the seriousness of these allegations, there has been no immediate response from the NDA government. Chief Minister Chandrababu Naidu's initial silence on Pawan's claims has raised eyebrows in political circles. Previously, Pawan Kalyan's criticisms of the state's law and order situation prompted swift responses from government leaders. However, his latest allegations about Kakinada Port's alleged smuggling activities have met with an unusual silence, leading to speculation

and debate. Pawan's criticism of the apparent lack of action from local TDP MLA Kondababu has resonated widely, putting the government under pressure. The scale of illegal rice exports from Kakinada Port, coupled with claims that Pawan was obstructed during his visit and that the district SP conveniently took leave whenever he arrived, has heightened suspicions. Many now question whether such activities at the port could occur without the knowledge of Kakinada's City and Rural MLAs. In this context, Chandrababu Naidu's delayed response, coming two days after the controversy erupted, has sparked further speculation. Speaking in Anantapur today, Chandrababu acknowledged the issue, stating, "Some people are buying ration rice and selling it abroad, and these traders will not be spared. Strict action will be taken against the ration mafia." He further warned that there is "mafia and exploitation everywhere" and vowed to clean it up. While Chandrababu's comments suggest he is taking the allegations seriously, his delayed response has left many wondering if an immediate reaction could have exacerbated the situation or quelled suspicions earlier. As the political discourse intensifies, all eyes are on how the government plans to address these allegations and ensure accountability.

Jagan to Begin Public Tours from January!!

TPN, Andhra Pradesh: YCP chief and former Chief Minister YS Jagan Mohan Reddy is gearing up to connect with the public through field-level tours. Starting after Sankranti, Jagan plans to tour districts twice a week, focusing on grassroots engagement. He shared these plans during a meeting with local body representatives from the joint Krishna district at the Tadepalli camp office on Friday. During the meeting, Jagan announced his intent to conduct district tours every Wednesday and Thursday, staying in the districts and interacting with party workers. He emphasized the need to complete the appointment of party committees at all levels, from districts to mandals, by January. Jagan directed the creation of social media accounts (Facebook, Instagram, WhatsApp) at every level, from villages to MLAs and MPs, to address grievances efficiently. He instructed cadres to record and upload videos wherever injustices occur. Criticizing the current governance as a "Red Book Constitution," Jagan urged party members to challenge the opposition, particularly the TDP and its leader Chandrababu Naidu, in every village. He accused Chandrababu of deceiving people with unfeasible promises and said that the public realized the truth within six months of his tenure. Highlighting the state's current challenges, Jagan claimed that every system in the state has collapsed. He encouraged party workers to persevere with a fighting spirit, despite the difficulties and losses they face as the opposition.



No Tolerance for Corruption in Pension Distribution

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Adani Deal Hikes Power Costs, Adds ₹850 Cr Burden on State

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Cyclone Fengal: CM Chandrababu Mobilizes Disaster Response Teams

- Cyclone Fengal advancing in the Bay of Bengal
- CM Chandrababu holds an emergency review meeting
- Instructions issued to district collectors and RTG officials
- Flash flood warnings issued; all levels placed on alert

TPN, Andhra Pradesh: Cyclone Fengal, currently active in the Bay of Bengal, is heading toward the coast. In response to warnings from the Meteorological Department about its potential impact on the south coastal and Rayalaseema districts, Andhra Pradesh Chief Minister Chandrababu Naidu convened an emergency review meeting. Officials from the Chief Minister's Office (CMO),

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Land Allocations to Various Institutions in AP Capital Amaravati

TPN, Amaravati: AP Municipal and Urban Development Minister Narayana announced that construction work in the Amaravati capital region will begin in January. He stated that tenders for the construction of 360 kilometers of trunk roads and the remaining towers would be finalized by the end of December. On Friday, the sub-committee on land allocations for institutions in the capital convened at the Secretariat, with Ministers Narayana and Kollu Ravindra, along with other officials, participating in the meeting. Ministers Payyavula Keshav, TG Bharat, Kandula Durgesh, and Sandhyarani joined the discussion via Zoom. Minister Narayana shared the details of the meeting with



the media, revealing that the allocation of 20 acres for the ESI hospital and medical college in the capital has been approved. He added that extensions were granted to

institutions whose allotted timelines expired during the previous TDP government. Decisions were made to allocate 5 acres for the Central Institute of Tools and Design, 0.8

acres for the Indira Gandhi National Open University, 15 acres for the Basavatarakam Cancer Institute, and 5 acres for the L&T Skill Training Institute.

The cabinet sub-committee also approved 10 acres for the Brahma Kumari Education Society and 25 acres previously allocated to TTD. Minister Narayana mentioned that lands were given to 131 beneficiaries in the past, and new allocations are now being added. He clarified that those who received lands previously would be charged the same prices as before. A policy on land pricing is being developed, and the minister directed officials to complete the land allocation process by the end of next month.



AP State Road Transport Corporation Wins 2024 Skoch Award

TPN, Andhra Pradesh: Andhra Pradesh State Road Transport Corporation (APSRTC) has been selected for the prestigious "Skoch Award" for 2024. The corporation earned this recognition for its innovative efforts to modernize public transport services by introducing cashless transactions, paperless ticketing through its mobile app, issuing digital tickets in buses, and installing a tracking system in all APSRTC buses.

The award was presented at a ceremony in Delhi, where APSRTC's Managing Director, Dwaraka Tirumala Rao, accepted the honor on behalf of the corporation. He was accompanied by the Chief Engineer IT, Y. Srinivasa Rao, who contributed to the implementation of the digital transformation initiatives.

The Skoch Award recognizes APSRTC's commitment to improving customer convenience, enhancing transparency, and ensuring operational efficiency. These innovations have not only made public transport more user-friendly but also aligned with the government's push for a digital and cashless economy. The corporation's adoption of these technologies aims to provide a more seamless experience for passengers while promoting sustainability and reducing paperwork.

APSRTC's forward-thinking approach has set a benchmark in the state's public transport sector, and the Skoch Award serves as a testament to its success in embracing technological advancements for the benefit of commuters across Andhra Pradesh.

CRDA Launches Online Voting for Amaravati Capital Office Designs



TPN, Amaravati: The construction of Andhra Pradesh's new capital, Amaravati, has gained renewed momentum with the coalition government led by Chandrababu Naidu. As part of the ongoing development efforts, the Andhra Pradesh Capital Region Development Authority (CRDA) is now involving the public in the selection of designs for the CRDA project office in Amaravati.

The government aims to incorporate public opinion into the construction of the capital, and in line with this vision, CRDA has made 10 design options available online for voting. Citizens can choose their preferred design by visiting the voting link, which will remain open until December 6th. This online voting initiative reflects the government's commitment to engaging the people of Amaravati in the process of capital development.

In a statement issued on Saturday, CRDA encouraged the public to actively participate and express their preferences. This is part of the government's broader goal of making the capital "the people's capital," a vision that was initially articulated by Chief Minister Chandrababu Naidu when the capital was first chosen.

Following the return of the Chandrababu-led coalition government to power, there has been a resurgence in development activities in Amaravati. Key decisions regarding land allocation were made in a recent sub-committee meeting, and Municipal Administration Minister P. Narayana announced that construction in the capital would commence in January.

Despite the political challenges surrounding Amaravati's future, including the YS Jagan government's push for multiple capitals, the people of Amaravati remain focused on ensuring the development of their region. With the upcoming elections in mind, the Chandrababu Naidu government aims to move forward with a transparent and inclusive approach to the capital's growth, emphasizing the importance of public input.



Big Boost for Tourism Development in AP, ₹113.75 Crore Approved for Key Projects

TPN, Andhra Pradesh: The NDA Government's commitment to the development of Andhra Pradesh received a significant boost with the approval of ₹113.75 crore as the first installment under the Special Assistance to States for Capital Investment (SASCI) Scheme for the year 2024-25. This approval is a critical step towards addressing key developmental priorities in the state, bringing optimism for a brighter future.

Hon'ble Minister Gajendra Singh Shekhawat approved ₹78 crore for the Gandikota tourism project, which aims to promote

and preserve the 'Grand Canyon of India' along the majestic Penna River. Additionally, ₹94 crore was sanctioned for the Akhanda Godavari project, which will support holistic development around the Godavari River, including the Havelock Bridge and Pushkar Ghat.

In a recent courtesy meeting with the Minister, I, along with my fellow parliamentarians Bharat Mathukumilli, G M Harish Balayogi, Daggumalla Prasad Rao, and Bastipati Nagaraju, also requested the inclusion of the historic Arasavilli Sun Temple under the PRASAD scheme.

This initiative would enable comprehensive development of the temple and its surroundings, enhancing its cultural and spiritual significance.

I would like to express my heartfelt thanks to Hon'ble Prime Minister Narendra Modi for his unwavering support and to Hon'ble Chief Minister Chandrababu for his visionary leadership. This transformative initiative will not only boost riverfront development and eco-tourism but also preserve the cultural heritage of Andhra Pradesh, creating meaningful opportunities for local communities.

No Tolerance for Corruption in Pension Distribution

TPN, Anantapur: Social pensions were distributed a day early in Andhra Pradesh. Since December 1 fell on a Sunday, pensions were distributed door-to-door today, November 30. Chief Minister Chandrababu participated in the pension distribution program in Nemakallu, Anantapur district, personally visiting homes to distribute pensions. Chandrababu visited the house of Bhagyamma, a disabled woman in Nemakallu, and inquired about her family's situation. He handed over ₹15,000 as a disability pension. He also visited the house of a widow named Rudramma in the same village to distribute her pension and inquire about her welfare.

Speaking on the occasion, Chandrababu shared that he personally distributed pensions to ensure transparency. "I want the happiness of the people to be permanent. Widows and disabled individuals are being supported with better pensions," he said. "The coalition government is committed to supporting the underprivileged. We have fulfilled our election promise by increasing pensions since April. NTR introduced pensions in Andhra Pradesh, and today we provide pensions to 64 lakh people in the state. In five months, we have distributed ₹18,000 crores in pensions. We also introduced a system allowing beneficiaries to collect pensions once every three months," he explained. Highlighting the government's zero-tolerance policy, he added, "Andhra Pradesh is the leading state in pension distribution. I have made it clear that there must not be a single instance of corruption in pension distribution. Although we aim to do more for the poor, we are addressing the weakened systems left behind by five years of YSRCP rule."

Special Focus on Anantapur District

Chandrababu emphasized his dedication to Anantapur district, stating, "I promised farmers here that I would provide water for their crops and turn Rayalaseema into a land of prosperity. Rayadurgam is a very backward area, and we are taking steps to prevent it from becoming a desert."

Adani Deal Hikes Power Costs, Adds ₹850 Cr Burden on State

TPN, Andhra Pradesh: The former YSRCP government, led by YS Jagan Mohan Reddy, has faced multiple allegations of corruption during its tenure. One of the key issues under scrutiny is the solar power agreements made with the Adani Group. Recently, the U.S. Justice Department alleged that a state official, in office between 2019 and June 2024, accepted a staggering Rs. 1,750 crore in bribes to favor power purchase agreements involving Adani.

As expected, Jagan Mohan Reddy dismissed these allegations outright, despite substantial evidence coming to light. Adding fuel to the fire, reports now reveal that the solar power procured through these deals will cost significantly more than the originally agreed-upon price of Rs. 2.49 per kWh. The tariff is set to rise by an additional 50 paise per kWh, thanks to the basic customs duty (BCD) imposed on imported solar panels and cells, leading to an added burden of Rs. 850 crore on the state treasury.

The revised tariff now stands at Rs. 3.069 per kWh, payable to Adani Green Energy Limited (AGEL). Notably, when the Solar Energy Corporation of India (SECI) signed agreements with Andhra Pradesh in December 2021 for 7,000 MW of solar power from AGEL, the quoted price excluded the BCD. At the time, the government had not imposed the 40% customs duty on imported solar panels, which became effective from April 1, 2022.

When SECI informed the Andhra Pradesh government about the revised tariff post-duty imposition, it agreed to bear the additional cost. This decision, made under the YSRCP government, now leaves the current administration grappling with an increased financial burden of Rs. 850 crore—yet another fallout from Jagan Mohan Reddy's contentious tenure.

Cyclone Fengal: CM...

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AP State Disaster Management Authority (APSDMA), district collectors, and real-time governance (RTG) teams attended the meeting. CM Chandrababu emphasized that the cyclone is expected to reach the coast within a few hours and directed government machinery to remain on high alert at all levels. Warning of potential flash floods, he instructed district officials to have disaster response teams ready to minimize damage to property and loss of life.

He directed district collectors to coordinate relief and rehabilitation activities effectively. Recognizing the concerns of paddy farmers in the wake of the cyclone, the Chief Minister stressed the need to provide them with timely and accurate updates. He also called for real-time assessment of the cyclone's progression to ensure appropriate and timely actions.

Chandrababu ordered continuous monitoring through real-time governance and advised officials to keep the public informed regularly. Additionally, he instructed the formation of WhatsApp groups at all levels to ensure seamless coordination among teams.

Toilet Board to Be Installed at Tadepalli Palace Soon - Minister Anagani

Criticizes Jagan Govt, Praises Coalition's Welfare Initiatives

TPN, Andhra Pradesh: Minister Satya Prasad made scathing remarks against the Jagan government, alleging that a "toilet board" would soon be installed at the Tadepalli Palace, a symbolic jab at the administration's failures. Speaking at a public event, he emphasized the commitment of the coalition government, led by N. Chandrababu Naidu, to support the poor and deliver welfare schemes effectively. The minister praised Naidu for his empathetic leadership, contrasting it with Jagan's governance. "Unlike the Jagan government, which prioritizes contractors, Chandrababu is wiping away the tears of the poor, ensuring pensions are distributed a day early," Prasad stated. He highlighted the coalition government's focus on transparency, ensuring that pensions reach beneficiaries without any corruption. Prasad commended the staff who are distributing pensions door-to-door, even braving ad-



verse weather conditions. "Their dedication reflects the coalition government's commitment to welfare," he added. He also noted that the coalition's welfare schemes are gaining national attention for their effectiveness and impact. "NTR's legacy of supporting the poor lives on through these initiatives," the minister concluded, reiterating the government's focus on social justice and transparency.

Minister Nimmala Slams Jagan for Financial Mismanagement and Electricity Tariff Hikes

TPN, Andhra Pradesh: Minister Nimmala Ramanaidu made sharp remarks against YSRCP Chief and Andhra Pradesh Former Chief Minister Y.S. Jagan Mohan Reddy, accusing him of driving the state into financial turmoil. Speaking at an event in Palakollu on Saturday, where ₹13 lakh in cheques were distributed under the CM Relief Fund, Ramanaidu criticized Jagan's governance and questioned his claims of wealth creation.



"If Jagan truly created wealth during his five-year rule, why did he raise electricity tariffs nine times?" Ramanaidu asked, expressing frustration over the financial burden placed on the public. He highlighted that ₹18,000 crore in arrears were imposed on power distribution companies (DISCOMs) during Jagan's tenure, attributing this to poor management. Ramanaidu accused Jagan of taking Andhra Pradesh to an international level in financial crimes and misusing public funds. He also alleged that the Chief Minister had effectively canceled the CM Relief Fund, leaving poor and middle-class patients without access to crucial medical care.

Comparing Jagan's administration to that of former Chief Minister N. Chandrababu Naidu, Ramanaidu praised Naidu for turning Andhra Pradesh from a power-deficient state to a power-surplus one between 2014 and 2019. "During Chandrababu's regime, not only were electricity charges stable, but quality power was also provided," he said. Ramanaidu further criticized Jagan for imposing surcharges and failing to manage the state's power sector effectively. "Jagan's financial mismanagement has placed an unbearable burden on the people and the DISCOMs," he concluded, urging the government to address the growing financial challenges.

Minister Satyakumar Hits Back at Jagan's Allegations with Strong Counter

TPN, Andhra Pradesh: Minister Satyakumar responded sharply to former Chief Minister Y.S. Jagan Mohan Reddy's recent comments, accusing him of spreading lies and engaging in baseless criticism. Addressing the media on Saturday, Satyakumar dismissed Jagan's claims about appointing 52,000 employees in the health sector during the YSRCP government and criticized his administration's handling of various issues. "Many lies have been spread about my ministry. When challenged to discuss them, they run away. Throwing mud and running away has become Jagan's habit," Satyakumar remarked. He accused Jagan of diverting attention from corruption scandals, referring to investigations by U.S. agencies that allegedly confirmed corruption under Jagan's leadership. Satyakumar mocked the YSRCP's performance in recent elections, stating, "Even after being reduced to 11 seats, Jagan still



hasn't learned his lesson." He urged Jagan to make meaningful criticisms instead of resorting to "cheap and baseless attacks." The minister also took a dig at Jagan's public appearances, claiming that Jagan avoids media scrutiny when in power but spreads falsehoods when in the opposition. "As CM, he couldn't answer questions. Now, in the opposition, he speaks to the media only to spread lies," he added. Referring to past controversies, Satyakumar accused the previous government of creating "ash panchayats," leaving people with nothing but losses. "Until recently, they were stealing ashes. Now, they are trying to throw those ashes on us," he quipped. In conclusion, Satyakumar emphasized the need for responsible and meaningful political discourse, urging leaders to focus on facts rather than spreading misinformation.

Minister Ramprasad Reddy Demands Inquiry into Rayachoti Municipality Corruption

TPN, Andhra Pradesh: State Transport and Youth Sports Minister Mandipalli Ramprasad Reddy attended the Rayachoti Municipal General Assembly meeting, where tensions ran high as he confronted YSR Congress Party (YSRCP) council members over allegations of corruption. During the meeting, Minister Reddy expressed his anger at the conduct of YSRCP members and called for an investigation into irregularities within the Rayachoti Municipality and Revenue Department. He instructed the district Collector over the phone to take immediate action against those found guilty of corruption. The minister criticized the council members for accusing a town planning officer of granting construction permits without accepting bribes, emphasizing the need for concrete proof. He warned against making baseless allegations against women and employees, stating that legal action would follow if such accusations continued. Minister Reddy also pointed out that funds from the 15th Finance Commission had been unfairly allocated to only a few wards. He expressed dissatisfaction with non-governmental organizations' involvement in these allocations and vowed to ensure transparency. The minister further alleged that individuals connected to the YSRCP were involved in illegal land acquisitions and unauthorized apartment constructions. He



challenged the council members to produce evidence of corruption and promised a thorough inquiry into the matter. Highlighting discrepancies from the previous government, Reddy accused former leaders of aiding engineering firms in securing lands without proper permissions. He assured the public that the current Telugu Desam Party (TDP) government would not tolerate any corruption and would hold those responsible accountable. The meeting concluded with a stern warning from the minister that the government would take strict action against anyone found guilty of misconduct.

Kannababu Questions Rice Export Irregularities

TPN, Andhra Pradesh: Former Minister Kurusala Kannababu expressed serious concerns about irregularities at Kakinada port and raised several questions about the handling of Public Distribution System (PDS) rice exports. He also took a dig at the previous TDP government, accusing it of burdening the public with increased electricity charges. Addressing the media, Kannababu said that Pawan Kalyan's concerns about port activities should not be taken lightly. He noted that inspections by the Civil Supplies Department had resulted in the seizure of PDS rice, with check posts established at the port. Civil Supplies Chairman Thota Sudheer had also seized ration rice lorries, but Kannababu questioned how the seized rice was later released and allowed to pass through check posts. "Pawan says he was not allowed to board a ship carrying rice. If a person of his stature, holding the position of Deputy CM, is being stopped, questions arise about



who is giving such orders," Kannababu remarked, hinting at interference from higher authorities. He stressed the need for accountability and urged both the state and central governments to address these concerns, especially regarding the security risks at the port. "Pawan spoke about national security. The state government must take his concerns seriously and strengthen the Civil Supplies Department," Kannababu added. Turning his attention to former Chief Minister Chandrababu Naidu, Kannababu criticized the increase in electricity charges, stating that Naidu had imposed an additional burden of ₹2.19 per unit on the public. He accused Naidu of changing his stance frequently and claimed that the media favored the TDP leader, portraying him as an intellectual and philosopher. Kannababu concluded by urging the government to address systemic flaws and ensure transparency in rice exports to maintain public trust.

Raveendranath Reddy Slams Govt Over Unfulfilled Promises and Mismanagement

TPN, Andhra Pradesh: YSRCP District President P. Raveendranath Reddy criticized the state government, calling it a "sham government" for failing to implement its promises. He accused the administration of mismanaging key resources and harassing YSRCP workers and social media activists to divert attention from its shortcomings. Reddy highlighted the ongoing issues surrounding the transportation of fly ash, stating that even the Chief Minister's Office (CMO) is involved in holding panchayats to address the matter. "These panchayats are being conducted not to resolve the issue but to facilitate looting and over-distribution of resources," he alleged. He also expressed concern over the illegal transportation of sand to cities like Bangalore and Chennai, questioning the existence of any regulatory system. "For the past five or six days, police have been stationed at RTPP just for the ash panchayat, but they struggle to maintain law and order when leaders from other districts visit," Reddy added. Turning his attention to water management, he criticized the release of Srisailem water



into the sea under the pretext of power generation. "Despite warnings from the Krishna River Management Board (KRMB) about Telangana wasting water, the government remains indifferent. Srisailem now holds only 124 TMC out of its capacity of 215 TMC," he pointed out, expressing concern over the impact on agriculture due to cyclones affecting both Kharif and Rabi crops. Reddy further criticized the government for its failure to address farmers' land issues, stating that even websites meant to resolve such problems are non-functional. "Not a single department is working efficiently, but cases are being filed against our activists and social media users," he concluded, urging immediate corrective action.

Jagan Must Go to America and Appear in Court - Gone Prakash Rao

TPN, Andhra Pradesh: Former MLA Gone Prakash Rao has demanded a thorough investigation into alleged irregularities involving Y.S. Jagan Mohan Reddy and the Adani Group. In a letter addressed to Prime Minister Narendra Modi, Prakash Rao urged that the probe be conducted by a retired Supreme Court judge, the CBI, or a Joint Parliamentary Committee (JPC). The former legislator specifically called for the cancellation of power purchase agreements signed by Jagan with the Adani Group, claiming that these deals would burden the people of Andhra Pradesh with a massive cost of ₹1.50 lakh crore. "The central government must take responsibility for investigating these corruption charges," Prakash Rao insisted. He criticized Jagan for denying any involve-

ment in cases registered in the United States, stating that such denials were futile. "Jagan must go to America and appear in court. His history of obstructing the CBI is well known," he added. Prakash Rao further alleged that Jagan received ₹1,750 crore and must admit to his wrongdoing. Addressing broader concerns, he urged the Andhra Pradesh government to revoke agreements with companies associated with Adani, including Gangavaram Port. "Adani has tarnished the country's reputation, and Jagan has done the same to the state," Prakash Rao remarked. He concluded by emphasizing the importance of accountability and transparency in governance, calling for immediate action to address the alleged corruption.

NTR Dist Achieves Comprehensive Development with Collective Effort



TPN, Vijayawada: District In-charge Minister Satyakumar Yadav emphasized the importance of collective responsibility between public representatives and officials to ensure the overall development of NTR District. He stated that both sectors must work together to provide permanent solutions to local issues, while prioritizing the welfare of the people. During a District Review Committee (DRC) meeting on Saturday at the Farmers' Training Center in Vijayawada, Minister Yadav highlighted the ongoing steps to improve living standards, develop the district industrially, and transform Vijayawada into a major industrial hub. The meeting was attended by key figures including Vijayawada MP Kesineni Sivanath, government whips Thangirala Soumya and Yarlagadda Venkatrao, Collector Dr. G. Lakshmi Sa, Joint Collector Dr. Nidhi Meena, and other local leaders. The committee discussed progress across 34 sectors, including agriculture, irrigation, health, education,

and housing. A total of Rs. 304.08 crore has been allocated as compensation for losses caused by flash floods and heavy rains. Efforts to distribute financial assistance to affected communities have been swift, in line with guidance from Chief Minister Jagan Mohan Reddy.

In the agricultural sector, Minister Yadav emphasized ongoing initiatives such as soil testing, seed subsidies, and farmer awareness programs like the 'Polam Kemandi' campaign. He also discussed the Pradhan Mantri Fasal Bima Yojana (PMFBY), which provides insurance to farmers against crop losses, and urged farmers to participate in the scheme before deadlines.

MP Kesineni Sivanath, MLCs, and MLAs raised concerns related to local development, including the modernization of flood-damaged schools, the restoration of irrigation facilities, and the installation of statues of notable figures. They also

discussed establishing Cotton Corporation of India (CCI) purchase centers to support cotton farmers and improving farmers' markets.

Sivanath also advocated for the establishment of Greater Vijayawada Municipal Corporation to streamline urban development and facilitate quick problem resolution.

Minister Satyakumar Yadav assured that the issues raised would be addressed through coordinated efforts, and further DRC meetings would be held to track the progress of ongoing programs. He praised the collective efforts of public representatives and officials during the flood recovery period and reiterated that Team NTR will continue working toward the district's development. Collector Dr. G. Lakshmi Sa described the DRC as a guiding compass for the district's growth, promising that the input from public representatives will shape future development strategies.

Greater Vijayawada A Key Solution for Urban Development - MP Kesineni Chinni

TPN, Vijayawada: Vijayawada MP Kesineni Shivanath (Chinni) emphasized that the establishment of a Greater Vijayawada Municipal Corporation is essential for the rapid development and resolution of long-standing urban issues, including water and drainage problems, in Vijayawada and its surrounding areas. Speaking at the District Review Committee (DRC) meeting held at the Farmers Training Center in Irrigation Compound, Vijayawada, on Saturday, he called for swift action to address these challenges.

The meeting, chaired by District In-charge Minister Satyakumar Yadav, saw the participation of key officials, including Vijayawada MP Kesineni Sivanath, Government Whips Thangirala Soumya and Yarlagadda Venkatrao, Collector Dr. G. Lakshmi Sa, Joint Collector Dr. Nidhi Meena, and Vijayawada Municipal Corporation Commissioner Dhyana Chandra. They reviewed the ongoing development projects and welfare programs across 34 departments in the district.

MP Kesineni Shivanath highlighted the importance of the Greater Vijayawada Municipal Corporation for coordinated development and problem-solving. He suggested that when planning new projects, coordination meetings among departments should be held early to avoid future hurdles. He also assured that public representatives would provide full cooperation to enable the officials to work more effectively. The MP addressed several pressing



issues, including concerns about restrictions on senior citizens and students in colleges during the previous government's tenure. He urged Minister Satyakumar Yadav and Collector Lakshmi Sa to take action to ensure that students and elderly people are allowed access to the campuses again. He also mentioned the upcoming completion of the Central Scheme PM Surya Ghar in March 2025, urging officials to ensure its successful implementation. Speaking to the media afterward, MP Kesineni Shivanath reiterated the commitment of the seven MLAs of NTR district to work together with In-charge Minister Satyakumar Yadav, focusing on the district's progress. He expressed his gratitude for the successful organization of the DRC meeting and pledged continued efforts for NTR district's development.

MLAs Gadde Rammohan, Kolikapudi Srinivasa Rao, Sriram Rajagopal, Vasanta Krishna Prasad, and others also participated in the meeting.

CM Chandrababu Sanctioned 8.68 Lakh Pensions Within the First 3 Months of Coming to Power

TPN, Vijayawada: The coalition government, led by Chief Minister N. Chandrababu Naidu, has accelerated the implementation of welfare schemes, with a strong focus on ensuring timely pension distribution. Former minister and TDP leader Devineni Umamaheswara Rao highlighted these achievements during the NTR Bharosa Pension Distribution Program at Gollapudi Panchayat Pipe Road on Saturday. Devineni Uma emphasized that despite challenges, CM Naidu has prioritized the welfare of the poor. To avoid delays, NTR Bharosa pensions scheduled for December 1st, a Sunday, were distributed a day early on November 30th. He announced that ₹2,709 crore in pensions had been released, benefiting 63.92 lakh people across Andhra Pradesh. The former minister praised the government's commitment to social welfare, noting that pensions for widows are now being processed within 15 days. He also pointed out the coalition's historic achievements, including the introduction of pensions for kidney, thalassemia, and sickle cell disease patients. Addition-



ally, special pensions have been extended to tribals, toddy tappers, drum artists, fishermen, and cobblers, a first in the state's history. "Within the first three months of coming to power, Chandrababu Naidu sanctioned 8.68 lakh pensions. the coalition government has expanded this to nearly 64 lakh beneficiaries," Devineni Uma stated. He criticized former Chief Minister Y.S. Jagan Mohan Reddy for failing to fulfill his promise of providing ₹3,000 pensions, adding that Jagan's administration could not sustain pensions effectively for five years. Devineni Uma reaffirmed the coalition government's commitment to social welfare, ensuring that pensions reach the needy without delay or corruption.

Kapu Karthika Vana Samaradhana

A Grand Success at Vaddeswaram



TPN, Vijayawada: The Kapu Karthika Vana Samaradhana, held at Vaddeswaram near Vijayawada, was a resounding success, bringing together leaders, party members, and locals in a vibrant cultural and social celebration.

The event was graced by several prominent leaders, including NTR District Jana Sena Party President and former Jaggayyapet MLA Sri Samineni Udayabhenu, former Deputy Speaker Sri Booragadda Vedavyas, Jana Sena Party State Secretary Ammisetti Vasu, Autonagar Automobile Technician Association President Rajanala Venkataramana Rao (Bobji), Jana Sena Party State Assistant Secretary Pothireddy

Anitha, along with corporators, former corporators, leaders from various parties, and a large number of women participants.

Jana Sena Party Senior Leader and Autonagar Vice President Nerusu Krishnanjaneyulu presided over the event, while renowned dance instructor Anusha Naidu hosted the program. The event featured a range of cultural performances and engaging games, adding to the festive spirit.

The program began with a puja ceremony conducted by Jana Sena Party Division President Ramayanapu Koteswara Rao and his wife. Following this, attendees en-

joyed a traditional feast as part of the lively Vanabhojana Mahotsavam, which included active participation from women, youth, and children.

Speaking on the occasion, leaders emphasized the importance of unity and strategic thinking among the Kapu community to achieve political power, economic progress, and social development. The event served as a platform to foster camaraderie and reinforce the community's collective goals.

The grand celebration concluded successfully, leaving participants inspired and united in their vision for progress and development.

Vijayawada Municipal Corporation Cracks Down on Unlicensed Businesses

TPN, Vijayawada: In Vijayawada On Saturday, Vijayawada Municipal Corporation (VMC) Commissioner Dhyana Chandra has issued strict orders to take action against businesses operating without proper licenses. During a surprise inspection on Saturday morning, the Commissioner visited the service road adjacent to the Krishna Lanka National Highway to check for trade licenses among shop owners in the area. Addressing the media, Commissioner Dhyana Chandra emphasized that all businesses, regardless of size, must obtain a valid trade license. "Whether the business is small

or large, having a trade license is mandatory. Strict action will be taken against those who fail to comply," he warned. The Commissioner urged business owners to regularize their operations by securing the necessary licenses to avoid penalties. He reiterated that the corporation would continue conducting surprise inspections to ensure compliance and maintain order within the city. The Public Relations Officer of the Vijayawada Municipal Corporation confirmed that these measures are part of broader efforts to enforce municipal regulations and enhance public accountability.

District Collector Dr. G. Lakshmi Sa Participates a Pensions Distribution Program

TPN, Vijayawada: The government is steadfast in its commitment to provide social security and financial assistance to the underprivileged through the NTR Bharosa scheme. In a significant step, pensions worth Rs. 97.93 crore were distributed to 2,31,127 beneficiaries across the district a day in advance due to the upcoming holiday on December 1st.

District Collector Dr. G. Lakshmi Sa, speaking on the occasion, expressed that the distribution of pensions not only reflects the government's dedication to social welfare but also brings immense joy to the pensioners. The sight of happiness in the eyes of the beneficiaries is something she will never forget, said Dr. G. Lakshmi Sa.

As part of the ongoing distribution, the Collector personally handed over pensions to elderly pensioner Doppalapudi Sambasiva Rao and differently-abled pensioners Gourineni Srilekha and Mokkalapati Sathyasri in Jupudi village of Ibrahimpatnam mandal. The process was carried out in a festive atmosphere, with village and ward secretariat employees, as well as other government staff, personally delivering the pensions to the homes of the beneficiaries.



Dr. Lakshmi Sa emphasized that the NTR Bharosa scheme is designed to provide financial security to the poor and marginalized communities. She assured that the applications for pensions are being thoroughly reviewed, and all eligible individuals will receive their rightful benefits. Additionally, steps will be taken to reinstate pensions for those whose payments were previously halted for various reasons. The Collector expressed her happiness for being part of such an impactful initiative, which is truly making a difference in the lives of the people. The event was attended by DRDA PD K. Srinivasa Rao, Village Sarpanch Kaki Devamatha, MPDO Sunitha Sharma, Tahsildar Y. Venkateswara Rao, Mandal Extension Officer V. Manoj, Panchayat Secretary Y.S. BhagyaLakshmi Sa, and Secretariat staff.

Gang of Electric Motor Thieves Arrested in Nandivada

TPN, Gudivada: On Saturday, the Nandivada police successfully arrested a four-member gang involved in the theft of electric motors in the region. The police also recovered 34 stolen electric motors, valued at Rs. 3.16 lakh, along with a car and a bike from the suspects. According to Gudivada Rural Circle Inspector (CI) Someswara Rao, the police launched an investigation after receiving a series of complaints from aqua tank owners in Nandivada mandal, who reported that their electric motors had been stolen. The thefts began around November 20, 2024. The police tracked down



the gang after observing suspicious activity near Puttagunta and identified the thieves. The stolen motors were recovered from their possession, and the gang members were taken into custody for further investigation. CI Someswara Rao assured the public that steps are being taken to prevent similar thefts in the future and encouraged citizens to report any suspicious activity in their areas. The police are continuing their investigation into the gang's operations.



What Have You Achieved Jagan to Be Appreciated with a Shawl? - Minister Gottipati



TPN, Andhra Pradesh: In a sharp critique of YSRCP Chief and Andhra Pradesh Chief Minister Jagan Mohan Reddy, Minister Gottipati Ravikumar questioned the rationale behind Jagan's recent honors, asking, "What should you wear a shawl for?"

Gottipati took aim at Jagan's handling of the state's power system, saying, "Should you wear a shawl for destroying the power system? Should you wear it for increasing electricity charges nine times?" He accused Jagan's administration of systematically undermining critical infrastructure while burdening the public with exorbitant charges.

The Minister also expressed concern over the financial health of the state, lamenting that Jagan's government had borrowed a staggering Rs. 1 lakh crore to finance the power system, further exacerbating the state's debt. He criticized Jagan's leadership for what he described as an unchecked rise in corruption, which he claimed has now spread beyond the state's borders, making national headlines.

Gottipati went on to state that the state of Andhra Pradesh has regressed by two decades under Jagan's rule, with the governance failing to bring about progress and economic stability. His comments reflect the growing dissatisfaction with the current administration's policies, particularly regarding its handling of public services and financial management.

TTD Chairman BR Naidu's Announcement on Srivari Darshan for Tirupati People

**New TTD Governing Council Formed
Srivari Darshan for Tirupati People on the First
Tues day of Every Month
Implementation Begins December 3, Says BR Naidu**

TPN, Tirupati: The new governing council of Tirumala Tirupati Devasthanam (TTD) was recently formed, with TV5 channel owner BR Naidu taking charge as the TTD chairman. The TTD governing council, which recently met under the chairmanship of BR Naidu, approved several key decisions. One of these decisions was to provide Srivari Darshan to the locals of Tirupati on the first Tuesday of every month.

TTD Chairman BR Naidu made an announcement regarding this on Saturday. He stated that the decision taken in the first meeting of the new TTD governing council is being implemented. It was announced that the residents of Tirupati Rural, Tirupati Urban, Chandragiri Mandal, and Renigunta Mandal will be provided with Srivari Darshan on the first Tuesday of every month. BR Naidu explained that TTD is fully prepared for this implementation, which will come into effect on December 3, 2024 (Tuesday).



Dalit Group Members Filed a Case Against Former Minister Roja Over Alleged Insult

TPN, Kurnool: Dalit groups have filed a police complaint against former Tourism Minister and YSRCP leader Roja, accusing her of insulting Dalits during an incident at Suryalanka Beach in Guntur district in February 2023. The complaint was lodged at the Kurnool Three Town Police Station.

According to the complaint, Roja visited Suryalanka Beach in Bapatla, Guntur district, before entering the sea. She left her slippers on the shore and instructed a tourism department employee to look after them. The employee, who is reported to be a Dalit, was seen carrying Roja's slippers, and photos and videos of the incident soon went viral on social media.



Dalit leaders have expressed outrage over the incident, claiming that Roja's actions were disrespectful and demeaning to the Dalit community. They contend that her instructions to the Dalit employee to carry her slippers were a clear insult, and they have demanded action from the authorities. In response, the Kurnool police have registered a case based on the complaint filed by the Dalit groups. The incident has sparked widespread debate on social media, with many people condemning the act as a form of humiliation towards the Dalit employee.

The case is now under investigation, and the authorities are looking into the matter to determine whether any legal action should be taken against Roja. The outcome of the investigation will likely have broader implications for how public figures treat Dalit employees in similar circumstances.

Ambati Rambabu Questions Pawan Kalyan's Complaints Over Authorities' Non-Cooperation



TPN, Andhra Pradesh: Amid Pawan Kalyan's recent complaints about the non-cooperation of authorities, particularly during his inspection of the Kakinada port, YSRCP leader and former minister Ambati Rambabu has raised several questions regarding the Deputy CM's dissatisfaction.

Pawan Kalyan expressed frustration over the lack of cooperation from authorities during his Kakinada port visit. He revealed that some individuals had called him the night before, advising against his visit, warning that it could endanger the lives of 10,000 people. Further, when he attempted to inspect a ship caught with illegal rice, officials claimed the conditions were unsuitable for inspection, and he was denied access to board the ship. He also mentioned the district SP being on leave during the visit, raising doubts about the situation.

In response to Pawan Kalyan's grievances, Ambati Rambabu questioned why the authorities were allegedly not cooperating, despite Pawan Kalyan being in power as the Deputy CM. He sarcastically asked if the non-cooperation was a result of directions from leaders like Chandrababu Naidu or Nara Lokesh. Rambabu pointed out the contradiction in Pawan Kalyan's claims, noting that he was in the government, yet still complaining about lack of cooperation.

Rambabu also criticized Pawan Kalyan for not addressing the core issue, accusing him of focusing on drama rather than taking responsibility for the Public Distribution System (PDS) rice scam. He highlighted that the Civil Supplies Department, which manages the check posts at Kakinada port, is under Pawan Kalyan's party, and if a scam is indeed happening, the Civil Supplies Minister should take responsibility and resign.

He further pointed out that Pawan Kalyan seemed more focused on criticizing others rather than addressing his own party's shortcomings. Rambabu concluded his remarks by comparing Pawan Kalyan's situation to a movie dialogue, suggesting that the Deputy CM was annoyed but unable to take the necessary actions to resolve the issues.

TTD Bans Political Speeches in Tirumala to Preserve Sanctity

TPN, Tirumala: The Tirumala Tirupati Devasthanams (TTD) has imposed a ban on political speeches in Tirumala in an effort to maintain the sanctity and spiritual peace of the Srivari temple. The decision comes after political criticism on the hill has become a frequent occurrence, with many political leaders using their visits to Tirumala as a platform to address media and voice political opinions.

A resolution to ban political and hate speeches in Tirumala was passed during the recent TTD governing council meeting. The new policy has been implemented, and TTD has warned that legal action will be taken against those who violate the ban and make political criticisms on the hill.



TTD officials stated that the primary goal of the new rule is to protect the sanctity of the holy hill and ensure that the focus remains on spiritual activities and devotion. Over time, political discussions in the sacred premises had drawn attention and raised concerns about the peaceful and spiritual atmosphere that is traditionally associated with Tirumala.

In recent years, many leaders from various political parties have used their visits to Tirumala to make public statements on political issues, often speaking to the media. With this new directive, TTD aims to prevent such actions and maintain the temple's reverence as a place for prayer and spirituality, free from political discourse.



This move has sparked mixed reactions, with some supporting the decision to uphold the sanctity of the temple, while others feel it restricts freedom of expression. However, TTD remains firm in its stance, emphasizing that the primary objective is to preserve the spiritual essence of the Tirumala temple.

AP Forest Department Unveils Special Plan for Tribal Economic Growth



TPN, Andhra Pradesh: The Andhra Pradesh Forest Department is embarking on a new initiative aimed at improving the living standards of tribal communities by promoting sustainable economic growth. Under the guidance of Deputy Chief Minister and Minister for Forest and Environment, Shri Pawan Kalyan, a comprehensive plan is being developed to enhance the livelihoods of tribal communities, particularly through the identification and marketing of rare forest products.

A tripartite Memorandum of Understanding (MoU) was signed on Friday between the Andhra Pradesh Forest Department, the Andhra Pradesh Forest Development Corporation, and the Institute of Public Policy, which is under the auspices of the Indian School of Business (ISB). The signing ceremony took place at the Forest Department headquarters. The three organizations will collaborate on forest product management, utilizing modern technology, and improving the lifestyle of the tribals.

The main focus of the project will be the identification, collection, and marketing of natural seasonal products found in the forests. These rare products will be identified through digital and geospatial technologies without disrupting the natural forest environment. The project will involve local tribals, with an emphasis on empowering tribal women economically. In addition, the plan aims to add value to forest products, excluding wood, to enhance their marketability and branding. State Forest Department Principal Chief Conservator of Forests (PCCF) and Head of Forest Forces (HOFF) Shri Chiranjeev Chowdhury stated, "This agreement will be a game-changer for the economic progress of the forest. Wealth creation through forest products will increase significantly, leading to progress in rural areas."

Shri Ashwani Chatre, Executive Director of the Institute of Public Policy, emphasized that the primary goal of the project is to ensure that income generated from forest products benefits the tribals who rely on the forests for their livelihoods.

This collaboration marks a significant step towards sustainable development and empowerment of tribal communities in Andhra Pradesh.

India-Italy Relations Strengthen with Strategic Focus on Trade, Connectivity, and Defence



India's External Affairs Minister, S. Jaishankar, recently completed a significant three-day visit to Italy, which included participation in the G7 Foreign Ministers' Meeting and the inauguration of the new Indian Embassy in Rome. The visit underscored India's ongoing efforts to bolster its bilateral ties with Italy and reflected the broader strategic partnership between the two nations, which has been steadily growing in recent years.

The relationship between India and Italy had been somewhat strained in the past, but it has significantly improved following key visits by both countries' leaders. The turning point came in 2018 when Italian Prime Minister Giuseppe Conte visited India, setting the foundation for strengthened cooperation. This was further solidified by the launch of the first action plan for enhanced partnership (2020-2024). A major milestone came in October 2021, when Indian Prime Minister Narendra Modi visited Italy and announced the elevation of bilateral ties to a strategic partnership. Prime Minister Giorgia Meloni reciprocated in March 2023 by visiting India as the chief guest at the 8th Raisina Dialogue, a significant diplomatic event.

During Jaishankar's recent visit, discussions were focused on the newly signed Joint Strategic Action Plan (2025-2029), which aims to enhance collaboration in areas such as defence, trade, energy, and space. The plan, which was officially signed during the virtual G20 summit under Brazil's presidency, represents a deeper alignment between the two nations and is expected to drive future cooperation in critical global sectors. The focus of the discussions also included areas such as trade and connectivity, as well as security and defence.

Bilateral trade between India and Italy stands at an impressive €15 billion, with India benefiting from an export advantage. However, Italy's strategic role in Europe has also made it an important partner for India, particularly in enhancing connectivity between India and Europe. Italy's strategic location in the Mediterranean, coupled with its involvement in the India-Middle East-Europe Economic Corridor (IMEC), has the potential to create stronger trade routes and improve overall economic resilience.

A key area of focus is Italy's strategic port of Trieste, which holds significant

potential for expanding India's presence in Central and Eastern European markets. The port serves as a crucial gateway to these regions, and India's increased involvement could yield substantial commercial benefits. Notably, Trieste offers an alternative to ports that are under heavy Chinese influence, such as the Greek port of Piraeus, which is controlled by China's COSCO shipping corporation. By investing in Trieste and ports like Thessaloniki in Greece, India can avoid Chinese dominance in critical European trade routes and gain access to growing Central and Eastern European economies.

India's diplomatic outreach also includes the broader Mediterranean and Balkan regions, where it has worked to strengthen relationships with countries such as Cyprus and Greece. Jaishankar's recent visits and discussions with Balkan nations are part of India's larger strategy to enhance its influence in the Mediterranean, secure alternative trade routes, and diversify its global supply chains. Through these efforts, India aims to solidify its place as a leading strategic partner in Europe, fostering long-term economic and geopolitical stability.



Israel PM Benjamin Netanyahu can leverage the Lebanon ceasefire for a broader deal

The fragile ceasefire in Lebanon, which began this week, presents two potential outcomes, both of which could have significant consequences for the region. Lebanese caretaker Prime Minister Najib Mikati has expressed hope that the ceasefire marks the beginning of a "new page," offering an opportunity to de-escalate the violence that has erupted since the October 7, 2023, Hamas attack on Israel. However, the other, more likely scenario points to the ceasefire merely serving as a temporary pause in the ongoing conflict.

Israeli Prime Minister Benjamin Netanyahu has already framed the ceasefire as a tactical break, during which Israel will ramp up its pressure on Hamas in Gaza and prepare for future operations, including addressing the growing threat from Iran. Central to this plan is a US deal offering \$680 million in small-diameter bombs and J-Dam kits, weapons that have played a key role in Israel's ongoing war with Hamas.

While Netanyahu views this arrangement as a strategic move to strengthen Israel's military position, the potential consequences of continuing on this path could be disastrous not only for Israel but also for Palestinians, Lebanese, and other regional populations. From Netanyahu's perspective, this deal, though negotiated by the outgoing Biden administration, serves as a significant win for US President-elect Donald Trump, who has positioned himself as a staunch supporter of Israel and as a figure who claims to be capable of ending wars. In the long run, this strategy risks further instability and violence, underlining the fragility of the ceasefire and the dangers of escalating conflict rather than seeking a meaningful, sustainable peace.



Chinmoy Krishna Das' Arrest Highlights Minority Insecurity in Bangladesh

The arrest of Chinmoy Krishna Das, a prominent Hindu monk associated with ISKCON, has once again brought attention to the precarious situation faced by religious minorities in Bangladesh. On Tuesday, Das was taken into custody on charges of sedition after allegedly disrespecting the Bangladeshi flag. However, his supporters have vehemently denied the accusation, calling it unfounded and politically motivated.

The arrest sparked widespread protests across the country, particularly within the Hindu community, which makes up around 10% of Bangladesh's population. Tensions escalated as the demonstrations turned violent, leading to clashes between the protesters and the police. Tragically, a lawyer was killed in the unrest, further deepening the sense of instability surrounding the incident. Despite the uproar, Das was denied bail, and his legal team continues to fight for his release.

The government, in response to the court's inquiry, has assured that it has taken necessary actions to handle the situation. However, the court has demanded a report on the steps taken, which has raised questions about the impartiality of the legal process and the treatment of minorities in the country.

The arrest of Chinmoy Krishna Das serves as a stark reminder of the fragile state of law and order in Bangladesh, particularly when it comes to the protection of minority communities. Hindus, Buddhists, and Christians have long been subjected to oppression, violence, and discrimination, despite the country's Constitution promising equality for all citizens. During times of political uncertainty or changes in government, such incidents tend to rise, and the vulnerability of these communities increases significantly.

Bangladesh has witnessed a growing trend of mob attacks on minorities in recent years, with incidents of violence escalating during religious festivals and political unrest. The lack of consistent legal protections for these communities has only compounded their fears, as many feel they are left to navigate an environment where their safety is not guaranteed.

Eknath Shinde's Decline: From Rising Star to Political Underdog

Eknath Shinde, once a prominent political figure and Chief Minister of Maharashtra, has seen his influence wane significantly following the recent Assembly election results, which have handed the Bharatiya Janata Party (BJP) its biggest-ever victory in the state. The outcome of the election has not only overshadowed Shinde's political career but has also effectively diminished his chances of securing a second term as Chief Minister. As a result, Shinde is ThePrint's Newsmaker of the Week.



In the 2022 power shift, Shinde led a rebellion against Uddhav Thackeray's Shiv Sena, aligning with the BJP to form a government. Shinde's rise to the top of the state government came at the cost of sidelining BJP's Devendra Fadnavis, who was pushed into the role of Deputy Chief Minister despite his initial reluctance. At the time, Shinde's elevation was seen as a victory for the Shiv Sena faction that broke away from Thackeray's leadership.

However, just two years later, Shinde's fortunes have reversed dramatically. The BJP's sweeping victory, securing a record 132 seats in the state Assembly, has effectively sealed Fadnavis's claim to the CM position, sidelining Shinde. Sources within the BJP have hinted that Fadnavis, who spearheaded the

BJP campaign, is now the frontrunner for the CM post, while Shinde's political clout has shrunk considerably.

The shift in power dynamics between Shinde and Fadnavis has been palpable. During a recent meeting with Union Home Minister Amit Shah, Fadnavis appeared confident and pleased, while Shinde's demeanor was notably subdued. Shah's confirmation that the BJP would install its Chief Minister in Maharashtra signaled the final blow to Shinde's hopes of retaining the top job.

In the aftermath of Shinde's rebellion, he was seen as a pawn in BJP's broader

strategy to weaken Uddhav Thackeray's Shiv Sena and assert control over the state. Shinde, however, gradually began to assert his own leadership, distancing himself from Fadnavis and pursuing his own political path. Notably, Shinde capitalized on the Maratha quota agitation led by Manoj Jarange Patil, a move that earned him support from the Maratha community and gave him a political edge over Fadnavis, who was criticized for the mishandling of the protests.

Despite these efforts, Shinde's leadership has not been enough to secure his position as the undisputed leader of Maharashtra. His close association with the BJP has not shielded him from the internal competition within his own faction. As his party's leaders begin to demand the CM post, Shinde is faced with the dilemma of managing expectations while navigating the shifting political landscape.

Shinde's rise and fall within Maharashtra's political scene exemplify the delicate balance of power between the BJP and Shiv Sena, highlighting the tensions that exist even within alliances. His journey from a "rising star" to a political underdog underscores the volatile nature of state politics, where yesterday's ally can quickly become today's challenger.



“Ready to start working for better future of people of Wayanad”

Congress MP Priyanka Gandhi Vadra, fresh off her historic victory in the Wayanad Lok Sabha seat, arrived in Kerala for a two-day visit on Saturday. Expressing her commitment to serving the people of Wayanad, Priyanka said she was “ready to start working” toward ensuring a better future for the region.

“I am happy to be back here, and I am ready to start working. I will do whatever I can to help the people of Wayanad have a better future,” Priyanka stated outside Karipur Airport in Kozhikode. Her return to the constituency comes after a resounding win in the 2019 general elections, marking her first electoral success.

During her visit, Priyanka will be holding a joint public meeting with her brother, Rahul Gandhi, who is also the Leader of Opposition in the Lok Sabha. The meeting is scheduled to take place in Mukkam, within the Thiruvambadi assembly constituency in Kozhikode district.

Priyanka’s visit highlights her ongoing commitment to addressing the concerns of the people of Wayanad, and the Congress party’s emphasis on strengthening its presence in Kerala. In addition to her public engagements, Priyanka’s itinerary indicates a focus on local issues and outreach to her constituents, emphasizing her role in ensuring development and prosperity for the region.

As she begins her work in Wayanad, Priyanka Gandhi Vadra’s visit marks the beginning of a new phase in her political journey, where she is keen to make a tangible difference in the lives of the people she represents.

Modi to attend new Maharashtra govt swearing-in on Dec 5

Prime Minister Narendra Modi is set to attend the swearing-in ceremony of the new Mahayuti government in Maharashtra on December 5, as Devendra Fadnavis emerges as the frontrunner for the chief minister’s post. The oath-taking ceremony will be held at 5 pm at Azad Maidan in South Mumbai, as confirmed by state BJP chief Chandrashekhar Bawankule.

While an official announcement regarding the chief minister is yet to be made, BJP sources indicate that Fadnavis, who has previously served as chief minister twice and as deputy CM in the last Eknath Shinde-led government, is most likely to assume the role. Shinde, who currently serves as the caretaker chief minister, has been under pressure due to dissatisfaction within his party and was reportedly unwell, running a high fever. He had visited his native village in Satara just before the meeting with top BJP leaders in Delhi on Thursday night, where discussions on the formation of the new government took place.

At a press conference in Pune, NCP chief Ajit Pawar confirmed that the chief minister would be from the BJP, with deputy CMs from the NCP and Shiv Sena. Pawar himself had previously held the deputy CM position. On Shinde’s illness, Shiv Sena leader Shambhuraj Desai mentioned



that Shinde had been advised to rest after returning from Delhi due to exhaustion.

The delay in government formation stemmed from the lack of consensus on the chief minister’s post, despite the Mahayuti alliance’s victory in the November 20 elections. The BJP won 132 seats, Shiv Sena secured 57, and the NCP gained 41 seats, far surpassing the simple majority of 145 in the 288-member assembly.

The delay in finalizing the CM candidate also prompted speculation and discussions within

the alliance, with Shinde facing internal pressure from Shiv Sena leaders who questioned whether he should accept a deputy CM role after serving as CM for over two years. Meanwhile, the NCP has already expressed its support for Fadnavis as CM.

The Opposition Maha Vikas Aghadi (MVA), which suffered a major defeat in the elections, has raised concerns about the misuse of Electronic Voting Machines (EVMs), with senior NCP leader Sharad Pawar supporting protests against alleged electoral malpractice in Pune.



Be good neighbour, don't stoke fire of hatred, division: Manipur CM attacks Mizoram CM

The Manipur government strongly condemned Mizoram Chief Minister Lalduhoma on Friday night, accusing him of making divisive and unwarranted remarks that stoke hatred and division. The Manipur government called on Lalduhoma to demonstrate “better statesmanship” and be a “good neighbour” rather than fueling tensions with his comments.

In a statement, the Manipur government warned that India must remain vigilant against the “greater agenda” of creating a Kuki-Chin Christian nation, a concept that allegedly involves the contiguous areas of Myanmar, India, and Bangladesh. It claimed that this idea has been part of a long-term plan and warned against allowing such forces to fragment Northeast India. The government also expressed concern over what it described as “secessionist interests” being openly supported by the Mizoram CM.

The statement referenced Lalduhoma’s recent interview with *Hindustan Times*, in which he criticized Manipur Chief Minister N. Biren Singh, calling him a liability to both the state and the BJP. Lalduhoma even suggested that President’s Rule might be a preferable option for the state. He further raised concerns about the inability to stop smuggling of weapons, drugs, and guns along the Indo-Bangladesh border, despite the presence of border fences.

The Manipur government expressed its strong disapproval of Lalduhoma’s comments, particularly his mention of the possibility of armed militias in Manipur aiming their guns at Delhi. The statement emphasized the need for “sincere negotiations” with hill leaders to resolve ongoing issues in the state but made it clear that such remarks would not be tolerated.

The escalating tensions between the two states highlight the ongoing challenges in the region, with the Manipur government reiterating its commitment to ensuring the unity of Northeast India and safeguarding it from any external or internal forces aiming to sow division.

Parliament must function in broader interest of people: Mayawati

Bahujan Samaj Party (BSP) president Mayawati on Saturday called on both the Centre and the Opposition to prioritize addressing the nation’s urgent issues during the ongoing Winter Session of Parliament. Her appeal came in light of the disruptions caused by controversies, including the allegations against the Adani Group and the ongoing Sambhal mosque survey dispute, which have dominated the proceedings in both Houses this week. In a statement issued by the BSP, Mayawati emphasized the need for a constructive and focused approach to the Parliament session. She urged both the government and opposition to put aside

partisan conflicts and work together for the welfare of the country. “Both the government and opposition should ensure that the ongoing Winter Session of Parliament focuses on the country’s pressing problems rather than partisan clashes,” she said.

The BSP leader further stressed that the functioning of Parliament should be in the broader interest of the people. She pointed out that the country is facing numerous challenges, and it is crucial for the ruling party and the opposition to show seriousness and commitment in addressing these concerns.

Mayawati’s comments come amid growing frustration with the frequent disruptions in Parliament, which have hindered meaningful debate on critical issues. The controversies surrounding major national matters, including corporate accountability and communal disputes, have added to the tension between the government and opposition.

The BSP president’s appeal serves as a reminder of the importance of a functioning democratic process, where both sides of the political spectrum work together to ensure that the people’s concerns are addressed effectively.

New government in Maharashtra to be formed on Dec 5: BJP leader

The Mahayuti alliance in Maharashtra, comprising the Bharatiya Janata Party (BJP), Eknath Shinde-led Shiv Sena, and Ajit Pawar’s Nationalist Congress Party (NCP), is set to form the new government on December 5, with Devendra Fadnavis emerging as the frontrunner for the chief minister’s post, according to a senior BJP leader.

In the Maharashtra assembly elections held on November 20, the Mahayuti alliance secured a resounding victory, winning 230 out of the 288 seats. The BJP was the single largest party, bagging 132 seats, while the Shiv Sena won 57 and the NCP secured 41. Despite this electoral success, the formation of the new government has been delayed as the alliance partners have yet to finalize the chief ministerial candidate.

Although the poll results were announced on November 23, the coalition partners—BJP, Shiv Sena, and NCP—have been in discussions regarding power-sharing arrangements. Eknath Shinde, Fadnavis, and Pawar met with BJP president J.P. Nadda and Union minister Amit Shah late on Thursday to iron out details of the pact. A key Mahayuti meeting scheduled for Friday was postponed, but it is now expected to take place on Sunday. This delay was partly due to Shinde traveling to his native Satara district, which further pushed back the process of government formation.

A senior BJP leader confirmed that the swear-



ing-in of the new government is now scheduled for December 5. Fadnavis, who has served as chief minister twice before and as deputy chief minister in the previous government, is widely expected to take the top job. The oath-taking ceremony will take place at Azad Maidan in South Mumbai.

Before the formal swearing-in, a meeting will be held on December 2 to select the BJP legislature party leader. Caretaker Chief Minister Eknath Shinde has expressed his full support for the BJP leadership’s decision and has made it clear that he will not stand in the way of the process. Additionally, the NCP, led by Ajit Pawar, has expressed its backing for Fadnavis as the next chief minister.

Crack The Whip: Rahul Gandhi's Request To M Kharage After Maharashtra Rout

Following consecutive electoral defeats in Maharashtra and Haryana, the Congress party is under mounting pressure to undertake serious introspection and take decisive action. Party leaders have pledged to address the party’s shortcomings under the leadership of Mallikarjun Kharge, with Rahul Gandhi urging the Congress chief to “crack the whip” and enforce discipline.

Addressing the Congress Working Committee (CWC) on Friday, Kharge warned against internal strife and anti-party remarks, emphasizing that “tough decisions” would be required to ensure accountability and to understand the reasons behind the electoral setbacks. Congress suffered a major blow in Maharashtra, winning only 16 out of 288 seats in the assembly elections. Its allies in the Maha Vikas Aghadi (MVA) coalition, the NCP (led by Sharad Pawar) and Shiv Sena (Uddhav Thackeray faction), performed poorly as well, securing just 10 and 20 seats, respectively.

Kharge expressed concern over the Haryana results, describing



them as “contrary to all expectations” and alleging electoral malpractices. In response to the defeats, CWC members are scheduled to visit both states to conduct thorough reviews. Kharge emphasized that the party must avoid internal divisions and unite to effectively challenge its political rivals. “Unless we fight elections unitedly and stop making statements against each other, how will we be able to defeat our opponents politically?” he asked during the meeting.

Rahul Gandhi supported Kharge’s call, urging him to take firm action. He reiterated that Congress must remain a “party of resistance” and that its leaders should place faith in the organi-

zation. Kharge also announced plans for state-by-state reviews to assess the party’s weaknesses and the reasons behind the defeats. Internal committees will visit Maharashtra and Haryana to engage with local leaders and understand the situation better.

The CWC resolution raised concerns about the functioning of the Election Commission, alleging that the integrity of the electoral process was under threat. Despite the setbacks, the resolution stressed the importance of perseverance and discipline. It also outlined plans for a nationwide movement, in collaboration with INDIA bloc parties, to address concerns over the electoral process.

War Could End If Unoccupied Parts Of Ukraine Come Under NATO: Zelensky

Ukrainian President Volodymyr Zelensky called for NATO to provide guaranteed protection to the territories of Ukraine that remain under Kyiv's control, emphasizing the urgency of preventing further escalation in the ongoing conflict with Russia. Zelensky's remarks came on Friday during an interview with Sky News, where he proposed that NATO extend its protective umbrella to parts of Ukraine held by Kyiv to halt the "hot stage" of the war.

Zelensky suggested that while Ukraine could wait diplomatically to regain the portions of land currently occupied by Russian forces, securing NATO's support for the regions under Ukrainian control would help ensure their security and provide a strategic path forward. This, he said, could lead to a peaceful resolution, with Ukraine potentially reclaiming other territories through negotiations.

The timing of Zelensky's call for NATO protection coincides with heightened tensions and ongoing violence, as Russia launched a significant aerial assault targeting Ukraine's energy infrastructure in retaliation for Ukraine's missile strikes on Russian territory. Moscow's threats to attack Ukrainian government buildings in Kyiv further underscore the mounting pressure on the region.

Despite Russia controlling nearly 18% of Ukrainian land, including Crimea and the four eastern and southern regions of

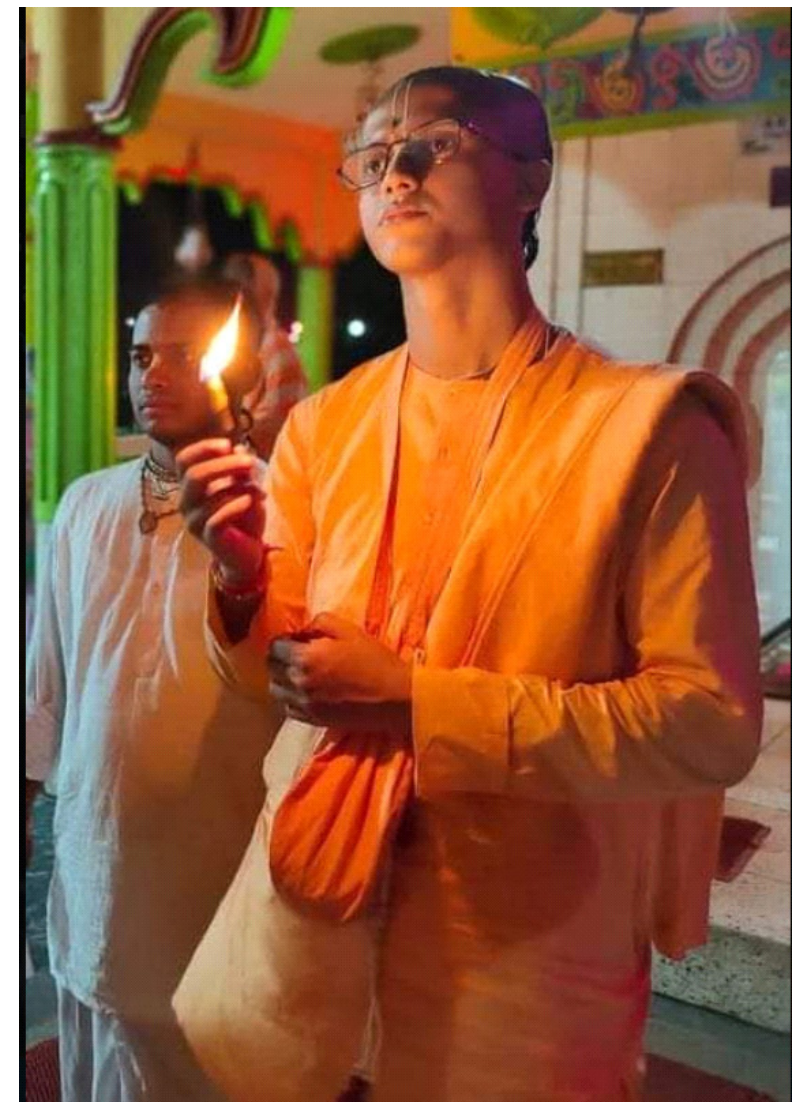


Donetsk, Kherson, Luhansk, and Zaporizhzhia, Zelensky has firmly ruled out any concessions of Ukrainian territory in exchange for peace. Russian President Vladimir Putin, on the other hand, has demanded Ukraine's withdrawal from these regions.

In his comments, Zelensky expressed that any potential NATO membership offer should cover the entirety of Ukraine, although the immediate focus would be on extending NATO's Article Five collective defense clause only to those areas still under Ukrainian control. Such protection, he argued, would prevent further Russian ag-

gression and provide essential guarantees for a stable ceasefire.

As the conflict intensifies on the battlefield, Zelensky has engaged with Western leaders, including UK's Keir Starmer, French President Macron, and German Chancellor Scholz. Meanwhile, the United States has increased military support for Ukraine, including permission to strike Russian territory with long-range missiles, prompting strong retaliatory threats from Moscow. In a bid to strengthen Ukraine's military capabilities, Zelensky also appointed Mykhailo Drapaty as the new Land Forces Commander.



2nd Hindu Priest Arrested In Bangladesh Amid Protests

In a developing story from Bangladesh, another Hindu priest has been arrested in the Chattogram district, just days after the detention of spiritual leader Chinmoy Krishna Das. The arrested individual, identified as Shyam Das Prabhu, was reportedly detained after attempting to meet Chinmoy Krishna Das in jail. Sources revealed that Shyam Das Prabhu was arrested without an official warrant, a practice under which authorities can detain individuals without charges, allowing for their eventual release.

Radharamn Das, Vice-President and Spokesperson for ISKCON Kolkata, shared the news of Shyam Das Prabhu's arrest on social media platform X (formerly Twitter) on Friday. He wrote, "Another Brahmachari Sri Shyam Das Prabhu was arrested by Chattogram Police today." This marks another significant incident in a series of arrests involving members of the Hindu community in the region.

The arrest of Chinmoy Krishna Das, a prominent spiritual leader, had already raised concerns among his followers and human rights advocates. His detention sparked widespread protests and appeals from various religious and social groups, demanding his release and criticizing what they perceive as religious discrimination. The arrest of Shyam Das Prabhu has only added to these tensions, with many questioning the motivations behind the arrests.

The legal process for individuals arrested without official warrants in Bangladesh remains opaque, and the possibility of their quick release further complicates the situation. While some speculate that these detentions are linked to growing religious tensions in the country, the authorities have yet to offer an official explanation for the recent arrests of these Hindu clerics.

The incidents have garnered attention from both local and international human rights organizations, which are calling for greater transparency and protection of religious freedoms in Bangladesh. Supporters of the detained priests continue to rally for their release, urging the government to ensure the fair treatment of religious minorities in the country.



Justin Trudeau and Donald Trump Dine at Mar-a-Lago Amid Trade Tensions

Canadian Prime Minister Justin Trudeau dined with US President-elect Donald Trump on Friday evening at Trump's Mar-a-Lago resort in Florida, amid escalating concerns over a potential trade conflict between the two neighboring nations. The meeting comes as Trump has raised issues regarding trade relations and made threats to impose a 25% tariff on Canadian imports starting the first day of his presidency.

The dinner, which also included some members of Trudeau's cabinet, was seen as an opportunity for the two leaders to discuss key issues surrounding trade and border policies. Trump has voiced concerns over trade imbalances and has previously suggested that he would take a hard stance on tariffs, potentially triggering a trade war with Canada, one of the United States' closest trading partners.

During the campaign, Trump frequently criticized trade agreements and the flow of goods between the two countries, pledging to renegotiate or even scrap existing trade deals. The most significant of these is the North American Free Trade Agreement (NAFTA), which has governed trade between the US, Canada, and Mexico for decades. Trump's administration has since worked on renegotiating NAFTA, leading to the creation of the United States-Mexico-Canada Agreement (USMCA), which was signed in 2018 but is still awaiting full implementation.

The dinner at Mar-a-Lago is part of ongoing efforts to ease tensions and find common ground on these critical issues. Trudeau's team was hopeful that the informal setting could help foster a more cooperative relationship, despite the threats of tariffs that could negatively impact both countries' economies. Trudeau and Trump's meeting signals an attempt to engage in direct talks to prevent a potential trade war, with both leaders hoping to avoid any further escalation.

Mexico president touts friendly Trump call, looks to ease tariff tensions

Mexico's President Claudia Sheinbaum announced on Thursday that she and US President-elect Donald Trump had a productive and friendly phone call, with both leaders agreeing to maintain a positive relationship. The conversation seemed to ease tensions between the two countries, which are major trade partners, amidst ongoing concerns over potential tariff impositions.

Sheinbaum took a more conciliatory approach following her earlier remarks, where she had warned of retaliation if Trump followed through on his pledge to impose a 25 percent tariff on Mexican and Canadian imports. During the press conference, Sheinbaum described the phone call as "a good conversation," though she clarified that tariffs were not directly discussed. Instead, the leaders exchanged views on the reasons Trump had given for considering the tariffs.

"We are going to keep having conversations," Sheinbaum said, emphasizing the willingness of both sides to engage in ongoing dialogue. She described the tone of the call as friendly and constructive, underlining their mutual agreement to maintain a good relationship moving forward.



The proposed tariffs, which Trump had previously threatened to impose on Mexican and Canadian goods, had sparked concerns among businesses and trade officials, as they could potentially disrupt the US-Mexico-Canada trade agreement (USMCA), a pact Trump signed into law during his first term. The agreement, which governs a significant portion of trade between the three countries, is due for review in 2026.

While tariffs were not a central topic of the conversation, Sheinbaum's remarks suggest a shift toward diplomacy and cooperation rather than confrontation. This phone call between the two leaders could signal a move toward de-escalating trade tensions and focusing on the broader relationship between the two neighboring nations.

Kim Jong Un Reaffirms North Korea's Support for Russia's War in Ukraine

North Korean leader Kim Jong Un reaffirmed his country's unwavering support for Russia's war in Ukraine during a meeting with Russian Defence Minister Andrei Belousov, as reported by North Korea's state media on Saturday. The meeting, which took place on Friday, is part of growing concerns over the expanding cooperation between North Korea and Russia, particularly after reports that North Korea sent thousands of troops to Russia last month.

Kim and Belousov reportedly reached a "satisfactory consensus" on strengthening their strategic partnership, with a focus on defending their respective countries' sovereignty, security interests, and international justice amidst evolving global security challenges. Kim expressed his commitment to supporting Russia's efforts to defend its sovereignty and territorial integrity, particularly in opposition to what



both Moscow and Pyongyang characterize as NATO's aggressive eastward expansion and US-led efforts to undermine Russia's position.

In his remarks, Kim criticized the US decision earlier in November to

allow Ukraine to strike Russian targets with US-supplied long-range missiles, calling it a direct intervention in the conflict. He further praised Russia's recent strikes on Ukraine, describing them as "timely and effective measures" that show-

cased Russia's resolve.

North Korean support for Russia's invasion of Ukraine has been consistent, with both countries framing the conflict as a defensive response to Western hegemony. Reports from US, Ukrainian, and South Korean officials suggest that North Korea has sent over 10,000 troops to Russia, with some already participating in combat on the frontlines. Additionally, North Korea has allegedly provided Russia with artillery, missiles, and other conventional weapons to replenish its dwindling stockpiles.

While both North Korea and Russia have denied these reports, the growing military collaboration between the two nations has sparked international concern, particularly over the possibility that Russia could offer North Korea advanced weapons technology in exchange for military support.

India's vision is to become world's most efficient, trusted trade hub: Revenue secy

India is focused on becoming the world's most efficient and trusted trade hub by increasing the participation of Authorized Economic Operators (AEOs), expanding integrated free zones, and implementing innovative policies, according to Revenue Secretary Sanjay Malhotra. Speaking at the Global AEO Conference, Malhotra highlighted the country's ambition to set new standards in trade facilitation and global connectivity.



Malhotra emphasized that technology and trust are the cornerstones of India's revenue department. He pointed out that the expansion of the Mutual Recognition Agreement (MRA) programme, which facilitates greater collaboration with regional and bilateral partners, is a key element of this vision.

Furthermore, Malhotra announced that India aims to make all services available online and electronic at ports, ensuring seamless operations at all times. Of India's 20 major ports, 17 are already fully automated, marking significant progress in trade facilitation.

"India is actively adopting technology in both direct and indirect tax administration," Malhotra stated, noting that most services are now available online, including appeals, refunds, and payments. This digital shift is part of a broader effort to modernize the country's trade processes, making them more efficient and transparent.

India's ongoing efforts to expand the scope of AEO participation, strengthen free trade zones, and embrace cutting-edge technology reflect the country's commitment to enhancing its role in global trade. With a focus on trust-building and regional cooperation, the nation is positioning itself to lead in international commerce and logistics.

India Set to Lead Asia in Oil and Gas Pipeline Additions by 2028

India is poised to become the dominant force in oil and gas transmission pipeline expansions in Asia by 2028, according to a new report by GlobalData, a leading data and analytics firm. The country is expected to account for more than 40% of the region's total pipeline length additions over the next five years.



The report highlights that India will see the commissioning of over 50 planned and announced pipelines by 2028, which will collectively add more than 26,000 kilometers of transmission pipeline length. Approximately 24,000 kilometers of this addition will come from pipelines that have already secured the necessary approvals for development.

A significant portion of the upcoming pipeline additions will be natural gas and product pipelines, which will make up more than 80% of the new infrastructure in India. One of the most notable projects is the Kandla-Gorakhpur product pipeline, which will be the longest among all upcoming pipelines in India, stretching 2,809 kilometers. Expected to begin operations in 2025, the pipeline will help meet the increasing demand for LPG in Gujarat, Madhya Pradesh, and Uttar Pradesh.

Another key project is the Mehsana-Bhatinda natural gas pipeline, which will span 1,834 kilometers. Operated by GSPL India Gasnet Ltd, this pipeline is also slated to become operational by 2025. Additionally, the Mumbai-Nagpur-Jharsuguda natural gas pipeline, measuring 1,755 kilometers, will contribute significantly to the country's pipeline network. Managed by GAIL (India) Ltd, this pipeline is expected to begin operations in 2025 as well.

These additions are part of India's broader strategy to expand its energy infrastructure to meet the growing demand for natural gas and petroleum products, supporting economic growth and energy security in the region. With these projects, India is set to play a leading role in shaping the future of oil and gas transmission in Asia.

Another key project is the Mehsana-Bhatin-

India's Forex Reserves Drop by \$1.31 Billion Amid Continued Decline

India's foreign exchange reserves saw a further dip of \$1.31 billion, reaching \$656.582 billion during the week ending November 22, according to the latest data from the Reserve Bank of India (RBI). This follows a significant drop of \$17.761 billion in the previous week, ending November 15.



The country's forex reserves had peaked at a record \$704.885 billion at the end of September. However, they have been on a steady decline in recent weeks, a trend that has coincided with increasing pressure on the Indian rupee. The continued drop in reserves is raising concerns as it reflects a combination of factors, including changes in global financial markets and domestic economic challenges.

Experts suggest that the decline in forex reserves is linked to a variety of factors, including the RBI's interventions to stabilize the rupee and address global market volatility. The rupee has faced increasing pressure against the dollar, which has compounded the situation.

back, India's forex reserves remain at a relatively healthy level compared to historical norms, but the trend of decline raises concerns over the stability of the currency and the potential impact on the broader economy.

The decline in reserves comes at a time when the global economic landscape remains uncertain, with inflationary pressures and shifts in market sentiment affecting currencies and reserves across emerging economies. Despite the set-

The RBI continues to monitor the situation, using its reserves to mitigate volatility in the foreign exchange market. However, economists are closely watching the trajectory of both the rupee and the reserves as signs of broader economic challenges in India and the global environment unfold.

Reliance Industries Tops 2024 Wizikey News Score as India's Most Visible Corporate

Reliance Industries has once again emerged as India's most visible corporate entity, according to the 2024 Wizikey News Score rankings. The conglomerate, which is recognized as the largest corporate in India by revenue, profit, market value, and social impact, continues to dominate the media landscape, outshining key players in various sectors such as FMCG, banking, and finance.



With a remarkable score of 97.43 out of 100, Reliance Industries has reinforced its position at the top of the rankings, maintaining its lead for the fifth consecutive year since the inception of the Wizikey News Score. The company's visibility in the media has significantly surpassed even major firms in highly competitive sectors. Its news presence is not just high in volume but also reaches a vast audience across a variety of platforms.

84.9 in 2021. This growth highlights the company's strategic focus on strengthening its media outreach and staying relevant in an increasingly digital and fast-paced media environment.

Wizikey's News Score is a comprehensive measure of media visibility, which takes into account several factors, including the volume of news coverage, headline presence, the reach of publications, and readership. Reliance Industries' media footprint is impressive, with consistent and substantial coverage across national and international outlets. This high level of visibility reflects the company's continued prominence in both business and societal conversations, contributing to its strong influence on the public discourse.

Reliance's sustained dominance is a testament to its diversified operations and impactful initiatives across industries such as energy, retail, telecommunications, and media. The company has been at the forefront of shaping India's economic landscape, with significant investments in new technologies, sustainability, and innovation. As a result, its media presence continues to be a reflection of its substantial role in the nation's growth and development.

The company's ability to maintain and even improve its media presence over the years is evident in the steady rise in its News Score. In 2023, Reliance scored 96.46, up from 92.56 in 2022 and

In conclusion, Reliance Industries' achievement in topping the 2024 Wizikey News Score is not just a reflection of its business success but also its deepening connection with the media and the public. Its continued dominance in the rankings underscores the importance of corporate visibility in today's media-driven world and positions Reliance as a leader in both business and social impact.

State Bank of India Launches Nationwide Drive to Promote Inoperative Account Activation

The State Bank of India (SBI) has launched a nationwide initiative aimed at raising awareness about the activation of inoperative accounts. In a statement issued on Saturday, the bank clarified that savings or current accounts are considered inoperative if there has been no transaction in the account for over two years. The drive focuses on encouraging customers to regularly activate their accounts and ensure they remain active.



To reactivate these accounts, customers must complete the Re-KYC (Know Your Customer) process, a critical step in complying with regulatory requirements and ensuring seamless transactions. SBI highlighted that regular transactions in accounts are essential not only for keeping them operational but also for preventing them from being classified as inoperative. The bank has emphasized that customers must be aware of the importance of maintaining their accounts in active status to avoid unnecessary complications.

The nationwide campaign will target customers with dormant accounts, helping them navigate the Re-KYC process and providing the necessary guidance to keep their accounts active. The bank's outreach efforts are expected to have a significant impact, especially among underbanked and rural populations, where awareness of account activity requirements may be lower.

SBI also highlighted the role of digital tools in facilitating the activation of these accounts. By leveraging its extensive network of branches, ATMs, and mobile banking services, the bank aims to simplify the process for customers, ensuring that they can complete their KYC updates and resume regular account transactions without hassle.

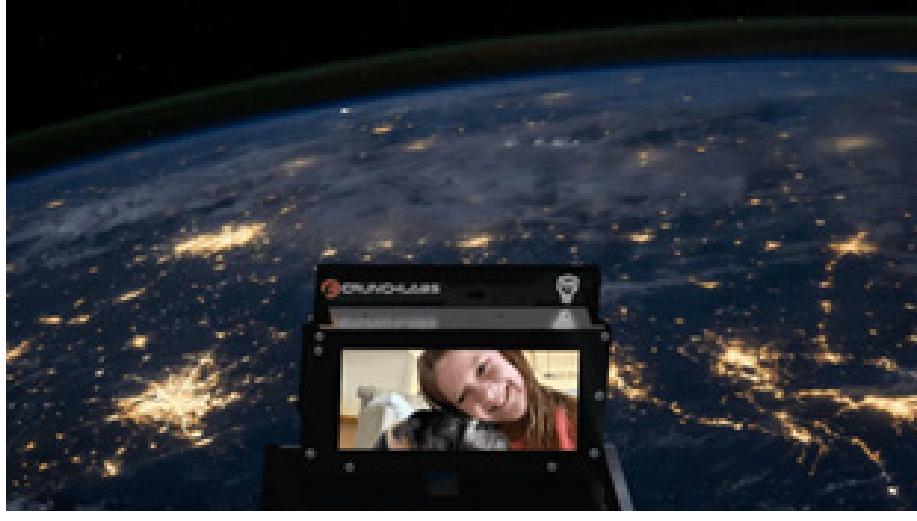
SBI's Chairman, C S Setty, underlined the importance of executing the Re-KYC process effectively, stating that it is vital to keep accounts linked to the Pradhan Mantri Jan Dhan Yojana (PMJDY) in active status. The PMJDY accounts are crucial for providing fi-

nanacial inclusion to millions of unbanked citizens in India, and keeping these accounts active is essential for ensuring that beneficiaries can access and manage their funds without disruptions. He urged Business Correspondents (BCs) to use technology and their outreach networks to assist customers in completing the Re-KYC process and activating dormant accounts.

This initiative aligns with SBI's broader efforts to enhance financial inclusion and ensure that all customers, particularly those with PMJDY accounts, have uninterrupted access to banking services. Through its nationwide drive, the bank hopes to foster a better understanding of account activity requirements and empower more customers to take control of their financial health.

Mark Rober Teams Up with Google to Launch Satellite for Earth Selfies

Mark Rober, the former NASA engineer and popular YouTube content creator, is making waves once again with an exciting new venture. Known for his viral creations, including an obstacle course for squirrels and the world's largest Super Soaker, Rober is now launching a satellite that will allow people to take selfies with Earth from space.



In collaboration with Google and US-based telecommunications provider T-Mobile, Rober's satellite aims to bring a new perspective on our planet. The groundbreaking project combines technology with Rober's passion for science and innovation, offering users a unique opportunity to capture personal photos of themselves with Earth in the background, all from space.

Rober's reputation for combining engineering with entertainment is well-known on his YouTube channel, where he often showcases intricate and entertaining experiments. His previous projects, such as glitter-bombing porch pirates, have garnered millions of views and contributed to his wide-reaching influence.

The satellite, a significant technological achievement, is set to be a game-changer for space exploration enthusiasts and

photography lovers alike. By leveraging the power of T-Mobile's extensive network and Google's technological expertise, Rober's satellite will provide an accessible, interactive experience for users looking to create unforgettable Earth selfies.

This venture comes as part of a growing trend in the commercialization of space exploration, where private companies and collaborations between tech giants are making space more accessible to the public. With this innovative initiative, Rober is not only pushing the boundaries of what's possible in space technology but also bringing a sense of fun and creativity to space exploration.

As the project unfolds, it promises to further solidify Mark Rober's position as one of the most influential science communicators, continuing his legacy of combining learning and entertainment. This satellite is just the latest in a series of ambitious endeavors from Rober, and it's clear he's only getting started in his mission to inspire the next generation of scientists and innovators.

Viral Video Shows Influencer Preparing Thanksgiving Turkey in a Toilet

Social media is no stranger to unusual food experiments, from creative chocolate rasgullas to bizarre Maggi recipes. Some trends fascinate and inspire, while others leave us questioning common kitchen practices. One such viral video that has raised eyebrows features Instagram influencer @katiwilltryanything preparing a Thanksgiving turkey—but not in a kitchen. Instead, she opts for an unexpected and shocking location: her toilet.



The video, shared on November 27, shows the influencer using a whole turkey along with vegetables, fruits, and seasoning to prepare the dish in her toilet. The unusual approach begins with her placing the skinned turkey inside the toilet bowl. She then stuffs the bird with a combination of onions, oranges, and celery sticks. For added flavor, the influencer seasons the turkey with what appears to be garlic powder.

Once the turkey is prepped, she transfers it onto a baking tray, adding a generous amount of butter inside the cavity. Following this, she places the turkey into an oven to roast, monitoring it until it turns a perfect golden brown. Throughout the video, the influencer adds a disclaimer in her caption, saying, "When it's your turn to make Thanksgiv-

ing dinner, but you don't know what you're doing... also don't freak out, germs are killed at 140 degrees. I cooked this at 300."

Though the video seems to take a humorous and lighthearted approach to Thanksgiving cooking, it has left many viewers questioning the sanitation of using a toilet for food preparation. While she reassures viewers that the turkey was cooked at a high enough temperature to kill any bacteria, the experiment has sparked a wide range of reactions online.

Despite the questionable choice of location, the influencer's video continues to gain attention, proving that in the world of food trends, there are no limits to what can go viral.

WhatsApp Introduces New Sticker Sharing Feature for Beta Testers

WhatsApp has recently rolled out an exciting new feature for beta testers, enabling users to share their installed sticker packs with others. This update is available for users on both iOS and Android who have downloaded the latest beta versions of the app. With this feature, users can now choose a sticker pack from their collection and share it with a WhatsApp contact, allowing them to install the same pack on their own device.



The new feature, spotted by feature tracker WABetaInfo, relies on links to share sticker packs. After updating to WhatsApp Beta for Android version 2.24.25.2 (or newer) via the Google Play beta program, or WhatsApp Beta for iOS version 24.24.10.72 through TestFlight, beta testers can access this option directly in the sticker section. A new three-dot button will appear next to each sticker pack, giving users two options: "Send" and "Remove."

When a user selects the "Send" option, WhatsApp generates a link for the chosen sticker pack. The user can then select the recipient from their contact list, and once the "Send" button is pressed, the recipient will receive the link, allowing them to easily download and install the same sticker pack on their phone. This is a convenient way to share fun and personalized stickers without

having to manually transfer files.

In addition to the sticker-sharing feature, WhatsApp has also started allowing some beta testers to add messages when forwarding content. This change will make it easier for users to provide context when forwarding media or messages to others, enhancing communication and clarity on the platform.

The sticker-sharing feature is currently in the testing phase, and it may take some time before it becomes available to all users. However, it marks a notable step in enhancing WhatsApp's customization options, particularly for users who enjoy expressing themselves through personalized stickers.

Chinese Scientists Race to Protect Potatoes from Climate Change Threats

Chinese scientists are urgently working to safeguard potatoes, a key global food crop, from the growing impacts of climate change. Research conducted by the International Potato Center (CIP) in Beijing has highlighted concerning findings that rising temperatures are drastically reducing potato yields. Simulated future climate conditions revealed that potatoes grown in such environments weighed less than half of typical varieties, stressing the need for immediate adaptation strategies.

The study, published in the **Climate Smart Agriculture** journal, is part of a three-year project led by molecular biologist Li Jieping. It showed that potatoes cultivated under temperatures 3°C higher than current averages in Hebei and Inner Mongolia experienced a more than 50% reduction in yield. While the potatoes grew faster, this accelerated growth came at the cost of size and weight, raising alarms about food security in China, the world's largest producer of potatoes.

Farmers in regions like Inner Mongolia are already grappling with the effects of climate change, such as unpredictable rainfall patterns, which are delaying harvests and aggravating crop diseases. Wang

Shiyi, a manager at Hebei Jiuen Agricultural Development Company, noted that heavy rains this year have significantly disrupted harvest efforts. Moreover, diseases like late blight, which thrive in warm and humid conditions, have become more resistant to traditional control methods.

In response to these challenges, Chinese researchers are employing cutting-edge techniques like aeroponics and genetic studies to create potato varieties that are heat-resistant and disease-tolerant. At a research facility in Yanqing, Beijing, scientists are propagating potato plantlets under controlled conditions, exploring ways to ensure long-term crop resilience.

Li Jieping emphasized that altering farming practices, such as changing planting seasons or shifting cultivation to higher altitudes, may be necessary in the coming decade to reduce yield losses. Without immediate intervention, researchers warn that both potato prices and farmers' livelihoods could face severe consequences as global temperatures continue to rise.

Mining Could Have Drastic Impact on Water and Environment, Says Study

A recent study conducted by researchers at Duke University's Nicholas School of the Environment has revealed concerning water quality impacts linked to a historic lithium mine in North Carolina, near Kings Mountain. Led by Avner Vengosh, a Distinguished Professor of Environmental Quality, the research examines the elevated levels of lithium, rubidium, and cesium found in local waters near the mine site. The findings, published in **Science of the Total Environment**, offer valuable insights into how abandoned lithium mines can affect nearby water resources.

The study uncovered that while common contaminants like arsenic, lead, copper, and nickel

remained below the thresholds set by the U.S. Environmental Protection Agency (EPA), significant concentrations of lithium and rarer metals such as rubidium and cesium were detected in both groundwater and surface water. These elements are not federally regulated, and their presence in such quantities is unusual for natural water sources in the area.

According to Gordon Williams, the study's lead author and a PhD student at Duke University, the results raise concerns about the potential environmental and health implications of these metals. However, laboratory simulations showed that waste materials from the historic mine did not contribute to acidic runoff, which



is typically a concern with mining operations, such as those related to coal extraction.

The study's findings also underscore the gaps in

understanding the environmental impacts of current lithium extraction methods. While the research focused on the legacy mine's effects, Vengosh noted that active lithium extraction and processing methods—often involving chemical treatments—could pose new risks to water quality in the area if mining resumes.

In light of these findings, the researchers are now expanding their study to assess drinking water quality in lithium-rich areas across North Carolina. By analyzing both private wells and surface water, the team hopes to further understand the long-term effects of lithium mining on local water systems and inform future environmental management practices.

PV Sindhu and Crasto-Kapila Reach Finals at Syed Modi International

Two-time Olympic medallist PV Sindhu cruised into the women's singles final at the Syed Modi International Super 300 badminton tournament in Lucknow on Saturday, securing a commanding straight-game victory. Sindhu, the tournament's top seed, defeated compatriot Unnati Hooda 21-12, 21-9 in just 36 minutes in the first women's singles semifinal. Sindhu will now face the winner of the second semifinal between Thailand's Lalinnrat Chaiwan and China's Luo Yu Wu.



Earlier in the day, India's mixed doubles pair Tanisha Crasto and Dhruv Kapila advanced to the final with a straight-game victory over Chinese duo Zhi Hong Zhou and Jia Yi Yang. The fifth-seeded Indian pair triumphed 21-16, 21-15 in a 42-minute match, booking their spot in the final. They will now await the outcome of the other semifinal, which will see China's Pin Yi Liao/Ke Xin Huang facing the sixth-seeded Thai duo Dechapol Puavaranukroh/Supissara Paewsampran.

In the women's doubles competition, India's Treesa Jolly and Ashwini Ponnappa are set to

take on the Chinese pair Li Jing Bao and Qian Li in their semifinal. Meanwhile, star men's singles player Lakshya Sen will compete against Japan's Shogo Ogawa for a place in the final. In the men's doubles, Indian pair Pruthvi Krishnamurthy Roy and Sai Pratheek K will face off against compatriots Ishaan Bhatnagar and Sankar Prasad Udayakumar in their semifinal match.

With several Indian players advancing to the finals and semifinal stages across multiple categories, the Syed Modi International continues to showcase the strong performance of Indian badminton talent.

Pakistan's Crucial Decision on Champions Trophy: Hybrid Mode and Final in Lahore

Pakistan has made a significant decision regarding its participation in the upcoming Champions Trophy, agreeing to operate in a "hybrid mode" for the tournament. This decision comes amid ongoing discussions about the location of the event, especially in the context of Pakistan's stance on future matches in India.



One of the key demands put forward by Pakistan is that the final of the Champions Trophy be held in Lahore, their home city. This proposal aligns with Pakistan's desire to host major international cricket events on their own soil. The country's cricket board has been pushing for the final to take place in Lahore, citing the city's modern infrastructure and the potential to enhance the profile of cricket in Pakistan.

However, the most significant point of contention revolves around the venue for matches between Pakistan and India. Pakistan has expressed that if they are required to play in India during the tournament, they will continue to play in "hybrid mode." This mode would allow matches to be played in neutral venues or be shifted to locations outside of India, ensuring that Pakistan's players and officials are comfortable and secure.

The decision to adopt this hybrid model comes after much deliberation and reflects Pakistan's concerns regarding political tensions and security issues between the two countries. The Pakistan Cricket Board (PCB) has made it clear that they will not compromise on the security and comfort of their players and officials.

The International Cricket Council (ICC) is expected to provide clarity on the matter within the next day or two. The ICC's response will be crucial in determining how the tournament is structured and whether Pakistan's demands will be met. This ongoing negotiation is one of the most closely followed developments in international cricket, as the outcome could set a precedent for future events between the two rival nations.

Controversial VAR Decision Denies Southampton Victory Against Brighton

Southampton were denied a crucial victory in their Premier League clash with Brighton on Friday due to a controversial VAR decision. After Flynn Downes' equalizer canceled out Kaoru Mitoma's first-half opener for Brighton, Cameron Archer thought he had given Southampton the lead with a well-taken goal. However, after more than four minutes of VAR deliberation, the goal was disallowed. While Archer was judged to be onside, Adam Armstrong was penalized for being offside during the buildup, despite not touching the ball. The VAR officials determined that Armstrong's position interfered with play, a decision that left Southampton manager Russell Martin frustrated.

The decision meant Southampton had to settle for a 1-1 draw, their first away point of the season. They remain at the bottom of the Premier League table, four points away from safety. The result also saw Brighton move up to second in the standings, ahead of Manchester City on alphabetical order, pending their Sunday clash with leaders Liverpool.



Brighton dominated the first half, with Georginio Rutter hitting the post and Mitoma squandering a major chance early on. Brighton's persistence paid off in the 30th minute when Mitoma headed in Tariq Lamptey's cross to give them a 1-0 lead. Southampton responded in the second half, with teenager Tyler Dibling setting up Armstrong, whose shot was blocked but eventually led to Downes' goal from the edge of the box, leveling the score.

The drama continued when Dibling created another chance for Archer, whose finish seemed to give Southampton the lead. However, the VAR decision denied them the goal, leaving Martin to question the reasoning behind the disallowance. "I'm fed up talking about decisions," said Martin, expressing disbelief over how Armstrong's position could have influenced the goalkeeper's actions.

The VAR review caused 13 minutes of added time, during which Brighton nearly grabbed a late winner, but Southampton held firm to secure a point.

Tom Davies' Late Goal Lifts Sheffield United to Top of Championship

Sheffield United surged to the top of the Championship with a 1-0 win over promotion contenders Sunderland on Friday, thanks to a late strike from Tom Davies. The match was a tense affair, with both teams reduced to 10 men late in the first half and Sunderland missing a crucial penalty. The result leaves Sunderland without a win in six games, while Sheffield United moves three points clear at the top of the table.



The game started with Sunderland having a golden opportunity to take the lead early on when Patrick Roberts was awarded a penalty. However, goalkeeper Michael Cooper made a fantastic save, diving to his left to deny Roberts' spot-kick, keeping the score level. The visitors' hopes were dashed even further five minutes before halftime when Chris Mepham was shown a red card for denying Tyrese Campbell a clear goalscoring opportunity.

Despite being reduced to 10 men, Sunderland remained determined, and in first-half stoppage time, Sheffield United also found themselves a man down. Harry Souttar received a second yellow card for a foul on Wilson Isidor, ensuring both teams would start the second half with a numerical disadvantage.

The second half saw both teams push for a breakthrough, but it was Sheffield United who capitalized on the pressure. In the 83rd minute, Tom Davies came off the bench and made an immediate impact. He won possession inside the Sunderland box before calmly slotting the ball past goalkeeper Anthony Patterson, giving Sheffield United all three points.

The defeat leaves Sunderland still in fourth place, but they are now five points off the top of the Championship. Sheffield United, meanwhile, sits at the summit, three points ahead of Leeds, who will have the chance to reclaim the top spot when they face Blackburn on Saturday.

South Africa Moves to 2nd in WTC Standings After Win Over Sri Lanka

South Africa climbed to second place in the 2023-25 World Test Championship (WTC) standings on Saturday following an impressive 233-run victory over Sri Lanka in the first Test of their two-match series in Durban. The Proteas' dominant performance propelled them past Sri Lanka, New Zealand, and Australia in the points table, with their points percentage (PCT) jumping from 54.17 to 59.25.



South Africa's comprehensive win over Sri Lanka sees them in a strong position to secure a top finish in the ongoing WTC cycle. With three Tests remaining — one against Sri Lanka and two against Pakistan at home next month — the Proteas are poised to make a strong push for a place in the final. Their victory in Durban was built on a solid all-around performance, with both bat and ball contributing to their commanding triumph.

The win also highlighted South Africa's consistency and resilience in the longer format, particularly with key performances from their batting and bowling departments. The team will be looking to maintain this momentum as they head into the second Test of the series and their upcoming fixtures against Pakistan.

As the WTC 2023-25 cycle progresses, South Africa's rise to second in the points table is a significant step toward their goal of reaching the final. With just a few matches remaining for several teams, the battle for a top position is set to intensify, and the Proteas will be determined to secure crucial points in their upcoming Tests.



Mouni Roy Steals the Spotlight at GQ India Event with Stunning Golden Gown

Mouni Roy, the actress, model, and entrepreneur, captivated the audience at the GQ India event with her dazzling presence. Embracing her glamorous persona, Mouni turned heads as she graced the red carpet in a striking golden sleeveless gown. The dress featured a daring thigh-high slit, adding an element of boldness, while its backless design showcased her confident and elegant style.

The actress complemented the gown with a pair of chic strappy heels, making a statement in every step she took. She accessorized with long gold earrings, which perfectly matched the hue of her gown, adding a touch of sophistication to her ensemble. Mouni's sleek braided hairstyle further enhanced her flawless look, completing the ensemble with an air of modern elegance.

Known for her impeccable fashion sense, Mouni's appearance at the star-studded event was a true reflection of her status as a style icon. Her poised and graceful demeanor effortlessly drew attention, and she became the center of admiration throughout the evening.

Mouni Roy's ensemble was more than just a fashion statement; it was a testament to her bold, confident approach to style and her ability to light up any occasion. As she made her way through the event, she left an indelible impression, confirming once again that she is a force to be reckoned with in both the entertainment and fashion worlds.

Divyendu Sharma Joins Ram Charan's 'RC16' as Key Character

In an exciting update for movie buffs, it has been confirmed that Divyendu Sharma, widely known for his portrayal of Munna Bhaiya in the popular web series 'Mirzapur', will be playing a significant role in Ram Charan's upcoming film, tentatively titled 'RC16'. Directed by Buchibabu Sana, known for his success with 'Uppena', the film is shaping up to be an exciting sports drama set against the rural backdrop of Uttarandhra. Produced by Sukumar Writings and Vriddhi Cinemas under the banner of Mythri Movie Makers, 'RC16' is already creating a buzz among fans.



ya in 'Mirzapur' gained him widespread recognition, and the film's team believes his strong screen presence will be a major asset for 'RC16'.

Ram Charan, who is a global star, plays the lead role in this film, which will explore the world of sports in a rural setting. Joining him in a pivotal role is Janhvi Kapoor, who will be paired opposite Charan. Renowned composer A.R. Rahman has been roped in to provide the music, promising an unforgettable soundtrack that will complement the film's theme.

Fans are eagerly awaiting the collaboration of such an impressive ensemble of talent. With the combination of Ram Charan's star power, Divyendu Sharma's intensity, and the direction of Buchibabu Sana, 'RC16' is poised to become one of the most anticipated films of the year. Keep an eye out for more updates as production progresses and the film's release date draws closer.

The film's shooting has commenced in Karnataka, with the puja rituals already completed, marking the official start of production. Director Buchibabu Sana took to social media to announce Divyendu Sharma's casting, sharing a new poster that generated immediate excitement. Divyendu's performance as Munna Bhai-

Pawan Kalyan Joins Final Schedule of 'Hari Hara Veera Mallu' Shoot

The much-anticipated film 'Hari Hara Veera Mallu', starring Power Star Pawan Kalyan, is finally nearing completion after several years of delays. Initially launched before the COVID-19 pandemic, the film faced multiple hurdles, but it is now in the final stages of production. The makers recently shared exciting news: Pawan Kalyan has joined the sets to kick off the film's last shooting schedule.

ing over the reins as the director. The film's music is being composed by the renowned MM Keeravani, ensuring a memorable soundtrack for this period drama. Nidhhi Agerwal plays the female lead, adding to the star-studded cast. Produced by A. Dayakar Rao, 'Hari Hara Veera Mallu' is slated for a worldwide release on March 28, 2025, and fans are eagerly awaiting its arrival in theaters.

The production house, Mega Surya Productions, took to social media to announce the update, posting, "Our Chief, our #HariHaraVeeraMallu @PawanKalyan garu has joined the shoot TODAY! More exciting updates coming your way soon. See you all in theaters on 28th March 2025!" The post also featured a new still of Pawan Kalyan, adding to the buzz surrounding the film's release.

Set in a historical backdrop, the film promises an exciting mix of action, drama, and a compelling narrative, with Pawan Kalyan's larger-than-life persona expected to captivate audiences. As the final shooting schedule begins, expectations are high for the film's grand release. The team is working tirelessly to ensure everything is in place for a spectacular cinematic experience.

Originally directed by Krish, the film has now seen a change in leadership, with Jyoti Krishna tak-

With the last stretch of filming underway, 'Hari Hara Veera Mallu' is gearing up to be one of the most awaited films of 2025.



Venkatesh's 'Sankranti Aaynaam' First Single: A Nostalgic Hit

Tollywood's beloved hero, Victory Venkatesh, is all set to entertain fans with his upcoming film 'Sankranti Aaynaam', a blend of action and comedy, directed by the celebrated Anil Ravipudi. Featuring the talented Meenakshi Chowdhury and the young actress Aishwarya Rajesh as the leading lady, the film has generated a lot of buzz, and fans are eagerly awaiting its release. As the excitement builds, the makers have decided to release the film's first single, creating even more anticipation for the project.



The full version of the song will be officially released on December 3, and fans are eagerly looking forward to it. The film's music is being composed by Bheems, known for his energetic compositions, while the movie is being produced by the renowned Dil Raju.

to the track. When the promo of the song was released, it was clear that Ramana Gogu's iconic voice has the power to transport listeners back to the golden era of music. The track, titled 'Godari Gattu', has already captured the hearts of fans, promising a nostalgic musical experience.

With such a talented team behind it, 'Sankranti Aaynaam' is shaping up to be a memorable addition to Tollywood's lineup. Fans can expect a perfect blend of action, comedy, and melodious music that will keep them entertained from start to finish. As the first single drops, it's clear that 'Sankranti Aaynaam' will be a film to watch out for this season.

Varun Tej's 'Matka' Set for OTT Release After Theatrical Debut

Varun Tej's latest film 'Matka', which has been dubbed the biggest flop of his career, is making an early transition to OTT. Despite only releasing recently, the film will be available for streaming on Amazon Prime Video starting December 5, just a few weeks after its theatrical release. This quick shift to digital platforms highlights the film's poor reception and the struggles faced by the actor in recent years.

Varun Tej, known for his early hits like 'Fidaa' and 'Tholiprema', has seen his career take a downturn in recent times. His films 'Operation Valentine', 'Gandiva Dhari Arjuna', and 'Gaani' all failed to perform well at the box office, and 'Matka' has continued this trend, marking another setback in his journey. Critics and

audiences alike have expressed disappointment, with the film failing to recover even its modest production budget.

Directed by Karuna Kumar, who had a successful outing with 'Palasa 1978', 'Matka' was expected to be a turning point for Varun Tej. However, the film has been widely panned for its lackluster story and execution. Produced by Vijender Reddy Thigala and Rajani Talluri, 'Matka' features Meenakshi Chaudhary as the female lead, but even her performance couldn't salvage the film's fortunes.

The decision to release 'Matka' on Am-



azon Prime Video just a few weeks after its theatrical release further underscores the lackluster box-office performance. The film will be available in multiple languages, including Telugu, Tamil, Malayalam, Kannada, and Hindi, broadening its accessibility for viewers across different regions. Despite the early digital release, the film's poor reception means it has become another addition to Varun Tej's recent string of career setbacks.

As the actor looks to recover from this disappointment, fans will be hoping for better choices in the future, with a renewed focus on scripts and roles that can help him regain his footing in the competitive industry.