

Weather Forecast

HYDERABAD

TEMPE RATURE

t°

H 28° C

L 22° C

VIJAYAWADA

TEMPE RATURE

t°

H 29° C

L 24° C

TIRUPATHI

TEMPE RATURE

t°

H 26° C

L 24° C

No One at Fault

Allu Arjun on Incident

Allu Arjun Calls Incident Unintentional
Apologies Extended to Victim's Family
Refutes Allegations, Seeks Understanding



TPN , Hyderabad: Actor Allu Arjun, alongside his father Allu Arvind, held a press conference to respond to Telangana Chief Minister Revanth Reddy's controversial comments regarding the stampede at Sandhya Theater. The incident, which led to the tragic death of a woman named Revathi and injuries to others, has sparked widespread debate, especially after the Chief Minister alleged Allu Arjun's role in the mishap.

Speaking at the conference, Allu Arjun termed the incident as an unfortunate accident and extended heartfelt apologies to Revathi's family. He also wished a speedy recovery to Sree Tej, another victim of the tragedy. The actor clarified that no one is at fault in the incident and expressed deep sorrow over the lives affected. Allu Arjun strongly refuted the allegations of visiting the theater without police permission, stating he had obtained all necessary clearances. He expressed disappointment over being defamed in the national media and criticized what he described as attempts to damage his reputation.

2nd page

CM: Allu Arjun Rally

Caused Theater Tragedy

Tragic Stampede Claims Woman's Life
CM Criticizes Allu Arjun's Rally
Call for Accountability from Film Industry
Stricter Regulations on Ticket Prices Announced



TPN , Hyderabad: In the Telangana Assembly, Chief Minister A. Revanth Reddy addressed the tragic stampede incident at Sandhya Theater during the premiere of *Pushpa-2*. The accident, which occurred on December 4, claimed the life of Revathi, a resident of Dilsukhnagar, and left her nine-year-old child critically injured. CM Reddy criticized actor Allu Arjun's actions, alleging that the rally organized during his arrival and departure was the primary cause of the chaos.

CM Reddy revealed that Revathi's family paid a staggering Rs. 12,000 for tickets, underscoring the exploitation of fans through exorbitant ticket prices. Despite warnings from the police advising Allu Arjun not to visit the theater due to the anticipated crowd, the actor insisted on attending. Thousands of fans gathered, leading to a stampede that claimed Revathi's life. The CM lamented that even 11 days after the tragedy, neither the actor nor the film's producers visited the bereaved family or

the injured child in the hospital.

Criticizing the film industry, CM Reddy questioned why no film celebrities have come forward to support Revathi's family. He expressed outrage over their collective silence while highlighting the insensitive behavior of the actor, who reportedly stayed at the theater until the movie ended, disregarding police advice.

CM Reddy also announced stricter regulations to prevent similar incidents in the future. He declared that benefit shows and unjustified ticket price hikes would no longer be permitted in Telangana. The Chief Minister further criticized the alleged irresponsible behavior of Allu Arjun, stating that the actor's actions led to the uncontrollable situation.

The CM called for accountability from the film fraternity and demanded justice for Revathi's family. He expressed solidarity with the grieving family and emphasized the need for responsible behavior from public figures to prevent such tragic incidents.

This incident serves as a stark reminder of the importance of crowd management and prioritizing public safety during large-scale events.

KTR, Komatireddy Spar

Over Rythu Bandhu Claims

KTR Challenges Congress on Electricity and Rythu Bandhu Delivery
Komatireddy Defends Congress' Legacy of Free Power and Welfare Schemes
Fiery Exchange Highlights Divisive Claims on Farmer Welfare Programs



TPN , Hyderabad: A heated debate unfolded in the Telangana Assembly during a discussion on farmer assurance, with BRS Working President K.T. Rama Rao (KTR) and Congress Minister Komatireddy Venkat Reddy exchanging sharp remarks and issuing challenges.

KTR accused the Congress government of merely rebranding existing welfare schemes. "Before elections, Rs. 5,000 per acre was promised under Rythu Bandhu, increasing to Rs. 7,500 after elections, but even that hasn't been delivered after a year," KTR alleged. He challenged Minister Komatireddy to prove the delivery of 24-hour free electricity in any part of the state. "Let's go to Nalgonda. If even a single logbook shows 24-hour electricity supply, I will resign," KTR declared.

Minister Komatireddy retorted by highlighting Congress' legacy of providing free electricity during united Andhra Pradesh and asserted that only Congress could claim credit for uninterrupted power supply.

Komatireddy Announces Rs 25 Lakh

Aid to Revathi's Family

TPN , Telangana: In a statement in the Telangana Assembly, Minister Komatireddy Venkatareddy announced financial assistance of Rs 25 lakhs to the family of Revathi. He also addressed the issue of benefit shows for films, stating that such shows would no longer be allowed in the future. The announcement comes amidst ongoing discussions in the assembly, highlighting the government's stance on supporting families in need while also taking a firm stance on regulating film industry practices. This move is expected to impact the organization of film-related charity events going forward.



Six Guarantees Delayed,
BRS at Fault: CM" 2nd page

SRI MIRIYALA VENKATA RAO

Benevolent Foundation

ఆపకమ

సామాజికోద్ధమ అస్తిత్వ పతాక

స్వల్పీయ మిలియాల వెంకటరావు

84వ జయంతి మహోత్సవాలు

తేదీ :

22 డిసెంబర్, 2024, ఆదివారం ఉ. 10 గం:ల నుండి

వేదిక :

మహమూన్ హౌస్ గ్రౌండ్ గార్డెన్

పిల్లర్ నెం. సి 1512, యూసఫ్ గూడ, హైదరాబాద్ - 45

ఉదయం 10 గం:లకు మిలియాల వెంకటరావు చిత్రపటం ఆయన సతీమణి శ్రీమతి ప్రమిల గారిచే ఆవిష్కరణతో కార్యక్రమం ప్రారంభం



Allu Arjun on Incident

continued from P-1

"I made this film to enhance the pride of Telugu people, but I am deeply hurt by the accusations," he said.

The actor also addressed the emotional toll the incident has taken on him, revealing that he has been grappling with grief at home for the past 15 days. He expressed pain over CM Revanth Reddy's comments, describing them as hurtful and unwarranted. Concluding his address, Allu Arjun emphasized his desire to avoid disputes with the government and expressed hope that the focus would shift toward healing and support for the victims' families. The press meet highlighted the actor's call for understanding and accountability devoid of personal blame.

Rythu Bandhu Claims

continued from P-1

He counter-challenged KTR, stating, "If it is proven that even a single acre of land has increased in Nalgonda district due to Rythu Bandhu, I will resign."KTR dismissed the allegations, emphasizing that Rythu Bandhu has increased the cultivation area and reduced farmer suicides. He also pointed out that schemes inspired by Rythu Bandhu, such as PM Kisan, have been adopted by other states like West Bengal and Odisha.The discussion escalated further as Komatireddy accused the BRS government of diverting funds from road sales to Rythu Bandhu. Despite the fiery exchanges, the debate underscored the contentious claims surrounding farmer welfare and government accountability in Telangana.

Six Guarantees Delayed, BRS at Fault: CM

BRS Mismanagement Behind Telangana's Debt Crisis
Exorbitant Loan Interests Draw CM's Ire
Farmers' Loan Waivers Fulfilled, Says CM
Emotional Bond with Farmers Drives Welfare Initiatives

TPN , Telangana : Telangana Chief Minister A. Revanth Reddy launched a scathing attack on the Bharat Rashtra Samithi (BRS) in the Assembly, blaming the party for the state's financial crisis and inability to implement the six guarantees promised by his government. Calling BRS leaders "sinful Bhairavs," he accused them of plundering Telangana's resources, including Kopapet, the Outer Ring Road, Hyderabad, and Hi-Tech City. CM Reddy alleged that the previous government mismanaged funds, leaving the state to pay Rs. 6,500 crore in monthly loan interest.



The CM criticized BRS for taking loans at exorbitant interest rates of 11.5%, instead of utilizing loans available at lower rates of 2-4%. He declared that such financial mismanagement would warrant severe punishment in other countries. "If this happened elsewhere, they would be hanged or stoned in public," he said. He accused BRS of spreading lies about decreasing farmer suicides, asserting that Telangana remains second in the nation in farmer suicides.

Commitment to Farmers

During the Assembly discussion on farmer welfare, CM Reddy reiterated his government's commitment to waiving off farm loans. He announced that Rs. 6,034 crore had been released as part of the first installment to waive loans of up to Rs. 2 lakh, fulfilling his election promise. Highlighting achievements, he noted that Rs. 20,616 crore in farmer loans had been waived within a year of his administration. CM Reddy criticized KCR's past statements about the lack of funds to waive loans and alleged that Rs. 100 crore paid to Adani had caused additional losses to the state. Concluding, he emphasized his emotional bond with farmers and pledged to continue prioritizing their welfare.

KTR: Congress Failed Telangana Farmers

Congress Owes Farmers Rs. 26,775 Crore... KTR Demands Immediate Arrears Clearance



TPN , Telangana : BRS Working President K.T. Rama Rao (KTR) criticized the Congress government in the Telangana Assem-

bly, accusing it of failing to fulfill financial commitments to farmers. He stated that the government owes Rs. 17,500 per acre per farmer, amounting to a total of Rs. 26,775 crore in pending arrears.

KTR highlighted that during the BRS government's tenure, the Rythu Bandhu scheme provided benefits for 11 consecutive crop seasons. He explained that the 12th installment could not be disbursed due to the election code restrictions. "If the payments were made before December 3, it would have been Rs. 5,000 per acre, and after December 9, Rs. 7,500. Did you fulfill your calculations?"

he questioned the Congress leadership.

KTR accused the Congress government of merely rebranding the Rythu Bandhu scheme as Rythu Bharosa without adding new benefits for farmers. "The name was changed, but the funds remained the same. Meanwhile, the Congress government has left farmers in financial distress," he said.

Demanding immediate clearance of arrears, KTR urged the government to prioritize the welfare of farmers, who are still waiting for the promised support during the rainy season.

Panchayati Raj Act Amendment Bill Introduced in Council

TPN , Hyderabad: Minister Ponnam Prabhakar introduced the Panchayati Raj Act Amendment Bill in the Telangana Legislative Council, proposing significant changes to local governance and reservation policies. As part of the amendment, 51 village panchayats located within the Outer Ring Road (ORR) near Hyderabad, which exhibit urban characteristics, will be merged with nearby municipalities. Additionally, 80 village panchayats in urban areas across the state will be upgraded to municipalities or municipal corporations.

Minister Prabhakar announced the formation of a dedicated committee to oversee Panchayati Raj elections, adhering to Supreme Court directives. The amendment also updates Schedule 8 of the Panchayati Raj Act, affecting 140 panchayats.

The government plans to increase reservations for Backward Classes (BCs) to 42% as outlined in the party's manifesto. Minister Prabhakar referenced Congress leader Rahul Gandhi's statement, "Jitni Abadi Utni Hissedari," emphasizing the need for constitutional amendments to raise the 50% cap on social reservations currently mandated by the Supreme Court.

A comprehensive household survey will be conducted to ensure equitable social justice, and stricter measures will be implemented to prevent illegal constructions. The HYDRA agency will act against encroachments, urging local residents to report such violations.

Minister Prabhakar appealed for political parties' cooperation on social issues, reiterating the government's commitment to lifting reservation limits and achieving inclusive development. These measures aim to streamline urban governance and ensure justice for marginalized communities.



Sri Teja's Health Bulletin Released by KIMS Hospital



TPN , Hyderabad: KIMS Hospital has issued a health bulletin on Sri Teja, the young boy injured in the stampede during the benefit show of *Pushpa 2* at Sandhya Theater. While his mother tragically lost her life in the incident, Sri Teja is undergoing treatment and showing signs of improvement.

According to the bulletin, Sri Teja's health is now stable. After spending several days in a coma, he has started breathing independently without the need for oxygen support. The doctors noted that he is also able to eat, marking significant progress in his recovery.

However, the bulletin mentioned that Sri Teja occasionally experiences fever, though his nervous system is functioning stably, providing hope for further recovery.

Minister Komatireddy Venkat Reddy addressed the issue in the assembly and announced that the government will bear all of Sri Teja's medical expenses. The gesture aims to alleviate the family's financial burden during this challenging time. The *Pushpa 2* benefit show incident has sparked discussions about public safety during large gatherings. Meanwhile, Sri Teja's gradual recovery continues to bring relief and hope to his family and well-wishers.

Assembly Mismanaged: Harish Rao

Opposition Denied Fair Platform False Claims on Farmers and Projects

TPN , Telangana : Harish Rao launched a scathing critique of Telangana Chief Minister Revanth Reddy, alleging mismanagement and misinformation during recent assembly sessions. Rao highlighted that despite raising critical issues, the opposition was not allowed a fair opportunity to speak. Referring to the Allu Arjun incident, he lamented the tragic death of a woman and questioned why similar attention was not given to other cases, such as the suicide of Shailaja, a student from Wankidi, or the alleged involvement of the CM's brother in a former sarpanch's death.

Rao accused the Congress-led assem-

bly of being reduced to a political stage, claiming that it mirrored Gandhi Bhanu's rhetoric over the last decade. He expressed frustration over the assembly's scheduling, pointing out that the December 9 session coincided with Sonia Gandhi's birthday, raising questions about the priorities of the government.

In a sharp attack on Revanth Reddy, Harish Rao accused him of spreading lies, stating, "The CM's behavior is akin to putting on a spectacle and drawing attention to himself." Rao alleged that Reddy's speech was filled with misinformation, including claims about land allocations in Pharma City and the gov-

Tragic Incidents Ignored by CM Assembly Priorities Under Scrutiny

ernment's failure to address key issues like loan waivers and farmers' insurance. Rao also defended the BRS's record, emphasizing progress on the Sr-isailam Left Bank Canal (SLBC) project. "The CM falsely claimed no work was done, but over 11 kilometers of SLBC have been dug under our governance," he clarified.

Concluding his remarks, Harish Rao stated, "CM Revanth Reddy might just enter the Guinness Book of Records for lies told in a single speech." He reiterated the need for transparent governance and a meaningful debate in the assembly.





Cherlapalli Station Inauguration Soon: Etala Rajender



TPN , Hyderabad: BJP MP Etala Rajender announced that the Cherlapalli Railway Station, constructed at a cost of ₹500 crore entirely with Central Government funds, is set to address the increasing passenger traffic at Secunderabad, Kacheguda, and Nampally railway stations.

Speaking at an event, Rajender highlighted that the project was initiated under the vision of Prime Minister Narendra Modi, who recognized the need for a major railway station in Cherlapalli due to traffic challenges at other stations. Despite the lack of cooperation from the state government, the Central Government completed the project to enhance connectivity and passenger convenience.

Rajender stated that for the next week, BJP leaders, in coordination with railway officials and the state government, would review the station's facilities and oversee final arrangements. The station will be formally inaugurated on ****December 28**** by Union Railway Minister Ashwini Vaishnav and Union Coal and Mines Minister Kishan Reddy.

Rajender invited the public to participate in the inauguration ceremony and make it a grand success. He emphasized that this project represents the Central Government's commitment to improving infrastructure and meeting the growing demands of Telangana's commuters. The Cherlapalli Railway Station is expected to significantly reduce congestion at major stations in Hyderabad, ensuring better travel experiences for passengers.

Minister Tummala Announces Farmers' Insurance Scheme

TPN , Hyderabad: Agriculture Minister Tummala Nageswara Rao has announced that farmers in Telangana will receive insurance by Sankranthi. Speaking during an assembly debate, the minister shared that a sub-committee has been formed to focus on providing insurance specifically for cultivated lands.



Minister Tummala highlighted that the previous government had allocated Rs. 80,000 crores under the Rythu Bandhu scheme, which also included money for uncultivated lands. He added that the government is open to suggestions from Rythu Bandhu members and will consider advice from all stakeholders in finalizing the scheme.

The minister also reviewed the history of Rythu Bandhu, stating that the scheme was first introduced in 2017-18 with a contribu-

tion of Rs. 4,000 per acre per season, which was later increased to Rs. 5,000 in 2018-19.

Tummala Nageswara Rao assured that the final policies for the insurance scheme would be determined after consulting with all parties. The farmer assurance funds are expected to be released before Sankranthi, in line with the government's plan to implement the scheme by January.

MLC Kavitha Criticizes Bhu Bharati Act

TPN , Hyderabad: MLC Kavitha strongly criticized the newly proposed Bhu Bharati Act, calling it a retrograde move that undermines the welfare of farmers. She emphasized that land is an emotion worldwide and said two people—soldiers and farmers—give their lives for it.

Recalling Telangana's land struggles in 1942, Kavitha highlighted the significance of the Dharani portal, introduced to ensure farmers have complete knowledge of their land rights. "The Dharani Act wasn't brought to leave a mark for KCR but to help farmers sleep peacefully," she said, adding that history would not forgive those attempting to dismantle the system.

Kavitha accused the Congress government of creating confusion among farmers by dividing lands into catego-



ries like Part A and Part B within Dharani. She questioned the rationale behind reintroducing Bhoodar when account numbers already exist for land records.

"A year into power, the Congress party continues to spread lies. There is no clarity on land ownership, including abadis and village kantha lands," she said, suggesting a possible conspiracy behind the lack of transparency.

Kavitha defended the Dharani portal as a symbol of stability and security for farmers. She argued that the proposed Bhu Bharati Act disrupts the lives of farmers, obstructing their progress. "Farmers believe that BRS stands for Bhu Raksha Santhi (Land Protection and Peace)," she said, warning that the people would resist and eventually repeal this law.

"This is not Bhu Bharati, but Bhu Aarti," Kavitha concluded, urging the government to prioritize the welfare of farmers over political vendettas.

Minister Seethakka Questions Rythu Bandhu Distribution



TPN , Hyderabad: Minister Seethakka raised questions about the distribution of Rythu Bandhu during the ongoing Telangana State Assembly sessions, specifically asking if it should also be given to those living in farmhouses.

The seventh day of the Legislative Assembly session began with a discussion on the modalities of the Rythu Bandhu scheme. BRS Working President K.T. Rama Rao (KTR), speaking from the opposition, emphasized that the BRS government had extended Rythu Bandhu to all eligible farmers. In contrast, he criticized the Congress government for suggesting that the scheme should be

limited to a few select beneficiaries. KTR urged the implementation of Rythu Bandhu as per the original promises.

Minister Seethakka responded to KTR's remarks, reminding the Assembly that the BRS government has a history of championing farmers' rights in Telangana. She questioned why Rythu Bandhu was not extended to tenant farmers earlier and pointed out that it had even been provided for uncultivated lands.

Seethakka argued that what the Congress had offered over the past ten years was not Rythu Bandhu, but "patta capital" that only benefited those with land titles.

She also questioned the lack of support for poor, landless farmers, accusing the previous government of neglecting their needs during its tenure. Seethakka's comments sparked a debate on the fairness and scope of the Rythu Bandhu scheme.

[6:33 PM, 12/21/2024] Raj News Scrolling: ### Akbaruddin Criticizes Allu Arjun Over Stampede Incident

Hyderabad: AIMIM Legislature Party leader Akbaruddin Owaisi indirectly criticized Tollywood actor Allu Arjun during his speech in the Telangana Assembly. Owaisi referred to an incident during the premiere of **Pushpa 2**, where a stampede reportedly occurred outside the theater, causing a woman's death and injuring a boy.

Owaisi claimed that when police informed Allu Arjun about the stampede, the actor reportedly expressed that the incident meant the film was a hit. "When the police officers explained that a woman had died and a boy was injured, the hero was happy, saying, 'Our movie is a hit,'" Akbaruddin said, expressing concern over the actor's response. He questioned whether such an attitude was humane, given the loss of life and injury.

The AIMIM leader also emphasized his own caution during public meetings, where large crowds often gather. "I ensure there is no stampede, and security personnel do not push people away," he stated, underscoring his commitment to the safety of the public at such events. Akbaruddin's comments sparked debate about the responsibility of celebrities and leaders in ensuring public safety during large gatherings.

Auto Driver's Suicide in Siddipet Sparks Criticism from KTR



TPN , Siddipet: An auto driver, Panga Yadagiri (48), from Kothapalli in Raipol mandal, tragically took his own life due to mounting debts. Yadagiri had moved to Hyderabad to drive an auto and support his family, but his financial struggles worsened when he had to take on more debt to buy an auto. Despite his hard work, he could not make ends meet, leading him to succumb to depression. Unable to recover, he committed suicide by consuming insecticide in his hometown. His family rushed him to the hospital, but efforts to save him were unsuccessful.

In response to this tragedy, BRS Working President K.T. Rama Rao (KTR) took to Twitter, sharply criticizing the state leadership. "Is this the change you have brought, Revanth?" KTR tweeted, questioning Congress leader Revanth Reddy's promises and their impact on people like Yadagiri. He also mentioned the unfulfilled promise of Rs. 12,000 for auto drivers, accusing the Congress of deceiving various sections of society. KTR claimed that Telangana is suffering under a government that has failed to address the pressing needs of its people.

Kaleshwaram Commission Expresses Frustration with MLC Kodandaram

TPN , Telangana: Congress MLC Kodandaram faced unexpected criticism during his appearance before the Kaleshwaram Commission. The chairman of the commission reportedly expressed impatience with Kodandaram over an affidavit he had submitted, questioning its authenticity due to the lack of supporting evidence.

Justice Ghosh, who presided over the session, raised concerns about the affidavit's validity, asking, "How can an affidavit be submitted without any evidence? Is it a genuine affidavit?" Kodandaram protested, questioning whether the procedure for submitting an affidavit had changed. He assured the commission that he would provide the required evidence in the prescribed

format by Monday.

However, Justice Ghosh emphasized that the commission had already set a 90-day deadline for submissions, stating that the courts would not extend this period further. This development signals heightened scrutiny over the submissions and proceedings related to the Kaleshwaram project.



Ranganath Clarifies ‘Hydra’ Position on Demolitions

TPN , Hyderabad : Hyderabad’s ‘Hydra’ Commissioner Ranganath has responded to recent rumors regarding a reversal of demolitions due to public outcry. In a media briefing, he clarified that Hydra has not taken any U-turn on demolishing illegal structures in the city.



Ranganath emphasized that Hydra will continue to operate in alignment with government policies. He also reaffirmed that homes with valid permits issued before July 2024 will not be demolished. His comments come in the wake of growing public concern over the demolition of various illegal structures in the city.

The commissioner pointed out that if the government decided to demolish all houses built illegally, it would involve the destruction of lakhs of homes. He stressed that Hydra’s actions are based on experience and the need to adapt policies accordingly.

Ranganath further explained that since Hydra’s formation, the organization has made policy changes based on practical experiences to ensure that demolitions are carried out in a balanced and lawful manner.

The clarification seeks to quell public concerns over the perceived halt in demolitions and reassure citizens that Hydra is committed to its mandate of removing illegal structures while following established guidelines.

Fire Breaks Out in Madhapur Restaurant, Injures Several



TPN , Hyderabad : A fire broke out in a five-storey building housing a restaurant in Madhapur, causing significant damage. The blaze, believed to have been triggered by the explosion of gas cylinders, resulted in a large-scale emergency response. Fire engines rushed to the scene and are working to control the flames, while fire officials are evacuating all employees from the restaurant.

The explosion also shattered windows of nearby companies, injuring some IT employees working in the adjacent buildings. Fortunately, there are no reports of fatalities at

this time.

The restaurant, located opposite a well-known establishment owned by cricket star Virat Kohli, has been extensively damaged, with the fire still raging as authorities continue their efforts to contain it.

As the situation develops, emergency teams are on-site to prevent further casualties and assess the damage. Firefighters are battling the blaze, but the building has already been significantly burned. Authorities are investigating the cause of the explosion and fire.

TGANB Busts International Drug Racket in Hyderabad, 2 Held

TPN , Hyderabad : The Telangana Anti-Narcotics Bureau (TGANB), in coordination with Sangareddy police, successfully busted an international drug trafficking racket, leading to the arrest of two individuals and the seizure of illegal substances.

The arrested suspects, Mohammed Salim Abdul Hamid and Mukesh Dubey, both hailing from Mumbai, were caught with one kilogram of MDMA and four mobile phones. The operation also revealed the involvement of Rayeez, who remains absconding, and the duo’s connections with Nigerian nationals, Jerry and Jimmy. The drugs were reportedly purchased at a lower price and then supplied to Salim, who would

distribute them in Hyderabad and other cities.

According to TGANB Superintendent of Police (SP) P Sai Chaitanya, Salim had supplied 320 grams of MDMA to Shaik Amer in Balapur earlier in December. As New Year celebrations approached, Amer ordered an additional kilogram of the drug. After finalizing the deal, Salim and Dubey traveled to Patancheru to deliver the drugs, but were apprehended by authorities before the transaction could take place.

The bust highlights ongoing efforts by law enforcement to disrupt illegal drug networks operating in the region.

City Civil Court Issues Restraining Order Against Manchu Manoj

TPN , Hyderabad : In a significant development in the ongoing Manchu family dispute, the City Civil Court in Hyderabad has issued an interim restraining order against actor Manchu Manoj. The court has directed Manoj not to make any comments about his brother, Manchu Vishnu, on social media platforms, including YouTube, that could damage Vishnu’s reputation.

The order comes after Manchu Vishnu’s lawyers argued in court that Manoj’s statements regarding their family issues had hurt Vishnu’s image. They submitted evidence supporting this claim, prompting the court to intervene and issue the restraining order.

Meanwhile, Mohan Babu, the father of Manchu Manoj and Vishnu, experienced a setback in the Telangana High Court. Mohan Babu had filed a



petition seeking an interim order to prevent his arrest in a case related to an alleged attempt to murder a journalist. However, the High Court rejected the request for interim orders, instructing Mohan Babu to file an affidavit confirming his presence in Hyderabad. The court adjourned the

next hearing to Monday, leaving the matter unresolved for now.

The legal proceedings mark another chapter in the ongoing family conflict, with both sides awaiting further judicial action.

Governor Jishnu Dev Varma to Attend Tring Festival in Hyderabad

TPN , Hyderabad: The Hon’ble Governor of Telangana, Shri Jishnu Dev Varma, will grace the “Tring Festival Celebrations of Tripura” as the chief guest. The event is organized by the Indian Red Cross Society and Tiprasa Thansa, Hyderabad, and will be held at Sri Kotla Vijaya Bhaskar Reddy Stadium, Yousufguda, Hyderabad, on December 21, 2024, at 10:00 PM.

The festival celebrates the vibrant culture and traditions of Tripura and promises to be a significant gathering for the

Tiprasa community in Hyderabad.

Media personnel are requested to arrive at the venue by 10:00 PM with their accreditation or ID cards for security purposes. Reporters, videographers, and photographers have been invited to cover the celebrations and highlight the cultural richness of Tripura.

The event is expected to attract a large audience, showcasing traditional performances and fostering cultural harmony.



Governor Dattatraya Meets President Murmu



TPN , Secunderabad: Haryana Governor Shri Bandaru Dattatraya paid a courtesy visit to Her Excellency Smt. Draupadi Murmu, the President of India, on December 21, 2024, at Rashtrapati Nilayam, Bollaram, Secunderabad. During the meeting, Shri Dattatraya highlighted the success of the International Gita Mahotsava held in Kurukshetra, Haryana.

Shri Dattatraya presented a statue of Lord Krishna in his Virat form, capturing the moment from the Mahabharata when Krishna imparts the divine teachings of the Bhagavad Gita to Arjuna on the battlefield. The Governor also apprised the Hon’ble President of the global recognition and success of the International Gita Mahotsava, which celebrated the timeless wisdom of the Bhagavad Gita and drew significant international attention.

Former Home Guard Climbs Tower at LB Stadium, Creates Ruckus

TPN , Hyderabad : Tension gripped LB Stadium when former Home Guard Veer-anjaneyulu climbed the floodlight tower and created a disturbance. Veer-anjaneyulu, along with 250 other Home Guards dismissed during the united Andhra Pradesh era, expressed frustration over their unresolved issue.

During his protest, Veer-anjaneyulu explained that they were dismissed for their participation in a movement, despite holding certificates, bank accounts, and health cards as proof of their service. He recalled that CM Revanth Reddy had promised

to reinstate them when he assumed power. However, a year has passed with no action on the matter.

Veer-anjaneyulu emphasized that he and the others have been left without any resolution, prompting him to take drastic measures by climbing the tower to raise awareness. He pleaded with the government to take immediate action and reinstate the 250 dismissed Home Guards. The situation was eventually resolved, but the protest highlighted ongoing concerns over the treatment of former employees within the state’s security services.





Minister Ponguleti Key Announcements at Kallur Sabha



TPN , Khammam District: Telangana Revenue, Housing, and Information Minister Ponguleti Srinivas Reddy addressed the public at the Kallur Sabha, emphasizing the government's commitment to providing housing for the poor. He highlighted the Indiramma government's mission to fulfill the long-standing dream of homeowner-

ship for the underprivileged.

Key Highlights

Massive Housing Initiative: The government plans to construct 4.5 lakh houses in the first phase under the Indiramma Housing Scheme, aiming for a total of 20 lakh houses in four years.
Unconditional Support: Each house will receive financial assistance of ₹5 lakh in four installments, with no restrictive conditions.
Survey Progress: Out of 1.05 crore applications under the public administration program, 80 lakh people requested housing. A survey has already covered 17,734 applicants using a dedicated app, and houses will be allotted to eligible beneficiaries upon completion.
Focus on Sattupalli: Minister Reddy assured that housing support would be extended to Sattupalli, similar to the Paleru model, and unfinished houses from previous regimes will be completed and handed over.

Criticism of Previous Government Policies:

Minister Reddy criticized the previous BRS government for delivering only 63,000 houses and leaving many incomplete, including 537 houses in Sattupalli. He also highlighted issues with the Dharani portal, which he claimed created insecurity among the public. He announced the implementation of the Telangana Bhubharati Act to address these concerns within two months.

Sharp Words for Opposition Leadership

Taking aim at former Chief Minister KCR, Reddy alleged that KCR avoided assembly discussions and operated from his farmhouse. He also accused KTR and his allies of creating chaos in the assembly to protect vested interests, particularly related to land issues. The Congress government, Reddy asserted, is determined to bring transparency and resolve land disputes through new revenue laws, ensuring justice for the poor and marginalized.

Chit Fund Holders Protest at Akshara Chit Funds in Khammam



TPN , Khammam: A protest erupted at Akshara Chit Funds in Khammam city as numerous chit fund holders gathered to demand the return of their invested money. The management of Akshara Chit Funds announced that they would provide cash to holders of chits worth less than Rs 1 lakh. However, chaos ensued when a large number of chit holders with chits valued at Rs 1 lakh or more sought their payments.

The management reportedly offered less than half of the promised cash and made the chit holders sign blank papers. In response, the protesting holders questioned the management's actions, demanding clarification on why they were asked to sign blank documents. Many expressed frustration, stating that no progress would be made until their full payments were made. The situation remains unresolved as authorities are expected to investigate the matter further.

Uttam Kumar Reddy's Vision for Global Hyderabad

TPN , Hyderabad: Telangana's Irrigation and Civil Supplies Minister, Uttam Kumar Reddy, emphasized the Congress government's commitment to transforming Hyderabad into a global city. He made these remarks during the oath-taking ceremony of the new committee for the Hyderabad Agricultural Market, held at the Mahbub Mansion Market Yard in Malakpet.

During the event, Minister Reddy, along with TPCC Campaign Committee Chairman Madhu Yashki Goud, administered the oath to the new committee members, including Chekolekar Lakshmi Srinivas, Vice Chairman Kota Srinivas, and other directors.

Minister Reddy highlighted the need for the new committee to focus on developing the Hyderabad Agricultural Market. Addressing the demand to relocate the market, he announced that discussions with Chief Minister K. Chandrashekar Rao and concerned ministers would be held to expedite the move to a larger site in Koheda, spanning 158 acres. He mentioned that if all stakeholders, including farmers, traders, and workers, agree, the relocation will proceed. The Hyderabad Agricultural Market, which handles a significant trade in onions, chillies, and vegetables, earned an income of Rs. 9 crore from April to November. Reddy assured that the state government is committed to developing markets across Telangana, including Hyderabad, to boost agricultural trade and infrastructure.



Chief Minister Revanth Reddy Marks Christmas with Unity Message



TPN , Hyderabad: Telangana Chief Minister Revanth Reddy emphasized the state government's commitment to providing equal protection to all religions, stressing that any act denigrating other religions will not be tolerated. The CM made these remarks during his partic-

ipation in the Christmas celebration at LP Stadium, where he cut a cake and extended warm wishes to everyone.

Speaking at the event, Revanth Reddy highlighted the message of love and unity from the teachings of Christ, quot-

ing "Love your neighbor as yourself" as a guiding principle for society. He also commended Christian missionaries for their significant contributions to education, healthcare, and social welfare, noting that they have set an exemplary standard by serving the poor and shaping responsible citizens.

Revanth Reddy acknowledged the importance of December, not only as the month of Christmas but also as the month when the Telangana declaration was issued. He assured that the state government would continue to organize Christmas celebrations across Telangana and take special action for the welfare and development of Dalit Christians.

Ministers Ponnamm Prabhakar, Ponguleti Srinivasa Reddy, MLC Mahesh Kumar Goud, PCC President, and other Christian community leaders also participated in the celebration.

Tragic Road Accident in Nalgonda: Three Dead



TPN , Nalgonda District: A major road accident claimed three lives near a dargah on the Devarakonda-Kondamallepalli road in Nalgonda district. The accident occurred when a DCM vehicle collided with a shelter house near the dargah, where the victims were sleeping.

The impact of the collision was severe, resulting in the immediate death of the three individuals. Police have registered a case and launched an investigation into the incident. The bodies were shifted to the Devarakonda Government Hospital for postmortem.

The deceased have been identified as Khadar, Habi, and Nabiga, all family members of Haji from Tattikol village in Devarakonda mandal. According to local sources, poor visibility caused by morning fog is suspected to have contribut-

This tragic incident highlights the dangers of driving in low-visibility conditions, especially during early mornings. Locals expressed their grief and urged authorities to take measures to prevent such accidents in the future.

Massive Gold Theft in Khammam Apartment



TPN , Khammam : A major theft occurred in an apartment near the RTO office in Khammam city, where approximately 50 tolas of gold were stolen from the house of Singareni officer Ramdas Nayak late last night.

to the house owner.

The Two Town police have registered a case and begun an investigation. Authorities are currently analyzing CCTV footage from the area to identify the culprit.

The incident took place when no one was present at the residence. The stolen gold is estimated to be worth around ₹35 lakh, according

This high-value theft has caused alarm among local residents, who are urging authorities to enhance security measures in the city.

Mother and Two Children Die After Slipping Into Pond in Mahabubnagar



TPN, Mahabubnagar : A heart-wrenching tragedy struck Nawabet mandal of Mahabubnagar district when a mother and her two children drowned in the Pomala Pedda pond on Saturday.

One of the children managed to escape the water and survive. Despite the efforts of locals who noticed the incident and rushed to rescue the victims, the mother and two children were already dead by the time they were brought to shore.

The incident occurred as Saroja, a resident of the village, went to the pond with three of her four children to wash clothes. While she was busy washing, three of her children accidentally slipped into the pond. In a desperate attempt to save them, Saroja jumped into the water but tragically drowned alongside two of her children.

The loss of three members of the same family has plunged the village into grief. Authorities have been informed, and the bodies have been sent for postmortem. Villagers are calling for safety measures near the pond to prevent such tragic accidents in the future.

India's Middle East Strategy: What Kuwait Brings To The Table



Kuwait, though small in size, is a major player on the global stage due to its vast oil reserves and formidable sovereign wealth fund. It plays a significant role in India's Middle East strategy, a region that has become crucial to India's economic and geopolitical interests. Recent remarks by Kuwait's Foreign Minister, who hailed Prime Minister Narendra Modi as "one of the wisest leaders in the world," underscore the growing recognition of India's global stature and the desire for deeper ties between the two nations.

India's position in the Gulf has evolved dramatically over the years, moving from being a passive participant to becoming a key player in the region. The Gulf, once primarily seen by India as a source of energy and a destination for its expatriate workers, is now integral to India's "extended neighbourhood." Prime Minister Modi's efforts to

engage with the Gulf nations have turned India into a central player in the region's economic and political landscape. This transformation is not just a result of diplomatic finesse but is also driven by shared economic and security interests.

For India, the Gulf is essential not only for its energy needs but also as a crucial market for its exports and as a source of investment. With some of the world's largest oil reserves, the Gulf nations are vital to India's energy security. However, India is also increasingly seen as a strategic partner in trade, security, and infrastructure development. This shift is reflected in the growing diplomatic and economic exchanges between India and the Gulf countries, with Kuwait being a key example.

Kuwait, with its immense wealth and stable political environment, offers India the

opportunity to deepen its economic ties in energy, infrastructure, and trade. The country's sovereign wealth fund, one of the largest in the world, provides potential for significant investments in India's infrastructure, particularly in sectors like energy, technology, and manufacturing. Furthermore, Kuwait's strategic location in the Gulf makes it a valuable partner in regional security discussions, particularly with regard to stability in the wider Middle East and the Indian Ocean region.

In conclusion, India's engagement with Kuwait and the wider Gulf region reflects a shift in India's foreign policy priorities, marking the Gulf as an essential partner in its economic and security strategies. As India continues to rise as a global power, Kuwait's role in this narrative will only become more significant.

One Nation, One Election: A Bold Idea, But Will It Work?

The concept of 'One Nation, One Election' (ONOE) involves synchronizing the Lok Sabha (lower house of Parliament) and state legislative assembly elections across India. This idea has been discussed for years but has gained significant traction in recent times, sparking vigorous debates on its potential benefits and drawbacks. Proponents argue that ONOE could streamline the electoral process, save costs, and enhance governance, while critics point to the political, constitutional, and logistical challenges that could arise from implementing such a system.

One of the primary advantages of ONOE is cost savings. Conducting elections separately for the Lok Sabha and state assemblies every few months incurs substantial financial costs. These include the expenses for conducting separate campaigns, the use of resources like personnel and technology, and the logistics involved in organizing multiple elections. By holding simultaneous elections, India could potentially save billions of rupees. Additionally, the burden on administrative machinery, which is stretched during elections, would be significantly reduced, allowing for a more efficient use of resources.

ONOE could also improve governance by minimizing election-related disruptions. Elections are often followed by prolonged periods of political campaigning, which can divert the focus of elected representatives from governance to electioneering. If elections are held together, it could reduce the frequency of elections, ensuring that governments spend more time in office focusing on their administrative and developmental duties rather than being caught in election cycles. This continuity in governance might lead to more stable and long-term policies, benefiting the country's development.

Furthermore, simultaneous elections might promote political stability. In India, regional parties play a crucial role,



often leading to fragmented mandates in state assemblies. Conducting elections at the same time could encourage parties to form broader coalitions and alliances, leading to more cohesive governance at both the state and national levels. It could also discourage the opportunistic behavior of parties who leverage state elections to gain an advantage in the national political landscape.

However, implementing ONOE is not without its challenges. India's political landscape is diverse, and holding simultaneous elections could favor larger, national parties with better resources, sidelining regional parties and smaller political players. Moreover, the constitutional amendments needed to synchronize elections across different levels of government would require careful deliberation and consensus-building, which could be a time-consuming process.

In conclusion, while 'One Nation, One Election' offers several potential benefits, including cost savings and improved governance, its successful implementation would require addressing substantial political, constitutional, and logistical challenges. As the debate continues, it remains to be seen whether the advantages outweigh the complexities of this ambitious proposal.

Political Row Over Remarks on B.R. Ambedkar Escalates to a Scuffle



A recent row over remarks made about B.R. Ambedkar inside the Indian Parliament has escalated into a heated scuffle outside the House, filled with childish accusations and counterclaims.

The controversy began when Union Home Minister Amit Shah, in the Rajya Sabha, criticized the Congress party for what he described as its false posturing about Ambedkar, the architect of India's Constitution. Shah claimed that Congress had failed to honor Ambedkar properly, and this criticism of the Congress quickly became a political flashpoint.

However, the way Shah phrased his remarks opened the door for criticism of his party's sincerity. He controversially stated that chanting God's name would be more appropriate than chanting Ambedkar's name. This comment was perceived as an attack on the legacy of Ambedkar, provoking

fierce reactions across the political spectrum. Shah later claimed that his words were taken out of context, but in the world of politics, language is often weaponized, and words can have far-reaching implications.

The dispute centers around the figure of Ambedkar, a symbol of social justice and the driving force behind India's secular, egalitarian Constitution. Politicians across the spectrum, including the ruling BJP, have increasingly sought to claim Ambedkar's legacy, but Shah's comments have exposed the contradictions in such political posturing. His remarks were seen as hypocritical, as no party can accuse others of false reverence for Ambedkar without inviting the same criticism for itself.

Ambedkar's political journey was marked by disagreements and debates with various leaders and ideologies, including Mahatma

Gandhi, the Congress, and Hindu orthodoxy. His advocacy for the Hindu Code Bill, which he later resigned over in frustration, and his opposition to leaders like Vinayak Savarkar, demonstrated his firm stance on social reforms. Ambedkar's vision for India, grounded in social justice and secularism, often put him at odds with mainstream political ideologies of his time.

While the BJP has only recently embraced Ambedkar as part of its ideological pantheon, his true legacy lies not in electoral symbolism but in his steadfast commitment to shaping a progressive and inclusive society. The ongoing political drama surrounding Ambedkar's name underscores the enduring challenge of aligning his vision with contemporary political agendas. His contribution to India's Constitution remains his greatest legacy, and it is essential to honor it without reducing it to political theater.

Parliamentary Disrespect: A Disservice to the Constitution

Barely 15 months after the inauguration of the new Parliament building, parliamentary decorum has suffered a severe blow. The recently concluded Winter Session will be remembered not for productive debate or meaningful dialogue but for the disgraceful clash between ruling and opposition MPs. What started as a war of words over Home Minister Amit Shah's remarks about Dr. B.R. Ambedkar quickly spiraled into a chaotic physical altercation, marked by shoves and pushes among elected representatives. In this disheartening spectacle, both government and opposition MPs tarnished their image, disgracefully undermining the institution they were elected to serve.

Shah, in his remarks, implied that



chanting Ambedkar's name had become a political trend, an ill-advised comment that ignited an immediate backlash. By dragging the revered 'Father of the Constitution' into an un-

necessary and unsavory debate, he gave the opposition a perfect opportunity to hit back. This exchange quickly escalated, with Prime Minister Narendra Modi intervening to defend

Shah and criticize the Congress party for perpetuating 'malicious lies' and a 'rotten ecosystem.'

Dr. Ambedkar, a towering figure in India's history and the architect of the Constitution, is an icon that transcends political affiliation. Both the ruling party and the opposition are guilty of turning his legacy into a political tool, aiming to score points off each other at the cost of his monumental contribution to the nation. This petty squabble over Ambedkar's legacy, particularly during the ongoing celebrations of the 75th anniversary of the Constitution's adoption, is not only distasteful but irresponsible.

The Constitution of India stands as a testament to the nation's unwavering

commitment to democracy, justice, and equality. It is the duty of every parliamentarian to protect these ideals, ensuring that discussions in the House focus on inclusive development and social justice. Instead of resorting to mud-slinging and trivial political games, lawmakers must remember that they are accountable to their voters, and the nation's democratic ideals must remain their primary focus.

If the behavior witnessed in this session continues, India's Parliament—once considered the temple of democracy—risks becoming a spectacle of chaos. The dignity of the House, integral to India's global image as a responsible democratic power, must not be reduced to a battleground for political one-upmanship.

PM Modi Embarks on Landmark Visit to Kuwait to Strengthen Bilateral Ties

TPN CORRESPONDENT KUWAIT
DECEMBER.22

Prime Minister Narendra Modi, before departing for Kuwait on Saturday, highlighted the significance of his upcoming visit, marking the first by an Indian Prime Minister in 43 years. Modi described his visit as an opportunity to set the stage for a "futuristic partnership" between the two nations, aimed at benefiting both India and Kuwait as well as the broader region.

In a statement issued prior to his departure, Modi expressed optimism about the potential of his two-day visit, emphasizing that it would be a chance to build a comprehensive roadmap for collaboration in areas of trade, energy, security, and regional stability. He stated, "It would be an opportunity to chalk out a roadmap for a futuristic partnership for the benefit of our people and the region."

Reflecting on the longstanding relationship between India and Kuwait, Modi pointed out that the two countries not only share strong trade and energy ties but also have mutual interests in promoting peace, security, and stability in the West Asia region. He stressed that the visit would further enhance these bonds and deepen cooperation in various sectors.

Modi also took the opportunity to acknowledge the historical and cultural connection between the two nations, which has been fostered over generations. He expressed confidence that the visit would strengthen the existing ties, reinforcing the friendship and mutual respect between India and Ku-

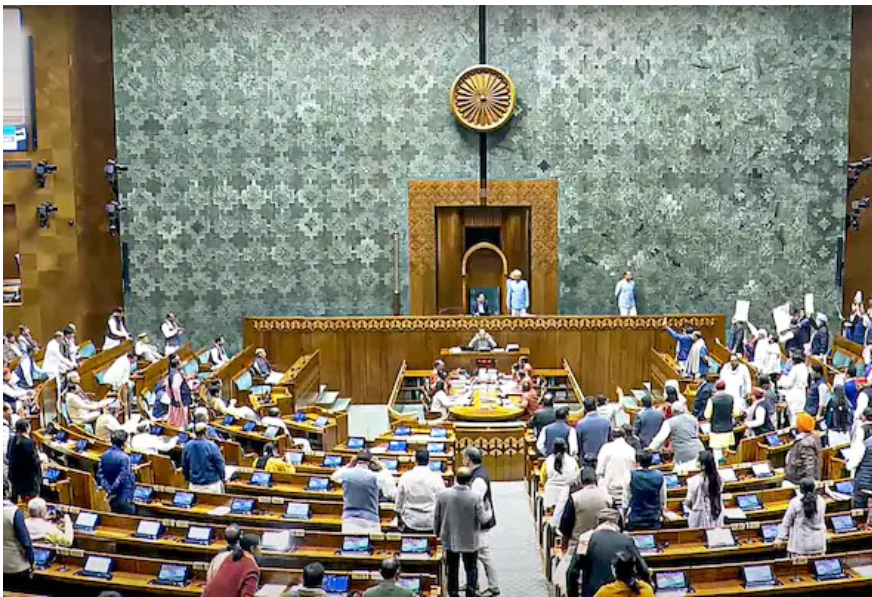


wait. Kuwait has been an important partner for India, especially in the energy sector, with significant Indian expatriate communities working in the Gulf nation. Modi's visit aims to elevate the bilateral relationship to new heights, focusing on economic collaboration, regional security, and cultural

exchanges.

As India seeks to strengthen its presence and influence in the Gulf region, this visit serves as a critical step towards solidifying India-Kuwait relations, paving the way for a more robust and diversified partnership in the years to come.

Winter Session Ends, Lok Sabha Sees 57% Productivity, Rajya Sabha At 40%



TPN CORRESPONDENT NEW DELHI
DECEMBER.22

Parliament was adjourned sine die on Friday, bringing an end to a tumultuous Winter Session marked by heated debates, political confrontations, and low productivity. The session, which saw significant discussions on the country's constitutional journey and the introduction of two key bills on simultaneous elections, was overshadowed by a bitter exchange between the ruling National Democratic Alliance (NDA) and opposition parties, particularly following allegations of disrespect towards B R Ambedkar.

On the final day, the Lok Sabha session was adjourned within minutes due to ongoing political tensions, with Speaker Om Birla unable to even summarize the session's highlights. In contrast, the Rajya Sabha session saw opposition parties allowing Chairman Jagdeep Dhankhar to deliver his valedictory remarks before adjourning.

According to reports, the Lok Sabha's productivity stood at just 58%, a sharp decline from previous sessions where productivity often exceeded 100%. Rajya Sabha fared slightly better with 40.03% productivity, marking only 43 hours and 27 minutes of effective functioning throughout the session.

In his concluding remarks, Dhankhar urged parties to rise above political differences and restore the sanctity of parliamentary discourse. However, Parliamentary Affairs Minister Kiren Rijiju blamed the opposition, particularly the Congress, for the low productivity, accusing them of disrupting Parliament despite prior agreements to allow the session to function smoothly.

The session witnessed the introduction of five bills in the Lok Sabha, with four of them being passed, while the Rajya Sabha passed three bills. A key highlight was the two bills on simultaneous elections for Lok Sabha and state assemblies, referred to a Joint Committee of Parliament for further deliberation. The session's most contentious moment occurred on Thursday, when a physical altercation broke out between rival MPs, leading to police complaints and an FIR against Congress leader Rahul Gandhi. Both the opposition and BJP accused each other of insulting Ambedkar's legacy, leading to protests inside and outside Parliament. As the session concluded, opposition parties filed notices for breach of privilege against Home Minister Amit Shah and Rahul Gandhi, leaving unresolved tensions for future parliamentary proceedings.



Time Has Come For Change In Approach Of Police In Northeast: Amit Shah

TPN CORRESPONDENT AGARTALA
DECEMBER.22

Union Home Minister Amit Shah called for a shift in the police force's approach in the Northeast, following the end of insurgency in the region. Speaking at the 72nd plenary of the North Eastern Council (NEC) on Saturday, Shah emphasized the need to ensure speedy justice for the people, highlighting the significant progress the region has made in terms of peace and security.

Shah noted that Prime Minister Narendra Modi's leadership had led to peace in the Northeast, underscoring the signing of 20 peace accords over the last decade. These accords, Shah said, contributed to the surrender of over 9,000 militants. With the insurgency now behind the region, he called for a new strategy within the police force to ensure justice is served quickly. He advocated for reforms to guarantee that cases are resolved within three years of an FIR being lodged, marking a shift from the focus on counter-insurgency operations to enhancing law enforcement efficiency.

In addition to the shift in law enforcement, Shah highlighted the significant investments made by the central government in infrastructure development across the region. He stated that ₹81,000 crore had been allocated for rail connectivity, while ₹41,000 crore had been invested in improving the road network in the Northeast.

Shah also pointed out the government's focus on boosting organic farming in the region. To support this initiative, the Centre has established the National Organic Corporation Ltd (NOCL). He encouraged the Chief Ministers of the Northeastern states to sign agreements with NOCL to help with the packaging, marketing, and export of organic products. This move aims to enhance the economic prospects of the region while promoting sustainable agriculture practices.



Congress Slams Modi for Visit to Kuwait While Manipur Remains Ignored

TPN CORRESPONDENT NEW DELHI
DECEMBER.22

The Congress party on Saturday criticized Prime Minister Narendra Modi for prioritizing a visit to Kuwait over addressing the ongoing crisis in Manipur. Modi's two-day trip to Kuwait, aimed at strengthening ties in sectors such as defense and trade, sparked a sharp response from Congress, which accused him of neglecting the people of Manipur.

In a social media post, Congress general secretary Jairam Ramesh took a swipe at the Prime Minister, calling him the "frequent flyer PM" for his overseas trips, while the people of Manipur continue to suffer. Ramesh posted a rhyming remark on X (formerly Twitter), stating: "Such is their fate, As Mr. Modi refuses to find a date, The people of Manipur continue to wait, While the Frequent Flyer PM is off to Kuwait."

The Congress has repeatedly urged the Prime Minister to visit Manipur, claiming that his presence could help restore peace and bring much-needed attention to the violence-stricken state. The ongoing ethnic violence in Manipur, which began on May 3 of the previous year, erupted after a tribal solidarity march in the state's hill districts, protesting the majority Meitei community's demand for Scheduled Tribe status.

The violence has left the region in turmoil, with the Congress party and other opposition groups pressing the government to take swift action to resolve the crisis. Despite these calls, the Prime Minister's focus remains on international diplomacy, with his visit to Kuwait marking another chapter in his series of foreign trips.



FM Nirmala Sitharaman Chairs 55th GST Council Meeting in Jaisalmer

TPN CORRESPONDENT RAJASTHAN
DECEMBER.22

Union Finance Minister Nirmala Sitharaman is currently chairing the 55th meeting of the Goods and Services Tax (GST) Council in Jaisalmer, Rajasthan, on Saturday. The meeting includes several key participants, including Pan-kaj Chaudhary, the Minister of State for Finance, as well as Chief Ministers from Goa, Haryana, Jammu and Kashmir, Meghalaya, and Odisha. Additionally, Deputy Chief Ministers from Arunachal Pradesh, Bihar, Madhya Pradesh, Rajasthan, and Telangana are in attendance, along with Finance Ministers from various States and Union Territories, senior officials from the Finance Ministry, and members of the Central Board of Indirect Taxes and Customs (CBIC).

The Finance Ministry's official social media account shared that Sitharaman is leading the GST Council's discussions in Jaisalmer. The GST Council is responsible for making decisions on critical aspects of the GST system, such as tax rates, exemptions, and administrative procedures.

While the official agenda for the meeting has not been disclosed, sources indicate that a key issue on the table will be the proposed rationalization of GST rates on health and life insurance products. The Group of Ministers (GoM) on insurance, headed by Bihar Minister Samrat Chaudhary, has already submitted its report to the Council regarding the matter. The GoM was tasked with reviewing the GST rates on medical and life insurance, both of which are currently taxed at a rate of 18%.

Opposition leaders, including West Bengal Chief Minister Mamata Banerjee, have been vocal in urging the Finance Minister to reduce GST on medical and life insurance premiums. During the monsoon session of Parliament in August, members of the INDIA alliance staged a protest demanding a rollback of the GST on these products, with Congress leader Rahul Gandhi participating in the protest. The issue was previously discussed in the 54th GST Council meeting held in September 2024, which led to the formation of the GoM to examine the concerns and make recommendations.

Syria's New Leaders Appoint Foreign Minister to Strengthen International Relations



SYRIA: Syria's new rulers have appointed Asaad Hassan al-Shibani as the country's foreign minister, as they work to strengthen international ties and bring peace and stability to the war-torn nation. This development comes two weeks after the ousting of Bashar al-Assad, marking a significant shift in Syria's political landscape. The ruling General Command made the announcement on Saturday, with Syrian state news agency SANA reporting that the move reflects the aspirations of the Syrian people to rebuild the country and establish diplomatic relations worldwide.

Ahmed al-Sharaa, the de facto leader following Assad's removal, has actively engaged with foreign delegations since taking power. He has hosted the UN's Syria envoy and senior US diplomats in recent weeks. Sharaa has emphasized that his primary goals are reconstruction and economic development, signaling a willingness to engage diplomatically with international envoys while avoiding further conflicts.

Sharaa's forces, led by the group Hayat Tahrir al-Sham (HTS), seized control of Damascus on De-

cember 8, forcing Assad to flee after more than 13 years of civil war. This marked the end of the Assad family's decades-long rule. The situation in Syria remains uncertain, as it is still unclear whether HTS will impose strict Islamic rule or allow for more democratic governance. HTS had ties with al-Qaeda until Sharaa broke those links in 2016.

The United States, along with other Western powers and many Syrians, welcomed the fall of Assad. However, the future of Syria under Sharaa's rule is still unfolding. Sharaa, who previously served under the command of al-Qaeda in Iraq, has been designated a terrorist by the US since 2013 but had his \$10 million bounty removed by Washington on Friday.

The Syrian conflict has resulted in hundreds of thousands of deaths, a major refugee crisis, and the widespread destruction of cities, leaving the economy in ruins. The new administration's efforts to rebuild and establish international relations are crucial to Syria's future.

Canada PM Trudeau looks set to lose power after key ally vows to topple him

CANADA: Canadian Prime Minister Justin Trudeau's minority government is facing a potential collapse after a key ally, New Democratic Party (NDP) leader Jagmeet Singh, announced plans to bring down the government early next year. Singh, who has supported Trudeau's Liberal government in the past, declared that he would introduce a formal motion of no-confidence when the House of Commons reconvenes from its winter break on January 27.



Singh's decision marks a significant shift in the political landscape, as the NDP has been instrumental in keeping Trudeau's government afloat in recent years. However, tensions have risen between the two parties over several issues, including economic policies and government spending. Singh's move is a direct challenge to the leadership of the Liberal Party and could trigger a federal election if the motion passes.

The no-confidence motion, if successful, would force a gen-

eral election, potentially ending Trudeau's tenure as Prime Minister. The move comes as Trudeau's government has faced increasing scrutiny over its handling of various issues, including inflation, health-care, and environmental policies.

Singh's announcement has added fuel to the ongoing political debate in Canada, with critics of Trudeau's leadership calling for change. The NDP leader's decision to present the motion signals his determination to hold the government

accountable, particularly on issues that have resonated with his party's supporters, such as social justice, health-care reform, and addressing economic inequality.

As the country heads into the winter break, political observers will be closely watching how the situation develops in the coming weeks. If the no-confidence motion gains support, it could lead to a snap election that would test Trudeau's political survival and shape the future direction of Canadian politics.

India and France Collaborate on 'World's Largest Museum' Near Rashtrapati Bhavan

DELHI: India and France have joined forces to create the world's largest museum, set to be located on Raisina Hill, just in front of the Rashtrapati Bhavan in New Delhi. Foreign Minister S. Jaishankar hailed the project as "a project of great national importance" during the signing ceremony, emphasizing its significance in showcasing India's rich heritage and cultural legacy. The museum, named the Yuga Yugeen Bharat National Museum, will provide an immersive timeline of India's history, spanning over 5,000 years.

The museum will occupy the North and South Blocks of Raisina Hill, currently home to several key government ministries, including foreign affairs, defense, and finance. These



historic buildings, designed by British architect Sir Edwin Lutyens and Sir Herbert Baker between 1911 and 1931, will be transformed into a cultural

landmark. The museum will cover an area of 1.17 lakh square meters, featuring 950 rooms spread across a basement and three stories.

Jaishankar noted that the collaboration with France highlights a vital expression of international cooperation, blending the best practices from both nations. He added that the transformation of the North and South Blocks into a museum would serve as an inspiration for the future of India, referred to as "the remaking of Bharat."

France's involvement in the project is rooted in its own expertise with the adaptive reuse of historic buildings, exemplified by the renowned Louvre Museum in Paris. The French govern-

ment has been instrumental in offering insights into how to repurpose significant structures for modern uses while preserving their historical value.

Minister of Culture Gajendra Singh Shekhawat announced that mapping and blueprinting work for the North Block is almost complete, with similar efforts underway for the South Block. The grand vision for the museum is expected to be a beacon of cultural exchange and historical preservation, symbolizing the deep ties between India and France. Prime Minister Narendra Modi has also shared an illustration video highlighting key features of the upcoming museum project.

North Korea Criticizes South Korea-US-Japan Talks on Indo-Pacific as 'Insult' to Peace



SEOUL: North Korea has strongly condemned a trilateral meeting between South Korea, the US, and Japan, which focused on strengthening security cooperation in the Indo-Pacific region. The meeting, held in Tokyo on December 11, aimed to address the growing threats posed by North Korea's nuclear and missile programs. However, Pyongyang labeled the talks as an "insult" to peace.

In a harsh editorial, North Korea's official newspaper *Rodong Sinmun* attacked the United States, describing it as a "gangster-like" nation that destabilizes global peace. The paper criticized the US's history of war and its foreign policy, which it claims involves invad-

ing other countries and undermining peace. The editorial also accused Japan and South Korea of being complicit in these actions.

North Korea's criticism particularly focused on Japan's defense posture, which has grown closer to the US in recent years. The paper rejected Japan's claims of seeking peace, pointing to its defense cooperation guidelines with the US and its security laws that allow for collective self-defense. These measures, North Korea argues, make Japan a threat to regional stability.

The editorial also took aim at South Korea, calling it the "vanguard" of US policies of invasion and war, accusing it of being a mere puppet of Washington. It condemned Seoul's alignment with US military strategies, further escalating tensions between the two Koreas.

This outburst reflects the heightened tensions on the Korean Peninsula, as North Korea continues to develop its missile and nuclear capabilities, while the US, Japan, and South Korea have worked to bolster their security cooperation in response. Pyongyang's rhetoric underscores the deepening divides and the ongoing diplomatic standoff in the region.

French President Macron Faces Backlash Over Cyclone Response During Mayotte Visit



MIRERENI: French President Emmanuel Macron faced intense criticism from residents of Mayotte during his visit to the Indian Ocean archipelago, which is still recovering from the devastation caused by the region's strongest cyclone in nearly a century. The cyclone, which caused signifi-

cant damage, has left many of the island's residents grappling with severe shortages, including a lack of access to basic essentials like water.

As Macron toured the affected areas, frustrations boiled over when some residents shouted, "We want water, we want water," demanding immediate assistance. In response, Macron, visibly upset, retorted angrily, "You're happy to be in France... If it wasn't France, you'd be 10,000 times more screwed!" He went on to defend France's response, claiming, "There's no place in the Indian Ocean where people get so much help!" Despite his attempts to defend the government's actions, tensions between Macron and the locals were palpable. One woman was heard disagreeing with the president, signaling that his words did little to alleviate the frus-

tration felt by many on the island. The exchange underscored the growing discontent over the slow and inadequate response to the cyclone's aftermath.

Mayotte, a French overseas department, has long been one of the poorest regions in France, and the cyclone has exacerbated existing challenges. Residents have criticized the government's relief efforts, citing delays and a lack of resources in the face of the disaster. Macron's visit, meant to reassure the public and demonstrate solidarity, instead became a flashpoint for anger and dissatisfaction.

The incident highlights the broader issues facing Mayotte and other overseas territories, where residents often feel neglected or sidelined by mainland France, especially in times of crisis.

India Launches Probe into Surge in Steel Product Imports

India has launched an investigation into the rising imports of certain steel flat products following a formal complaint from the Indian Steel Association (ISA). The Directorate General of Trade Remedies (DGTR), operating under the Ministry of Commerce, is currently examining imports of non-alloy and alloy steel flat products, which are crucial in industries like construction, automotive, and electrical panels.

The ISA, representing leading steel producers such as ArcelorMittal Nippon Steel, JSW Steel, and Steel Authority of India, submitted a petition on December 15 under the Customs Tariff Act, 1975. The petition calls for the imposition of safeguard duties on these steel imports, aiming to protect the domestic steel industry from potential harm caused by the surge in foreign products.

The DGTR's investigation will focus on whether unforeseen circumstances have led to a significant increase in imports and if this influx poses a threat to the domestic industry. The inquiry will cover the period from October 2023 to September 2024.

The investigation has been triggered by concerns



over surplus steel production capacity in countries such as China, Japan, and South Korea. These nations have been exporting large quantities of steel, which may be affecting Indian steel manufacturers by driving down prices and increasing competition. The outcome of the probe will determine if any safeguard measures are necessary to protect the Indian steel sector from undue harm.

The DGTR is expected to conclude its investigation within eight months. This move comes at a time when the government is looking to ensure the long-term sustainability of India's domestic steel industry, which is facing pressure from global market dynamics.

Reliance Digital Health Acquires 45% Stake in Health Alliance Group for \$10 Million

Mukesh Ambani-led Reliance Industries Ltd (RIL) announced on Saturday, December 21, that its subsidiary, Reliance Digital Health Ltd (RDHL), has entered into definitive agreements to acquire a 45% equity stake in Health Alliance Group Inc. (HAGI) for a total consideration of \$10 million.

According to a regulatory filing with the stock exchanges, the investment will allow Reliance Digital to develop a virtual diagnostic and care platform, expanding healthcare access to underserved communities. The transaction is not a related party deal, and none of Reliance's promoters or related entities are involved in the transaction, the filing confirmed.

The deal, which is subject to customary closing conditions, is expected to be completed within two weeks. No governmental or regulatory approvals are required for the acquisition, RIL stated.

HAGI is a US-based healthcare company, incorporated on December 21, 2023, and focuses on technology-driven solutions for underserved populations in the United States, India, and globally. It operates at the intersection of healthcare, IT, and innovation, striving to make healthcare



more accessible and efficient through technological advancements.

This acquisition is part of Reliance Digital's broader strategy to enhance its footprint in the healthcare sector, particularly in digital health services. The move further aligns with RIL's focus on expanding into diverse sectors such as telecom, retail, and digital platforms.

In other news, Reliance Industries recently reported a 3.6% year-on-year decline in consolidated net profit, totaling ₹19,101 crore for the July-September quarter, compared to ₹19,820 crore in the same period last year. However, the company saw a 9.5% sequential rise in profit from ₹17,448 crore in Q1 FY25. On Friday, RIL's shares closed down 2% to ₹1,206 on the Bombay Stock Exchange (BSE).

GST Council Defers Decision on Insurance Premium Tax Cuts

The Goods and Services Tax (GST) Council, in its 55th meeting held in Jaisalmer on Saturday, deferred the decision on potential rate cuts for life and health insurance premiums, citing the need for further technical discussions. This decision follows a long-standing demand from the insurance industry to reduce or exempt GST on premiums, which would ease the tax burden on both insurers and policyholders.

During the meeting, chaired by Union Finance Minister Nirmala Sitharaman, members of the Group of Ministers (GoM), led by Bihar Deputy Chief Minister Samrat Chaudhary, debated the issue extensively. While most members of the GoM favored a full exemption on health and life insurance premiums, some suggested reducing



the GST rate from the current 18% to 5%.

Chaudhary shared with reporters that further discussions were necessary before a final deci-

sion could be made. The GoM is expected to reconvene in January for additional deliberations. Among the proposals under consideration is a GST exemption for premiums paid for term life

insurance policies. Another recommendation is to exempt GST on premiums paid by senior citizens for health insurance policies. Additionally, health insurance premiums for policies up to ₹5 lakh could be exempt from GST, while the 18% rate would apply to policies with coverage above ₹5 lakh.

The GST Council will continue discussions on these recommendations in its next meeting, as there are still technicalities to be resolved.

Another important agenda item for the GST Council is whether the 5% GST on food delivery platform delivery charges should apply retrospectively from 2022. Currently, food delivery services do not pay GST on delivery charges. The Council is also expected to discuss the inclusion of aviation turbine fuel within the GST framework.

RBI Report Highlights Financial Strain of DISCOMs on State Finances

A recent report by the Reserve Bank of India (RBI) has raised concerns over the ongoing financial burden of electricity distribution companies (DISCOMs) on State finances. The report reveals that by 2022-23, the total accumulated losses of state DISCOMs had reached a staggering Rs 6.5 lakh crore, which represents 2.4% of India's GDP.

The RBI noted that despite various reform efforts, DISCOMs remain a significant financial challenge for States. To address this issue, the RBI emphasized the need for measures to improve productivity, reduce transmission and distribution losses, and align tariffs with the actual cost of power supply. Additionally, the report stressed the importance of unbundling the electricity supply industry and privatizing power generation and distribution, which could help strengthen the financial health of DISCOMs and improve State finances overall.

The report also highlighted that, despite several financial restructuring attempts, the outstanding debt of DISCOMs has been growing at an average annual rate of 8.7% since 2016-17. To improve this situation, the RBI recommended prioritizing operational efficiency by minimizing distribution losses, improving metering systems, ensuring timely tariff revisions, and incentivizing the power sector to reduce dependence on government subsidies.



On a more positive note, the RBI report pointed out improvements in fiscal discipline among States. In 2023-24, the gross fiscal deficit (GFD) of States was contained at 2.91% of GDP, well below the 3% limit mandated by the Fiscal Responsibility Legislation (FRL). Furthermore, States increased their capital outlay to 2.6% of GDP in 2023-24, up from 2.2% the previous year, signaling stronger investments in infrastructure.

Looking ahead, the report predicts that States are likely to maintain fiscal discipline in 2024-25, with the GFD budgeted at 3.2% of GDP, indicating a continued focus on sustainable financial management.

Indian Exporters to See Gains from Rupee's Depreciation, but Challenges Remain for Import

Indian exporters in sectors like garments, handicrafts, and engineering goods are expected to see 5-10% gains from the recent depreciation of the Indian rupee, according to trade insiders. The rupee hit an all-time low of 85.09 against the US dollar on Thursday and further dropped to 85.10 on Friday. The depreciation of the rupee is likely to benefit traditional export sectors, such as textiles and leather, which form a significant portion of India's export market.

However, the benefits of the rupee's decline may not be universal. Sectors that rely heavily on imports, such as gems and jewelry and electronics, may see rising oil and commodity prices offsetting any potential gains. For these industries, the falling value of the rupee may increase the cost of raw materials and components, potentially limiting the advantages of a weaker currency.

Moreover, the depreciation of the rupee comes amid a broader trend of currency weakening among other major economies. The Chinese yuan, Japanese yen,



and Mexican peso have all seen sharper depreciations against the US dollar, which may reduce the competitive edge that Indian exporters gain from a weaker rupee. Trade insiders also noted that buyers could exert pressure on Indian exporters to pass on these currency-related benefits, further diminishing any long-term advantages from the rupee's fall.

India conducts nearly 60% of its goods trade in US dollars, and the recent depreciation is expected to help traditional sectors that rely on exports. However, challenges such as rising import costs and competitive pressures from other currencies may dilute the overall impact on India's trade performance.

OpenAI Tests New AI Models o3 and o3 Mini to Compete with Rivals



OpenAI announced on Friday that it is testing its new AI models, o3 and o3 mini, marking a significant step in its efforts to develop more advanced reasoning capabilities. The move signals increasing competition with major players like Google, as OpenAI aims to create smarter models capable of handling more complex tasks.

CEO Sam Altman revealed that OpenAI plans to launch the o3 mini model by the end of January, with the full o3 model set to follow shortly thereafter. These new models are expected to outperform OpenAI's previous large language models, attracting new users and investment by offering more robust solutions to difficult problems.

Earlier this year, OpenAI released its o1 AI models, designed to spend more time processing queries and tackling challenging problems across fields like science, coding, and mathematics. According to OpenAI, the o1 models have proven to be more capable of reasoning through complex tasks than previous iterations.

The upcoming o3 and o3 mini models, which are currently undergoing internal safety testing, are expected to surpass the capabilities of the o1 models. OpenAI has also opened an application process for external researchers to test the o3 models ahead of their public release, with the application window closing on January 10. The announcement of the o3 models follows OpenAI's successful launch of ChatGPT in November 2022, which helped ignite an AI arms race in the industry. OpenAI's rapid growth and innovative product releases culminated in a \$6.6 billion funding round in October, cementing its place as a leading force in artificial intelligence development. The company's ongoing advancements with the o3 models underscore its ambitions to push the boundaries of what AI can achieve in solving complex, real-world problems.

Ancient Bronze Statues Unearthed from Etruscan Healing Spring in Italy



Archaeologists have uncovered a remarkable collection of bronze statues and sacred artefacts from the hot spring at San Casciano dei Bagni in Italy, a site believed to have been used for ancient rituals. Located about 120 kilometers northwest of Rome, the site has been under excavation since 2019. It is thought to have been a place of sacred practices dating back to the third century B.C., originally used by the Etruscans and later by the Romans for making votive offerings, often in hopes of divine protection or healing.

Among the significant discoveries made during the 2024 excavation are several bronze snake statues, some measuring up to 90 centimetres in length. These statues were found in the deeper layers of the spring, likely symbolising the protection of the sacred waters. The presence of these serpentine figures suggests their role in safeguarding the sanctity of the spring, which was a focal point for rituals and offerings.

Other fascinating finds include a bronze statue of a nude male figure inscribed with the name "Gaius Roscius," as well as a depiction of a child priest holding a ball. The child priest figure is believed to have been associated with divination rituals, further illuminating the spiritual practices of the time.

In addition to the statues, the excavation also revealed exceptionally well-preserved organic remains, such as eggs with visible yolks, pine cones, and various plant matter. According to the Italian Ministry of Culture, these organic materials are believed to have held symbolic meaning related to rebirth and regeneration, common themes in ancient rituals. The preservation of these items can be attributed to the rapid burial of the materials in sediment, which helped protect them over the centuries.

These discoveries provide valuable insights into the religious and cultural practices of the Etruscans and Romans, shedding light on how they sought divine favor and connection through sacred offerings and rituals.

Crystal gazing: Could we essentially preserve our species forever?

In AE van Vogt's 1948 sci-fi short story **The Monster**, an alien race lands on a dead Earth. Before they can colonize the planet, they resurrect a human being to understand what caused the extinction of humankind. While this concept of resurrecting the dead may have seemed purely speculative at the time, it now feels eerily timely in light of recent advancements in science.

This September, researchers at the University of Southampton achieved a major milestone in their decade-long project to preserve human data in a form that could last indefinitely. Led by Peter Kazansky, a professor of optoelectronics, the team inscribed the complete human genome — all three billion base pairs of DNA — onto a tiny, coin-sized memory crystal. This "five-dimensional" crystal is made from fused quartz, one of the most durable materials known to man.

The memory crystal, dubbed the "Superman crystal," was designed to withstand extreme conditions that would destroy any other form of data storage. Using ultra-fast lasers, the team encoded the human genome into self-assembled nanostructured voids within the silica, making it capable of surviving temperatures up to



1,000 degrees Celsius, cosmic radiation, and even impacts with a force of up to 10 tonnes per cm². For context, the great white shark's bite force is about 1.8 tonnes, making the crystal vastly more resilient.

The team's work on the Superman crystal is an extraordinary step in preserving human history and knowledge for future generations — a concept not too dissimilar from van Vogt's

story. While **The Monster** imagines an alien race resurrecting humanity to learn from its mistakes, today's technological achievements may offer a way for future civilizations to safeguard humanity's legacy long after we are gone. This merging of sci-fi imagination and real-world scientific progress hints at a future where human knowledge can outlast even the most catastrophic events.

Lab-Grown Mini Brains Not Only Survived In Space But Grew Healthier



In an astonishing discovery, researchers found that mini human brains, or organoids, not only survived in space but also grew healthier and matured faster than their Earth-bound counterparts. This groundbreaking experiment, conducted in 2019, aimed to understand how microgravity affects brain development, and the results have opened new doors for studying brain disorders.

The researchers had sent small brain organoids to the International Space Station (ISS) to observe how they would respond to the unique conditions of space, including the absence of gravity. The organoids were made from human brain cells and designed to replicate the complex processes that occur in an actual brain. The primary goal of the

experiment was to examine how space conditions might influence the progression of brain diseases, such as Parkinson's disease, and to understand the impacts of microgravity on neuron function.

After a month aboard the ISS, the mini brains returned to Earth, where scientists were stunned by the findings. Not only had the organoids remained healthy despite being exposed to weeks of weightlessness, but they had also matured at an accelerated rate compared to the same organoids grown on Earth. This faster maturation is significant, as it suggests that space conditions might stimulate certain aspects of brain development.

The researchers noted that while the brain organoids grew healthier, they also exhibited changes that were not expected. These unexpected results are leading scientists to reconsider the potential benefits of studying the effects of space on the human brain. The accelerated growth of the organoids may provide insights into how neural development can be enhanced, potentially offering new strategies for treating neurological diseases.

This experiment marks a major step in understanding how microgravity affects the brain and offers promising avenues for future research, particularly in relation to brain health and disorders. As scientists continue to explore the mysteries of space and its effects on the human body, this discovery adds an exciting layer to the field of space biology.

YouTube Cracks Down on Clickbait Titles and Thumbnails

YouTube is taking significant steps to improve the user experience by addressing a major frustration for viewers: clickbait. The platform has announced plans to crackdown on deceptive titles and thumbnails, especially in India, which have long been a source of dissatisfaction. The move targets videos that mislead viewers with exaggerated or false promises, often in the form of sensational headlines that do not align with the actual content.

Clickbait titles and thumbnails are designed to lure viewers by promising something eye-catching or sensational, only for the video to fail to deliver on those expectations. These deceptive practices often exploit curiosity, leading to frustration when the video doesn't meet the viewer's needs.

In a recent blog post, YouTube outlined its intention to combat clickbait by increasing enforcement against misleading titles and thumbnails, partic-



ularly in videos about breaking news or current events. The company stated, "You'll start to see us slowly rolling this out in India over the coming months," highlighting that this initiative will initially focus on new video uploads.

Egregious clickbait refers to instances where a video's title or thumbnail makes bold claims or sensational promises that the content fails to live up to. For example, a thumbnail reading "The President Resigned!" that leads to a video with no mention of the president's resignation, or a title like "Top Political News" that leads to

an irrelevant video. This kind of clickbait is particularly damaging when it involves important or timely information, as viewers seeking credible news can easily be misled.

This change aligns with YouTube's broader goal of improving the trustworthiness of its platform, particularly for news-related content. Inaccurate or misleading videos can have serious consequences when people rely on YouTube for real-time information. By cracking down on clickbait, YouTube seeks to create a more transparent environment for creators and viewers alike.

For content creators, this shift underscores the importance of authenticity and relevance in video production. While some may find the new policies challenging, they also present an opportunity to foster trust and build a loyal audience by delivering genuine, engaging content.



Hardik Pandya to Join Baroda Squad for Vijay Hazare Trophy Knockouts

India all-rounder Hardik Pandya is set to make his return to Baroda's squad for the knockout stages of the Vijay Hazare Trophy, provided the team qualifies. Pandya, who was not part of the squad for the initial rounds of the tournament, will join the team if Baroda advances to the next stage, the Baroda Cricket Association (BCA) confirmed. Kiran More, a member of BCA's Cricket Improvement Committee (CIC), shared the news, stating, "He will play from the knockouts; he has informed us."

Pandya's involvement in the ongoing 50-over domestic tournament is significant as it could impact his chances of selection for next year's Champions Trophy. The Board of Control for Cricket in India (BCCI) and the national selection committee, led by Ajit Agarkar, have emphasized the importance of players participating in domestic competitions unless specifically exempted. Pandya recently represented Baroda in the Syed Mushtaq Ali Trophy (SMAT), where he impressed by scoring 246 runs and taking six wickets, helping his team

reach the semifinals.

At 31 years old, Pandya has not played in a non-T20 match for over 14 months. His last appearance in a 50-over game was during the ODI World Cup on October 19, 2023, against Bangladesh. He sustained an ankle injury in that match, leading to an extended absence. Since then, he has not participated in red-ball cricket. Pandya's return to 50-over cricket is seen as an important step towards regaining full fitness and form.

Kiran More addressed speculation regarding Pandya's focus on T20 cricket, emphasizing that Pandya's commitment to the 50-over format is strong. "He participated in all the SMAT matches, and he will play in the 50-over games too," More said. Baroda, captained by Hardik's brother Krunal Pandya, is currently competing in Group E of the Vijay Hazare Trophy. The knockout rounds are scheduled to begin on January 9 in Baroda, with the final set for January 18.

Indian Hockey Shines in 2024: Olympic Medals, PR Sreejesh's Retirement, and HIL Revival

2024 was a remarkable year for Indian hockey, marked by historic achievements and emotional farewells. The Indian men's hockey team secured back-to-back Olympic medals, a feat not accomplished in over 50 years, with a bronze at the Paris Olympics. This victory solidified the Tokyo Games bronze as no fluke, highlighting the team's consistency. Under the leadership of Harmanpreet Singh, the team proved their mental and tactical strength, especially in thrilling matches like the quarterfinal win over Great Britain, where they played for 43 minutes with 10 men. PR Sreejesh's stellar performance in goal was instrumental throughout, making key saves that propelled India to the semifinals and a second consecutive Olympic podium finish.

PR Sreejesh, who decided to retire after the Paris Games, bid farewell to the sport in style, leaving behind a legacy as one of the greatest goalkeepers in Indian hockey history. His leadership and dedication were crucial in India's successes, and his new role with the junior teams promises to continue his contribution to Indian hockey's future.

Harmanpreet's leadership on the field also earned him the FIH Male Hockey Player of the Year award for the third time, further cementing



his status as a key player in the sport. Alongside him, young Deepika emerged as a rising star for the women's team, showcasing her skills as both a striker and dragflicker.

Another major highlight was the revival of the Hockey India League (HIL) after a seven-year hiatus. The league's return, featuring both men's and women's tournaments, is expected to serve as a major development platform for Indian players. The men's league will be held in Rourkela from December 28, while the women will play in Ranchi from January 12.

While the women's team faced a setback by failing to qualify for Paris 2024, their success in the Asian Champions Trophy, alongside the men's title, brought the year to a hopeful close, ensuring a bright future for Indian hockey.

Dhiraj Bommadevara and Deepika Kumari Win Recurve Titles at Senior Nationals

Olympian archers Dhiraj Bommadevara and Deepika Kumari clinched the men's and women's recurve titles at the Archery Senior National Championship in Jamshedpur on Friday, overcoming tough competition from their opponents.

Representing the Petroleum Sports Promotion Board (PSPB), Deepika, who has faced challenges in her Olympic campaigns, bounced back to secure the women's title. In a thrilling final, she defeated her Paris Games teammate, Ankita Bhakat, with a 6-2 victory. While Ankita, hailing from Jharkhand and representing Kolkata, managed to win the second set as Deepika faltered, the seasoned archer regained her focus and rhythm to close out the match and take the title.

In the men's recurve final, Dheeraj Bommadevara also had a tough contest against rising star Divyansh Chaudhary from Haryana. The young archer held his ground in the first two sets, creating an anxious moment for Dheeraj. However, the experienced Services archer came back strongly, winning the next two sets to clinch the title with a 6-2 victory.

Both athletes displayed exceptional skill and mental resilience, showcasing their experience and determination to triumph under



pressure. Deepika's victory was particularly significant as it marked a strong return after her challenging Olympic campaigns, while Dheeraj's win added another feather to his illustrious career.

These victories not only highlighted the athletes' individual talents but also reaffirmed their positions as key players in India's archery scene, with an eye on future international competitions.

India Set to Host ISSF Junior World Cup for the First Time in 2025

India will host the International Shooting Sport Federation (ISSF) Junior World Cup for the first time in the second half of 2025. The ISSF awarded the hosting rights for this prestigious event, which will feature rifle, pistol, and shotgun competitions, to the National Rifle Association of India (NRAI). This announcement marks another milestone for India in the realm of shooting sports.

India has previously hosted senior-level ISSF events, including the 2023 ISSF World Cup in Bhopal and the season-ending ISSF World Cup Final earlier this year, which have solidified the country's position as one of the leading destinations for international shooting competitions. The Junior World Cup will be the third major ISSF event to take place in India, adding to the nation's growing reputation in the sport.

NRAI President Kalikesh Narayan Singh Deo expressed excitement over the confirmation of the event, which followed a positive outcome from an ISSF executive committee meeting in Rome. Singh Deo noted the appreciation from the ISSF President and member federations for India's excellent track record in hosting top-tier shooting events. He also credited the Government of India and the Ministry of Sports for their ongoing support in the growth of shooting sports in the country.

NRAI Secretary General K. Sultan Singh shared that the ISSF has requested India to propose two possible dates for the event: one in September-October and another at the end of October or early November. The final schedule will be con-



firmed after internal discussions. The ISSF Junior World Cup is expected to attract rising stars of the shooting world, offering an exciting platform for young talent to showcase their skills.

In addition to the Junior World Cup, 2025 will be a busy year for Indian shooting sports, with the inaugural Shooting League of India (SLI) scheduled for the first half of the year, alongside regular national competitions. This series of events is set to provide a significant boost to grassroots shooting in India.

India U-19 Women's T20 Asia Cup Final with Dominant Win Over Sri Lanka

India continued their impressive run in the U-19 Women's T20 Asia Cup by securing a four-wicket victory over Sri Lanka, advancing to the final of the tournament. The win in their final Super Four encounter extended their unbeaten streak, demonstrating their dominance throughout the competition.

Sri Lanka, put into bat after captain Niki Prasad won the toss, struggled to build partnerships against India's potent bowling attack. Aayushi Shukla was the standout performer, delivering a sensational four-wicket haul. The left-arm spinner was brilliant with the ball, conceding just 10 runs in her four overs, as she dismantled the Sri Lankan batting line-up. Shukla's efforts restricted Sri Lanka to a modest total of 98 for 9.

Parunika Sisodia, also a left-arm spinner, provided valuable support with two wickets, contributing to Sri Lanka's downfall. India's bowlers exhibited exceptional control, with only two batters, Sumudu Nisansala (21) and captain Manudi Nanayakkara (33), managing to reach double figures. Despite their efforts, Sri Lanka's total was always well below par, leaving India with a relatively easy target to chase.

In response, India's batters showed resilience, chasing down the target with ease to seal the win. The victory not only secured their place in the final but also showcased



their depth and strength in all departments of the game.

India's comprehensive performance in this match further cements their status as one of the strongest teams in the tournament, with Shukla's brilliant bowling and a well-rounded team effort proving too much for Sri Lanka to handle. The Indian team will now look ahead to the final, where they aim to continue their dominant form and clinch the title.



Tamannaah's Fearsome Naga Sadhu Look Stuns in Latest Poster for Odela 2

As Tamannaah Bhatia gears up for the release of her much-anticipated film *Odela 2*, the excitement surrounding her role in the movie continues to grow. Directed by Ashok Teja, with Sampath Nandi overseeing the project, *Odela 2* is set to be a powerful addition to Tamannaah's already impressive portfolio. Her intense first look as Shiva Shakthi has already generated widespread praise, with many fans and critics eagerly awaiting the release.

To add to the birthday celebrations of the actress, the makers of **Odela 2** have unveiled a striking new poster that is bound to leave viewers in awe. This new image showcases Tamannaah in a gripping Naga Sadhu avatar, a powerful and fearsome look that marks a significant departure from her previous roles. In the poster, she is seen walking with confidence and authority across a chilling sea of skulls, with vultures ominously circling above her. The atmosphere is thick with an air of menace, setting the tone for the intense character she is set to portray.

The Naga Sadhu look, with its intense and mysterious aura, perfectly captures the essence of Tamannaah's role in *Odela 2*. The visual promises a portrayal that is not just physically commanding but emotionally raw, with the actress set to explore a darker, more complex side of her craft. The symbolic imagery of the skulls and vultures hints at the struggles and challenges that Shiva



Shakthi must overcome in the film, drawing audiences in with the promise of a gripping narrative filled with twists and turns.

Fans are eagerly anticipating how Tamannaah will bring this formidable character to life. With the intense visuals and her proven talent, *Odela 2* is shaping up to be a must-watch, and Tamannaah's captivating Naga Sadhu look is already generating buzz as one of the most talked-about aspects of the film.

Pooja Hegde Shares S Final Day of Filming for 2024 on Thalapathy Vijay 69

Pooja Hegde, who is currently busy shooting for the highly anticipated film **Thalapathy Vijay 69** alongside the superstar Vijay, took to her Instagram story to share an exciting update with her fans. In the post, she revealed that it was the "final day of the shot for 2024" for the film, giving fans a glimpse of the final moments of the year's filming schedule.

The Instagram story, posted at 12:20 AM, showed the feet of both lead actors, offering a subtle yet intriguing look into the shoot. Vijay was seen wearing black shoes, while Pooja donned a traditional white dress paired with jutis, a distinct and elegant look that added a touch of cultural charm to the update. Fans were quick to react to the post, with many speculating about the significance of this moment, especially since it was uploaded during the late hours of the night.

The revelation of the "final day of shot for 2024" has left fans buzzing with anticipation, as they now wonder if this marks the absolute end of filming for **Thalapathy Vijay 69** or if the production will continue into 2025 before taking a break for the holiday season. Given that Christmas and New Year's are fast approaching, there is curiosity surrounding the next steps for the film's schedule. While Pooja's post leaves some questions unanswered, it has certainly added to the growing excitement surrounding the film's progress.

As fans eagerly await further updates, the sneak peek has only intensified the anticipation for



Thalapathy Vijay 69. The film has been one of the most talked-about projects of the year, and with this latest update, everyone is eager to see what the next chapter holds for Vijay and Pooja on screen.

UI movie : Upendra's bold satire examines a dystopian philosophy



In films like *A*, *Upendra*, and *Super*, actor-director Upendra became known for using unconventional filmmaking techniques to captivate and entertain audiences. With *UI*, he expands on these earlier templates while weaving in contemporary political and societal issues. In this film, Upendra takes a more action-driven approach, using his unique style to deliver a thought-provoking message.

The plot of *UI* is simple yet poignant: driven by greed and selfishness, humans have ravaged the environment, resulting in a fragmented society. Political and fundamental divisions have torn apart communities, and illusions have clouded the minds of the people, leaving them oblivious to the harsh realities of life. This illusory world gives birth to absurdities, and the cycle of senselessness seems endless.

At its core, *UI* is a political satire that holds a mirror up to society, challenging viewers to confront the consequences of humanity's destructive tendencies. The film critiques how greed and ignorance perpetuate societal fragmentation and environmental

degradation. It highlights the urgent need for a collective awakening in the face of such crises.

Upendra cleverly employs metaphors to convey his social and political philosophy. His bold, unapologetic storytelling mocks the entrenched preferences, beliefs, and behaviors that have come to define society. He uses satire not only to entertain but also to provoke thought, urging viewers to question their own values and societal norms.

The film presents two potential solutions in its climax, inviting the audience to choose between them. This open-ended approach allows viewers to reflect on their own perspectives and engage with the broader social commentary. By doing so, **UI** becomes more than just a film; it is a call for introspection and change.

With **UI**, Upendra once again proves his ability to blend entertainment with meaningful commentary, offering a bold critique of contemporary society and its flaws. His work continues to challenge conventions, inviting audiences to think critically about the world they inhabit.

Unni Mukundan's 'Marco' Set to Dominate Bollywood with Blockbuster Opening

Malayalam film **Marco**, headlined by Unni Mukundan, has taken the Kerala box office by storm, making a remarkable debut as one of the most violent films ever produced in Bollywood. Directed by Haneef Adeni, the film was heavily promoted with its posters, teasers, and a lyrical song all hinting at a blood-soaked narrative, and the makers have delivered on their promise.

On its opening day, **Marco** made an astonishing Rs. 4.5 crore gross at the Kerala box office, a number that far exceeds the usual collections of Malayalam films, which are generally not frontloaded. This impressive opening sets **Marco** apart, as only star-studded films typically rake in such numbers on day one. Actor Unni Mukundan, with this performance, has proven his star power and cemented his position as a force to reckon with in the industry.

The film's reach extended beyond Kerala, performing strongly in international



markets and the rest of India. Worldwide, **Marco** grossed nearly Rs. 10 crore, with the Gulf region emerging as a major contributor to its success. Trade experts believe that the film could have achieved even higher numbers in Kerala had there been more showings available.

On its second day, **Marco** continued its stellar performance across all stations, with weekend projections suggesting even greater success. The film features a talented ensemble cast, including Jagadish, Siddique, Anson Paul, Yukti Thareja, Sreejith Ravi, and Kabir Duhan Singh, who all contribute to the intense, action-packed storyline.

With **Marco** taking the box office by storm and showing signs of a massive hit, it's clear that Unni Mukundan's latest venture is poised to break records and redefine the boundaries of Malayalam cinema, making a significant impact both in India and internationally.

Bunny Conquers Bollywood with Record-Breaking Success of Pushpa 2

Allu Arjun, known as Bunny, is making waves in Bollywood with his blockbuster **Pushpa 2**, which is shattering records and setting new benchmarks in Indian cinema. Traditionally, Bollywood has been dominated by the Khans and Kapoors, but with **Pushpa 2**, Bunny has firmly established his presence in the industry, surpassing major milestones and reaching new heights.

In just 15 days, **Pushpa 2** has raked in an impressive 632.50 crores in the North, making it the highest-grossing film in Bollywood for this year. This remarkable achievement marks a

significant turning point for the film, as it outpaces **Stree 2**, which previously held the record at 627 crores. **Pushpa 2** has not only made a mark in the North but has also become the first film to cross 200 crores in Mumbai alone, a feat that further solidifies its place at the top.

With these record-breaking numbers, Bunny has proven that his appeal extends far beyond the South Indian film industry. **Pushpa 2** has resonated with audiences across the country, reflecting the growing pan-Indian appeal of Southern cinema and showcasing Bunny's star power. This victo-

ry in Bollywood is more than just a commercial achievement—it's a testament to the growing influence of regional films on the national and international stage.

As **Pushpa 2** continues to dominate the box office, Bunny is now regarded as one of the biggest stars in the country, ready to take on any challenge. Bollywood presents. With the success of **Pushpa 2**, it's clear that Bunny has truly conquered Bollywood, marking a new era of cinema where Southern talent and films can hold their ground against the traditional Bollywood powerhouses.

