

Weather Forecast HYDERABAD VIJAYAWADA TIRUPATHI

Attack On Allu Arjun's Home Kids Moved Out Of House

TPN Correspondent Hyderabad, Dec 23

Tensions erupted at actor Allu Arjun's residence this evening after a group of Osmania University JAC students staged a protest, escalating into violence.



Allu Arjun responded to the allegations, calling them baseless and accusing his critics of tarnishing his reputation built over 22 years.

Telangana DGP Jithender addressed the issue, emphasizing the need for responsibility from public figures.

sequent death as tragic incidents, affirming that legal action would be taken while reiterating that the police hold no personal bias against the actor.

"Not His Fault": Purandeswari Backs Allu Arjun

TPN Correspondent Rajahmundry, Dec 23

Andhra Pradesh BJP chief and Rajahmundry MP Daggubati Purandeswari defended actor Allu Arjun amidst the ongoing controversy surrounding the Sandhya Theatre stampede.



arrested while others accused had not been held accountable. Referring to the stampede and the loss of a woman's life as tragic, she recalled Allu Arjun's assurance to support the victim's family and criticized the continued targeting of the actor

by the government. The controversy erupted after CM Revanth Reddy and AIMIM MLA Akbaruddin Owaisi accused Allu Arjun of negligence.

Attempt to Block Amaravati Development... Complaint to World Bank!

- Allegation that land acquisition for capital construction is illegal. Letter alleges that farmers were intimidated and forced to sign. Allegation that people there lost their livelihood. Letter with similar allegations between 2014-19 as well. World Bank inspection panel found those allegations untrue at the time.

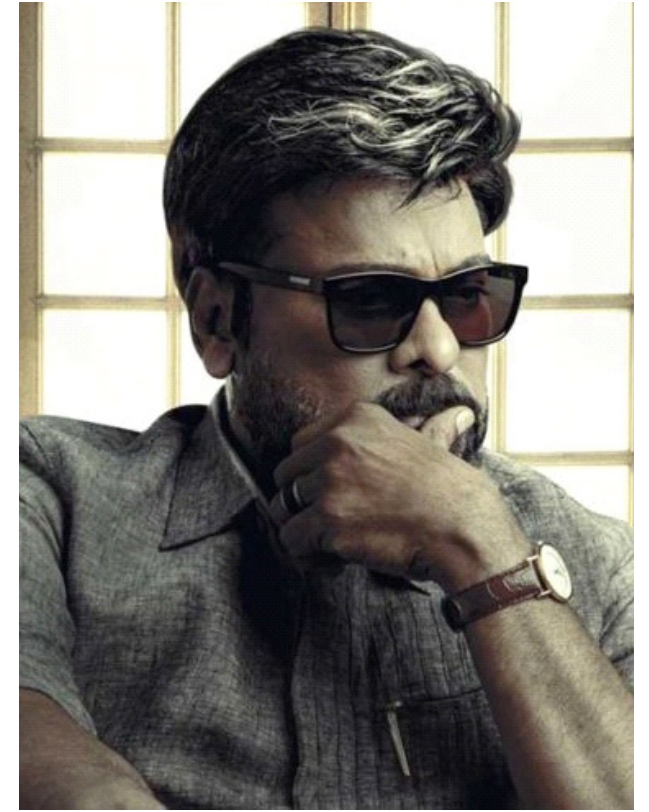
TPN Correspondent Amaravati, Dec 23

As the World Bank and Asian Development Bank (ADB) are jointly providing a loan of Rs. 15,000 crore for the construction of Amaravati, the capital of Andhra Pradesh, unidentified individuals have resurfaced with complaints.



alleges that there were no meaningful discussions with the farmers and that related information was kept confidential. Additionally, it accuses the authorities of paying construction workers from other areas very low wages.

Same Allegations Resurface During Chandrababu Naidu's tenure, similar letters were written regarding Amaravati between 2014 and 2019, attempting to block funding for the project.



Godfather's Entry Imminent Pushpa 2 Controversy Escalates

G Avinash | TPN Hyderabad, Dec 23

The Pushpa 2 stampede incident has spiraled into a major controversy, dragging actor Allu Arjun, his family, and the Congress-led Telangana government into an escalating feud.

Adding to the drama, ACP Vishnu Murthy's controversial statement, "Does Allu Arjun think he is Tees Maar Khan? Does he even have an Aadhaar card in Telangana?" drew criticism for its unprofessional tone.

Nara Devansh Enters World Book of Records for Fastest Checkmate Solver

TPN Correspondent
Amaravati, Dec 23:

Nara Devansh, the nine-year-old grandson of Andhra Pradesh Chief Minister Nara Chandrababu Naidu and son of Minister Nara Lokesh, has earned a prestigious spot in the World Book of Records (London) as the fastest checkmate solver. Devansh solved an impressive 175 puzzles to achieve this milestone.

Expressing pride in his grandson's achievement, Chief Minister Chandrababu Naidu congratulated him on social media, stating, "Well done, Devansh! Congratulations on solving 175 puzzles and setting a world record as the fastest checkmate solver. Your dedication, hard work, and perseverance over the



past few months have paid off. I'm proud of my little grandmaster!" Naidu also shared a video post-

ed by his daughter-in-law Nara Brahmani, showcasing the young prodigy's journey to this remarkable achievement.

Shri Rambabu Vavilapalli, Sr. DCM of Vijayawada Division Honored with Prestigious Ati Vishisth Rail Seva Puraskar



TPN Corespondent
Andhra Pradesh, Dec 23

In a moment of great pride for the Vijayawada Division, Shri Rambabu Vavilapalli, Senior Divisional Commercial Manager (Sr. DCM), was honored with the esteemed Ati Vishisth Rail Seva Puraskar on 21st December 2024. The prestigious award was presented by Shri Ashwini Vaishnav, Union Minister of Railways, Information and Broadcasting, Electronics and IT, at the 69th Railway Week Awards ceremony held at Bharat Mandapam, Pragati Maidan, New Delhi.

Shri Vavilapalli, a native of Kindapeta Village, Burja Mandal, Srikakulam District, joined the Indian Railways Traffic Service (IRTS) in 2012 after clearing the Civil Services Exam in 2011 with an All India Rank of 652. Over the years, Shri Vavilapalli has demonstrated exceptional leadership and dedication in various roles, including Area Officer in Rourkela, Orissa and Tata Nagar, Jharkhand, Divisional Operations Manager in Secunderabad, Senior Divisional Operations Manager in Guntur, and currently serving as Senior Divisional Commercial Manager in Vijayawada.

Shri Vavilapalli was recognized for his exceptional leadership and bravery during the Budameru flash floods that severely impacted train and passenger movements at Rayanapadu and Kondapalli Stations. On 1st September 2024, despite the perilous conditions, he led his commercial team through floodwaters to rescue stranded passengers aboard the Tamil Nadu Express at Rayanapadu. His efficient management of rescue and relief operations ensured the safe evacuation of over 4,100 stranded passengers within 10 hours, with zero casual-

ties.

In addition to this, Shri Vavilapalli played a key role in the Vijayawada Division achieving a significant milestone, surpassing Rs. 5,000 crore in revenue for consecutive years (2022-23 and 2023-24), and recording the highest-ever freight revenue of Rs. 4,000 crore. He also received numerous accolades during his career, including the Principal HOD Award three times, the General Manager Award in 2020, and the ATI Vishishta Rail Seva Puraskar in 2024, the highest national award in Indian Railways.

Shri Vavilapalli is one of six awardees from South Central Railway, comprising three officers and three staff members. This recognition highlights his outstanding contributions and his dedication to the safety and well-being of passengers, as well as his role in driving the commercial success of Vijayawada Division.

Shri Narendra A. Patil, Divisional Railway Manager of Vijayawada Division, congratulated Shri Vavilapalli on his remarkable achievement, praising his tireless efforts during the Budameru flash floods. "This award is a well-deserved recognition of Shri Rambabu's extraordinary dedication in managing the crisis at Vijayawada Division. His leadership ensured passenger safety while maintaining the highest standards of service, even in the face of unprecedented challenges. He has played a pivotal role in enhancing the freight and passenger revenue, setting new benchmarks for the Division," said Shri Patil.

Shri Rambabu Vavilapalli's achievement serves as a testament to the Vijayawada Division's commitment to excellence and the unwavering dedication of its employees in delivering exceptional results, especially in challenging situations.

Efforts to Preserve Historical Monuments

Siddhavattam Fort to Become a Prominent Tourist Destination

TPN Correspondent
YSR District, Dec 23:

State Tourism, Culture, and Cinematography Minister Kandula Durgesh emphasized the importance of preserving historical monuments and announced concrete measures to restore and develop such heritage sites. During his district tour on Sunday, the minister visited the historic Siddhavattam Fort, accompanied by Railway Kodur MLA Aruva Sridhar and tourism officials.

Speaking at the site, Minister Kandula Durgesh highlighted the significance of conserving the state's historical heritage. He inspected the Shiva Temple and Mosque within the Siddhavattam Fort, a magnificent structure built by the Matli kings in the second century. The minister shared plans to enhance the fort and its surroundings with support from Chief Minister Nara Chandrababu Naidu and Deputy Chief Minister Pawan Kalyan.

He revealed ongoing efforts to attract investors through a Public-Private Partnership (PPP) model to develop tourism infrastructure. Plans include transforming Siddhavattam Fort into a hub of activities such as safari rides, boating, and establishing restaurants and circuit tours. The surrounding temples will also be restored and developed, with specific attention to repairing the fort's dilapidated parts. "This initiative will not only preserve our heritage but also create employment opportunities for local residents," the minister stated. He also noted that the Central Government has already supported



eco-tourism development in Gandikota, and similar efforts will be extended to Siddhavattam and other areas to promote eco-tourism, temple tourism, and wellness tourism across the district.

Comprehensive Inspection at Siddhavattam Fort Minister Durgesh personally inspected key sites within Siddhavattam Fort, including the fort walls, main gates, Siddhavattam Swamy Temple, the Nandi idol, ancient sculptures, and Koneru. He also visited the Bismillah Shawali Dargah and Mosque, built during the reign of Tipu Sultan, and offered prayers. Intrigued by the historical significance of the fort, the minister inquired about the tunnel route built into the river, the Chakrayantra's historical background, and other unique features. He expressed his admiration for Siddhavattam's rich history and promised to develop the area into a prominent tourist destination.

MSME Sangamam 2024: A Call for Industrial Growth in AP

TPN Correspondent
Andhra Pradesh, Dec 23:

The "MSME Sangamam 2024" program was held at a private function hall in Vijayawada, bringing together prominent leaders and entrepreneurs to discuss the growth of Micro, Small, and Medium Enterprises (MSMEs) in Andhra Pradesh. The event was presided over by the State General Secretary of Laghu Udyog Bharati, Mr. Tulasi Yogish Chandra, with Mr. Tammireddy Sivashankar, Chairman of the AP MSME Development Corporation, as the Chief Guest.

Addressing the gathering, Mr. Tammireddy Siva Sankara Rao emphasized the importance of establishing new industries and fostering entrepreneurship to drive the state's development. He assured that the government's new industrial policy would create a favorable environment for industries by providing financial security and incentives. Entrepreneurs were encouraged to register on the MSME movement portal to avail themselves of these benefits. He highlighted that unlike in earlier times, when producers struggled with exports, the MSME sector now offers extensive support and information to streamline the process.

Mr. Madala Venkateswara Rao, State President of Laghu Udyog Bharati, spoke about longstanding issues faced by small-scale industries in industrial parks and urged authorities to address these challenges. Echoing this sentiment, Mr. Tulasi Ramachandra Prabhu, Head of the Tu-



lasi Group, pointed out the underutilization of industrial plots allocated by APIC. He called for stricter monitoring to ensure these plots are used effectively, avoiding activities that could harm neighboring industries.

National leaders of Laghu Udyog Bharati, including National Organizing Secretary Shri Prakash Chandra, President Shri Ghan Shyam Ojha, Secretary Shri Om Prakash Gupta, National Joint General Secretary Shri Mohana Sundaram, and National Working Committee Member

Shri Anne Krishna Balaji, shared insights into expanding MSME-friendly policies nationwide. They stressed the need for appropriate permissions and facilities to support the growth of small industries.

The program, presided over by Mr. Tulasi Yogish Chandra, saw participation from key figures, including Mr. Chukkappalli Arun Kumar, President of the AP Footwear Association; Mr. B. Venkatarao, Honorary President of the AP MSME Industries Association; and Mr. Bhaskara Rao,

President of the AP Chamber of Commerce & Industry Federation. Other notable attendees included industrialist Mr. Velagapudi Sambasiva Rao, Aswini Hair Oils Managing Director Mr. Anil Kumar, and BJP AP Official Representative Smt. Yamini Sharma.

The event highlighted the commitment of stakeholders to strengthening the MSME sector, ensuring sustainable development, and addressing pressing challenges faced by entrepreneurs in Andhra Pradesh.

AP TDP President Makes Sensational Comments After Allu Arjun Incident

TPN Correspondent

Andhra Pradesh, Dec 23: In the aftermath of the controversy surrounding *Allu Arjun* and the Sandhya Theatre stampede, *AP TDP President Palla Srinivasa Rao* has made a bold statement regarding the state's stance towards the film industry.

While addressing the media, Palla Srinivasa Rao expressed the party's openness to welcoming the film industry to Andhra Pradesh. He said, "We will welcome the film industry if it decides to set up operations in AP. Our state has a rich potential for film production, with many beautiful shooting locations."

He further added, *Deputy Chief Minister Pawan Kalyan* had also expressed support for the idea, stating that it would be beneficial for the state if the film industry considered setting up its base in AP. Palla Srinivasa Rao highlighted that Andhra Pradesh offers a variety of picturesque locations that could be ideal for film shoots,



making it an attractive destination for filmmakers.

These comments come at a time when tensions in the film industry are at a high due to recent events involving Allu Arjun. However, Palla Srinivasa Rao's statement indicates a continued push by political leaders to promote AP as a key player in the film industry.

Police Serve Notices to Perni Nani in Ration Rice Scandal Case

TPN Correspondent

Andhra Pradesh, Dec 23 : The police have issued notices to former minister and senior YSRCP leader, Perni Nani, in connection with the ongoing investigation into the disappearance of ration rice from the JS Godown. Authorities have instructed Nani and his son, Perni Kittu, both named as accused in the case, to appear at the station by 2 PM today for further questioning.

On Sunday morning, the police went to Nani's residence to serve the notice. However, as no one was present at the house, the notices were affixed to the door. The police have requested the accused to provide all relevant records and disclose the truth regarding the incident. Along with Perni Nani, his wife Jayasudha and her personal secretary Manasa Teja have also been named as accused in the case. Manasa Teja,



referred to as A2 in the charge sheet, is currently absconding, and the police are actively searching for her. In relation to the missing ration rice from the JS Godown, police have emphasized that they will hold everyone accountable under the law. The investigation into this matter is being accelerated, and authorities are determined to ensure justice is served.

Chandrababu Cuts Back on Security, Introduces Drones for Protection

TPN Correspondent

Andhra Pradesh, Dec 23: Andhra Pradesh Chief Minister N. Chandrababu Naidu has made significant changes to his security setup, opting for a more streamlined approach. Despite holding a Z+ security category, Naidu has reportedly reduced the number of personnel assigned to protect him. As of now, only 121 security staff are assigned to Naidu, a substantial decrease compared to the 1,000-strong security detail provided during the tenure of the previous Chief Minister, Y.S. Jagan Mohan Reddy. Sources suggest that this reduction is part of Naidu's effort to trim down the security-related expenses. For comparison, Jagan's convoy used to have 17 vehicles, whereas Naidu's convoy now consists of only 11 vehicles. This reduction is said to be a conscious decision by Naidu to scale down his security footprint.

In a notable shift, drones have been incorporated into Naidu's security arrangements. Naidu himself suggested the use of modern technology to enhance his



protection, leading to the deployment of drones in his security cover. The drones take off every two hours to monitor the surroundings, recording video footage, and alerting the monitoring team in case of any irregularities. Once their flight is complete, the drones automatically return to their base for recharging.

Naidu has also been limiting the number of security personnel during his district tours. Both he and his son, N. Lokesh,

have expressed their preference for minimal security, instructing their teams not to create unnecessary disruptions during their travels. Recently, during his visit to Polavaram, Naidu mentioned that he did not want excessive security detail and also requested that traffic not be blocked for long periods during his travels, allowing for only brief stoppages when he approached certain areas.

These changes reflect Naidu's efforts to maintain a more efficient and technology-driven approach to his security while minimizing disruption.

Tension in TDP Over Alla Nani's Potential Shift; Key Leader Set to Join YSRCP?



TPN Correspondent

Andhra Pradesh, Dec 23: Allaka Nani, a prominent political figure in the Eluru constituency, is at the center of a major political storm as speculations rise about his potential shift to the Telugu Desam Party (TDP). Nani, whose political journey began with the Congress party and later transitioned to the YSR Congress Party (YSRCP), has made significant marks in Andhra Pradesh politics over the years. After serving as a minister in the YSRCP government, Nani lost the recent elections, leading him to announce his temporary exit from active politics. However, in a surprising turn of events, he recently expressed his readiness to join TDP. The TDP leadership has reportedly given a green signal to Nani's induction into the party, but the process has been delayed multiple times. Local TDP leaders, especially in Eluru, have strongly opposed Nani's inclusion, citing his past actions during the YSRCP government, where he allegedly caused significant trouble for TDP leaders and workers. The opposition from within the party has intensified, with some TDP leaders questioning the party's decision to welcome such

a figure back into the fold. Eluru TDP MLA, Badeti Radhakrishna, has also voiced his objections to Nani's potential induction, fueling further discord. If Nani does join TDP, it is believed that key local leaders, including former Eluru Municipal Chairman Eswari Balam, might distance themselves from the party. Eswari and her husband, Balam, were significant figures in the YSRCP during its rule and had joined TDP after being denied a continuation of their position in the YSRCP. Reports suggest that their anger toward Nani's return to TDP is causing friction within the party. Additionally, rumors suggest that the Balam couple may be planning to rejoin YSRCP, as they share close ties with Kotagiri Sridhar, a prominent figure in the YSRCP's Eluru district politics. The ongoing political drama surrounding Nani's move could lead to further upheaval within the TDP ranks and intensify the rivalry between key local leaders.

As Allaka Nani's future in TDP remains uncertain, the political landscape in Eluru is bracing for significant developments, which may reshape the region's dynamics in the near future.

Sharmila and Jagan: A Cold Rift on Personal and Legal Fronts

TPN Correspondent

Andhra Pradesh, Dec 23 - The once-strong bond between *Jagan Mohan Reddy* and his sister *YS Sharmila* has now crumbled, as personal and legal disputes between them escalate. Their ongoing battle over property distribution has reached a peak, with both parties taking legal steps against each other.



*December 21, Jagan celebrated his birthday without any acknowledgment from Sharmila. Likewise, Jagan failed to wish Sharmila on her birthday, **December 17*, just a few days earlier.

What once was a close and supportive brother-sister relationship has now deteriorated into a public and bitter fallout, marking a significant shift in the dynamics of the influential *YS family*. The absence of any birthday wishes between the two is a stark reminder of how deep the rift has become.

Sharmila claims that she is being denied her rightful share of the family property, while Jagan has gone to the tribunal to reclaim assets he had previously given her,

arguing that her political opposition is the cause of the rift.

Adding to the tension, both siblings have ignored each other even during their recent birthdays. On

CPI Leader Narayana Criticizes Ticket Price Hike for Film Promoting Smuggling

TPN Correspondent

Andhra Pradesh, Dec 23 - CPI leader *Narayana* expressed his deep sorrow over the tragic stampede incident that occurred during the benefit show of Pushpa at Sandhya Theater. He extended his condolences to the family of *Revathi*, who tragically lost her life, and wished for the speedy recovery of her son *Sreetej*, who is critically injured.

In his video statement, Narayana raised concerns over the government's decision

to allow ticket price hikes for the film, questioning the societal value of Pushpa. He criticized the film for allegedly promoting the smuggling of red sandalwood, asking, "Is the movie encouraging the illegal trade of red sandalwood? Along with glorifying smuggling, it also features obscene songs. Why should the government support such content by increasing ticket prices?"

Narayana also expressed his support for the police officers handling the incident

and emphasized the need for strict government action to prevent such tragedies in the future. He called on the film industry, artists, and political leaders to collaborate and implement measures to ensure the safety of the public at such events.

Additionally, Narayana urged the government to provide full support to the victim's family and announced that the CPI would offer assistance to the affected family in the coming days.



South India Kids Tennis Championship Held in Memory of Singamsetti Sri Rama Moorti



TPN Correspondent Vijayawada, Dec 23

The South India Kids Tennis Championship, organized in memory of Singamsetti Sri Rama Moorti, concluded on a spirited note, with young talents showcasing their skills from morning to evening. The event saw enthusiastic participation from children across the state, supported by their parents who actively cheered for their kids' dreams. The championship was graced by East Vijayawada MLA Gadde Rammohan, who praised the efforts of CA Singamsetti Moorti for honoring his late father through such a meaningful initiative. He commended veteran coach Durga Prasad, who, despite being over 70 years of age, continues to dedicate himself to nurturing the future generation in



sports. The event also witnessed the presence of CI Mutyala Naidu and was conducted under the guidance of Durga Kumar. Prizes were distributed to the winners and participants, encouraging them to strive for excellence in the field of sports. Parents expressed their joy and pride at seeing their children compete on such a significant platform. The event not only highlighted the importance of sportsmanship but also brought together families, fostering a sense of community and shared achievement. The championship ended on a high note, leaving an indelible mark on the young participants and furthering the vision of promoting sports among children in South India.

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Bhavani Diksha Terminations Reach Day 2 in Vijayawada; Home Minister Vangalapudi Anita Visits Indrakeeladri Temple



TPN , Vijayawada : The Bhavani Diksha terminations reached their second day in Vijayawada, with a significant turnout of devotees visiting the Indrakeeladri temple. On the first day, a staggering 41,000 devotees received the darshan of Goddess Bhavani, marking the commencement of this religious event. Home Minister Vangalapudi Anita also visited the Indrakeeladri temple to seek the blessings of Goddess Bhavani. Upon her arrival, temple authorities greeted her with traditional temple hospitality and respect, following all the customs and rituals. After offering prayers to the goddess, Home Minister Anita received blessings from the Vedic scholars who performed the Vedic Ashirvach-

nam (blessings) for her. Following the prayers, the temple Executive Officer (EO) presented her with the sacred Laddu Prasadam and an image of the goddess as a token of the divine blessings. The Home Minister also took the time to inquire about the arrangements for the Bhavani Diksha terminations, ensuring that all the necessary facilities and procedures were in place for the smooth continuation of the event. The Bhavani Diksha, a traditional ritual followed by thousands of devotees, continues to draw large crowds, with the ongoing event offering an important opportunity for spiritual devotion and blessings from the revered Goddess Bhavani.

Vijayawada Municipal Commissioner Directs Efficient Management of Bhavani Deeksha and Facilities



TPN , Vijayawada : In an effort to streamline the management of Bhavani Deeksha, Vijayawada Municipal Commissioner, Mr. Dhyanaachandra, issued important directives during his inspection of various locations associated with the ongoing religious event. The commissioner emphasized the need for efficient cleaning and management processes to ensure the smooth flow of the event. As part of his visit, Mr. Dhyanaachandra toured significant spots including Vinayakudu Kuni, Sita Amma Padas, Krishna Veni Ghat, Keshakhanda Nashaala, Control Room, Babburi Grounds, Punami Ghat, Kummari Palem Center, and the Giri Pradakshina area. His on-ground inspection focused on the quality of drinking water supply, availability of bathwater, sanitation facilities, and the overall cleanliness of these areas, ensuring everything was in order for the thousands of devotees attending the event. Noting the large crowds of devotees, the commissioner stressed the need for all staff to remain alert, ensuring that there was a continuous supply of drinking water and that stock was replenished as needed. He also emphasized the importance of maintaining cleanliness in the Giri Pradakshina area, directing the engineering staff to clear even small stones to keep the path clean. Additionally, he recommended increasing the number of mobile toilets along the Pradakshina route for the convenience of the devotees. Regarding the Bhavani Deeksha rituals, Mr. Dhyanaachandra instructed the authorities to promptly remove any discarded clothing left behind by the devotees, and ensure its management through conveyor belts. He also asked officials to remain vigilant and supervise the staff accordingly. The commissioner highlighted that free stands for devotees' belongings, including shoes, had been set up, and no charges would be collected from the devotees. He instructed the staff to announce this clearly through public announcements for better awareness among the devotees. The visit was attended by Additional Commissioner (Projects) Mr. Chandrashekar, Chief Engineer Mr. R. Srinath, In-charge Chief Medical Health Officer Dr. Suresh Babu, and Superintendent Engineer Mr. P. Satyanarayana. The team collectively ensured that all facilities were prepared to accommodate the devotees with the utmost care and safety during the ongoing Bhavani Deeksha.

TDP Leader Budda Venkanna Criticizes Perni Nani, Demands Stringent Action

TPN , Amaravati : TDP leader Budda Venkanna launched a scathing attack on former minister Perni Nani, accusing him of embezzling public resources and demanding stringent action against him. Speaking to the media, Venkanna alleged that Perni Nani had misused his position to engage in illegal activities, including the theft and sale of government-supplied rice meant for the poor. Venkanna criticized Nani for his actions, claiming that he had sold 187 metric tons of rice, intended for the impoverished, and called for severe punishment. He accused the former minister of exploiting his position for personal gain and alleged that he was involved in the diversion of essential resources during the pandemic, sending rice meant for the public to foreign countries like Africa. Venkanna questioned how Perni Nani, who had served as an MLA and state minister, could amass such wealth, emphasizing that the government had spent substantial amounts to feed the poor while individuals like Nani had exploited the system. He demanded a thorough investigation into Nani's financial dealings, including his assets from 2019 to 2024, and urged the Income Tax Department to examine his sources of income, especially the payment of ₹1.7 crore, which he claimed was suspicious. Furthermore, Venkanna criticized the YSR Congress Party (YSRCP) government for allegedly shielding corrupt individuals like Perni Nani. He also pointed out the involvement of other political figures, such as Kodali Nani and Dwarampudi Chandrashekar Reddy, in similar corrupt activities, accusing them of hijacking public resources for personal gain. Venkanna insisted that the matter should be fast-tracked through a special court, similar to the swift justice delivered in the Dis-



ha case. He urged TDP Chief N. Chandrababu Naidu to ensure that Perni Nani faced the consequences of his actions, with a dedicated judicial process to bring him to justice. The TDP leader demanded that swift legal action be taken against those involved in such crimes, stating that they should not escape punishment. He concluded by calling for a special court to investigate the allegations against Perni Nani and his associates and ensure a fair trial for the public's benefit.

Ministers Gotti Pati Ravi Kumar and D.B.V. Swamy Focus on Earthquake Activity in Prakasam District

TPN , Amaravati : Ministers Gotti Pati Ravi Kumar and D.B.V. Swamy have directed their attention to the series of earthquakes in Prakasam district. The ministers, who are representing the Darsi constituency, held discussions with the district collector regarding the recent seismic activity in the region. During their meeting, the ministers instructed the collector to work with the Disaster Management team to determine the reasons behind the frequent tremors in the area. They emphasized the need for an in-depth investigation into the causes of these earthquakes, and if necessary, suggested consulting scientists from the National Geophysical Research Institute (NGRI) for further insights. The ministers have also requested a detailed report on the situation and assured the public not to panic. They urged residents to remain calm and assured them that appropriate measures would be taken to address the issue.

NTR District Police Conduct Extensive Checks on Helmet Usage and Pending Traffic Challans



TPN . Vijayawada : In an effort to promote road safety and ensure adherence to traffic regulations, the NTR District Police have been conducting widespread checks across the city. Under the direction of City Police Commissioner, Mr. S.V. Raj Shekhar Babu, IPS, the police have focused on raising awareness about helmet usage and addressing pending traffic challans. The special drive aims to ensure safe and accident-free travel, prevent road mishaps, and regulate traffic congestion. The initiative also seeks to educate vehicle owners on the importance of wearing helmets and encourage the timely payment of outstanding fines. During these checks, motorists without helmets were informed about the benefits of wearing helmets. Police officers also advised individuals to pay their pending fines immediately, not-

ing that fines can now be paid directly through their phones. Furthermore, the police clarified that failure to wear helmets would result in fines, and vehicles would be seized if necessary. As part of the special drive, 493 individuals without helmets paid a total of ₹1,82,055 in fines. Motorists were reminded that pending challans could be paid online through the link: <https://echallan.parivahan.gov.in/index/accused-challan>, and message alerts with the payment link were sent to those with outstanding fines. Additionally, help desks have been set up at all police stations to assist with the payment process. The police have warned that failure to clear pending fines within 90 days would result in vehicle seizures. In a final call to action, Mr. S.V. Raj Shekhar Babu, IPS, urged all two-wheeler riders to wear helmets and requested that all motorists cooperate with the police by following road safety regulations.





Minister Ponnam Prabhakar Fires at TDP President Palla Srinivasa Rao, BJP MP Purandeshwari

TPN Correspondent
Telangana, Dec 23

Tensions escalated in the political arena as Minister Ponnam Prabhakar* launched a sharp attack on TDP President Palla Srinivasa Rao* and BJP MP Purandeshwari*. In a recent media interaction, Ponnam Prabhakar questioned the relevance of their statements regarding Andhra Pradesh, urging them to first address the conflicts within their own parties before commenting on state issues.

Addressing Palla Srinivasa Rao*, who had previously commented on the film industry and Andhra Pradesh's potential to host it, Ponnam Prabhakar said, "First, look at the conflicts between you and Pawan Kalyan within your own party. Once those issues are resolved,



then you should speak about other matters."

He also had strong words for BJP MP Purandeshwari*, advising her to focus on resolving the challenges in her own state before commenting

on Andhra Pradesh's affairs. Ponnam Prabhakar's remarks reflect the growing tensions between political figures in the state as they continue to criticize each other amidst ongoing debates over development and state issues.

Nara Bhuvaneshwari: "I Came to Kuppam as a TDP Worker, Not as the CM's Wife"



TPN Correspondent
Kuppam, Dec 23

Nara Bhuvaneshwari, wife of Andhra Pradesh Chief Minister N. Chandrababu Naidu, has emphasized that her visit to Kuppam is not as the CM's wife, but as a dedicated worker of the Telugu Desam Party (TDP). She made these remarks during her four-day tour of the Kuppam constituency, which is being closely monitored due to its significance in the party's political landscape. Bhuvaneshwari, speaking at various meetings, expressed her satisfaction at the end of the "five years of tyrannical rule" under the previous government, stating that the TDP-led alliance had successfully put a stop to the hardships faced by the people of the region. She affirmed that she would continue her visits to Kuppam every three months to oversee development projects firsthand. During her visit, Bhuvaneshwari participated in a public meeting with women in Chaldiganipalli, Ramakuppam mandal, and later attended a water plant rejuvenation event at V. Kota under the Heritage initiative. Highlighting the development plans, she emphasized that Chief Minister Chandrababu Naidu had introduced

over 40 schemes for the upliftment of Kuppam, ensuring every village gets roads, drainage, homes, and employment opportunities. She also promised that the migration problem would be addressed with new industries like food processing plants creating local jobs. Bhuvaneshwari also touched on the vital role of women in society, encouraging them to step forward without fear and to make strides towards empowerment. She shared personal anecdotes, including how women supported her during her husband's wrongful imprisonment, and urged them to continue striving for success. The visit also witnessed a warm reception from TDP women workers, who wore yellow saris and yellow-colored glasses with "Jai Telugu Desam" written on them, adding a special touch to the event. Bhuvaneshwari warmly interacted with the women, accepting their gifts of yellow saris and turmeric kunkum, marking another gesture of solidarity and support. As Bhuvaneshwari's visit concludes, it is clear that her active participation in Kuppam's development and her focus on women's empowerment will continue to be central to her political outreach in the region.

Close Call at Visakhapatnam Railway Station as Train Drags High-Tension Power Wires, Narrowly Avoiding Major Accident

TPN Correspondent
Visakhapatnam, Dec 23

A major accident was narrowly avoided at the Visakhapatnam Railway Station early this morning when a train inadvertently dragged high-tension power wires while changing engines. The incident, which could have led to a catastrophic mishap, was averted thanks to the quick response of railway staff.

According to railway officials, the train (22606), traveling from Tirunelveli in Tamil Nadu to Purnia in West Bengal, arrived at Visakhapatnam station at around 5:20 AM. During the engine changeover to head towards Kolkata, the detached engine moved forward and accidentally dragged the overhead high-tension power wires for a short distance.

Quickly noticing the situation, the alert railway staff immediately cut off the power supply to prevent any electrical hazards. Had the power not been cut in time, the incident could have resulted in a major accident. The disruption led to a temporary halt in train services, but with swift action from the team, the electricity was restored, and train operations resumed shortly thereafter.



Andhra Pradesh Handloom Exhibition 2024 Showcases Rich Cultural Heritage

TPN Correspondent
Andhra Pradesh, Dec 23

A six-day Handloom Exhibition 2024, organized by the Handloom and Textile Department of the Andhra Pradesh Government, was inaugurated at the Sri Satyasai Nigamagama in Srinagar Colony on Sunday evening. The event was officially opened by K. Sunitha, Chief Secretary of the Andhra Pradesh Government, alongside Rekha Rani, Commissioner of Handloom and Textiles, Andhra Pradesh.

In her inaugural address, K. Sunitha emphasized the rich cultural heritage of Andhra Pradesh's handloom industry, which has been flourishing for generations. She pointed out that the state is home to 1,77,447 handloom weavers and highlighted the recognition of 35 different handloom products from the state as "One District One Product" (ODOP). Products such as Uppada Jamdani, Mangalgiri, Venkatagiri, and Dharmavaram silk sarees and pavadas have also received Geographical Indication (GI) recognition, reflecting the region's cultural and artistic traditions. Sunitha further noted that the Indian government has been implementing various schemes for the welfare of handloom workers. Rekha Rani, the Commissioner of Handloom and Textiles, Andhra Pradesh, shared that the state government collaborates with several institutions in the handloom and textile sector to support and promote the industry. She highlighted the variety of renowned handloom products showcased at the exhibition, which will be open until December 27. The exhibition features Ponduru Khadi & Shirting, Vizianagaram lungis, bed sheets, Anakapalli silk, Konaseema cotton, Uppada Jamdani, Eluru carpets, Pedana Kalamkari, Bandaru, Mangalgiri, Venkatagiri cotton & silk, Srikalahasthi pen Kalamkari, Dharmavaram, Kodumur Gadwal, Uravakonda silk, Kuppadam sarees, and a wide array of dress materials.

Weakening Low-Pressure Area in Bay of Bengal: Heavy Rains Expected in AP Coastal Areas

TPN Correspondent
Andhra Pradesh, Dec 23

The low-pressure area that formed over the Bay of Bengal has weakened, according to the latest update from the Indian Meteorological Department (IMD). However, the department has predicted that intermittent rains will continue over parts of North Andhra Pradesh and the coastal districts of Andhra Pradesh today and tomorrow. The low-pressure system was initially formed in the southwestern-central part of the Bay of Bengal, moving towards the northwest. As of 11:30 PM on Saturday, it was located approximately 430 km south-southeast of Visakhapatnam, 490 km southeast of Chennai, and 580 km east-northeast of Gopalpur in Odisha. The IMD has forecast that the system will continue to weaken and shift to-

wards the northeast. However, another surface circulation has formed, extending up to a height of 5.8 km above sea level. This system is expected to move northward, and favorable atmospheric conditions are expected to trigger a new depression in the western-central Bay of Bengal. As a result, moderate to heavy rainfall is expected across the entire state of Andhra Pradesh, with the possibility of exceeding rainfall estimates in several regions. The forecast includes moderate to heavy rainfall in northern Andhra Pradesh, coastal areas, southern coastal regions, and Rayalaseema. Localized thunderstorms and lightning are also possible. Areas such as Srikakulam, Vizianagaram, and Parvathipuram Manyam districts in northern Andhra Pradesh are likely to experience light to moderate rainfall. Meanwhile, light

showers are expected in Alluri Sitarama Raju, Visakhapatnam, Anakapalli, Kakinada, Ambedkar Konaseema, East Godavari, and West Godavari districts. Other regions such as Eluru, Nellore, Kurnool, Nandyal, Anantapur, Puttaparthi, Kadapa, Annamayya Rayachoti, Chittoor, and Tirupati may experience light rainfall in isolated areas. The IMD has warned that strong winds with speeds of 45 to 55 km/h will blow along the coastal areas until the morning of December 23, and these winds may increase to 65 km/h. The department has advised fishermen to avoid going out to sea during this period as the coastal regions will remain turbulent. Overall, the system may bring some relief to drought-prone areas with expected rains, though coastal communities are urged to stay alert due to possible rough sea conditions.





Strengthening Ties: PM Modi's Visit to Kuwait Marks a New Chapter in India-Kuwait Relations



Prime Minister Narendra Modi's visit to Kuwait highlights the growing bond between India and Kuwait, built on a foundation of trust, resilience, and mutual prosperity. The visit underscores India's emergence as a responsible global power, one that not only safeguards its citizens abroad but also seeks to deepen economic and strategic ties with its partners.

It took 43 years for an Indian prime minister to visit Kuwait, a delay largely driven by Kuwait's internal politics and the power struggles that hindered clarity in foreign relations. Additionally, during the early 1990s, the relationship was strained due to India's perceived alignment with Iraq, but those tensions have long since dissipated.

Today, trade between India and Kuwait flourishes, reaching a value of \$10.47 billion, with Indian exports contributing around \$2 billion. However, numbers alone don't tell the complete story of this evolving relationship. A poignant moment during Modi's visit was his visit to an Indian labor camp, a gesture made

even more significant in the wake of the tragic fire in June that claimed 45 Indian lives. This incident underscored the vulnerability of Indian expatriates, prompting India to focus on improving their welfare as it rises on the global stage.

The economic ties between the two countries have deep historical roots. Until 1960, the Indian Rupee was legal tender in Kuwait, a testament to the longstanding commercial relationship. Today, in an age of digital transformation, India's Unified Payments Interface (UPI) stands as a symbol of the next phase in their collaboration. With Kuwait looking to modernize its financial infrastructure, India's technological advances provide a perfect fit for the country's aspirations.

Prime Minister Modi's visit symbolizes a new chapter in India-Kuwait relations, one rooted in mutual respect and aimed at creating a brighter future through enhanced trade, technology, and the welfare of Indian expatriates in the Gulf.

Starlink: A Growing Controversy in India's Satellite Communications Landscape

Starlink, the satellite internet service owned by Elon Musk's SpaceX, has sparked global debate, especially in India, where it has been at the center of national security and regulatory concerns. Recently, Indian security forces seized one of Starlink's devices in the strife-torn region of Manipur, marking the second such incident in a few weeks. Earlier, a Starlink device was discovered during a maritime drug bust. Reacting to a user's post on X accusing Starlink of aiding terrorists, Musk denied any involvement, stating that Starlink's satellite internet services are not operational in India.

This incident highlights the growing tensions surrounding Starlink's role in India. From its significant role in the Russia-Ukraine conflict to its bid to enter India's satellite communication market, the company has raised concerns about national security, regulatory frameworks, and its geopolitical implications.

Starlink is the world's largest satellite constellation, using Low Earth Orbit (LEO) satellites to offer broadband internet. Unlike traditional satellite systems that rely on Geostationary Orbit (GEO) satellites, which have high latency and limited coverage, Starlink's LEO satellites orbit much closer to Earth—around 550 km—offering significantly lower latency of about 25 milliseconds. This setup supports high-bandwidth activities like streaming, online gaming, and video calls.

Starlink has already launched services in 100 countries and plans to expand, including to Sierra Leone in Africa in June 2024. Despite being operational in numerous nations, Starlink has yet to obtain a license to operate in India. Its entry into the Indian market has been delayed due to regulatory hurdles. One major issue is spectrum allocation for satellite communications, which the Indian government decided to administer rather than auction. While Musk expressed support for this move, it put him at odds with prominent Indian billionaires like



Mukesh Ambani and Sunil Bharti Mittal, who advocated for an auction process similar to what telecom companies undergo.

Starlink's entry into the Indian market also raises security concerns due to its ties with US intelligence and military agencies. Critics argue that Starlink could be leveraged for dual-use purposes, posing a potential risk to national security. The think tank Kutniti Foundation, for example, labeled Starlink a "wolf in sheep's clothing," citing its possible use for espionage. Moreover, Starlink's role in the ongoing Russia-Ukraine war, where it has provided crucial communication services to Ukraine, has further fueled concerns. Reports suggest that even Russian troops have used Starlink terminals in occupied Ukrainian territories, raising alarms over the company's broader geopolitical influence.

Despite the controversies, Starlink remains a significant player in the global satellite communications space. As India weighs its options, it faces a complex balancing act between embracing cutting-edge technology and safeguarding national security interests.

India-Pakistan Cricket: Neutral Venues Amidst Growing Tensions



India's refusal to play Pakistan on its home turf, as seen during the Asia Cup last year, continues to dominate the cricketing landscape. This year, the Pakistan Cricket Board (PCB) and the Board of Control for Cricket in India (BCCI) were at odds over the venue for their upcoming encounters. Initially, the PCB rejected the hybrid model proposed by India, which suggested playing matches between the two countries at a neutral venue while allowing other teams to play in Pakistan. However, after extended discussions, the PCB conceded, and a compromise was reached.

The International Cricket Council (ICC) intervened, announcing that all India-Pakistan matches during the 2024-2027 rights cycle would be held at neutral venues. This agreement applies to the highly anticipated 2025 Champions Trophy, further intensifying the debate surrounding the political and logistical challenges of hosting such high-profile games. The decision has been met with mixed reactions, especially from Pakistan, which views this as a missed opportunity to showcase its capabilities as a host nation.

The tensions between India and Pakistan in cricket are not new. Their encounters have often been marred by the political dynamics between the two countries. Both teams have historically played each other in ICC events, but the idea of hosting a bilateral series has remained

contentious due to the political climate. India's stance of not playing in Pakistan stems from security concerns, particularly after the 2008 Mumbai attacks, which were attributed to Pakistani militants. Despite this, the rivalry between the two teams remains one of the most intense and eagerly anticipated in world cricket.

The hybrid model, which involves playing some games at neutral venues, has become a solution that allows both countries to participate in international tournaments while addressing security concerns. However, the decision has sparked controversy, with critics arguing that it undermines the spirit of competition by denying Pakistan the opportunity to host India on home soil. Supporters of the neutral venue model, on the other hand, emphasize the importance of ensuring the safety of players and fans and maintaining a level playing field.

The 2025 Champions Trophy, set to feature India and Pakistan, will be a key moment in the evolving relationship between the two cricketing nations. The shift to neutral venues has altered the traditional dynamics of their encounters, raising questions about the future of India-Pakistan cricket in an increasingly polarized world. As these two cricketing giants prepare for another chapter in their storied rivalry, the off-field politics will likely continue to overshadow the on-field action.

Theyyam: The Divine Transformation of the Human Spirit



Theyyam, a mesmerizing folk ritual from northern Kerala, offers a profound insight into the human connection with the divine. This sacred dance form, rich in symbolism and tradition, transforms the performer from an ordinary mortal into a vessel of divine energy, blurring the lines between human and god.

In the heart of Theyyam, the performer is believed to be possessed by a deity or spirit, stepping into a space where the human self fades away and divine power takes over. The intricate dance, combined with vibrant costumes, face painting, and elaborate rituals, creates an atmosphere that is both spiritual and dramatic. During the performance, the artist embodies the deity they represent, offering blessings, guidance, and wisdom to the devotees watching.

What makes Theyyam truly unique is the psychology behind this transformation. For a fleeting moment, the performer transcends their earthly struggles and limitations, becoming an incarnation of a god, capable of providing divine wisdom and blessings.

The transformation highlights the interplay between human frailty and divine strength. It serves as a poignant reminder that, despite our human vulnerabilities, there is an inherent connection to something greater than ourselves.

The powerful connection that the Theyyam performer shares with the divine offers more than just a visual spectacle; it provides a sense of hope and spiritual renewal for those who witness it. Devotees often approach the performer for blessings or guidance, and the ritual is believed to bring healing, resolution, and protection from life's struggles.

At its core, Theyyam is a sacred expression of faith, resilience, and transformation. It encapsulates the idea that, for a brief moment, a human being can embody divine power and wisdom, offering a powerful glimpse into the eternal struggle between the mortal and the divine. Through this captivating ritual, they become a symbol of strength, offering solace and blessings to all who seek it.

PM Modi Receives Kuwait's Highest Honour: 'The Order of Mubarak Al Kabeer'

TPN CORRESPONDENT KUWAIT
DECEMBER.23

PM Narendra Modi Receives Kuwait's Highest Honour: 'The Order of Mubarak Al Kabeer'

Prime Minister Narendra Modi was awarded Kuwait's prestigious honour, 'The Order of Mubarak Al Kabeer', today, marking another significant milestone in his international recognition. This award is the 20th international honour bestowed upon PM Modi, underscoring his growing influence on the global stage.

The 'Order of Mubarak Al Kabeer' is Kuwait's highest distinction, traditionally awarded to heads of state, foreign sovereigns, and members of royal families as a token of friendship and diplomatic relations. This honour is a symbol of the strong ties between India and Kuwait, reflecting the respect and admiration Modi has garnered worldwide.

Previous recipients of the award include prominent figures such as former U.S. Presidents Bill Clinton and George Bush, and Prince Charles of the United Kingdom, highlighting the significance of this recognition. The award not only acknowledges the recipient's contributions but also strengthens the diplomatic and bilateral relationships between nations.

PM Modi's receipt of this esteemed award is a testament to India's growing influence in international affairs, particularly under his leadership. Over the years, PM Modi has significantly enhanced India's diplomatic outreach, securing numerous accolades from



around the world for his efforts in improving global relations, fostering economic partnerships, and promoting peace.

The presentation of the 'Order of Mubarak Al Kabeer' adds to a series of honours PM Modi has received during his tenure, reflecting the trust and respect the international community has in his leadership. The award also serves as a reaffirmation of the deep ties between India and Kuwait, which continue to evolve in areas such as trade, culture, and regional cooperation.

In his acceptance, PM Modi acknowl-

edged the enduring friendship between the two countries and reaffirmed his commitment to further strengthening bilateral ties in the years to come. This honour not only celebrates his achievements but also serves as a reminder of India's expanding role in the global arena.

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Tripura remained backward during Left rule, BJP brought development: Amit Shah

TPN CORRESPONDENT DAHALAI
DECEMBER.23

Union Home Minister Amit Shah on Sunday criticized Left parties for their 35-year rule in Tripura, claiming it left the state "backward" and stunted its growth. He emphasized that significant progress in the state only occurred after the Bharatiya Janata Party (BJP) assumed power in 2018.



Addressing a public gathering following his visit to a village where displaced Bru tribals were rehabilitated, Shah said Tripura lagged behind in various development indicators during the Communist-led government. However, he pointed out that under the BJP's leadership, the state was now progressing on a path of development.

"For 35 years, the communists ruled Tripura, claiming to work for the welfare of the poor. The Congress also had its time in power, but the people of Tripura remained poor," Shah remarked. He credited the BJP's rise to power for bringing about significant change. "When I visited Tripura in 2017 as BJP president, only 11 people joined the party in five days. We worked relentlessly and gradually ousted the communists from power." Shah listed several key achievements under the BJP's tenure, in-

cluding a major improvement in the availability of piped drinking water. While only 2.5% of the population had access to piped water during Left rule, today, 85% of people benefit from this essential service. He also pointed to the influx of investments in the state, free electricity and LPG connections for citizens, and improvements in education. "The school dropout rate is now under 3%, and school enrolment stands at 99%, a stark contrast to the poor figures during the Left regime," Shah stated.

Furthermore, the Home Minister lauded the peace accords signed with insurgent groups, which have led to a period of stability and peace in Tripura. "With the blessings of Maa Tripurasundari, Tripura will soon emerge as one of the most developed states in India," Shah added. He expressed immense happiness over the progress made in the state under the BJP's leadership.

'Don't Confuse India's Independence With Neutrality': S Jaishankar



TPN CORRESPONDENT DELHI
DECEMBER.23

External Affairs Minister S. Jaishankar on Saturday reaffirmed that India will "never" permit any external force to have a veto over its decisions. Speaking virtually at a function in Mumbai, Jaishankar emphasized that India, or "Bharat," will always act in its national interest and for the global good without being pressured into conformity.

In his 10-minute address, Jaishankar stated, "Independence should never be confused with neutrality. We will do whatever is right in our national interest and for the global good without being intimidated to conform. Bharat can never permit others to have a veto on its choices." He further added that India would not allow its progress and modernity to be defined by a rejection of its heritage and traditions. Jaishankar reflected on how, for too long, India had been encouraged to view progress as synonymous with abandoning its cultural roots, but now the country is rediscovering and embracing its heritage.

The minister's comments come at a time when India has been advocating for reforms in the United Nations Security Council (UNSC), calling for an expansion of both permanent and non-permanent members. Currently, the five per-

manent members—China, France, Russia, the UK, and the US—hold veto power over UNSC decisions, which India argues is outdated in the 21st century. France, Russia, the UK, and the US have all supported India's bid for a permanent seat on the council.

Jaishankar also described India as an "exceptional" nation, one that is not only a vibrant democracy but also a "civilisation state." He emphasized that India's global influence should be rooted in its cultural strengths, adding, "It is essential that we, the younger generation, are fully aware of the value and significance of our heritage."

Looking forward, Jaishankar highlighted India's progress over the last decade, stating that the country has demonstrated its capability to tackle age-old challenges such as poverty, discrimination, and lack of opportunities. He also stressed that India has proven itself to be an independent global power committed to the well-being of the Global South.

In conclusion, Jaishankar reiterated that India is at a "crucial juncture" in its history, poised to emerge as a leading power in a multi-polar world, while remaining deeply rooted in its cultural identity. "India must progress without losing its 'Bharatiyata,' for only then can it truly lead on the global stage," he said.

Maharashtra CM Devendra Fadnavis Retains Key Portfolios, Ajit Pawar Gets Finance



TPN CORRESPONDENT NAGPUR
DECEMBER.23

Maharashtra Chief Minister Devendra Fadnavis, over two weeks after taking office, has assigned portfolios to his council of ministers. As expected, Fadnavis has retained the crucial Home portfolio, which is central to state governance, and will also handle several other important departments including Energy, Law and Judiciary, General Administration, and Information and Publicity.

The appointment of Fadnavis to these critical departments highlights his sig-

nificant role in managing law and order, as well as overseeing key sectors such as energy, legal affairs, and administration in the state.

Deputy Chief Minister Eknath Shinde, who played a pivotal role in the formation of the government, has been entrusted with the Urban Development, Housing, and Public Works (Public Enterprises) departments. These portfolios are vital for overseeing Maharashtra's urban planning, infrastructure development, and public welfare projects.

Ajit Pawar, the second Deputy CM, has

been given the charge of Finance, Planning, and State Excise. Pawar's experience in handling financial matters during his tenure as Deputy CM in the previous government positions him well to steer the state's financial planning and budget allocation.

The allocation of portfolios marks a crucial step in solidifying the governance framework of the newly formed Maharashtra government. Devendra Fadnavis and Ajit Pawar had previously handled the Home and Finance portfolios, respectively, in the earlier Eknath Shinde-led government. Their retention in these key positions underscores their experience and expertise, ensuring continuity in the state's administrative leadership.

With these assignments, the government aims to focus on important areas like law enforcement, infrastructure, urban development, and financial stability, all of which will be essential for Maharashtra's growth in the coming years. The combination of experienced leadership under Fadnavis, Shinde, and Pawar promises a balanced approach to governance, as they look to tackle the state's challenges and move forward with their developmental agenda.

AAP Announces Door-To-Door Registration Drive For 2 New Welfare Schemes



TPN CORRESPONDENT DELHI
DECEMBER.23

Aam Aadmi Party (AAP) National Convenor and former Delhi Chief Minister Arvind Kejriwal announced the launch of two new welfare schemes—Mahila Samman Yojana and Sanjeevani Yojana—on Sunday. The registration for both schemes will begin on December 23, with AAP workers conducting a door-to-door campaign to ensure widespread participation.

Speaking alongside Delhi Chief Minister Atishi and former Deputy CM Manish Sisodia, Kejriwal explained the objectives of the schemes and their benefits to Delhi's residents.

Under the Mahila Samman Yojana, every woman in Delhi will receive ₹2,100 per month. The initiative is designed to support women in managing household expenses and enable them to pursue higher education. Kejriwal

emphasized the importance of the scheme, stating, "We understand how hard mothers and sisters work, often managing households while also working outside. This ₹2,100 will help daughters complete their college education and allow housewives to manage rising household expenses or fulfill personal aspirations like buying a saree or suit."

Kejriwal also reassured residents that the registration process would be simple and convenient. "You won't need to stand in long queues. Our AAP teams will visit your homes, register the women, and provide a registration card. Keep it safe," he added.



PM Modi To Meet Kuwaiti Crown Prince, Sign Pacts On Day 2 Of Visit

KUWAIT: Prime Minister Narendra Modi is currently on a two-day visit to Kuwait, marking the first time in 43 years that an Indian prime minister has made an official trip to the Gulf nation. During his visit, PM Modi is set to meet the country's Crown Prince, Sabah Al-Khalid Al-Sabah, and is expected to sign several Memorandums of Understanding (MoUs) to further enhance bilateral relations between India and Kuwait.

Kuwait plays a significant role in India's energy sector, ranking as the sixth-largest supplier of crude oil and meeting 3% of India's energy requirements. The ongoing visit underscores the importance of this partnership, with both nations aiming to strengthen ties in various sectors, including

trade, commerce, and energy.

On the first day of his visit, Prime Minister Modi attended the opening ceremony of the 26th Arabian Gulf Cup at the Jaber Al-Ahmad International Stadium in Kuwait City, where he was joined by Kuwaiti Emir Sheikh Meshal Al-Ahmad Al-Jaber Al-Sabah, Crown Prince Sabah Al-Khalid Al-Sabah, and the Prime Minister of Kuwait. The event also offered the Prime Minister an opportunity to engage informally with Kuwaiti leaders.

Additionally, PM Modi addressed a large gathering of the Indian community at the 'Hala Modi' event held at the Sheikh Saad Al-Abdullah Indoor Sports Complex. He lauded the contributions of the Indian diaspora to

global growth and emphasized India's potential to become the "skill capital of the world."

"The relationship between India and Kuwait is one of civilization, the sea, affection, trade, and commerce. India and Kuwait are located on two shores of the Arabian Sea. It's not just diplomacy that connects us, but also the bonds of the heart," said the Prime Minister, eliciting a warm response from the audience.

Before concluding his visit, PM Modi is expected to meet his Kuwaiti counterpart, Dr. Mohammed Sabah Al-Salem Al-Sabah, and issue a joint statement to the media, reaffirming the commitment to deepening India-Kuwait relations.



Trump Threatens to Seize Panama Canal Over Fees



FLORIDA: US President-elect Donald Trump raised eyebrows on Saturday by accusing Panama of charging excessive fees for the use of the Panama Canal. In a post on Truth Social, Trump threatened that if Panama failed to manage the canal appropriately, the United States would demand that the canal be handed back.

Trump's comments, which were strikingly forceful and rare for a US leader, underscored a potentially dramatic shift in US diplomacy under his administration. Historically, US leaders have refrained from demanding the return of territory, especially from allies. Trump's rhetoric, however, suggests he is prepared to apply pressure on Panama if he feels the canal's management is not in the US's best interests.

"The fees being charged by Panama are ridiculous, especially knowing the extraordinary generosity that has been bestowed to Panama by the US," Trump wrote, expressing frustration over what he saw as unjust financial charges. The former president also warned that if Panama failed to adhere to what he viewed as a fair agreement, he would not hesitate to demand full control of the canal.

"It was not given for the benefit of others, but merely as a token of cooperation with us and Panama," Trump added. "If the principles, both moral and legal, of this magnanimous gesture of giving are not followed, then we will demand that the Panama Canal be returned to us, in full, and without question."

Trump also raised concerns about the potential involvement of China in the management of the Panama Canal. He wrote that the canal should not fall into the "wrong hands," specifically referring to Chinese influence, a remark suggesting a growing concern about Beijing's expanding presence in global infrastructure projects.

The Panama Canal, which was built and administered by the United States for much of the 20th century, was fully handed over to Panama in 1999 after decades of joint administration. Since then, the canal has remained a significant source of income for Panama, as well as a crucial strategic asset for global trade.

Trump's comments seem to reflect his broader foreign policy approach, which has often emphasized economic and strategic interests, as well as his willingness to adopt combative rhetoric in dealing with both allies and adversaries. The Panamanian government has yet to respond to Trump's latest remarks, but the situation highlights the ongoing geopolitical significance of the canal and the complex relations between the US and Panama.

This Is Cruelty, Not War Pope Francis Condemns Israel's Strikes on Gaza

ITALY: Pope Francis has once again condemned Israel's strikes on the Gaza Strip, describing the violence as "cruelty" during his Sunday Angelus prayer. This marks the second consecutive day that the pope has voiced strong criticism of Israeli military actions in Gaza, a position that has drawn backlash from Israel.

With a heavy heart, the pope said, "And with pain I think of Gaza, of so much cruelty, of the children being machine-gunned, of the bombings of schools and hospitals. What cruelty." His remarks come after an Israeli airstrike killed seven children from a single family on Friday, an attack reported by Gaza's rescue agency. On Saturday, the pope reiterated his dismay, stating, "Yesterday children were bombed. This is cruelty, this is not war."

The pope's words have sparked a sharp response from Israel, which accused him of having "double standards." An Israeli foreign ministry spokesman expressed disappointment, stating that the pope's remarks were disconnected from the reality of Israel's actions in response to what they called "jihadist terrorism." The spokesman further emphasized that Israel's military campaign, which began after the October 7 Hamas attacks, was a necessary response to terrorist actions.

"Enough with the double standards and the singling out of the Jewish state and its people," the Israeli spokesman said. He also described cruelty as "terrorists hiding behind children" and pointed to the ongoing hostage situation, referring to the over 100 individuals, including children,



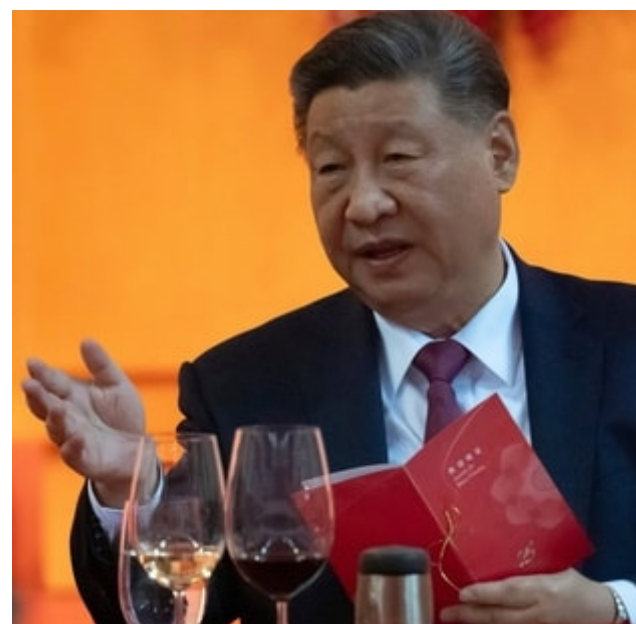
taken by Hamas militants during the October 7 attack.

The escalation of violence, which has led to significant casualties on both sides, began after Hamas militants carried out a surprise attack on Israel, resulting in over 1,200 deaths, the majority of them civilians. In retaliation, Israel's airstrikes on Gaza have killed at least 45,259 Palestinians, most of whom are reported to be civilians, according to Gaza's health ministry. The United Nations has confirmed the reliability of these figures. As the conflict intensifies, Pope Francis's calls for peace and his condemnation of the violence have drawn attention to the growing humanitarian crisis in Gaza. His remarks reflect ongoing concerns over the suffering of civilians caught in the crossfire of this prolonged conflict.

China sanctions 2 Canadian groups over Uyghur, Tibet

CHINA: China announced on Sunday that it was implementing countermeasures against two Canadian institutions and 20 individuals involved in human rights advocacy related to the Uyghurs and Tibet. These measures, which came into effect on Saturday, include asset freezes and entry bans, targeting both the Uyghur Rights Advocacy Project and the Canada-Tibet Committee, two Canadian organizations that have raised concerns over China's treatment of these regions.

According to China's foreign ministry, the actions are in retaliation for Canada's involvement in what Beijing sees as interference in its internal affairs concerning the Uyghur and Tibetan populations. The specific individuals targeted include 15 members associated with the Uyghur Rights Advocacy Project and five members of the Canada-Tibet Committee. These individuals have had their "movable property, immovable property, and other types of property within the territory of China" frozen, and they have been banned from



entering China, including its special administrative regions of Hong Kong and Macau. The retaliation follows persistent international criticism of China's policies in both Xinjiang, home to the Uyghur Muslim minority, and Tibet, which has been under Chinese control since 1950. Rights organizations and exiled groups have accused Beijing of widespread abuses against Uyghurs, including the use of forced labor, mass internment in camps,

and restrictions on religious freedoms. While Beijing denies these accusations, calling its actions in Xinjiang part of efforts to combat extremism and terrorism, the international community remains deeply concerned over the treatment of Uyghur Muslims.

Similarly, China's rule in Tibet has long been a point of contention. Beijing describes its 1950 occupation of Tibet as a "peaceful liberation" from feudal serfdom, but Tibetan exiles and human rights groups argue that it amounts to oppressive control. These ongoing human rights issues have drawn the attention of international organizations and governments, including Canada, which has been vocal in its criticism of Beijing's actions. In addition to the asset freezes and entry bans, China's foreign ministry warned that further actions could be taken if Canada continues its involvement in what it considers the politicization of the Uyghur and Tibet issues. The strained relations between the two countries have escalated over these sensitive matters, highlighting the complexities of international diplomacy and human rights advocacy.



It is Better to Be Cautious in Uncertainty

The domestic stock market indices are likely to move mixed this week. Benchmark indices, which fell sharply last week, are likely to see a pullback rally. US economic and inflation data will be crucial. Foreign institutional investors are withdrawing investments, and the dollar is strengthening further. Our markets will improve only if there are positive signals from international markets. As the indices have already fallen sharply, it is best to buy quality shares available at attractive prices. Since the conditions are not favorable, investors should be cautious.



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Recommended Stocks:

Religare: These shares have been in an uptrend for a few months. They are performing better than the Nifty. Sales and EPS are increasing gradually. These shares registered profits even when the benchmark indices fell sharply. This counter, which broke the key resistance of ₹300, closed at ₹309 with a gain of 2.72% last Friday. Investors should take a position at ₹300 with a target price of ₹345. A stop loss should be placed at ₹290.



CarTrade.com

Car Trade: The shares of this company have once again reached the IPO level of 2021. They are very strong compared to the Nifty. Investors are showing interest as the company's results are improving every quarter. This counter, which closed at ₹1551 with a gain of 5.08% last Friday, should be entered at ₹1585 with a target price of ₹1650/1775. A stop loss should be placed at ₹1550.

KEC International: These shares are showing strength due to good fundamentals and technicals. Relative strength is very high. They have demonstrated resilience in the market as well. It has gained 10% in the last three sessions. In the previous session, it closed at ₹1236 with a gain of 2.78%. Investors should take positions in the



₹1200 range with a target price of ₹1320/1350. A stop loss is mandatory at ₹1170.

Petronet LNG: These shares, which hit a lifetime high in August, have seen a good correction. Demand is increasing as the supply of shares decreases. The risk-reward ratio is favorable. In this counter, which closed at ₹336 on Friday, investors should take positions in the ₹333 range with a target price of ₹375. A stop loss should be placed at ₹328.



Bharat Dynamics Limited: These shares, which reached a lifetime high in July, later fell by 50%. They have been recovering since the last week of November. Currently, the relative strength is increasing, and momentum is picking up. In this counter, which closed at ₹1239 last Friday, investors should take a position in the ₹1250 range with a target price of ₹1400. A stop loss at ₹1210 is mandatory.



भारत डायनामिक्स लिमिटेड
BHARAT DYNAMICS LIMITED

HDFC Securities Projects 6.4% GDP Growth for India in 2024-25

HDFC Securities has forecast India's GDP growth at 6.4% for the financial year 2024-25, citing downside risks such as a slowdown in urban demand and a lack of significant revival in private capital expenditure (capex). The financial advisory firm highlighted that while urban consumption is facing challenges, factors such as growing rural demand and expected increases in government spending could serve as key drivers of growth.

The Reserve Bank of India (RBI) had recently revised its growth forecast to 6.6% from 7.2%, following a weaker-than-expected 5.4% growth in the July-September quarter of the current fiscal year. This was much lower than the RBI's earlier forecast of 7%. HDFC Securities also projected that GDP growth would improve slightly to 6.7% in 2025-26, with investments continuing to drive economic progress.

In its report, "The Big Review 2024," HDFC Securities noted that rural consumption is in a better position than urban consumption due to factors like a favorable monsoon, healthy kharif crop production, and good reservoir levels. Additionally, the moderation in demand for the Mahatma Gandhi National Rural Employment Guarantee Act (MNREGA) suggests positive developments in the rural labor market.

In contrast, urban consumption is being hampered by persistent inflation, which is eroding the purchasing power of the urban poor. High-ticket discretionary spending, such as on luxury items, is performing better than



spending on essential goods. Furthermore, the curbs on unsecured retail lending have impacted credit-backed consumption, particularly in sectors like e-commerce and mobile phones.

Dhiraj Relli, MD and CEO of HDFC Securities, pointed out that India's GDP growth will remain an outlier compared to global trends. He emphasized that growth in FY 2026 is expected to be volume-led, with key sectors such as BFSI (banking, financial services, and insurance), industrials, cement, energy, and IT driving economic progress.

The report also noted that while central government capex was muted in the first half of 2024-25, it is expected to pick up in the second half of the fiscal year.

GST Council Considers Additional Tax Levy for Natural Disaster Recovery

During the 55th GST Council meeting held in Jaisalmer, Andhra Pradesh's Finance Minister Payyavula Keshav presented a special request to levy an additional 1 percent Goods and Services Tax (GST) to help fund recovery efforts after the state's unprecedented rains and floods. The state experienced severe flooding, with many areas inundated for 12 days, resulting in significant damage.

Following Andhra Pradesh's request, other states including West Bengal, Telangana, and Karnataka also raised concerns about the impact of floods and droughts in their regions. These states highlighted their need for additional financial support to recover from such natural disasters. This led the GST Council to take up the matter and decide on the formation of a Group of Ministers (GoM) to look into the legal and structural challenges related to imposing disaster-specific levies.

The official statement after the meeting noted, "On the request of the state



of Andhra Pradesh, the Council recommended that a Group of Ministers be constituted to examine the legal and structural issues and recommend a uniform policy on imposition of levy in case of a natural disaster/calamity in the state."

The creation of a GoM is expected to provide clarity on the feasibility and structure of such levies, considering the varying needs and circumstances of different states affected by natural calamities. This decision opens the door for other states facing similar challenges to explore additional measures to fund disaster recovery through a targeted GST increase.

While this discussion is still in its early stages, it signals a potential shift in how states might seek to address the financial impact of natural disasters in the future.

Sebi Uncovers Front-Running Scheme, Impounds Rs 21.16 Crore in Unlawful Gains

Markets regulator Sebi has uncovered a front-running scheme involving Sachin Bakul Dagli, an equity dealer at PNB MetLife India Insurance, and eight other entities, which resulted in illegal gains of Rs 21.16 crore. The scheme, which lasted for over three years, involved the illegal use of non-public information about impending trades to manipulate market movements.

Sebi has taken immediate action against the accused, prohibiting Sachin Dagli and the other entities from participating in the securities market. In addition, the regulator has impounded the unlawful gains of Rs 21,15,78,005, which were jointly and severally accumulated by the accused parties. The investigation, conducted over the period from January 1, 2021, to July 19, 2024, aimed to determine whether the entities had colluded to front-run trades of PNB MetLife India Insurance's big client.

PNB MetLife, in a statement released on Sunday, confirmed its full cooperation with Sebi during the investigation and stated that disciplinary actions had been taken against the involved individual. The company emphasized its commitment to high standards of corporate governance and integrity.

Sebi's investigation revealed that most of the trading decisions at PNB MetLife were handled by Sachin Dagli. He and his brother, Tejas Dagli, who worked as an equity sales trader at Investec,



accessed confidential, non-public information regarding large client trades. They shared this information with Sandeep Shambharkar, who executed front-running trades through accounts held by Dhanmata Realty Pvt. Ltd. (DRPL), Worthy Distributors Pvt. Ltd. (WDPL), and Pragnesh Sanghvi.

The fraudulent trading activity involved 6,766 instances of front-running, using a Buy-Buy-Sell or Sell-Sell-Buy pattern to capitalize on market movements caused by large client transactions. Directors of DRPL and WDPL, including Arpan Kirtikumar Shah, Kabita Saha, and Jignesh Nikulbhai Dabhi, played a role in facilitating the scheme.

As part of its interim order, Sebi has barred the involved entities from buying, selling, or dealing in securities until further notice.

Qatar Threatens to Halt Gas Shipments to EU Over New Law

Qatar has warned it will stop shipping liquefied natural gas (LNG) to the European Union if member states strictly enforce a new law aimed at cracking down on forced labour and environmental damage. In an interview with the *Financial Times*, Qatar's Energy Minister Saad al-Kaabi emphasized that the country would prioritize its financial interests over European market access.

The new law, known as the Corporate Sustainability Due Diligence Directive, requires large companies operating within the EU to ensure their supply chains are free from forced labour and environmental harm. Companies must also take corrective action if such violations are found. Qatar, one of the world's top LNG exporters, is particularly concerned about the potential economic consequences for its state-owned energy company, QatarEnergy, if the law is enforced in a way that impacts its business operations.

Kaabi made it clear that if compliance with the EU law resulted in a 5% revenue loss for QatarEnergy, the country would prefer to pivot to other markets rather than continue its exports to Europe. "If the case is that I lose 5 per cent of my generated revenue by going to Europe, I will not go to Europe," Kaabi stated,



underscoring that such a financial loss would be unacceptable.

The Gulf state is keen to expand its presence in both Asia and Europe as it faces increasing competition from the United States, the world's largest LNG producer. However, Qatar has made it known that it is unwilling to jeopardize its economic interests in pursuit of European business, especially when the law is viewed as potentially harmful to its revenue.

Kaabi also expressed doubts about the sustainability of the EU's new law, urging for a more thorough review. While Qatar has no major concerns about potential shifts in U.S. energy policy, the new EU directive remains a point of contention as Qatar seeks to protect its lucrative energy exports.



Tea Officially Recognized as 'Healthy' by US FDA

Tea made from *Camellia sinensis*, the plant behind most of the world's tea, has officially received the "healthy" designation from the U.S. Food and Drug Administration (FDA), marking a significant milestone for the global tea industry. This update, announced on December 19, comes as part of the FDA's final rule revising the "healthy" nutrient content claim to help consumers identify foods that align with current dietary guidelines.



The decision has been warmly welcomed by industry bodies such as the North Eastern Tea Association (NETA) and the Indian Tea Association (ITA). Both groups are hailing the FDA's recognition of *Camellia sinensis* tea as a healthy beverage, a claim that supports the long-standing health benefits attributed to tea worldwide.

Peter F. Goggi, President of the Tea Association of the USA, described the recognition as "fantastic news" for the tea industry, as it paves the way for marketing tea as a health-promoting product. Bidyananda Borkakoty, advisor to NETA and former Vice-Chairman of the Tea Board of India, expressed similar enthusiasm, calling on the Indian government to promote tea as a wellness beverage.

The FDA's ruling acknowledges the health benefits associated with *Camellia sinensis* tea, including potential links to reduced risks of certain cancers. However, the agency made it clear that the "healthy" claim does not apply to herbal teas made from other plants like chamomile, peppermint, ginger, or hibiscus, due to insufficient evidence supporting their qualification.

The Indian Tea Association also expressed its satisfaction, emphasizing that this recognition validates the nutritional value of tea. It highlighted that beverages like tea, coffee, and water with fewer than five calories per serving automatically qualify for the "healthy" designation under the new FDA guidelines.

This decision marks a critical development in the promotion of tea, affirming its health benefits and allowing manufacturers to label tea products as "healthy," provided they meet the established standards.

Surprising Creatures That Don't Have a Heart

For humans, the heart is one of the most vital organs in the body. It pumps blood, supplies oxygen and nutrients to cells, and ensures the circulation of blood throughout the body. Without the heart's constant functioning, survival would be impossible. However, there are some fascinating creatures that manage to live without a heart altogether.

While most animals, including humans, rely on a heart to circulate blood, several species have evolved to thrive without it. These creatures have developed unique ways to distribute nutrients and oxygen throughout their bodies, often relying on diffusion or other methods to transport these essential elements.

One such example is the jellyfish. Jellyfish have a simple body structure and lack a circulatory system entirely. Instead of a heart, their tissues rely on diffusion to move oxygen and nutrients. Since they have a relatively small body and a high surface area-to-volume ratio, they can survive without a complex circulatory system.

Another heartless creature is the flatworm. Flatworms are simple, flat-bodied animals that do not require a heart to pump blood. Their body is so thin that diffusion is enough to supply oxygen and nutrients to all of their cells. These organisms are able to live in a variety of environments, from freshwater to marine habitats.



The sea sponge also lacks a heart. Sponges rely on the movement of water through their bodies to obtain nutrients and oxygen. They filter water using specialized cells called choanocytes, which create water currents to facilitate nutrient exchange. This system eliminates the need for a heart to circulate blood.

Even more surprising is the case of the adult octopus. Although the octopus has three hearts in its juvenile form, it loses two of them as it matures. The remaining heart pumps blood throughout its body, but it's not required to function like a traditional circulatory system in the same way that humans' hearts do.

These remarkable creatures demonstrate the diversity of life on Earth and how evolution has equipped different species with unique strategies for survival, even without the necessity of a heart.

Amazon Prime Video to Introduce Device Limits and Ads in India Starting 2025



Amazon Prime Video is set to follow Netflix's lead by introducing new rules around password sharing and device usage in India starting in 2025. According to the new policy, Prime Video members will be allowed to log in to a maximum of five devices, including up to two TVs.

The updated rules, communicated via email to Amazon Prime subscribers, highlight that, starting January 2025, members can enjoy Prime Video on a total of five devices. This includes up to two TVs, which could be a concern for some users who typically share accounts across multiple devices. Users can manage their devices through the Settings page or opt to buy another Prime membership if they want to watch on additional devices. Previously, Prime Video allowed users to log in on up to 10 devices, with no specific sub-limits for TVs, but this change will likely affect many subscribers who use the service across multiple household devices.

In addition to the device limit, this is the second significant change Amazon Prime Video users will face in 2025. The streaming service has confirmed that ads will be introduced during TV shows and movies, although it promises fewer ads than traditional TV or other streaming platforms. A new ad-free tier will also be launched for subscribers who wish to avoid commercials, though it is expected to come at an additional cost.

Amazon Prime pricing in India remains largely unchanged, with the annual package priced at ₹1,499. This includes access to Prime Video, Amazon Prime delivery services, and more. There are also quarterly and monthly subscription options priced at ₹599 and ₹299, respectively. For those seeking a more basic package, Amazon offers the Prime Lite plan at ₹799 and the Prime Shopping Edition plan at ₹399, which offer fewer features than the original Prime membership.

These changes mark a significant shift in how Amazon Prime Video will operate in India, following a similar approach seen in other markets.

Apple Watch Saves Lives: Notable Incidents from 2024 Highlight Its Life-Saving Features

Over the past year, the Apple Watch has proven to be much more than just a fitness tracker. The device has emerged as a crucial life-saving tool, helping users in life-threatening situations, from detecting irregular heart rhythms to initiating emergency calls after accidents. Here's a look at some of the key incidents from 2024.

Cyclist Rescued in New York City

A 49-year-old cyclist, Eric Zollinger, in New York City survived a serious fall, thanks to the Apple Watch's fall detection feature. Zollinger fell off his bike after hitting a submerged pothole, but continued his ride despite the injury. Later, he collapsed at home from blood loss. The Apple Watch detected the fall and automatically contacted emergency services, ensuring Zollinger received timely medical attention. This incident highlighted how wearable technology can be a life-saving tool in emergencies.

The Apple Watch's ability to detect irregular heart rhythms has saved many lives. In Delhi, India, Sneha Sinha, a policy researcher, was alerted by the device's ECG feature about the onset of atrial fibrillation (AFib). Although she initially dismissed the symptoms, per-



sistent alerts prompted her to seek medical attention, leading to a timely diagnosis. Similarly, Canadian firefighter Travis Chalmers was playing hockey when his Apple Watch alerted him to an irregular heart rate. He sought immediate care, discovering a blocked artery and receiving a heart attack diagnosis. These stories show how early detection through wearables can be critical in saving lives.

Innovative Wildlife Conservation Application

The Apple Watch has even been used innovatively in wildlife conservation. In Australia, veter-

inarians used the device to monitor the heart rate of large animals like lions. Dr. Chloe Buiting, a wildlife veterinarian, attached an Apple Watch to the tongue of a sedated lion during a medical procedure, ensuring accurate heart rate monitoring. This creative use of consumer technology has expanded its application beyond human health.

These cases illustrate how the Apple Watch is proving to be a versatile and life-saving tool in emergencies, providing real-time alerts and interventions when most needed.

Indian Chocolates Win Big at Academy of Chocolate Awards UK 2024

Indian chocolate brands have made a significant mark on the global stage, with three homegrown companies winning multiple prestigious accolades at the Academy of Chocolate Awards UK 2024. The winners included Paul and Mike, Bon Fiction, and Manam Chocolate, which collectively earned 17 awards this year, reflecting the growing recognition of Indian cacao in the global chocolate industry.

Paul and Mike, based in Kerala, secured two awards: a silver for their 'Brunost Cheese Fine Milk Chocolate' and a bronze for their 'Rum & Rummy Raisins Mild Dark Chocolate.' Bon Fiction, hailing from Andhra Pradesh, earned four accolades. Their 'A Rose in Pistachio Skies' won gold, while their '7 Assorted Bars Gift Pack' claimed silver. Additionally, Bon Fiction's '82% Dark Drinking Chocolate' and 'The Mango Menace' were awarded bronze.



Manam Chocolate from Hyderabad won a total of 11 awards, including three silver and eight bronze. The silver awards were for 'Chocolate Lab Tablet No. 2 - Pedda Rasalu Mango,' 'Chocolate Lab Tablet No. 3 - Chakkarakeli Banana,' and 'Indian Origin Tablet No. 6 - 66% Dark.' The brand also won

bronze for eight of its products, including 'Indian Origin Tablet No. 5 - 80% Dark' and 'Hazelnut & Cardamom Praline,' among others.

Manam Chocolate shared its excitement on Instagram, emphasizing that these awards represent the efforts of the entire team, from farmers to chocolatiers. The brand highlighted how the recognition helps build a new identity for Indian chocolate, showcasing the excellence of Indian craftsmanship on the global stage.

These awards not only honor the quality and creativity of Indian chocolatiers but also underscore the potential of Indian cacao in the global market. With each success, these brands continue to elevate India's reputation as a producer of high-quality, artisanal chocolate.



India Clinches Inaugural U19 Women's Asia Cup Title with 41-Run Win Over Bangladesh

India triumphed over Bangladesh by 41 runs to become the first-ever winners of the inaugural U19 Women's Asia Cup at the Bayuemas Cricket Oval on Sunday. A solid 52-run knock from G Trisha, combined with a dominant performance from India's spinners, sealed the historic victory for the Indian team.



Trisha, a member of the Indian squad that won the inaugural U19 Women's T20 World Cup in South Africa in 2023, played a crucial role in India's total of 117/7. On a challenging pitch, Trisha's composed innings of 52 off 47 balls included five fours and two sixes. Her knock anchored India's innings after early setbacks, with G Kamalini and Sanika Chalke falling quickly. Trisha's 41-run partnership with captain Niki Prasad (12) helped stabilize the innings.

As India's top-order faltered, the middle-order also found it tough to build partnerships. However, Mithila Vinod's 17-run cameo was important in pushing India's total past 110. Bangladesh's Farjana Easmin was the stand-out bowler for the opposition, claiming 4-30 and keeping India's score under control.

In response, Bangladesh's chase was curtailed by India's spinners. Left-arm spinner Aayushi Shukla was the star with the ball, taking 3-17 to become the leading wicket-taker of the competition. Fellow spinners Parunika Sisodia and Sonam Yadav also impressed, picking up two wickets each. They choked the run flow after the powerplay, leaving Bangladesh struggling at 76 all out in 18.3 overs.

This well-rounded performance, led by Trisha with the bat and the spinners with the ball, ensured that India secured the U19 Women's Asia Cup title in a dominant fashion. It was a memorable achievement for Indian women's cricket as they made history by becoming the inaugural champions of the tournament.

Indian Super League: Mumbai defeat Chennaiyin for 4th straight clean sheet



Mumbai City FC extended their impressive form in the Indian Super League with a 1-0 victory over Chennaiyin FC on Saturday, marking their fourth consecutive clean sheet. Nikolaos Karelis' early strike was enough to secure the win for Mumbai, who moved up from seventh to fourth place in the points table with 20 points from 12 games.

Karelis' goal came early in the match, giving Mumbai City FC a solid foundation. Despite several efforts from Chennaiyin FC, the Marina Machans were unable to break Mumbai's defense, marking their third consecutive away game where they failed to score. Mumbai's defense, combined with Karelis' clinical finishing, ensured they maintained their clean sheet streak, further boosting their playoff aspirations.

Meanwhile, in Kolkata, East Bengal FC secured a narrow 1-0 victory over Jamshedpur FC at the Vivekananda Yuba Bharati Krirangan. The only

goal of the match came from Dimitrios Diamantakos in the 60th minute, continuing East Bengal's resurgence under new coach Oscar Bruzon. The win marked their fourth victory in their last five matches, highlighting their improving form in the latter half of the season.

Jamshedpur FC, on the other hand, struggled to create and finish chances. Despite having possession and attempting to press for an equalizer, they were unable to break down East Bengal's defense. The defeat left Jamshedpur frustrated, as they couldn't capitalize on their opportunities and failed to make a significant impact on the game.

Both Mumbai City FC and East Bengal FC showcased solid performances on Saturday, with the former solidifying their position in the top half of the table, while East Bengal continued their climb up the standings with another crucial win.



Bayern Munich Thrash Leipzig 5-1 to End 2024 on Top of Bundesliga Table

Bayern Munich ended 2024 in style, thrashing RB Leipzig 5-1 in a dominant display that saw them break a long-standing Bundesliga record for the quickest goals. In a thrilling first few minutes, Jamal Musiala gave Bayern the lead after just 28 seconds, and Leipzig responded swiftly with an equalizer from Benjamin Šeško barely a minute later. This rapid exchange marked the first time two teams had scored in the opening two minutes of a Bundesliga match.

After the frenetic start, the pace of the match settled, but Bayern remained in control. Konrad Laimer, playing against his former club, put Bayern ahead in the 25th minute with a precise volley from Michael Olise's pass that left Leipzig goalkeeper Péter Gulácsi with no chance.

Bayern's dominance contin-

ued when Joshua Kimmich struck a powerful long-range shot from nearly 30 meters out, making it 3-1 in the 34th minute. The goal further highlighted the gulf in class between the two sides.

With Leipzig struggling to keep up, Leroy Sané added a fourth goal for Bayern in the 75th minute, further cementing their lead. Alphonso Davies then completed the rout just three minutes later, scoring his first league goal of the season to seal an emphatic 5-1 win.

This victory not only helped Bayern Munich extend their unbeaten run but also lifted them to the top of the Bundesliga table as they enter the new year. With such an impressive performance, Bayern look poised to continue their pursuit of domestic glory in 2025.

PM Modi Pens Heartfelt Tribute to R Ashwin on His Retirement

Prime Minister Narendra Modi extended a warm and heartfelt tribute to Ravichandran Ashwin following his decision to retire from international cricket. In a personal letter, PM Modi expressed his admiration for Ashwin's illustrious career, highlighting the off-spinner's remarkable contributions to Indian cricket and his unwavering commitment to the game and the nation.

The PM began by acknowledging the shock of Ashwin's retirement, comparing it to the surprise of a "carrom ball" that caught everyone off guard. Despite the unexpected nature of the announcement, Modi praised Ashwin's outstanding career, which spanned multiple triumphs for India. He emphasized Ashwin's hard work, brilliance, and selflessness, noting that jersey number 99 will be greatly missed by fans worldwide.

PM Modi recognized Ashwin's role in India's cricketing success, particularly his ability to trap opponents with both traditional off-spin and innovative variations. With 765 international wickets across all formats, Ashwin has left a significant mark on the game. The PM highlighted Ashwin's record of the most Player of the Series awards in Test cricket, underscoring his vital role in India's victories over the years.

The letter also acknowledged Ashwin's all-round prowess, from his debut five-wicket haul to his contributions in iconic matches, including his heroic match-saving innings in Sydney in 2021. Modi reminisced about Ashwin's memorable moments, such as his decisive shot and leave during the 2022 WT20 match.



PM Modi also praised Ashwin's resilience in tough times, recalling how he continued to play despite personal challenges, like flying back to be with his hospitalized mother and playing during the Chennai floods when he couldn't reach his family. The PM further appreciated Ashwin's adaptability across different formats and his sharp cricketing acumen, likely honed by his engineering background.

In closing, Modi expressed hope that Ashwin's wit and wisdom would continue to inspire future generations, congratulated his family for their support, and wished him more time with loved ones after a successful career.

Man City's Struggles Continue with 2-1 Defeat at Aston Villa

Aston Villa handed Manchester City another painful defeat in the Premier League on Saturday, with a 2-1 victory at Villa Park. Goals from Colombian forward Jhon Duran and former City player Morgan Rogers inflicted more misery on the reigning champions, as Villa moved up to fifth place, overtaking City in the standings.

This defeat marks City's ninth loss in their last 12 games across all competitions, with the title holders now temporarily sitting in sixth place. With just one victory from those 12 matches, Pep Guardiola's side faces mounting pressure. However, the manager remains hopeful and believes that the solution lies in bringing injured players back into the squad. "It can come, it can not come," Guardiola said when asked about the



team's struggles. "It depends on us. The solution is bring the players back (from injuries). We have just one central defender fit, that is difficult. We are going to try next game -- another opportunity and we don't think much further than that."

The match started at a frenetic pace, with Villa almost taking the lead within the

first 20 seconds. Duran capitalized on a poor pass from Josko Gvardiol but was denied by City goalkeeper Stefan Ortega, who made a diving save. Ortega was again called into action moments later, denying Pau Torres' shot after a Villa corner.

Despite City's defensive efforts, Aston Villa took the lead in the 16th minute. Youri Tielemans played a precise through ball to Morgan Rogers, whose unselfish pass found Duran in space. The 21-year-old made no mistake, firing the ball past Ortega to put Villa ahead.

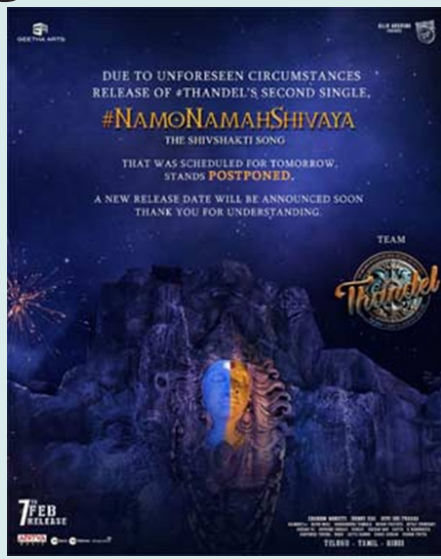
Manchester City struggled to find their rhythm, and despite a late goal from Phil Foden, they couldn't mount a full comeback. Villa held on for the 2-1 victory, extending City's woes in what has been a difficult period for Guardiola's men.



Naga Chaitanya's Thandel Faces Setback as Song Launch is Postponed

Thandel, one of the most anticipated films of 2025, is generating immense buzz ahead of its release. Starring Naga Chaitanya and Sai Pallavi in lead roles, the film is helmed by director Chandoo Mondeti. Set to release in Telugu, Tamil, and Hindi on February 7, 2025, *Thandel* has garnered a lot of attention for its premise and the star power of its cast.

Fans were particularly excited about the release of the film's much-awaited song, *Namo Namah Shivaya*, which was scheduled to be launched at the ghats of Kashi on the evening of December 22, 2024. The song, expected to be a devotional and powerful number, had fans eagerly anticipating its release. However, in an unexpected turn of events, the makers announced that the song launch would be postponed, without providing specific reasons for the delay. This news has come as a disappointment to many fans, who had been looking forward to the track as a key highlight of the film's promotional campaign.



The soundtrack for *Thandel* is composed by the renowned Devi Sri Prasad, whose music is always a major draw for audiences. With his signature style, expectations are high for the film's musical score to elevate the emotional depth of the story. The film is produced by Bunny Vas, with Allu Arvind presenting it, adding further excitement for moviegoers.

Despite the setback with the song launch, the promotional campaign for *Thandel* is expected to gain momentum in the coming weeks. As the release date draws nearer, fans can look forward to more updates, teasers, and songs to build anticipation for this promising film.

With its stellar cast, captivating direction, and a strong music team, *Thandel* remains one of the most awaited films of the year, and its release in early 2025 is sure to make waves across the Indian film industry. Stay tuned for more exciting announcements as the film prepares for its grand debut.

Game Changer Unveils the Energizing Dhop Song in Dallas Event

Global star Ram Charan's much-anticipated film *Game Changer* is set to hit theaters on January 10, 2025, and the excitement surrounding its release is rapidly building. Currently, the team is in Dallas for an extensive promotional campaign, with Ram Charan, director Shankar, and other key members actively engaging fans and generating buzz worldwide.



One of the standout highlights of the promotional activities is the much-talked-about *Dhop* song, which has been making waves ever since it was teased. Composed by the talented Thaman, the song has been hailed as a groundbreaking track by the film's team. The track was officially unveiled at today's Dallas event, sparking immense excitement among fans and music enthusiasts alike.

In true Shankar fashion, *Dhop* is not just an auditory treat but a visual spectacle as well. The song features vibrant, eye-catching colors and unique costumes, making it an unforgettable experience for viewers.

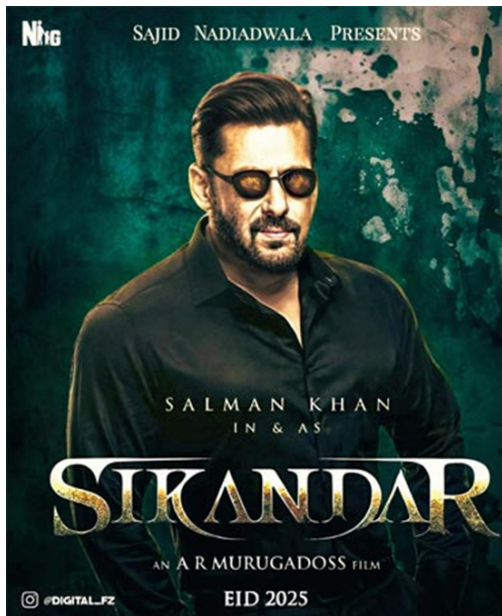
What sets *Dhop* apart from Thaman's usual style is its off-beat, energetic sound. The song boasts pulsating beats and catchy lyrics that promise to get audiences on their feet, adding an extra layer of excitement to the film's appeal.

The film's trailer is also expected to be released soon, which will further heighten anticipation for this political drama. *Game Changer* features a stellar ensemble cast, including Anjali, SJ Suryah, Jayaram, Samuthirakani, Srikanth, and Naveen Chandra, all playing key roles. With the film produced by Dil Raju and mounted on a massive scale, *Game Changer* promises to be a cinematic extravaganza, blending political intrigue with high-octane action and drama.

As the release date approaches, fans are eagerly awaiting more updates on this grand project. With *Dhop* already generating buzz, *Game Changer* is all set to be a thrilling cinematic experience that is expected to make waves in the industry. Stay tuned for more updates!

Salman Khan's Big Return: Teaser of Sikandar to Drop on His Birthday

After a brief hiatus from action films, Salman Khan is set to make a grand comeback with his highly anticipated movie *Sikandar*. The superstar's recent films haven't had the same box office success as his previous hits, which is why he's joined forces with renowned filmmaker A.R. Murugadoss for this project. Known for his gripping social dramas, Murugadoss brings his unique touch to *Sikandar*, which is expected to be a thrilling and emotionally charged film.



A.R. Murugadoss has a reputation for making socially relevant films, and *Sikandar* is no exception. The film promises to delve into important themes while delivering the high-octane action sequences that Salman Khan is known for. Given Murugadoss' ability to strike a balance between social commentary and mainstream entertainment, *Sikandar* is expected to offer both substance and style.

Salman Khan's fans have been eagerly awaiting his return to the big screen in a role that showcases his iconic action-packed persona. After his recent ventures that didn't perform as expected, *Sikandar* could be the film that reignites his box office success. With the teaser's release just around the corner, all eyes are on this film, and the excitement is building up.

The countdown is on for the teaser of *Sikandar* to drop on December 27, 2024. Fans and film buffs alike can't wait to see what Salman Khan and the team behind *Sikandar* have in store. Stay tuned for more updates as the film takes shape!

The much-awaited teaser of *Sikandar* is set to be released on December 27, 2024, coinciding with Salman Khan's birthday. This special timing is sure to excite his fans, who have been eagerly waiting for their beloved "Bhai" to return to the action genre. Alongside Salman Khan, the film features Rashmika Mandanna as the female lead, marking an exciting collaboration between the two. The movie is being produced by the acclaimed Sajid Nadiadwala, adding another layer of excitement for moviegoers.

SJ Suryah Calls Ram Charan "The King" at Game Changer P Event in Dallas

The pre-release event for Ram Charan's much-anticipated film *Game Changer* is currently taking place in Dallas, USA, and the celebrations are nothing short of grand. Directed by the legendary Shankar and produced by Dil Raju, *Game Changer* is creating a massive buzz as its January 10, 2025 release date approaches. The event in Dallas is a prestigious affair, showcasing the film's international appeal and the star power of Ram Charan.



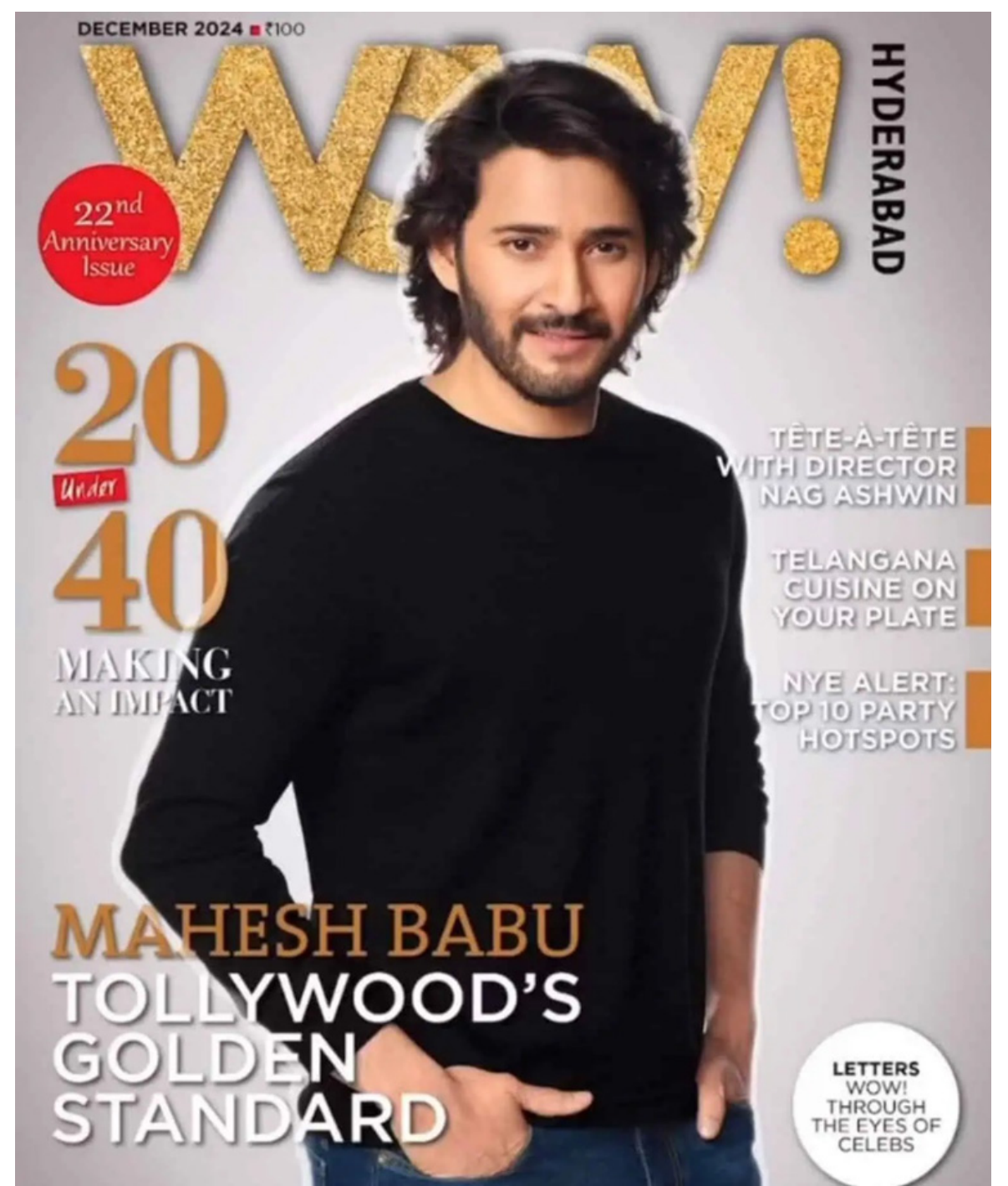
During the event, actor SJ Suryah, who plays a significant role in the film, shared some heartfelt words about his co-star. He revealed that he saved Ram Charan's contact in his phone as "RC - The King" to honor the actor's gracious nature. "Global Star Ram Charan is a very good human being. I saved his number on my phone as RC - The King. He is the real king in his behavior. Ram Charan is truly a king at heart," said Suryah, praising the actor for his humility and kindness.

SJ Suryah, who is dubbing for the film in all three languages, also expressed his deep connection to *Game Changer*. "I am very well connected to the film. I hope that all of you will love it and give us a super hit," he added, clearly excited

about the project's potential.

In addition, Suryah fondly reminisced about his early days in Telugu cinema, recalling his work with Pawan Kalyan in the blockbuster *Kushi*. "I first worked with Pawan Kalyan when I entered the Telugu industry, and *Kushi* became a massive hit," Suryah shared, reflecting on the significance of his career.

With *Game Changer* gearing up for its release on January 10, 2025, the film promises to be a cinematic spectacle, with a stellar cast, visionary direction, and passionate fans eagerly awaiting its arrival.



Mahesh Babu Graces the Cover of WOW Magazine's Anniversary Edition

Superstar Mahesh Babu is making headlines once again, this time for his voice role in *Mufasa: The Lion King*, where he lends his voice to the iconic character. But that's not all—he's also gearing up to begin work on his next highly anticipated film, directed by the legendary SS Rajamouli. As excitement builds around his upcoming projects, Mahesh Babu is also turning heads with his latest magazine feature.

For WOW Magazine's special anniversary edition, Mahesh Babu has posed for a stunning photo shoot. In keeping with his usual charm, the actor sports a bold new look for the cover, featuring heavily grown hair and a thick beard. This rugged look is expected to be part of his appearance in his upcoming collaboration with Rajamouli, adding to the intrigue surrounding his next film.

In their Instagram post, WOW Magazine announced, "Yay, it's the anniversary month again. As always, WOW's annual anniversary

special issue is bigger, better, and hotter than the previous one. Superstar Mahesh Babu is on our cover. We have an array of special stories on food, nightlife, and cinema, besides exclusive and exciting fare. Grab your copy now."

The magazine's anniversary edition showcases Mahesh Babu on the cover with the bold tagline, "Mahesh Babu - Tollywood's Golden Standard." This title is a fitting tribute to his legacy as one of the most influential and successful actors in the Telugu film industry, known for his versatility and magnetic screen presence.

With a new look, an exciting upcoming film with Rajamouli, and his role in *Mufasa: The Lion King*, Mahesh Babu continues to dominate headlines. Fans eagerly await his next moves, both on and off the screen, as he continues to raise the bar for stardom in the Indian film industry.