

Weather Forecast

HYDERABAD	VIJAYAWADA	TIRUPATHI
TEMPE RATURE	TEMPE RATURE	TEMPE RATURE
H 28 ° C L 22 ° C	H 29 ° C L 24 ° C	H 26 ° C L 24 ° C

BRS Faces Leadership Challenge

ACB and ED Tighten Grip on Formula E Case
Leadership Shake-Up: Who Will Steer BRS Next?
Congress Intensifies Pressure with Corruption Claims
KCR's Silence Amid Party Turmoil
Impact of Formula E Scandal on Telangana Politics

TPN , Pardhu : The ongoing investigation into alleged irregularities in the organization of the Formula E Race in Telangana has plunged the political landscape of the state into turmoil. Former minister K.T. Rama Rao (KTR) is at the center of the controversy, with the Enforcement Directorate (ED) entering the fray following the Anti-Corruption Bureau (ACB)'s registration of a case against him. This development has sparked intense debates and speculations about the future of the Bharat Rashtra Samithi (BRS) party.

Investigations Gain Momentum

The ACB initially filed a case accusing KTR of misusing funds and engaging in corruption during the Formula E Race's organization. Though the Telangana High Court granted KTR a temporary reprieve by ordering that he not be arrested until September 30, the ED has escalated the matter by seeking detailed information from the ACB regarding foreign transactions linked to the case. The

ED's involvement has intensified the political drama, potentially leading to significant consequences for KTR and the BRS party.

Challenges for BRS Leadership

The controversy has raised critical questions about the future leadership of the BRS party. Speculations are rife that if KTR is arrested, the mantle could pass to other prominent leaders within the party. Two names prominently discussed are Harish Rao, an experienced and trusted leader known for his political acumen, and Kavitha, who has recently gained visibility by actively participating in key party initiatives. Harish Rao's extensive experience and longstanding loyalty to the KCR family make him a strong contender, while Kavitha's growing political prominence signals a potential shift in leadership dynamics.

Congress Turns the Heat

The Congress government is capitalizing on the controversy as part of a calculated strategy to weaken the BRS. By pursu-



ing corruption charges against KTR, Congress aims to tarnish the BRS's image and sow discord within its leadership. Analysts suggest that this is a deliberate attempt to create a leadership vacuum and destabilize the party's stronghold in Telangana.

KCR Maintains Silence

Former Chief Minister and BRS chief K. Chandrashekar Rao (KCR) has maintained a low profile amidst the political storm, adopting a "wait and watch" approach. However, party insiders believe that if KTR is arrested, KCR may be forced to take decisive action, potentially bringing Harish Rao or Kavitha into more prominent leadership roles.

Impact on Telangana Politics

The Formula E Race case has already impacted Telangana's

political scenario, with the BRS cadre expressing concerns about potential damage to the party's reputation. While Congress is leveraging the case to bolster its standing, the outcome of the ED's investigation will likely determine the extent of its political ramifications.

The case represents a pivotal moment for both KTR and the BRS party. As the investigations unfold, the political landscape of Telangana is set for dramatic changes that could redefine the state's governance and leadership dynamics. With a high-stakes battle underway, the Formula E Race case has emerged as a litmus test for the resilience of the BRS and the political strategies of its adversaries. All eyes are now on the ED's findings and the court's next steps in this gripping political saga.

Theater Tragedy Sparks Row

Stampede at Sandhya Theater: A Tragic Incident
CM Revanth Reddy's Allegations on Allu Arjun
Congress Demands Apology from the Actor
Police and Politicians Weigh In on Controversy
BRS and BJP Rally in Support of Allu Arjun

TPN , Telangana : The tragic stampede at Sandhya Theater, which claimed the life of Revathi and left young Sreetej critically injured, has spiraled into a heated political debate in Telangana. Chief Minister Revanth Reddy, speaking in the Legislative Assembly, attributed the incident to actor Allu Arjun's visit to the theater for film promotions. The CM's remarks sparked a fierce exchange between Congress leaders and the actor, with Allu Arjun strongly denying the allegations in a press meet, calling it an unfortunate accident.

Congress Leaders Lash Out

The Telangana Congress has launched an offensive against Allu Arjun since the Assembly session. Minister Komatireddy demanded that the actor apologize to CM Revanth Reddy, criticizing Allu Arjun for dismissing the CM's statements as damaging to his image. Komatireddy also questioned the actor's refusal to visit the injured boy, Sreetej, in the hospital. PCC Chief Mahesh Kumar Goud accused Allu Arjun of ignoring the victims' plight, reminding him of Congress's contribution to the growth of the Telugu film industry in Hyderabad. MP Chamala Kiran Kumar Reddy criticized the actor for holding a press meet to counter the CM, accusing him of lacking empathy. Government Whip Adisree Nivas echoed similar sentiments, stating that Allu Arjun prioritized personal prestige over public responsibility.

Police and Officials Respond

The police department also weighed in on the controversy. ACP Vishnu Murthy criticized Allu Arjun's statements about the police and warned him against making further inappropriate remarks, even hinting at potential legal action. DGP Jitender emphasized that public safety must take precedence over film promotions, urging celebrities to act responsibly in such situations.

Support for Allu Arjun

On the other hand, BRS and BJP leaders defended Allu Arjun. Union Minister Bandi Sanjay condemned CM Revanth Reddy's stance, arguing that the actor, who brought global recognition to Telugu cinema, should not be targeted for political gains. He also criticized the Congress for using the Assembly as a platform for personal attacks and questioned the government's failure to ensure public safety during such events. The Sandhya Theater tragedy has not only claimed lives but also triggered a political storm, with Allu Arjun caught in the crossfire. The incident has raised critical questions about public safety, accountability, and the responsibilities of celebrities during high-profile events.



U.P. Court Issues Notice to Rahul Gandhi

Court Responds to Petition Over Divisive Comments
Rahul Gandhi's Remarks on Caste Census Spark Controversy
Opposition Leader Directed to Appear in Court on January 7

TPN , Telangana : A court in Uttar Pradesh has issued notices to opposition leader Rahul Gandhi following a petition filed over his controversial remarks on the caste census. The petition, filed by Pankaj Pathak in Bareilly, claims that Rahul Gandhi's comments during the Lok Sabha election campaign were divisive and violated public harmony.

The petition specifically refers to Gandhi's remarks made during a rally in Thukkguda, Rangareddy district, where he stated that if he came to power, he

would distribute the country's wealth based on population, with jobs and welfare schemes allocated in proportion to population size.

The petitioner argued that these statements could incite division along caste lines and disrupt social unity. The Bareilly court has accepted the petition and directed Rahul Gandhi to appear in court on January 7. This legal development comes amidst growing political tensions surrounding the issue of caste census and social justice measures in India.



Protests at Allu Arjun's Residence

OU JAC's Demands for Justice... Police Intervene, Arrest Student Leaders

TPN , Telangana : Hyderabad witnessed high drama as members of the OU JAC (Osmania University Joint Action Committee) and student groups attempted to besiege actor Allu Arjun's residence, demanding compensation for the family of Revathi, who tragically lost her life during the stampede at Sandhya Theater.

The protesters called for Allu Arjun to provide Rs. 1 crore to Revathi's family and extend full support. However, police intervened and stopped the students from entering the actor's residence. Despite the police barricade, tensions flared as protesters destroyed flower pots in the actor's compound, escalating the situation.

Police arrested the student group leaders and

dispersed the protesters. The agitators, chanting slogans, accused Allu Arjun of being responsible for the tragic incident. The OU JAC leaders maintained that the actor must take moral responsibility and address the affected family's needs.

The police swiftly detained the protesters and transported them to the station to prevent further unrest. The incident added another layer to the ongoing controversy surrounding Allu Arjun, following criticism from political and public figures over the Sandhya Theater tragedy.

Tensions remain high as demands for accountability and justice continue to dominate public discourse in Telangana.



DGP Stresses Public Safety After Stampede

DGP Asserts Public Safety Takes Precedence Over Film Promotions
Allu Arjun Denies Allegations in Sandhya Theater Stampede



TPN , Hyderabad: Telangana's Director General of Police (DGP) Dr. Jitender addressed concerns regarding the tragic stampede at Sandhya Theater during the premiere of Allu Arjun's Pushpa 2 The Rise. In a statement on Sunday, December 22, Dr. Jitender emphasized that en-

suring the safety and security of citizens is the top priority for the police.

The DGP clarified that the police department has no personal grievances against actor Allu Arjun, but action was taken against him in accordance with the

law. He stressed the importance of public safety during film promotions and events, stating, "A film promotion is not as important as public safety. Everyone is responsible."

Allu Arjun had addressed the media on Saturday, December 21, expressing regret over the stampede that led to the tragic death of 35-year-old Revathi. The actor called the incident "unfortunate" and stated that there were many misunderstandings surrounding the event. He denied any ill intentions and defended his actions, asserting that he was not responsible for the tragedy.

Refuting accusations from Telangana Chief Minister Revanth Reddy and AIM-IM leader Akbaruddin Owaisi, Allu Arjun stated that no police officer had approached him to stop the event once the crowd became uncontrollable. He also denied allegations that he continued watching the movie while the stampede occurred outside the theater.

Bandi Sanjay Supports Allu Arjun

Anger that Allu Arjun's personality is being attacked
Comments that Revanth has a grudge against the film industry
Allegations that he is conspiring with MIM

TPN , Hyderabad : Union Minister of State Bandi Sanjay has come out in support of actor Allu Arjun, criticizing the recent attacks on the actor's character following the Sandhya Theater stampede incident. Sanjay condemned the ongoing attempts to tarnish Allu Arjun's image and suggested that Telangana Congress leader Revanth Reddy holds a personal grudge against the Telugu film industry.



Sanjay pointed out that the Congress party, in alliance with the MIM, appears to be conspiring to damage the Tollywood industry. He remarked that the issue, which had been resolved earlier, was unnecessarily reignited in the Telangana Assembly after an MIM member raised a question on it. According to Sanjay, the MIM is a disruptive force, and if the Congress continues to align with them, it will face dire con-

sequences, similar to the BRS's past experience with the party.

He emphasized that the ongoing criticism of Allu Arjun is part of a broader strategy to undermine the film industry. Sanjay also expressed concern that the Congress-MIM alliance is attempting to create unnecessary issues, further dividing the political landscape and harming the interests of the state's film industry.

Venkat Reddy Calls for Better Farmer Support



TPN , Yadagirigutta: At the National Gandhi Sustainable Science Conference-2024, Minister Komatireddy Venkat Reddy emphasized the challenges faced by agriculture under the current BRS regime, noting that while expenditure has risen, assistance to farmers has decreased. He vowed to correct these imbalances.

Referring to Mahatma Gandhi's vision that "villages are the silk branches of this country," Venkat Reddy criticized the influence of corporates that have led to the decline of rural life in many villages, turning them into hollow towns.

He also announced the Pudami Putra Award for 115 outstanding farmer couples practicing organic farming

without chemicals. The minister presented the Kisan Seva Ratna Awards to 35 officials, scientists, and journalists for their contributions to agriculture.

Reddy also highlighted the Congress government's commitment to farmers, citing the loan waiver for 25 lakh farmers and the free electricity scheme initiated by former CM Y.S. Rajasekhara Reddy. He stressed the importance of farmer assurance and proposed making it a legal right.

Addressing the issues faced by farmers in Nalgonda, particularly those affected by fluoride contamination and industrial pollution in Musi, he assured steps are being taken to resolve these issues.

Bhatti Vikramarka Hails Singareni's Contribution



TPN , Telangana : On the occasion of Singareni Collieries' establishment day, Telangana's Deputy Chief Minister and Energy Minister, Bhatti Vikramarka Mallu, extended his congratulations to the workers, officials, and staff of the company. He praised Singareni for its crucial role in meeting the state's and country's energy needs through coal production.

Bhatti Vikramarka emphasized that Singareni stands as a pillar of Telangana's development and is integral to the state's progress. He noted that Singareni not only contributes to coal production but also provides a direct and indirect livelihood to lakhs of people in six districts of Telangana.

The Deputy CM highlighted the government's efforts to expand Singareni, aiming to diversify its operations beyond coal production into other sectors. He expressed his commitment to ensuring the sustainable future of the organization and called on everyone to redouble their efforts to keep Singareni at the forefront of the state's economic development. Bhatti Vikramarka's message reinforced the importance of Singareni in both the energy sector and in supporting the livelihoods of Telangana's people.

Wanaparthy Police Crack NH-44 Dacoity Case, Four Arrested

TPN , Telangana : The Wanaparthy police have successfully cracked the sensational dacoity case on National Highway 44 (NH-44) within a week, arresting four members of the 'pardi gang' involved in the crime. The dacoity took place on December 18, when a group of pilgrims returning from Tirumala were attacked near Pebbair.

The gang targeted a car, which had stopped on the highway for rest. After stealing the luggage from the roof of the car and finding no valuables, the dacoits returned to assault the passengers—G Rajini, B Praveen, Santosh, Putta Srikanth, and others. They smashed the car's windows with boulders and looted gold ornaments and valuables before fleeing. The car driver's attempt to chase them was thwarted as the dacoits attacked him again.

The police, after careful investigation, focused on two sugarcane-laden tractors seen parked in the area. They traced the

offenders, leading to the arrest of Badri Gajanan Pimpale, Srikam Shivaji Shinde, Sachin Santosh Shinde, and Sayyad Feroj Mahetab from Beed, Maharashtra. However, two of the gang members, Santosh Panduran Kale and Sanjay Powar, remain absconding. Gold ornaments and other stolen items were recovered from the gang members.



Prabhakar Criticizes Bandi Sanjay's Remarks



TPN , Vemulawada: In a recent statement, Telangana Minister Ponnab Prabhakar, who holds the portfolios of Transport and BC Welfare, criticized Union Minister Bandi Sanjay for his comments that, according to Prabhakar, harm the self-confidence of officials. He specifically referred to Sanjay's remarks following the Janwada farmhouse case, stating that such statements undermine public faith in the administration.

Minister Prabhakar also addressed the issue of law and order in Hyderabad, stating that the state must deal strictly with any lawlessness. He noted that Chief Minister Revanth Reddy had already addressed the incident in the Legislative Assembly, and questioned why Bandi Sanjay continued to comment despite the CM's statement.

Furthermore, Prabhakar called for Bandi Sanjay to show more empathy, suggesting he visit the family of the deceased and the injured to understand the situation better before making further remarks. He reiterated that his government holds no bias against any individual.

On the issue of investigations involving public representatives, Prabhakar clarified that when a case is filed against a public figure, it is done with the Governor's permission and based on legal advice. He also emphasized the government's openness to discussing key issues such as the welfare of farmers, municipal acts, and other legislative matters, while rejecting attempts to use the Legislative Assembly for personal matters.

Uttam Reddy Honors Kaka Venkata Swamy's Legacy

TPN , Hyderabad: Minister Uttam Kumar Reddy praised Kaka Venkata Swamy as a "legend in politics" during his speech at the Golden Jubilee celebrations of Dr. BR Ambedkar Educational Institutions in Hyderabad. Attending as the chief guest, Minister Uttam recalled Kaka Venkata Swamy's significant contributions to national politics, noting that he held numerous important posts, including both state and central ministerial roles.

The Minister described Kaka Venkata Swamy as an inspiration, emphasizing his role in empowering many through



education. "Kaka provided quality education to countless poor people, and his efforts continue to inspire us," he remarked.

Correspondent Saroja also highlighted the successful operation of the educa-

last decade.

This event marked a significant celebration of Kaka Venkata Swamy's legacy and the importance of quality education.

tional institutions and the commitment to providing quality education without a profit motive. The Minister assured that the government would offer any necessary support to strengthen education. He affirmed the Congress government's dedication to improving government educational institutions and addressed the previous government's failure to recruit teachers in the

MP Arvind Requests Land for Navodayas in Telangana

TPN , Telangana : Nizamabad MP Dharmapuri Arvind has urged Telangana Chief Minister Revanth Reddy to provide about 20 acres of land in Jubilee Hills for the establishment of Navodayas in Jagtial and Nizamabad districts. Following the Union Cabinet's recent approval for setting up the schools, Arvind highlighted the proposed sites in the two districts and requested the CM's support in securing land for the initiative.

In addition to the land request, MP Arvind discussed ongoing railway projects in his constituency. He pointed out that the Madhav Nagar Railway Overbridge (ROB) was sanctioned on a 50-50 funding basis between the central and state governments, while the Adivi Mamidipalli ROB was entirely funded by the central government. However, Arvind criticized the previous



BRS government for diverting the funds, which has caused delays in the project. He also noted that contractors are facing difficulties due to delayed payments, affecting the timely completion of works.

Arvind urged the authorities to address these issues promptly, sanction pending bills, and expedite the completion of the railway infrastructure to avoid further setbacks in the projects.

CPI's Narayana Calls for Reform in Film Industry

TPN , Telangana : CPI National General Secretary Narayana has made strong remarks regarding the Sandhya Theater stampede incident and the current state of the film industry. Speaking to the media in Amaravati, Narayana expressed his regret over the tragic death of a woman who had gone to watch Pushpa 2 with her family. He stated that the police were not at fault in the incident, but emphasized the need for the government to take measures to prevent similar tragedies in the future.

Narayana also condemned the rising movie ticket prices and called for reforms. He argued that only films with a positive message or historical



significance should be allowed to benefit from ticket rate hikes or concessions. Specifically targeting the Pushpa 2 film, Narayana criticized the portrayal of a red sandalwood smuggler as the hero and expressed disapproval over such narratives being promoted by contemporary actors like Allu Arjun's generation.

The CPI leader accused the Telangana government of being the primary culprit in allowing ticket price increases for films like Pushpa 2, which he claimed burdened the common people. He expressed frustration that it has become increasingly difficult for families to enjoy a movie together due to the high costs.

Ponnala Calls Lagacharla Incident 'Lanka'



TPN , Telangana : Former Minister Ponnala Lakshmaiah has made controversial remarks about the ongoing land acquisition issue in Lagacharla, accusing the Telangana government of turning the peaceful area into a "Lanka" in the name of land acquisition for pharmaceutical companies. Speaking at a media conference at Telangana Bhavan, Lakshmaiah expressed that tribal farmers were upset as their lands were being forcibly acquired, but he clarified that their intentions were not to attack officials, rather to prevent the land acquisition.

Lakshmaiah also criticized the Congress leadership for lacking an understanding of loans and investments, claiming that government leaders had misled the public with their statements in the Assembly. He demanded clarification on whether the Congress government would continue welfare schemes initiated during the previous BRS government's tenure. He also expressed frustration over the Telangana Chief Minister's repeated discussions on the Lagacharla incident, implying it was being used as a political tool.

In a separate media conference, Lakshmaiah, along with former MLA Dasyam Vinay Bhaskar, questioned the CM's awareness of the global and national economic situation. He also raised concerns over the welfare schemes under the Congress government and demanded transparency regarding the six guarantees promised by the Congress. Lakshmaiah accused the Congress of spreading misinformation in the Assembly and criticized the government for using loans to fund development projects instead of genuine economic strategies.

In a dramatic analogy, he compared the political dynamics to the story of "Ramayana," calling Telangana CM KCR "Rama" and Congress leader Revanth Reddy "Ravana," while further claiming that the money given by Adani was misused.

Minister Sridhar Babu Responds to Allu Arjun's Comments

TPN , Telangana : Minister Sridhar Babu has responded to Allu Arjun's recent media statements regarding the tragic incident at Sandhya Theater. Allu Arjun, in his statement on Saturday night, expressed that the incident was an unfortunate accident and denied any fault in the matter. He also clarified that claims of him attending the event without permission were false, emphasizing that he has worked hard to uphold the name of Telugu people and was saddened by the false allegations made against him.

In response, Minister Sridhar Babu acknowl-

edged the incident but pointed out that the matter is still under investigation in court. He questioned whether the police had granted permission for Allu Arjun's event at the theater. The Minister added that Allu Arjun's response appeared to be influenced by information from the police. Babu further emphasized that Chief Minister Revanth Reddy had expressed disappointment, noting that Allu Arjun should have shown empathy by visiting the family of the deceased woman, Sri Teja. He mentioned that the CM had suggested that film industry leaders should take the initiative to offer condolences to the victim's family.



Bakka Judson's Controversial Remarks on Kodandaram



TPN , Telangana : In a recent media interaction, Bakka Judson made sensational comments about Kodandaram, calling him "number one" and a "fighter." Judson criticized the current state of intellectuals, labeling them as "420 gal" (frauds) who are easily swayed by money, claiming that for a small sum, they would even perform dances.

He questioned how martyrs lived and drew attention to Kodandaram's new car, suggesting that those in power were no longer true intellectuals but were motivated by financial gains.

Judson further condemned the state of intellectuals in Telangana, saying that they were merely "prepaid intellectuals" who had been bought off. He accused them of being silenced by money and compared them to people whose opinions were influenced by the currency in their pockets. His comments also touched on the death of a woman named Andesri, accusing those in power of exploiting her memory for personal gain.

The controversy has raised eyebrows, and it remains to be seen how Kodandaram and other political figures will respond to these provocative statements from Bakka Judson.

KA Paul Criticizes Allu Arjun Over Pushpa 2 Controversy



TPN , Telangana : Praja Shanti Party President KA Paul has voiced strong criticism against Allu Arjun following the incident at Sandhya Theater, which has sparked widespread discussion in Telangana. In response to comments made by CM Revanth Reddy, KA Paul expressed his discontent with the actor's handling of a tragic situation. Paul referred to the significant suc-

cess of Pushpa 2, which has grossed over 1500 crores, and questioned Allu Arjun's offer of just 25 lakhs in compensation for the death of a woman named Revathi who attended the film. He accused the actor of being insensitive, asking whether the price of a life could truly be valued at only 25 lakhs. Paul further questioned whether Allu Arjun's own family would be content with such an amount if trag-

edy struck.

He demanded that the entire profit from Pushpa 2 be given to the deceased woman's family, highlighting the larger ethical responsibility of film industry figures. Paul also referenced Allu Arjun's extensive career in movies, questioning the morality of accepting profits while offering minimal aid in return for a life lost.

ACP Murthy Warns Actor Over Police Criticism



TPN , Hyderabad : ACP Vishnu Murthy has strongly criticized an unnamed actor for making inappropriate remarks about the police force. Speaking to the media, Murthy accused the actor of using the police for personal gain and misleading the public. He questioned whether someone who is an accused in a case should be holding a press meet and making statements. "Can a hero, who is accused in a case, hold a press meet?" Murthy asked. He pointed out that only a few police families earn more than 1 lakh, highlighting the difficulties faced by officers who work tirelessly for society.

Murthy expressed frustration at the growing tendency among some actors and politicians to criticize the police while failing to acknowledge their dedication. He added that while the police

are on duty to ensure public safety, the actor in question seemed to be humiliating them with unfounded accusations. Murthy also pointed out that certain rules govern security operations, and while actors and politicians speak as though they are supporters of the police, their actions do not reflect this.

In a stern warning, Murthy emphasized that if anyone continues to act recklessly, the police will not remain silent. "We will not let anyone harm our officers," he said. He also criticized the portrayal of police officers in movies, particularly pointing out the vulgar depiction of police characters. "Learn acting first; you're still an accused," Murthy stated. The ACP concluded by urging the actor to focus on making films with a social message rather than causing disruptions and disrespecting the police force.

Crime Rate Slightly Up in 2024, Says Hyderabad CP Anand

TPN , Hyderabad : Hyderabad Commissioner of Police CV Anand held a media conference to discuss the annual crime report for the city. He highlighted that all festivals in the Hyderabad Commissionerate were peaceful, and both the Home Guard and the CP's team worked diligently throughout the year. The Assembly and Parliament elections were also successfully completed, with no major incidents.

However, CP Anand noted a slight increase in the crime rate this year. A total of 35,944 FIRs were registered, reflecting a 45% rise in comparison to last year. Despite this, there was a 13% reduction in murders and a



decrease in attempted murders. Kidnapping cases saw an 88% increase, while property-related crimes rose by 67%. The crime detection rate stands at 59%, with a recovery rate of 58%.

Cybercrime is a growing concern, with 4,042 cases registered this year, including a significant rise in investment frauds. Losses from cybercrimes amounted to Rs. 297 crores, with Rs. 42 crores recovered. CP Anand reported a 30% increase in cybercrime case detections and over 500 arrests of cyber criminals.

The CP also addressed the Sandhya Theater stampede incident, revealing CCTV footage and confirming the police's attempts to save victims. He warned that celebrities and event organizers must take responsibility for the behavior of their hired bouncers, stating that any further incidents would lead to legal action.

Sajjanar Warns of Digital Arrest Scams

TPN , Hyderabad : Sajjanar, the RTC MD and former IPS officer, has highlighted lack of awareness as the main reason for people falling victim to cyber frauds. In a recent tweet, he raised concerns over the rise of digital arrest scams. He clarified that there is no such thing as a "digital arrest" for any crime, emphasizing that law enforcement agencies will arrest criminals in person. Sajjanar warned the public to be cautious of fraudsters who threaten people with digital arrests, stressing that no investigative agency in India asks for personal details over the phone or online.

He advised people not to panic if they receive such calls and urged them to report the incident at the nearest police station or call the National Cyber Crime Helpline (1930) immediately. Sajjanar's message serves as a reminder to stay vigilant and informed to avoid falling victim to cyber crimes.



Food Safety Dept Raids Dairy Units in Hyderabad

TPN , Hyderabad : On December 20, the Food Safety Department conducted raids on two dairy manufacturing units in Hyderabad, NR Milk House in Amberpet and Durga Dairy Products in Sultan Bazar. The raids were part of the department's efforts to ensure the safety and quality of dairy products available to consumers in the city.

Officials inspected the premises, checking for compliance with food safety regulations, including the use of proper hygiene standards, labeling, and storage practices. The department aims to curb the sale of adulterated or substandard dairy products, which could pose health

risks to the public. Authorities have stressed the importance of stringent checks to maintain food safety standards and safeguard public health.

The raids are part of ongoing surveillance and enforcement activities by the Food Safety Department to ensure that food products meet the required safety guidelines. Further investigations are expected to follow, and any violations found during the raids will be dealt with according to the law. This action highlights the department's commitment to ensuring that consumers receive safe and high-quality dairy products.



Dattatraya Attends Pre-Christmas Celebrations

TPN , Hyderabad : Shri Bandaru Dattatraya, the Hon'ble Governor of Haryana, graced the Pre-Christmas Celebrations as the Chief Guest on December 22, 2024, at Banjara Hills, Hyderabad. The event was organized by Mrs. Alka Manoj. Notable dignitaries, including Bishop David Sudhakar, Pastor Raj Prakash Paul, Pastor Joseph Vinod, Pastor John Christopher, and Pastor Amous, also participated in the occasion. The celebration brought together various community leaders and guests to mark the festive season. Kailas Nagesh, Private Secretary to the Governor of Haryana, also attended the event.

Tributes to Kaka Venkat Swamy on Death Anniversary

TPN , Hyderabad: On the occasion of the death anniversary of senior Congress leader Kaka Venkat Swamy, an intimate gathering of golden jubilee alumni took place at Dr. B.R. Ambedkar Educational Institutions. The event was attended by several prominent political figures, including Speaker Gaddam Prasad Kumar, Ministers Ponnamm Prabhakar, and Uttam Kumar Reddy, along with various MLAs.

Minister Ponnamm Prabhakar, who serves in the Transport and BC Welfare Department, spoke highly of Kaka Venkat Swamy, describing him as an ideal for all. "He is a person who ascended every post, and it is a great pleasure to remember him on this occasion," Prabhakar stated.

He also highlighted the immense contributions made by Venkat Swamy in the struggle for the achievement of Telangana. "Taking him as an example, we also participated in the achievement of Telangana. Kaka Venkat Swamy worked tirelessly to uplift everyone, both politically and educationally," Prabhakar



said. He urged everyone to follow Kaka Venkat Swamy's example in the future, especially in terms of their commitment to society, politics, and education. The gathering was a heartfelt tribute to a leader whose legacy continues to inspire many.

JEE Advanced Schedule Released, 13 Centers in Telangana

TPN , Telangana : The schedule for the JEE (Joint Entrance Examination) Advanced 2025 has been released, with the exam set to take place on May 18, 2025. Eligible candidates who secured a rank within the top 2.5 lakh in JEE Mains 2025 (Paper I for BE/BTech) can appear for the exam across all categories.

In Telangana, 13 centers have been provided for the exam, including Adilabad, Hyderabad, Karimnagar, Khammam, Kodad, Kothagudem, Mahabubnagar, Nalgonda, Nizamabad, Sathupally, Siddipet, Suryapet, and Warangal.

Important Dates and Registration Details : The registration process will begin on April 23 and end on May 2. Eligible candidates must pay the exam fee by May 5, 5 pm. The fee is Rs 1600 for females, SC, ST, and PwD candidates, while it is Rs 3200 for others.

Exam Timings and Admit Card : The JEE Advanced exam will be held in two sessions: Paper 1 from 9:00 am to 12:00 noon, and Paper 2 from 2:30 pm to 5:30 pm. Admit cards can be downloaded from May 11 to May 18, between 10:00 am and 2:30 pm.

Age Criteria : Candidates must be born on or after October 1, 2000, with a five-year relaxation for SC, ST, and PwD candidates, who must be born on or after October 1, 1995.

Konda Surekha Honors PV Narasimha Rao on 20th Death Anniversary



TPN , Hyderabad : On December 23, marking the 20th death anniversary of PV Narasimha Rao, Minister of Forest, Environment, and Endowments, Mrs. Konda Surekha, remembered his invaluable contributions to the nation. She called Rao an intellectual and visionary, praising his leadership as Prime Minister. Surekha highlighted his key role in lifting India from an economic crisis, connecting the country to the global market, and implementing transformative policies. She further emphasized that the Congress party continues to prioritize education and healthcare, reflecting PV Narasimha Rao's commitment to public welfare.

Vemulawada Agricultural Market Committee's New Governing Body Sworn In

TPN , Rajanna Siricilla District: Minister Ponnam Prabhakar attended the swearing-in ceremony of the new governing body of the Vemulawada Agricultural Market Committee, held in the presence of key leaders, including Government Whip and Vemulawada MLA Adi Srinivas. District Agriculture Officer, along with Chairman Dum Raju and Vice Chairman Kanikarapu Rakesh, took the oath during the ceremony.

Minister Prabhakar congratulated the

new leadership and highlighted the government's efforts to resolve farmers' issues in Vemulawada. He reiterated the government's commitment to supporting farmers through initiatives like the Mother Earth Bill and farm loan waivers. Minister Prabhakar also criticized the opposition, accusing them of trying to embarrass the government instead of responsibly addressing public concerns.

He emphasized the government's achievements, including providing 200

units of free electricity to 90% of rural households, free women's travel, and gas cylinders at reduced rates. Additionally, a survey for Indiramma houses will be conducted to ensure transparency in the allocation process.

Minister Prabhakar also urged the public to support Congress in upcoming local body elections, asserting that the government is working diligently to serve the people, especially in areas like education, healthcare, and farmers' welfare.



KTR Warns Farmers of Deception



TPN , Telangana : BRS Working President K.T. Rama Rao (KTR) has written an open letter to food donors, urging them to stay alert and protest against the restrictions and deception surrounding the farmer assurance scheme. KTR warned that if the public does not rise against these tactics now, they will be left with nothing but broken promises and greed. He specifically criticized the Congress-led government's handling of the farmer assurance scheme and its failure to deliver on promises made during the 2023 elections.

KTR accused the Congress government of diverting attention away from the real issues during the recent Legislative Assembly discussions on farmer assurance. He claimed that Chief Minister Revanth Reddy's administration deliberately avoided addressing concerns and doubts about the scheme, while Congress ministers spread misinformation about the Rythu Bandhu scheme. KTR stressed that the government's lack of clarity and evasive tactics were a deliberate attempt to mislead farmers.

The BRS leader also pointed to the Congress government's failure to implement promises made to farmers, including the assurance of Rs. 15,000 per acre under Rythu Bharosa. Despite the passage of a year since the Congress came to power, KTR noted that farmers have received no financial assistance under this scheme. Instead, the government has failed to pay the promised amount of Rs. 17,500 per acre to farmers.

KTR urged farmers to remain vigilant and not be fooled by the government's empty promises, emphasizing that the BRS government's Rythu Bandhu scheme has provided direct financial assistance to farmers, without corruption, and has been widely praised across the country. He called for farmers to remember these broken promises and stand united to demand what they are rightfully owed.

Blade Found in Biryani at Ghatkesar Restaurant Amid Food Safety Violations

TPN , Hyderabad: A shocking incident occurred at a restaurant in Ghatkesar when a blade was found in the biryani served to a customer. The discovery was made by a local resident, Bingi Ailaiah, who was dining with friends at the eatery.



Upon finding the blade, Ailaiah and his group immediately alerted the restaurant management. However, instead of addressing the issue seriously, the management downplayed the incident, claiming it was a mere accident. Unhappy with the response, Ailaiah decided to file a complaint at the local police station to take further action.

This incident highlights the growing concerns over food safety violations in Telangana. Recently, several cases have surfaced where customers have found cigarette butts, bugs, and other foreign objects in their meals. Despite ongoing raids by the Telangana food safety task force, many eateries continue to face hygiene issues, raising questions about the effectiveness of food safety measures in the state.

Online Lenders Face Up to 10 Years in Prison for Pension Fraud

TPN , Telangana : In a shocking case of corruption, a postal BPM (Branch Post Master) in Wankidi mandal, Komuram Bheem district, has been implicated in drawing a deceased person's pension for nearly three months. Sheikh Mahbub, a resident of Wankidi mandal center, passed away in August. His family applied for a pension for his mother, only to discover that a pension had been fraudulently drawn in Mahbub's name. Authorities revealed that a total of Rs. 6048 had been withdrawn, despite Mahbub's death.

The family expressed outrage upon learning of the fraudulent activity, questioning how a deceased person could claim a pension. They voiced their anger towards the postal BPM responsible for the crime, labeling the incident as a shameful act of corruption. Authorities are now investigating the case, and the accused may face up to 10 years in prison for their involvement in this fraudulent activity. This incident highlights the growing concerns over misuse and corruption in government pension systems.

Congress Government Damaging Telangana's Identity: MLC Kavitha

TPN, Telangana : BRS MLC Kalva kuntla Kavitha accused the Congress government of undermining Telangana's identity, specifically through its actions against the Telangana Thalli and the Bathukamma festival. Addressing Telangana residents abroad in an online meeting organized by BRS and Telangana Jagruti NRI sections, Kavitha urged unity to oppose the Congress government's actions, which she claims insult Telangana women and traditions.

Kavitha criticized the Congress government for distancing Bathukamma from Telangana Thalli and changing the form of Telangana's revered symbol. She expressed concern over the secrecy surrounding the modification of the Telangana Thalli statue, questioning why

the government withheld public approval. She also highlighted the public outcry from villages requesting statues of Telangana Thalli, emphasizing the emotional impact of the government's actions.

NRIs from across the world joined the meeting, expressing their commitment to reversing the Congress government's move. They pledged to expose the government's actions globally and protect Telangana's culture, traditions, and the Telangana Thalli movement.

Key participants included former Film Development Corporation Chairman Anil Kurmachalam, Jagruti leaders, and BRS representatives from various countries, all expressing solidarity in the fight to preserve Telangana's heritage.

Governor Jishnu Dev Visits Medak Church



TPN , Telangana : Telangana Governor Jishnu Dev Verma visited Medak district to participate in the centenary celebrations of Medak Church.

The celebrations, which began on Sunday,

mark 100 years of the church's establishment. The Governor toured the church and attended cultural programs held there. He also addressed the congregation, praising the church for spreading the love of Jesus Christ for a century.

Later, Governor Verma visited the Kolcharam Social Welfare Girls' Gurukul School, where he was warmly welcomed by Narasapur MLA Sunitha Lakshma Reddy. The Governor interacted with the students, inquiring about their living conditions and well-being, and shared lunch with them.

During his visit, Governor Verma emphasized the importance of education and discipline, likening schools to temples where students grow with good culture and traditions. He encouraged the students to work toward their dreams and overcome challenges to achieve their goals.

The celebrations at Medak Church will continue with a special thanksgiving program on December 23, featuring drama performances, prayers, and cultural events. Chief Minister Revanth Reddy is also expected to participate in the celebrations on Christmas Day, December 25.

Health Minister Cautions Government Doctors Against Private Practice in Nizamabad



TPN , Nizamabad: Telangana Health Minister C. Damodar Rajanarasimha raised concerns about government doctors neglecting their duties by engaging in private practice, emphasizing the negative impact on patients' access to timely medical care.

Speaking at the inauguration of the newly constructed MCH and Critical Care Units, built at a cost of Rs. 38.75 crore in the district, Rajanarasimha highlighted the issue of doctors prioritizing private clinics

over their government responsibilities. He warned that the government would not tolerate such negligence, which hampers the quality of public healthcare.

The Minister urged medical officials to work towards developing Nizamabad into a medical services hub, offering quality healthcare at government hospitals. He recalled the district's once excellent reputation in medical services and called for a return to that standard through dedicated work by doctors and staff.

Rajanarasimha also emphasized the government's commitment to providing necessary facilities in sub-centers, district hospitals, and Government General Hospitals. He assured that vacancies in the healthcare sector would be filled soon and expressed readiness to establish more health centers to meet the needs of local communities.

Earlier, the Minister inaugurated a new Primary Health Centre building in Renjal Mandal, costing Rs. 1.56 crore.

One Killed, Two Injured in LPG Cylinder Blast in Kodangal

TPN , Telangana : A fatal LPG cylinder explosion at an HP gas godown in Maddur mandal, Kodangal constituency, left one person dead and two others seriously injured early on Sunday. The deceased has been identified as Naresh, a resident of Gundumal mandal.

The explosion occurred when workers were arranging gas cylinders at the godown in the early morning hours. Naresh lost his life in the blast, while Krishna, also from Gundumal mandal, and Naveen, from Avangapatnam of Koilkonda mandal, sustained critical injuries.

The injured victims were immediately rushed to the Government General Hospital in Mahabubnagar for treatment. The blast has raised concerns about safety protocols at gas godowns, and investigations are underway to determine the cause of the explosion.

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. 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.

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 Convener 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

also 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.

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.

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
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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 Jaisalmir, 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-



erinarians 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.

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, vet-

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.



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.

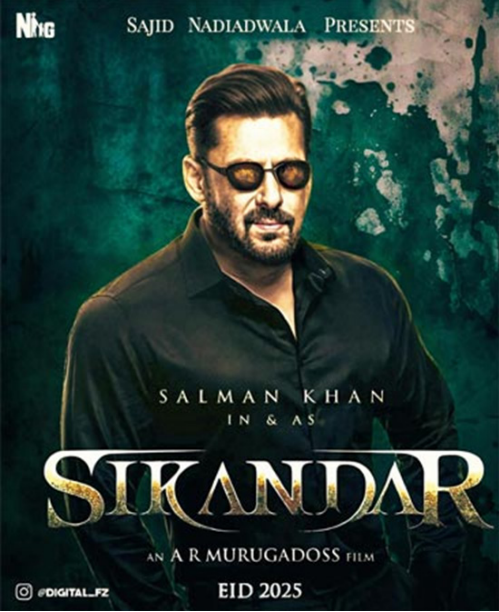
One of the standout highlights of the promotional activities is the much-talked-about *Dhop* song, which has been making waves ever since it was teased. Composed by the talented Thaman, the song has been hailed as a groundbreaking track by the film’s team. The track was officially unveiled at today’s 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.

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!

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.



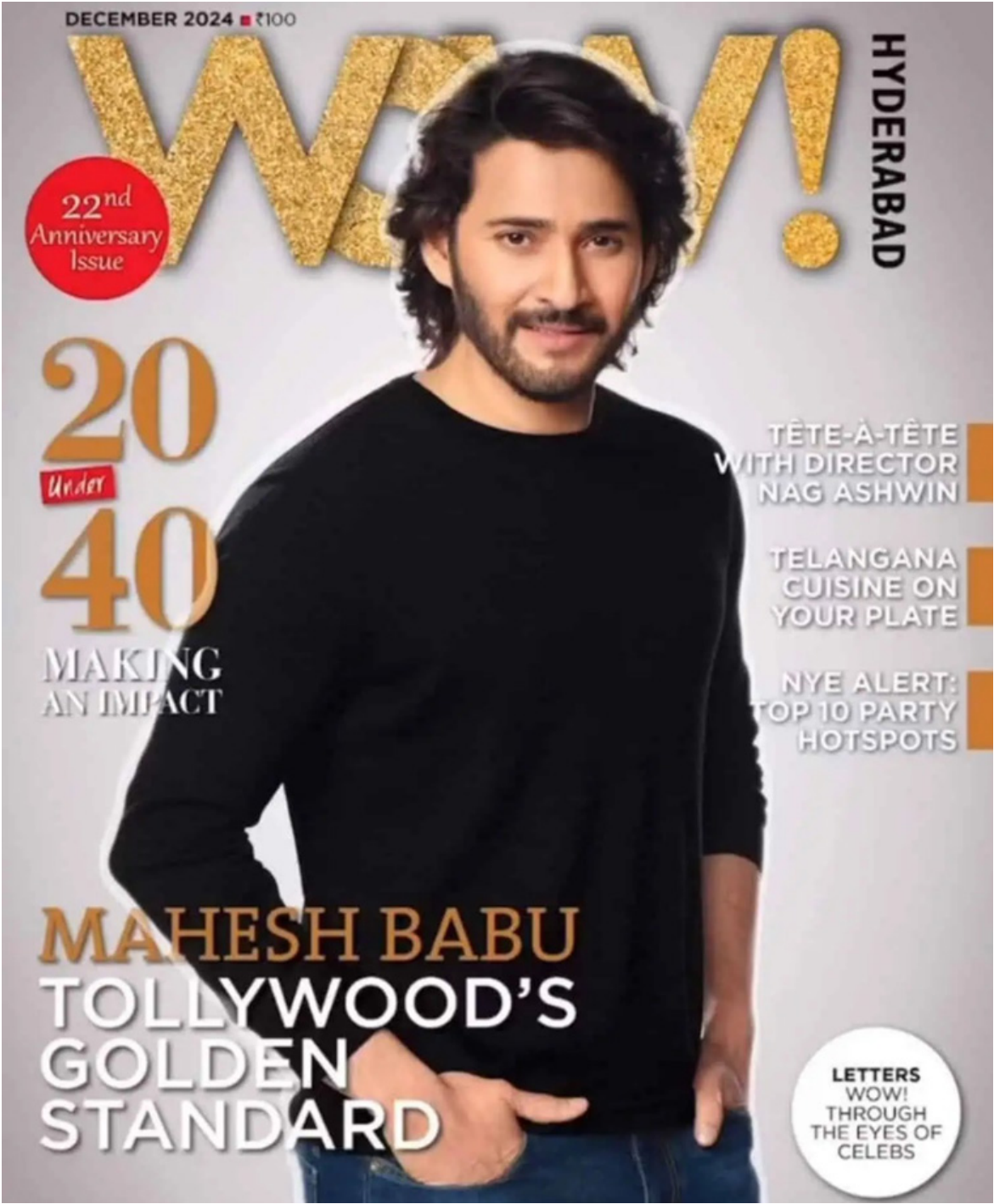
During the event, actor SJ Suryah, who plays a significant role in the film, shared some heartfelt words about his co-star. He revealed that he saved Ram Charan’s contact in his phone as “RC – The King” to honor the actor’s gracious nature. “Global Star Ram Charan is a very good human being. I saved 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.