

POINT

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HYDERABAD	VIJAYAWADA	TIRUPATHI
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Dy CM Delivers Promises Made During Palle Pandaga Celebrations

TPN Correspondent
Krishna District, Dec 24

The residents of Penamaluru constituency, especially those in Kankipadu, Royyur, and Godavarru, are set to benefit from a major infrastructure improvement. Deputy Chief Minister Pawan Kalyan has overseen the rapid construction of a 5-kilometer road between Kankipadu bus stand and Royyur via Godavarru. What was once a road nearly impassable, causing great inconvenience to the residents, is now being transformed to ensure smooth travel. This improvement, promised by Pawan Kalyan during a village festival two months ago, will benefit about 21,000 people across the three villages.



During a recent inspection, Pawan Kalyan assessed the quality of the road construction, which is being funded by the National Employment Guarantee Scheme (NEGS) and State Disaster Response Fund (SDRF). He emphasized the importance of proper road layering and suggested that the entire old road be removed to ensure lasting quality. As of now, 3.63 kilometers of the road have been completed, with the final phase expected to be done by Sankranti. The total cost of the project is Rs. 3 crore. Local villagers expressed gratitude to Pawan Kalyan, recounting years of hardship due to the dilapidated road, which made transportation difficult for pregnant women and farmers. They praised the quick action taken by the Deputy Chief Minister, who personally ensured that the work adhered to high standards. In addition to the road improvements, Pawan Kalyan visited Malayapalem village in the Gudivada

constituency, where he inspected the water supply system under the Rural Safe Drinking Water Scheme. Following concerns raised by Gudivada MLA Venigandla Ramu regarding poor water quality, Pawan Kalyan ensured that repairs were made to 14 villages, including the replacement of damaged filter beds, with a Rs. 3.8

crore allocation. The repairs aim to ensure safe drinking water for the villagers. Both the road construction and the water supply upgrades reflect Pawan Kalyan's commitment to addressing local infrastructure issues, enhancing the quality of life for rural residents in Krishna district.



CM Naidu Approves ₹2,723 Crore Projects for Amaravati

TPN Correspondent
Amaravati, Dec 24

In a significant boost to Amaravati's development, Andhra Pradesh Chief Minister N. Chandrababu Naidu sanctioned ₹2,723 crore worth of construction projects in the capital city during a CRDA meeting held at the Secretariat On Monday.

This approval comes on the heels of recent funding approvals of ₹15,000 crore from the World Bank and the Asian Development Bank, marking a major financial commitment toward transforming Amaravati into a world-class city.

During the meeting, CM Naidu directed officials to expedite the completion of 1.18 lakh TIDCO houses and ensure their launch by June 12, 2025. Additionally, provisions for basic amenities in LPS Zone 7 and Zone 10 were prioritized. Discussions also centered on the progress of key infrastructure projects, including the Outer Ring Road for Amaravati and the Vijayawada bypass.

To date, the CRDA has sanctioned projects worth ₹47,288 crore in Amaravati. The state government has reiterated its commitment to establishing Amaravati as a global urban hub by implementing world-class infrastructure and facilities.

CM Naidu emphasized the importance of adhering to strict timelines to complete all major developments and instructed CRDA officials to work diligently toward realizing the capital city's ambitious vision.

The War of Words Between YSRCP Mayor and TDP MLA in Kadapa

TPN Correspondent
Kadapa, Dec 24

Kadapa, December 23, 2024: Tensions ran high during the general meeting of the Kadapa Municipal Corporation, as a heated argument broke out between YSRCP Mayor Suresh Babu and TDP MLA Madhavi Reddy over a seating dispute. The meeting, which began at 11 am,

away the chair, the people have given me a seat, and I do not need to fight for a chair. I have the strength to stand and speak throughout the meeting." Reddy also criticized the mayor's decision, suggesting that it was an intentional act to humiliate women and that the mayor was influenced by political pressures. Tensions reached a boiling point, with YSRCP and TDP corporators engaging in a verbal showdown. While TDP activists staged a protest outside the corporation building in support of the MLA and to demand respect for women, inside, the disagreement continued between the mayor and MLA. The police were deployed in large numbers to prevent further disturbances, and Section 144 was imposed to maintain order.



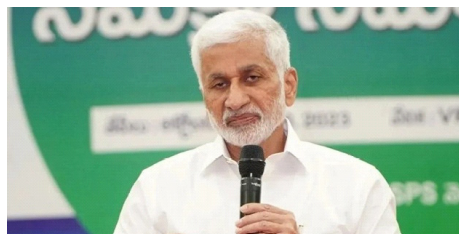
quickly became the focal point of a political clash. MLA Madhavi Reddy, who has expressed her anger in the past about being denied a seat in the mayor's chamber, found herself again without a chair at this meeting. The ongoing issue escalated when she was not provided a seat despite prior arrangements in previous meetings. MLA Madhavi Reddy strongly protested, questioning the mayor's actions and calling it an insult to women. She said, "Even if you take

In the middle of the confrontation, MLA Reddy raised concerns about illegal construction, questioning the mayor's involvement in such activities. She insisted that, as an ex-officio member, she had the right to speak during the meeting, despite the disruption caused by the ongoing altercation. The episode further highlighted the simmering tensions between the YSRCP and TDP in Kadapa, with both parties accusing each other of disrespecting elected representatives.

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ED Issues Notices to MP Vijayasai Reddy in Kakinada Port Case

TPN Correspondent
Andhra Pradesh, Dec 24



The Enforcement Directorate (ED) has issued fresh notices in connection with the ongoing investigation into the Kakinada Port case. Notices have been served to Member of Parliament (MP) Vijayasai Reddy, his In Law, and P. Sarath Chandra Reddy of Aurobindo Pharma.

Previously, both MP Vijayasai Reddy and Sarath Chandra Reddy had been absent from the inquiry, citing health reasons related to Parliament meetings. The investigation centers around the flow of significant funds, particularly the Rs. 494 crore, with questions being raised about where the money came from and who provided it. This forms a critical aspect of the ongoing probe, as the ED seeks to understand how Aurobindo Pharma raised such a large sum.

Additionally, Vikrant Reddy, the son of YV Subbareddy, has already appeared for questioning. However, there are speculations that the ED may issue further notices to Vikrant Reddy, asking him to attend additional inquiries related to the case. The investigation is currently focused on tracing the source of the funds and examining any possible illegal financial activities linked to the port deal.

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Nara Lokesh Shows Generosity, Supports Student in Need of Medical Help

TPN Correspondent
Andhra Pradesh, Dec 24

Andhra Pradesh Education Minister Nara Lokesh once again displayed his generosity and quick response to a student's medical crisis. He intervened when a student from Nujiveedu Triple IT, Murapala Anusha, suffered a brain stroke and urgently needed medical assistance.

Anusha, an engineering first-year student from Srikakulam, was a lively and active individual before her sudden health setback. She was rushed to a nearby hospital after the stroke, and her fellow students, family members, and relatives turned to Minister Nara Lokesh for help through social media, specifically Twitter (X), seeking better medical treatment for her recovery. Responding immediately to the call, Minister Lokesh contacted the medical team to ensure that Anusha received the necessary care. His prompt action was widely appreciated. Anusha's fellow students, including Padmaja X, an alumna of Nujiveedu Triple IT, expressed gratitude for the minister's intervention. Padmaja thanked Minister Lokesh for his prompt response and



support in ensuring that Anusha got the best possible treatment. The students of Nujiveedu Triple IT also expressed their admiration for Minister Lokesh's commitment to supporting students in need, with many sharing their appreciation on social media. They recalled past instances where Lokesh had stepped in to assist

students during difficult times, further solidifying his reputation as a leader who is always ready to help. Minister Lokesh's quick response and the help extended to Anusha once again earned him heartfelt thanks from the community, particularly from students, who felt his genuine concern and kindness.



Capital Development is on Track, No Reduction in Plans

TPN Correspondent
Amaravati, Dec 24

Minister Narayana addressed the ongoing progress of Amaravati's development, assuring that the capital city is progressing as planned without any reduction in the scope of work. Speaking at the 44th CRDA Authority meeting, held under the leadership of Chief Minister Chandrababu Naidu, Narayana emphasized that the authority has approved Rs. 2723 crore for the development of Zone 7 and Zone 10 layouts. To date, the authority has given permission for Rs. 47,288 crore for the city's development, with approval for remaining works expected soon.

The Minister highlighted the Chief Minister's commitment to building good houses for the poor and ensuring that every woman and family is happy. The government has already been working on housing projects, with the Center allocating 7,01,481 houses. Administrative permission has been granted for 5,00,000 houses, and 4,54,706 of them have already been grounded. Narayana emphasized that the housing project had faced land disputes, but efforts have been made to resolve them, with three types of houses—300, 365, and 430 square feet—being built.

Minister Narayana further criticized the previous government for mis-managing the housing project and misallocating funds, which led to delays in construction. He said that Rs. 7,517 crore would be required to complete the ongoing projects, with 70,000 houses completed under the TDP government.

Narayana assured that the Chief Minister has directed that 18 lakh houses should be completed by June 12, 2024, and work will proceed with TIDCO to ensure timely completion. He also confirmed that the development of all 26 districts in the state would be carried out equally. Narayana reaffirmed that Amaravati will be built as planned, without burdening the people financially, and assured that the project would be completed within the next three years.

Tenali Native Geeta Kishore Kumar Appointed High Commissioner of Grenada

TPN Correspondent
Tenali, Dec 24

In a proud moment for Tenali, Guntur district, Pasupuleti Geeta Kishore Kumar has assumed the position of High Commissioner of Grenada, a Caribbean nation, to India. Kishore Kumar, who hails from a humble background, represents a remarkable success story that has brought global recognition to his roots.

Kishore Kumar is the seventh of eight children born to Veeraswamy, a mason, and Manemma, his wife, from Ramalingeswarapet. The family has excelled through education, with five sons and three daughters carving out successful lives. Four of the siblings have settled abroad, two in Hyderabad, one in Bangalore, and one, Madhav Rao, remaining in Tenali.

Kishore Kumar completed his schooling and Intermediate education at Tenali High School, pursued an MSc in Hyderabad, and later earned an MBA in the USA. He settled in Grenada in 1984, establishing himself as a successful entrepreneur. On November 26, he officially took charge as Grenada's High Commissioner to India after presenting his credentials to the President of India at Rashtrapati Bhavan, New Delhi.

Kishore Kumar's brother Madhav Rao expressed immense pride in his achievement, saying, "It is a moment of joy to see someone from our family and town represent another coun-



try as a diplomat and reach such a prestigious level." This inspiring journey of a Telugu man from Tenali to a top diplomat-

ic position underscores the significance of education and perseverance in achieving success on a global stage.

SIPC Meeting Chaired by CS Nirab Kumar Prasad to Review Investment Proposals

TPN Correspondent
Amaravati, Dec 24

The State Investment Promotion Committee (SIPC) meeting was held on Monday at the State Secretariat, chaired by Chief Secretary Nirab Kumar Prasad. The meeting focused on reviewing the investment proposals received from various companies and institutions looking to invest in the state. During the meeting, the committee discussed the details of these proposals and deliberated on their potential for boosting economic growth and creating employment opportunities within the state. The committee is expected to recommend these proposals to the State Investment Promotion Board (SIPB) for further approval and necessary action.

The discussion emphasized the importance of facilitating investments that align with the state's development goals and contribute to strengthening key sectors of the economy.



Rain Alert To AP, Severe Low Pressure Continues in West Bay of Bengal

TPN Correspondent
Andhra Pradesh, Dec 24

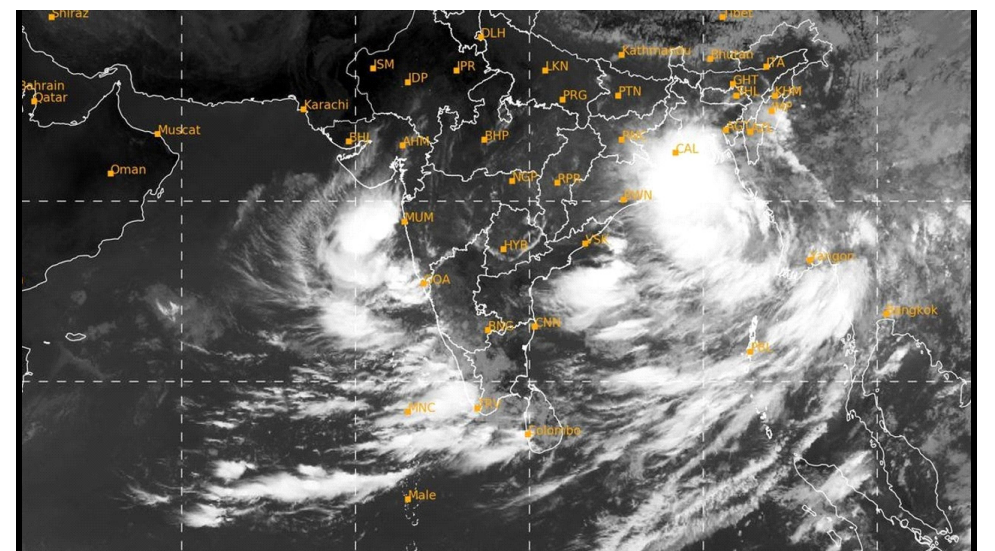
A severe low pressure system continues to persist in the West Bay of Bengal, with its movement proving unpredictable. Initially, the Meteorological Department had estimated that the low pressure would weaken by Sunday, but its erratic movement has made it difficult to predict its future path.

The low pressure is currently moving west-southwestwards and is expected to move towards the south coast of North Tamil Nadu and Andhra Pradesh by Tuesday. The Meteorological Department has warned that

moderate to heavy rainfall will affect several districts in Andhra Pradesh, including Tirupati, Nellore, Prakasam, and Bapatla. As a precaution, authorities have issued a third-level warning to the ports in the state. Fishermen are advised to refrain from going to sea until Thursday due to the adverse conditions.

The unpredictable movement of the low pressure system in the sea has complicated forecasting efforts. Meteorological officials stated that the remnants of the low pressure are moving towards the northern Tamil Nadu and southern Andhra Pradesh coasts. They also mentioned that such chaotic

conditions are rare, with no favorable conditions in the west-central Bay of Bengal contributing to the unusual behavior of the system. The impact of the severe low pressure is expected to last until Thursday, December 26. While it is unclear whether the low pressure will move closer to the coast or cross it, experts believe that the system, which began as a low pressure in the southeast Bay of Bengal on December 16, strengthened rapidly and now threatens the Andhra Pradesh coast. Residents in the affected districts are advised to stay alert and take necessary precautions against the potential heavy rains and stormy conditions.



Minister Kollu Ravindra Slams Perni Nani Over Missing Ration Rice Case

TPN Correspondent
Andhra Pradesh, Dec 24

Minister Kollu Ravindra has launched a sharp attack on YSRCP leader and former minister Perni Nani over the alleged misappropriation of ration rice in a godown. Ravindra criticized Perni Nani, questioning his silence on the issue and accusing him of moral hypocrisy. "Where is Perni Nani, who often preaches morals? Why is he silent now? Those who steal rice meant for the poor should be treated like pigs," Ravindra said, alleging that Nani has failed to provide an explanation for the missing rice. He accused Perni Nani of profiting from wrongdoings and clarified that there is no justification for leaving those responsible for the scam unpunished. Ravindra also proposed the formation of a Special Investigation Team (SIT) to thoroughly probe the matter. "If there was partisanship on our part, Nani and his entire family involved in the scam would already be in jail. Yet, we are advocating a fair investigation," Ravindra added. Ravindra mocked Nani's apparent inability to respond to the allegations, stating that his silence and avoid-



ance make him appear guilty. "If you have done nothing wrong, why are you running away like a thief?" he questioned. The missing ration rice case has sparked political controversy in Andhra Pradesh, with the opposition TDP intensifying its criticism of the ruling YSRCP over alleged mismanagement and corruption. Ravindra's remarks underscore the growing tensions between the two parties as they prepare for the upcoming elections.

Minister Atchannaidu Warns Wrongdoers, Criticizes YSRCP's Five-Year Rule

TPN Correspondent
Andhra Pradesh, Dec 24

Minister Atchannaidu has strongly condemned the alleged illegal activities and governance lapses during the five-year rule of the YSRCP. Speaking on the occasion of National Farmers' Day, he criticized the previous administration for neglecting farmers and accused it of filing baseless cases against opposition leaders. Atchannaidu alleged that the YSRCP, even after losing power, has not changed its behavior. He specifically expressed outrage over the alleged conspiracy to murder TDP leader Nagaraju in Palasa through a "supari gang," labeling it as a cruel and unacceptable act.



The minister highlighted the coalition government's pro-farmer initiatives, emphasizing their commitment to farmer welfare. "In the past five years, farmers were deprived of a support price. We cleared the ₹1,600 crore arrears left by the previous government and ensured timely payments to farmers this year. Plans are in place to boost farmers' income with minimal invest-

ment," Atchannaidu said.

He noted that the government is actively promoting agricultural mechanization, including the use of drones, to enhance efficiency. Furthermore, he assured farmers that every grain damaged by recent rains would be purchased and compensated. Addressing rural development, Atchannaidu stated that roads are being constructed extensively as part of the "village festival" initiative to improve infrastructure.

On the alleged murder plot, Atchannaidu expressed anger over the emergence of a "murder culture" in the district. "This kind of behavior has never been seen before. I have directed the police to identify and apprehend the masterminds behind this conspiracy. Those who have committed wrongdoings will not escape justice," he warned.

Atchannaidu's comments reflect a strong stance against corruption and a commitment to addressing the grievances of both farmers and the public while ensuring accountability for past misdeeds.

Gauthu Sireesha Accuses Seediri Appala Raju of Promoting "Murder Culture" in Palasa



TPN Correspondent
Palasa, Dec 24

Palasa TDP MLA Gauthu Sireesha has launched a scathing attack on former minister and YSRCP leader Seediri Appala Raju, accusing him of fostering a "culture of murder" in the otherwise peaceful Palasa constituency. Sireesha alleged that there was a conspiracy to murder TDP leader Badda Nagaraju and pointed fingers at individuals linked to the YSRCP leader.

She claimed that those involved in the conspiracy were closely associated with Appala Raju and presented photographs to the media as evidence. "These photos show the accused having dinner with you. They even appear to have met your wife. What explanation will you provide for this, Appala Raju?" she questioned. Sireesha dismissed Appala Raju's claims that the accused were not his followers and warned him against interfering with TDP workers. She further cautioned that any such actions would result in police intervention.

Advising the former minister to refrain from engaging in what she described as "petty politics," Sireesha said, "Many leaders have ruled Palasa with dignity, but no one has stooped to such levels as you have."

The allegations have heightened political tensions in Palasa, with both TDP and YSRCP leaders trading accusations. Sireesha's remarks come at a time when political rivalries in Andhra Pradesh are intensifying ahead of the upcoming elections.

MLA Vishnu Kumar Raju Weighs in on Allu Arjun Controversy



TPN Correspondent
Visakhapatnam, Dec 24

BJP MLA Vishnu Kumar Raju has expressed his views on the controversy surrounding iconic star Allu Arjun's arrest following a stampede incident at Sandhya Theater, which tragically claimed the life of a woman. The actor was arrested and later released on bail, but the incident has sparked widespread debate. Vishnu Kumar Raju stated his agreement with Telangana CM Revanth Reddy's remarks on the matter. "If what Revanth Reddy said in the Assembly regarding the Allu Arjun controversy is true, then I agree with him. This is my personal opinion," he clarified. Raju emphasized that the law applies equally to everyone, regardless of their celebrity status.

The MLA criticized the overwhelming support Allu Arjun received after his arrest, questioning why the same empathy was not extended to the family of the deceased woman. "Why did no

one visit the bereaved family?" he asked.

Raju also called for stricter regulations on benefit shows, suggesting that they be stopped altogether. "Benefit shows attract large crowds and often lead to safety issues like stampedes. It's better to cancel such events to ensure public safety," he said. He also stressed the necessity of obtaining police permission for any such gatherings or events involving celebrities to avoid future incidents.

Highlighting Allu Arjun's role, Raju remarked, "As a public figure, it was Allu Arjun's responsibility to leave the venue after the tragedy occurred." He urged public representatives to convey the importance of accountability and safety to their constituents.

Raju's comments add to the growing discourse on the role of celebrities in ensuring public safety during large gatherings and the need for stricter oversight on high-profile events.

MLA Somireddy Demands Comprehensive Probe into Alleged "Vijayasai Gang" Scams

TPN Correspondent
Andhra Pradesh, Dec 24

TDP MLA Somireddy Chandramohan Reddy has demanded a thorough investigation into alleged scams involving YSRCP Rajya Sabha MP Vijayasai Reddy and his associates. He accused Vijayasai Reddy's subsidiary, Trident Knowledge Company, of supplying 4.5 lakh tons of substandard coal to APGENCO (Andhra Pradesh Power Generation Corporation), leading to a decline in power generation. Somireddy claimed the coal was sold at an inflated price of ₹8,500 per ton, resulting in significant financial losses to the state. He alleged that this forced Andhra Pradesh to procure power from external companies at higher rates, thereby imposing a heavy burden on the public. Criticizing the lack of action, Somireddy questioned why investigative agencies like the CID and Vigilance departments have not pursued the case. He called for stringent action against those responsible for supplying substandard coal and urged an inquiry into what he referred to as the "Vijayasai gang."



Somireddy also highlighted the need for investigations into other alleged irregularities, including the 108 and 104 ambulance service scams. He accused the ruling YSRCP government of

rampant corruption, stating that the magnitude of the alleged scams under Chief Minister Y.S. Jagan Mohan Reddy's leadership is overwhelming. He remarked that even the existing departmental staff might not be sufficient to handle the scale of corruption.

These allegations add fuel to the ongoing political rivalry between the TDP and YSRCP, with both parties trading accusations over governance and transparency. Somireddy's call for accountability comes amidst mounting scrutiny over the state's handling of public resources and governance. The demand for a comprehensive probe is expected to intensify political debates in Andhra Pradesh in the coming days.

Bandaru Satyanarayana Questions Benefit Shows, Demands Clarity on Motive

TPN Correspondent
Andhra Pradesh, Dec 24

TDP MLA Bandaru Satyanarayana Murthy has raised serious concerns over the practice of benefit shows in the film industry, questioning their intent and the need for government permissions. His remarks come in the aftermath of the tragic incident at Sandhya Theater during a benefit show for Pushpa-2, starring Allu Arjun, where a stampede resulted in the death of a woman named Revathi and serious injuries to her 9-year-old son, Sreetej. Highlighting the controversy, Satyanarayana pointed out that benefit shows are increasingly being conducted without a clear public welfare purpose. He questioned the Producers' Council and the film industry about the rationale behind such shows. "For whose benefit are these shows being held? Why are producers seeking additional permissions from the government? Should the government allow benefit shows solely for private profits?" Satyanarayana asked. He contrasted current practices with earlier times, citing legends like N.T. Rama Rao and Akkineni Nageswara Rao, who used the proceeds from benefit shows for public welfare.



Satyanarayana demanded that benefit shows should only be permitted if they serve a societal or charitable purpose. "Why should such shows be allowed merely to enrich producers or individuals with wealth? This practice must stop," he emphasized. The controversy surrounding Pushpa-2 escalated after an FIR was registered against actor Allu Arjun, listed as A1 in the case. He was arrested but later released on interim bail granted by the High Court. The incident and Satyanarayana's statements have sparked debates about the ethics and regulation of benefit shows, with many calling for stricter oversight to prevent further tragedies.

Y.S. Sharmila Criticizes Govt's Neglect of Farmers' Issues

Demands Immediate Action for Farmers

TPN Correspondent
Andhra Pradesh, Dec 24

Y. S. Sharmila, leader of the Congress Party, took to X (Twitter) to highlight the ongoing crisis in agriculture in Telangana, stating that farmers are facing severe hardships due to the failure of the coalition government to provide remunerative prices for their crops. Sharmila's tweet echoed the growing concerns about the plight of farmers, particularly the alarming rates of farmer suicides as they struggle with unmanageable debts and lack of support. According to Sharmila, many farmers are turning to other sectors as agriculture in the state continues to spiral into crisis. She accused both the Jagan government in the past and the current Chandrababu government of ignoring the agricultural sector while yielding to corporate interests. In her statement, Sharmila lashed out at the Chandrababu government, accusing it of failing to implement the Swaminathan Committee rec-



ommendations, which are designed to ensure fair prices for farmers. She also criticized the government's failure to complete critical irrigation projects, which have compounded the struggles of the state's farmers.

Further pointing out the government's empty promises, Sharmila questioned the delay in the implementation of the Annadata Sukhibhav scheme, which was supposed to provide ₹20,000 to farmers. Six months after the formation of the government, she argued, there has been no action on this front, leaving farmers without the promised relief. On the occasion of National Farmers' Day, Sharmila reaffirmed her party's commitment to standing by farmers and demanded the immediate implementation of the Annadata Sukhibhav scheme. She warned the government that Congress would launch a movement if farmers' issues were not addressed, vowing to continue the fight for remunerative prices for crops.

YCP Leaders Joins TDP in Mylavaram constituency



TPN Correspondent
Vijayawada, Dec 24

On Monday several YSR Congress Party (YSRCP) leaders and local public representatives from Mylavaram constituency officially joined the Telugu Desam Party (TDP). This event took place at the TDP office in Gollapudi, located in Vijayawada Rural Mandal, and was attended by Mylavaram MLA Vasantha Venkata Krishna Prasad and TDP State Executive Secretary Bommasani Subbarao. The atmosphere at the TDP office turned vibrant as various prominent figures from YSRCP joined TDP. Among the key joiners were Haveli Muthyalampadu village Sarpanch Kaja Sandhyarani, former ZPTC member Kaja Brahmayya, Sunnampadu Sarpanch Desham Venkata Sudhakar Reddy, and many others. The TDP also welcomed former public representatives, such as Chandrala village Sarpanch Jonnalagadda Jyoti and former MPP Jonnalagadda Gangadhara Rao. During the event, MLA Krishna Prasad expressed his

enthusiasm about the additions to the party, welcoming the leaders and their followers. He highlighted that several development projects, including the G. Kondur to Duggiralapadu road and the construction of a perimeter wall for the mosque in Sunnampadu, would soon be completed with the government's support. He reiterated that the TDP, under Chief Minister Chandrababu Naidu's leadership, is working towards the comprehensive development of Naryandhra Pradesh, aligning with the vision of Swarnandhra 2047. The new members expressed their satisfaction with the TDP-led coalition government's governance and MLA Vasantha Krishna Prasad's honesty and commitment. They shared that they joined the TDP due to their faith in the leadership and governance of Chandrababu Naidu. The event was marked by the active participation of TDP leaders, including Bommasani Subbarao and various leaders from the NDA coalition.

We Will Bring the Issue of Loyola College Walkers to the Attention of the CM: MP Kesineni Chinni

TPN Correspondent
Vijayawada, Dec 24

MP Kesineni Shivanath (Chinni) assured the members of Loyola College Walkers that he would raise their issue with Chief Minister Nara Chandrababu Naidu in the coming days to seek a permanent solution. The members, led by Gudapati Lakshminarayana, Gudapati Tulasi Mohan, and Ravi Ramesh, met with MP Kesineni Shivanath at the Vijayawada Parliament Office, NTR Bhavan, Guru Nanak Colony, on Monday, where they submitted a petition demanding permission to walk in Loyola College, as per GO Ms No.18 issued by the government. For the past thirty years, Loyola College management had been allowing senior citizens to walk on its premises, but this permission was denied in the last three years. The walkers, who come from diverse backgrounds, have faced difficulties due to this decision, especially during the past few years. The management's cooperation, which was consistent before the COVID-19 pandemic, stopped after the pandem-



ic, leading to growing concerns among the walkers. MP Kesineni Shivanath, speaking to the media, emphasized the importance of allowing senior citizens and women to walk on the college grounds. He noted that the Loyola College management, as an institution, should allow such activities, which would be a valuable service to the community. He assured the walkers that he would work with MLA Gadde Rammohan to bring the issue to the attention of Chief Minister Chandrababu Naidu and find a permanent solution to this problem.

Collector Dr. G. Lakshmi Sa Focuses on Quality of Petition Resolution and Waste-to-Wealth Initiatives

TPN Correspondent
Vijayawada, Dec 24

NTR District Collector Dr. G. Lakshmi emphasized the need for nodal officers to focus on the quality of resolution of petitions received through the Public Grievance Redressal Platform (PGRS). The PGRS program, which is being implemented with great importance by the state government, aims to ensure good governance by addressing public grievances effectively. Collector Lakshmi, along with key officials, participated in the PGRS program held at the Collectorate Sri Pingali Venkayya Samavesha Mandir. The Collector inspected several key sections of the PGRS, including the reception, information counter, registration, help desk, and Aadhaar centers. During the program, a total of 85 petitions were received, covering various sectors such as revenue, municipal and urban development, police, and more. Notably, 42 petitions related to revenue, 8 petitions regarding municipal issues, and 7 petitions about the police department were among those submitted. The Collector directed that each petition be thoroughly examined to resolve issues satisfactorily. Furthermore, Dr. Lakshmi inspected a vermi-



compost sales center set up as part of a wealth creation from waste initiative at the Collectorate. The center sells vermicompost, made from waste in Ibrahimpatnam Mandal and Guntupalli Gram Panchayat, priced at Rs. 20 per kilo. The initiative is part of the district's focus on managing solid and liquid waste and turning it into a resource. Dr. Lakshmi highlighted the importance of vermicompost for the healthy growth of plants and praised the success of the district's waste-to-wealth creation centers. District Panchayat Officer (DPO) P. Lavanya Kumari and other officials participated in the event, showcasing the district's commitment to environmental sustainability and effective public grievance resolution.

Vijayawada Municipal Commissioner to Enhance Facilities for Bhavani Devotees

TPN Correspondent
Vijayawada, Dec 24

Vijayawada Municipal Corporation Commissioner Dhyanchandra has issued instructions to improve facilities for devotees during the Bhavani retirement event. In a teleconference with officials responsible for the event, the Commissioner emphasized the need to increase the available resources due to the growing number of Bhavani devotees. Addressing the gathering, the Commissioner highlighted that the rising number of visitors requires additional provisions. He specifically mentioned ensuring an adequate supply of water bottles at all times, especially in the mornings for bathing and other necessary activities. To avoid shortages, he ordered that water be made readily available, catering to the needs of all devotees. Furthermore, the Commissioner stressed the importance of maintaining high standards of cleanliness during the event. He directed that sanitation be regularly monitored by sanitary supervisors, inspectors, and workers. Proper cleaning of the premises and facilities should be carried out throughout the event to ensure a hygienic environment for the devotees. This decision comes as the city expects a large turnout for the Bhavani retirement event, with the Municipal Corporation preparing to meet the



growing demands of the devotees. The authorities are taking steps to ensure the safety and comfort of those attending, making sure the event runs smoothly without any major disruptions. The steps being taken reflect the government's commitment to ensuring a successful event and a positive experience for all those involved. The initiative will help provide a seamless and comfortable environment for the attendees.

CM Relief Fund Lighting Up the Lives of the Unfortunate - MLA Bonda Uma

TPN Correspondent
Vijayawada, Dec 24

On Monday, at the Central Constituency Telugu Desam Party office, Government Whip and Central Constituency MLA Bonda Uma Maheswara Rao distributed cheques from the Chief Minister's Relief Fund (CMRF) to those in need. The event highlighted the ongoing support provided by the CMRF to the poor and those facing financial hardships, particularly due to medical expenses. MLA Bonda Uma handed over a cheque of ₹5,83,000 to Panta Harikrishna from Prakash Nagar, 62nd Division, and ₹30,000 to Dola Ramu from Gulabi Thota, 27th Division. Speaking on the occasion, Bonda Uma emphasized that the Chief Minister's Relief Fund has become a lifeline for those struggling with medical expenses, stating that it provides immediate financial relief to those who are unable to afford treatment. He further explained that the coalition government, under the leadership of Chief Minister Nara Chandrababu Naidu, has been dedicated to supporting the poor, especially in emergencies. He mentioned that the government is committed to ensuring that the needy receive assistance without delay. Additionally, he assured that the government is working to provide corporate-level



medical treatment in government hospitals, with financial aid available through the CMRF for those who have received treatment at private hospitals. MLA Bonda Uma praised the Chief Minister for his vision of ensuring the health and well-being of all citizens and creating a better society for the state. He thanked Chief Minister Nara Chandrababu Naidu for his continued support and dedication to the welfare of the people. The event also saw the participation of TDP State Secretary Navaneetham Sambasiva Rao, Paidi Srinu, Kondapalli Roop Kumar, Devara Venkat Rao, and Deepaktha Ditra, among others. The beneficiaries expressed their gratitude to both the Chief Minister and MLA Bonda Uma for their timely assistance.

YCP Leaders to Protest Against Rising Electricity Charges in NTR District

TPN Correspondent
Vijayawada, Dec 24

In a press conference held at his office, NTR District YCP President Devineni Avinash announced plans to stage protests against the increased electricity charges on October 27. The protests will target local electricity substations across the district. Vijayawada West Constituency In-charge Vellampalli Srinivas, alongside Avinash, emphasized that this initiative aligns with the directives of YCP chief and former Chief Minister Y.S. Jagan Mohan Reddy. The leaders criticized the escalating electricity tariffs, stating that the government had imposed an additional burden of ₹15,500 crores just before the elections. "Farmers are protesting to highlight the people's grievances and make the government aware of their struggles," said Avinash. The protest will include rallies culminating in the submission of memorandums to electricity officials, urging action to alleviate the financial strain on citizens. Accusing the ruling government of broken promises, the leaders claimed that the increased electricity charges have deceived the public. They further alleged that develop-



ment and welfare initiatives have stagnated under the current administration. "No new roads or drains have been constructed in the state. Every scheme implemented by YCP has been halted. The TDP government lacks direction for development and welfare," they said. The protests will cover seven constituencies in the NTR District under the leadership of Devineni Avinash. The leaders vowed to continue raising their voices against policies that harm the public and highlighted their commitment to addressing citizens' concerns. The upcoming demonstrations are expected to intensify political tensions as Andhra Pradesh heads toward the election season.

Flexi War Erupts in Kadapa Amid Municipal Corporation Meeting

TPN Correspondent, Kadapa : A unique "flexi war" unfolded in Kadapa city today during the general meeting of the Kadapa Municipal Corporation. Numerous flex banners, each carrying pointed messages, were displayed across the city, particularly near the municipal corporation office, sparking widespread attention.

The banners raised multiple allegations and grievances, including criticisms directed at Kadapa City Mayor Suresh Babu's wife, K. Jayashree. One flex questioned her identity, stating, "Who is K. Jayashree?" Another banner accused her of constructing



a four-story building despite having permission for only two floors, questioning the inaction of municipal corporation officials in addressing the alleged violation.

Some banners highlighted concerns about the treatment of women leaders, specifically focusing on MLA Madhavi Reddy. One flex protested the alleged disrespect shown to the woman MLA during the meeting, while another banner expressed discontent over granting her a seat at the event. A banner also carried the message, "Women are small," hinting at perceived gender discrimination.

The display of flex banners has ignited debates among the public, with many questioning the underlying reasons for these open criticisms and the apparent power struggle within the city's administration.

This flexi war reflects growing dissatisfaction among certain groups and has brought attention to unresolved issues within the Kadapa Municipal Corporation. As the controversy continues to simmer, it remains to be seen how the city's officials and leaders will respond to the allegations and public sentiments voiced through these banners.

House Dispute in Guntur Leads to Tension and Police Intervention



TPN Correspondent, Guntur : A heated dispute over a house in Vidyanagar escalated into a confrontation involving Deputy Mayor Diamond Babu and police, leading to his arrest. The dispute centers around a property where Babu's sister, Vajra Kumari, resides, and the situation took a violent turn when some individuals claimed ownership of the house.

As tensions rose, Vajra Kumari's family became embroiled in the agitation, and Diamond Babu arrived at the scene to support his sister. He demanded that the individuals inside the house be forcibly removed, claiming that they had no right to stay there. In a show of solidarity, Babu staged a protest in front of the house, which further intensified the altercation.

Amid the chaos, TDP leader Vijay Kiran entered the fray, as-

serting that the house where Vajra Kumari lives rightfully belongs to him. Kiran claimed that the previous government had occupied his property and had prevented him from accessing it. The altercation quickly drew attention, and police were alerted as activists from both groups gathered. Despite attempts to disperse the protesters, the situation continued to escalate, leading to Diamond Babu's arrest. The Deputy Mayor was taken into custody and brought to the police station.

The dispute has sparked widespread tension, with both political figures and local authorities caught in the middle. The police are expected to investigate the claims and determine the rightful owner of the property, while the arrest of Diamond Babu adds further fuel to the already heated situation.

Theft of Rented Bus in Narsipatnam RTC Complex



TPN Correspondent, Narsipatnam, Anakapalle Dist : In an unusual incident, thieves stole a rented bus parked in the Narsipatnam RTC complex early this morning. The bus, which was scheduled to depart for Tuni at 4:30 AM, had been parked by the driver in the complex premises before the theft occurred.

Later, the same bus was spotted by other RTC staff at Lotgedda Junction in Alluri District, far from its intended route. Upon realizing the theft, the depot manager was immediately informed, and a formal complaint was filed with the local police.

The authorities are now investigating the incident, and efforts are underway to locate the culprits and recover the stolen vehicle. The theft has raised concerns about security at the RTC complex, and further measures may be implemented to prevent similar incidents in the future.

MLA Panchakarla Ramesh Babu Visits Accident Victims : Assures Govt Support

TPN Correspondent, Gajuwaka : Pendurthi MLA Panchakarla Ramesh Babu visited the victims of a recent accident at the Rakshitha Drugs Pharma Company. The victims, Dev Bagh and Mukesh Goud, are currently receiving treatment at the Sheelanagar KIMS Hospital. During his visit, MLA Panchakarla inquired about their health condition from the hospital doctors and assured the families of the victims that the government would provide full support. Speaking to the media, he emphasized that on the orders of Chief Minister Chandrababu, Deputy Chief Minister Pawan Kalyan, and Labour Minister Subhash, the government



would bear all the medical expenses for the victims. Expressing concern over the rising number of accidents, MLA Panchakarla stated that the government would conduct a thorough investigation into the incidents

and take necessary action to prevent such accidents in the future. He condemned the series of accidents and reiterated the government's commitment to ensuring the safety and well-being of workers and the public.

Dispute Over Land Encroachment in Chirumamilla ST Colony, Residents Seek Justice

TPN Correspondent, Palnadu : In a developing dispute over land encroachment, residents of Chirumamilla ST Colony in Narasaraopet met with the District Collector to file a complaint against Singareddy Kotireddy, a key follower of former Minister Vidadala Rajini.

croaching on about nine and a half acres of land that rightfully belongs to the community. The residents, concerned about the injustice, submitted a petition to the Collector, urging an investigation into the matter and calling for appropriate legal action.

are demanding justice and seeking the Collector's intervention to resolve the issue. They have expressed their concerns about losing their land and the potential for further exploitation. The authorities are expected to look into the complaint and take the necessary steps to ensure a fair resolution.

The villagers accused Kotireddy of encroaching on land. The residents of Chirumamilla ST Colony

Police Solve Mystery of Dead Body in Parcel in West Godavari Dist

TPN Correspondent, West Godavari Dist: A chilling incident in Yandagandi village has been resolved by the police, who have uncovered the identity of the deceased and the suspects involved in a grisly murder.

On the 19th of this month, a dead body was found inside a parcel at the house of Tulasi, a woman residing in Yandagandi. The body was initially unidentified, and the case raised significant suspicion, especially as Tulasi and her husband, Sridhar Varma, went into hiding following the discovery.

The police investigation revealed that the deceased was Parlayya from Kalla village. Further inquiries led to the shocking revelation that Sridhar Varma and Tulasi were responsible for the murder. It was found that Sridhar Varma had previously married three women under different names, and Parlayya was from the same village as his first wife.

According to police reports, Sridhar Varma murdered Parlayya and packed the body into a wooden box, which was then sent to Tulasi's house by an auto-rickshaw. The police have established that the body was transported by a woman, and the investigation has led to suspicions that Sridhar Varma might be in Hyderabad, where a special police team has been dispatched.

In addition, authorities are examining Tulasi's phone records, including messages and call data, to trace who had been in contact with her during the period she had been separated from her husband for ten years. The case continues to unfold as the police work to arrest the absconding suspects and bring them to justice.



Earthquakes Continue to Shake Prakasam Dist for Third Consecutive Day

TPN Correspondent, Prakasam Dist : Residents of Prakasam district in Andhra Pradesh are on edge as a series of earthquakes continue to rattle the region. On Monday morning, around 11 am, a slight tremor was felt in Mundlamuru, marking the third consecutive day of seismic activity in the district. Similar tremors were recorded on Saturday and Sunday, further fueling anxiety among locals.

extent of the seismic activity. The repeated tremors have left residents in a state of panic, with complaints about the uncertainty surrounding the situation.

Local authorities are yet to issue a detailed explanation regarding the cause of the tremors, and the ongoing uncertainty continues to concern the people of the district. Emergency response teams have been alerted, and efforts are underway to monitor the situation and ensure the safety of the residents.

In response to the earthquake, many people fled their homes in fear, unsure of the cause or the

Sensational Decision by Srisaillam Devasthanam Ban on Pagan Symbols and Propaganda in Mallanna Kshetra

TPN Correspondent, Srisaillam : In a bold and significant move, the Srisaillam Devasthanam has announced a ban on paganism-related propaganda and the display of pagan symbols within the Srisaillam Maha Kshetra, located in Nandyal district. This decision follows recent changes implemented by the Endowment Department and has sparked considerable attention. Srisaillam, known for being one of the twelve Jyotirlinga Kshetras and home to the revered Mallikarjuna Swamy and Brahmaramba Ammavaru, attracts devotees from across India, including the Telugu states. The temple, perched in the Srigiri Kshetra, holds significant religious importance.

paganda related to paganism, including the display of symbols, slogans, and teachings, will be strictly prohibited within the temple premises. M. Srinivasa Rao, the Executive Officer of Srisaillam Devasthanam, emphasized that vehicles carrying pagan slogans or images will be denied entry into the area. Furthermore, the Srisaillam EO clarified that any cooperation with or involvement in pagan activities would result in legal action. He has called on all devotees and visitors to abide by these new regulations, warning that appropriate measures will be taken against anyone who violates the rules. This decision is seen as a move to preserve the sanctity of the holy site and prevent any form of religious or ideological disruption within its premises.

As part of the newly enforced rules, the Endowment Department has declared that any pro-



Amit Shah and Ambedkar: The Hard Facts Behind the Controversy

Union Home Minister Amit Shah has long been a polarizing figure in Indian politics. A strong and decisive leader, Shah's tenure has been marked by bold policies and significant achievements. However, his recent remarks about Dr. B.R. Ambedkar have sparked controversy, particularly among opposition parties. While Congress has criticized Shah's comments, it's important to examine the historical context and track record of the Congress party in relation to Ambedkar's legacy, as well as the Modi government's commitment to upholding Ambedkar's principles.

Amit Shah's leadership has been defined by a series of impactful decisions and reforms. Under his watch, the abrogation of Article 370 in Jammu and Kashmir was a game-changing move, which resulted in a drastic reduction in violence and improved security in the region. Stone-pelting incidents dropped to zero, terror attacks decreased by 69%, civilian casualties fell by 80%, and armed forces' casualties dropped by 44%. This monumental shift in Kashmir's security landscape can be largely attributed to Shah's tireless efforts and strategic approach.

In the fight against Naxalism, Shah has delivered impressive results. Over 287 Naxalites have been neutralized, and more than 1,000 arrests have been made. Additionally, 837 individuals have surrendered in recent times, with the government also providing significant support to those living in Naxal-affected



regions, including the approval for the construction of 15,000 houses.

Despite these achievements, Shah's comments about Ambedkar have ignited a political firestorm. However, it is essential to recognize that the Congress party's own record regarding Ambedkar's legacy has been a topic of controversy. While Congress claims to champion Ambedkar's values, the party's actions over the years have often been inconsistent. In stark contrast, the Modi government, under Shah's leadership,

has made a concerted effort to honor Ambedkar's legacy. From promoting his values of equality and social justice to ensuring that his contributions are celebrated, the current government has consistently upheld Ambedkar's principles.

As the debate over Shah's remarks continues, it's crucial to focus on the facts. While the opposition may criticize his comments, the track record of the Modi government in safeguarding and promoting Ambedkar's legacy remains clear.

The Places of Worship Act: Unconstitutional, Immoral, and Anti-Secular



The Places of Worship (Special Provisions) Act, 1991, passed by the Congress-led Narasimha Rao government, was aimed at preserving social harmony during the aftermath of the Ayodhya dispute. However, its provisions are deeply flawed and violate the moral and constitutional fabric of India. The Act, rather than fostering secularism, condones past injustices and suppresses the Hindu community's rightful claims to religious spaces.

The crux of the Act lies in its two most controversial provisions: Section 3, which prohibits converting the religious character of any place of worship, and Section 4, which locks the status of places of worship as they existed on August 15, 1947, and bars any future legal challenges on these matters. By denying any recourse to judicial review, this Act fundamentally undermines the right of citizens to seek justice and redress through the courts. This provision contradicts the basic structure doctrine of the Indian Constitution, which guarantees the right to judicial review, as affirmed by the Supreme Court in various judgments, including *Kesavananda Bharati* and *Anita Kushwaha v. Pushap Sudan*.

Morally, the Places of Worship Act is deeply problematic. The Act maintains the status quo of places where Hindu temples were destroyed and mosques were built on their sites during periods of Muslim rule and colonialism. These acts of iconoclasm were not just crimes but a historical denial of the rights of Hindus. By preventing any legal challenges to these actions, the Act effectively condones these historical wrongs, giving them a form of legal legitimacy. This is morally indefensible, as it ignores the suffering and victimization of the Hindu community.

The Act also conflicts with the principles of secularism. Secularism is not about maintaining a false equilibrium by suppressing one community's rights to appease another. True secularism requires equal respect for all religions, and the Places of Worship Act, by denying justice to Hindus, undermines this fundamental tenet. Furthermore, it perpetuates communal disharmony by protecting the symbols of past religious intolerance under the guise of social peace.

Internationally, the United Nations Declaration on the Rights of Indigenous Peoples emphasizes the need for restitution and protection of cultural and religious property. The Places of Worship Act, by denying Hindus the right to challenge the status of religious sites, directly violates this principle, further solidifying the Act's unjust nature.

In conclusion, the Places of Worship Act is an immoral and unconstitutional law that undermines justice, secularism, and the rights of Hindus. It must be struck down by the Supreme Court to restore the sanctity of India's democracy and uphold its commitment to justice and equality for all.

Unconventional Leadership: The Shifting Global Landscape

In the year 2024, bold, unconventional leaders have reshaped the world stage with radical ideas that challenge established norms. Much like the legendary Alexander the Great, who cut the Gordian knot to conquer Asia, today's leaders have used sharp rhetoric and drastic policies to tackle entrenched problems. These mavericks, often dismissed as too radical, are testing the limits of traditional governance, and their actions are altering the global political landscape.

One such leader is Argentina's President Javier Milei, who, after defeating Peronist candidate Sergio Massa, launched a campaign centered on drastic economic reforms. A self-described anarcho-capitalist, Milei famously wielded a chainsaw to symbolize his intention to dismantle Argentina's bloated public sector. He slashed government spending on infrastructure, education, healthcare, and social services, and took a hard line against inflation, which had crippled the nation. Milei's shock therapy has shown some signs of success, with inflation dropping from 211% to 193%, and foreign reserves rising by \$11 billion. However, the reforms have also led to rising unemployment and increased poverty. While the economy is stabilizing, Milei's success or failure will depend on whether the short-term pain leads to long-term gain.



Across the Atlantic, former U.S. President Donald Trump has made a surprising political comeback, reclaiming the White House with his brash, no-nonsense approach. His bold stance on foreign policy and business deregulation has earned him the support of powerful figures like Masayoshi Son and Gautam Adani, signaling the massive influence he continues to wield. Trump's foreign policy is grounded in non-interventionism, focusing on U.S. interests while allowing other global powers to manage their own conflicts. This shift in American strategy has forced allies like NATO and Israel to reevaluate their approach to security and diplomacy.

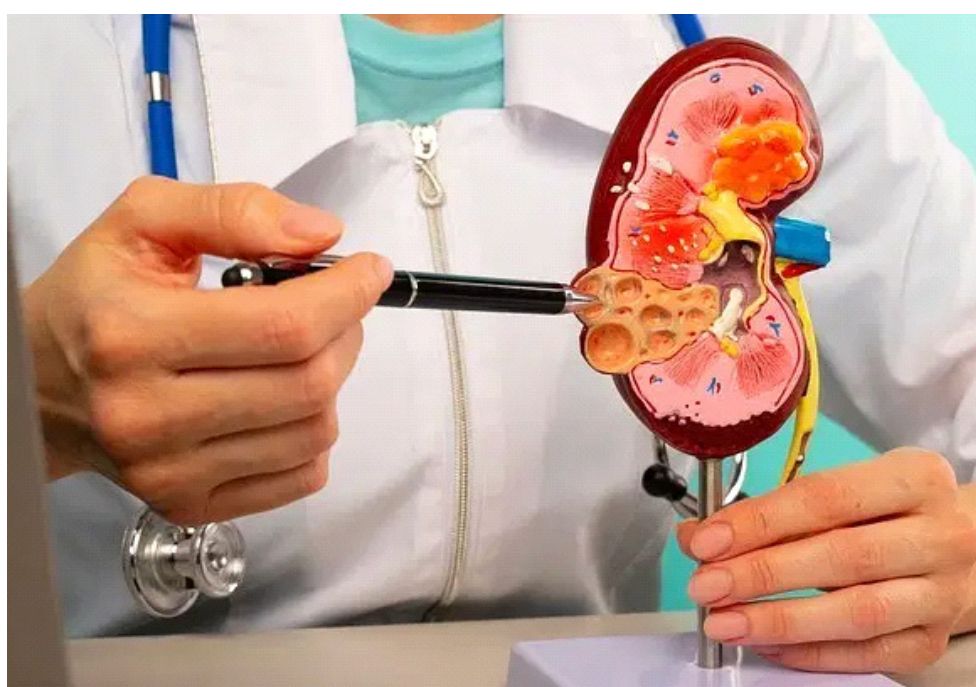
Meanwhile, in Turkey, President Recep Tayyip Erdogan has tackled a complex regional issue by backing rebel forces in Syria to evict Bashar al-Assad, dramatically shifting the power balance in the Middle East. His leadership has also challenged Russia's influence in the region, notably in the Nagorno-Karabakh conflict, where Turkey helped Azerbaijan wrest control from Armenia. These actions have reshaped alliances and given Erdogan greater leverage in the region.

In countries like Argentina, Pakistan, and Bangladesh, the window for drastic measures is narrowing. As the global political climate evolves, these nations may also see the rise of leaders willing to break from traditional approaches.

Hope for Organ Shortages: Towana Looney's Pioneering Pig Kidney Transplant

Last month, 53-year-old Towana Looney from Gadsden, Alabama, became the third person to receive a genetically engineered pig kidney in a groundbreaking xenotransplantation procedure. This significant advancement in animal-to-human organ transplants could pave the way for future treatments, potentially saving countless lives.

Looney's medical journey has been challenging. After donating a kidney to her mother in 1999, she later developed high blood pressure during pregnancy, which led to kidney failure. Years of dialysis followed, but Looney faced even greater difficulty in finding a suitable kidney donor due to the antibodies in her body from previous blood transfusions. This left her with limited options for a transplant.



In a fortunate turn of events, Looney was given the opportunity to receive a pig kidney through an experimental program by the Food and Drug Administration (FDA), which allows for the compassionate use of new treatments. Just three weeks after the transplant, her pig kidney appears to be functioning well. Although her immune system initially showed resistance, doctors managed to address the issue, and Looney is regaining her strength.

Looney's participation in this experimental transplant is a significant step for the field of xenotransplantation. As the first successful case in this new phase, her experience could provide valuable insights and move the field closer to clinical trials, where genetically engineered pig organs could po-

tentially help many patients in need of life-saving transplants.

At a recent press conference, Looney shared her joy about her recovery. "I'm overjoyed," she said, noting her increased energy and improved appetite after years of dialysis. For the first time in years, she's rediscovering simple pleasures, such as being able to use the bathroom normally and looking forward to traveling to places like Disney World.

Although every xenotransplant is an experiment, Looney's case is especially important, as it could represent a promising future for those who face long waits for organ donors. Her success offers hope to many more patients who desperately need new kidneys to survive.



Turned Dreams Of people Into Source Of Income: Priyanka Over GST On Exam Forms

TPN CORRESPONDENT DELHI
DECEMBER.24

Congress MP Priyanka Gandhi Vadra on Monday criticized the BJP government for imposing an 18% Goods and Services Tax (GST) on examination forms, calling it an exploitation of parents' savings. In her attack on the government, she said that it had turned the dreams of parents who saved every penny to prepare their children for exams into a revenue source for the government.

The Congress General Secretary shared a copy of an examination form from the Kalyan Singh Super Speciality Cancer Institute in Lucknow, which indicated that GST was being charged on the exam form. Priyanka Gandhi took to social media to voice her concerns, emphasizing that the government's actions were adding to the financial burden on parents and students.

"The BJP cannot provide jobs to youngsters, but it is definitely rubbing salt on the wounds by charging 18 per cent GST on examination forms," Priyanka wrote in her post. She also highlighted that GST was being levied on every government job form, including the Agniveer recruitment process.

The Congress leader further expressed her frustration with the situation, pointing out the potential consequences for students. "After filling the form, if the paper is leaked due to the government's failure or if there is corruption, then this money of the youngsters is wasted," she added, stressing the unfairness of the burden being placed on those hoping to secure employment or educational opportunities.

Her statement has drawn attention to the rising costs of examinations and the challenges faced by students and their families in an increasingly difficult economic climate. Priyanka Gandhi's comments add to ongoing discussions about government policies that critics say disproportionately affect middle and lower-income groups.

PM Modi Announces Record 10 Lakh Permanent Government Jobs Under Rozgar Mela



TPN CORRESPONDENT DELHI
DECEMBER.24

Prime Minister Narendra Modi on Monday highlighted that his government has provided nearly 10 lakh permanent government jobs to youth in the last one-and-a-half years under the "mission mode" initiative, a feat he described as a record for India. This achievement was made possible through the 'Rozgar Melas' organized by the government.

Addressing the new recruits through a virtual event, which was held simultaneously at 45 locations across the country, Modi emphasized that the 'Rozgar Mela' initiative has been instrumental in fulfilling the government's commitment to providing job opportunities to young people. The recruits will be joining various government Ministries and Departments, including the Ministry of Home Affairs, the Department of Posts, the Ministry of Health and Family Welfare, and the Department of Financial Services.

In his address, Modi praised the trans-

parent and honest process through which these appointments were made, highlighting that the recruitment drive was carried out with integrity and openness. He stressed that during previous governments, youth did not have access to permanent government jobs under such a systematic and mission-driven approach.

The Prime Minister noted that over the past decade, the government has prioritized providing permanent government jobs through such events, with the latest initiative marking a significant milestone in India's efforts to enhance youth employment. With this announcement, Modi underscored the government's continued focus on boosting employment and providing stable career opportunities for the younger generation.

This marks another significant step in the government's larger vision to create an employment-oriented economy, ensuring that qualified individuals are appointed to various government roles across the country.



Maha Kumbh: Yogi Adityanath Highlights Prayagraj's Hospitality Potential

TPN CORRESPONDENT MAHAKUMBH NAGAR
DECEMBER.24

Uttar Pradesh Chief Minister Yogi Adityanath on Monday emphasized that the Maha Kumbh is not just a religious event but also a remarkable opportunity for Prayagraj to showcase its hospitality to the world. Speaking to reporters after reviewing the preparations for the event, which will take place from January 13 to February 26, 2025, CM Adityanath highlighted the extensive efforts being made to ensure its success.

"The preparations for the Sanatan Gaurav Maha Kumbh are progressing well. Over 20,000 saints and institutions have been allocated land through a comprehensive registration process," the Chief Minister stated. This includes all 13 Akhsharas and various other religious groups. He assured that efforts are being made to complete the land allocation by January 5, 2025.

The Chief Minister also mentioned the increased number of pontoon bridges for the event, with the number rising from 22 to 30, 20 of which are already completed. Additionally, significant progress is being made on the infrastructure front, with 330 kilometers of checkered plates laid and 250 signages installed across the city and fairgrounds.

Water management efforts include ensuring a clean and uninterrupted flow of the Ganga, with the Irrigation Department working to maintain sufficient water levels. Water purification efforts are also in place using bioremediation and geo-tube techniques. In terms of electricity infrastructure, several substations and kilometers of LT and HT lines have been installed, along with nearly 48,000 LED streetlights.

"Manipur Situation Complex But Gradually Improving"



TPN CORRESPONDENT GUWAHATI
DECEMBER.24

Manipur Chief Minister N. Biren Singh on Monday acknowledged the ongoing challenges in the state but emphasized that the situation has been gradually improving. He stated that while full restoration of normalcy and peace would take time, significant progress has been made, with most districts remaining incident-free for several months.

Addressing the media after attending the passing out parade of newly recruited Manipur police personnel at the Lachit Barphukan Police Academy in Dergaon, Assam, Biren Singh described the situation in Manipur as "complex." However, he assured that the state

and central security forces, along with the civil administration, are working diligently to maintain a violence-free environment and deliver essential services to the people. The passing out ceremony saw 1,946 recruits successfully completing their training, with a total of 1,984 recruits having undergone training at the academy. Assam Governor Lakshman Prasad Acharya, who holds the additional charge of Manipur's governorship, also attended the event. The Chief Minister expressed his gratitude to Assam Chief Minister Himanta Biswa Sarma for facilitating the training of Manipur's police recruits, given the security situation in Manipur. Biren Singh highlighted the strong historical relationship between Assam and Manipur, noting that Sarma had agreed to assist immediately when approached.

'They Will Dig Their Government': Akhilesh Yadav Attacks BJP Over Sambhal

TPN CORRESPONDENT UTTAR PRADESH
DECEMBER.24

Samajwadi Party Chief Akhilesh Yadav criticized the BJP government on Monday, following the ongoing excavation work in Sambhal, Uttar Pradesh, where a stepwell (baoli) was recently unearthed. Yadav humorously remarked that the BJP will continue its search and one day, by digging continuously, "end up digging their own government."

The statement came after an excavation team from the Archaeological Survey of India (ASI) discovered a stepwell in the Chandausi area of Sambhal district on Sunday. District Magistrate Rajendra Pensiya confirmed the discovery of the stepwell, which spans an area of 400 square meters and includes four chambers. The structure is composed of marble floors in the second and third chambers, with the upper levels made of brick. According to local historians, this stepwell is believed to date back more than 150 years, possibly built during the time of the grandfather of the king of Bilari.

The unearthing of the stepwell follows the recent reopening of a Shiv-Hanuman temple in Sambhal that had been closed for 46 years. This temple reopening has sparked additional historical investigations in the region. The district magistrate noted that the stepwell could have been constructed



during the 19th century and further investigation would be conducted to learn more about its origins.

In addition to the stepwell discovery, an ASI team also surveyed the Kalki Vishnu temple in Sambhal, inspecting five shrines and 19 wells in the area. The inspection lasted between 8-10 hours and covered approximately 24 locations. The district magistrate stated that ASI would submit a report based on the findings from this survey.

The ongoing excavation work in Sambhal has caught the attention of local political figures, with Akhilesh Yadav making his remarks amid rising political tensions surrounding the excavation projects and historical findings in Uttar Pradesh.

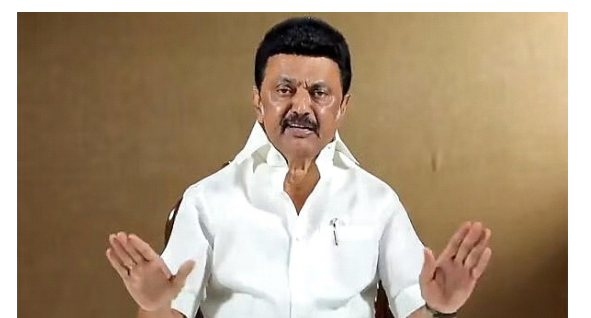
Amendment To Conduct Of Election Rules Assault On Free And Fair Polls: MK Stalin

TPN CORRESPONDENT CHENNAI
DECEMBER.24

Tamil Nadu Chief Minister M K Stalin on Monday condemned the Union Government's recent amendment to the Conduct of Election Rules, describing it as an "undemocratic assault on free and fair elections." The amendment restricts public access to certain poll documents, a move Stalin claims undermines transparency and accountability in the electoral process.

The Ministry of Law and Justice amended the rules following a directive from the Punjab and Haryana High Court, which had ordered the Election Commission of India to release all documents related to the Haryana Assembly elections, including CCTV footage. Stalin criticized this amendment, asserting that it prevents public inspection of essential election materials, which he believes is a crucial aspect of ensuring electoral transparency.

Stalin described the amendment as an attempt to "kill the transparency in election," calling it a direct threat to the democratic principles enshrined in the Indian Constitution. He accused the BJP-led Union Government of using such amendments to control



the electoral process and suppress public scrutiny, suggesting that this move was indicative of the ruling party's growing insecurity.

The DMK president also pointed to the amendment as part of the BJP's larger fear of public exposure in election-related matters, referencing the controversial assembly elections in Maharashtra. He suggested that the "orchestrated and unholy victory" in Maharashtra had raised significant concerns regarding the integrity of the elections in states under BJP control.

Furthermore, Stalin expressed disappointment with the Election Commission of India, claiming that instead of defending its institutional integrity, the Commission had "succumbed to the pressure" from Prime Minister Narendra Modi's government.



UN 2024: India calls for change in world forum as conflicts persist

UNITED NATIONS: As the United Nations approaches its 80th anniversary, India has reiterated the importance of reform to maintain the organization's relevance in addressing global challenges. During the high-level 79th session of the General Assembly in September, world leaders adopted the ambitious 'Pact of the Future' by consensus. The pact addresses key themes such as peace and security, sustainable development, climate change, digital cooperation, human rights, gender, youth, and the transformation of global governance.

UN Secretary-General Antonio Guterres emphasized the need for more effective and inclusive problem-solving mechanisms, stating, "We can't create a future fit for our grandchildren with systems built for our grandparents." He underscored that the current systems must evolve to meet the 21st century's challenges.

India, a long-time advocate for reform, has consistently called for changes to the Security Council, particularly regarding its expansion in both permanent and non-permanent categories. The country argues that the current structure, which was established in 1945, no longer



reflects contemporary geopolitical realities. India believes it is entitled to a permanent seat at the table to better represent the global landscape.

The failure of the Security Council to effectively address current global conflicts, such as the war in Ukraine and the Israel-Hamas conflict, highlights the necessity for reform. Guterres noted that many of the pressing issues facing the world today were not anticipated when the UN

framework was created 80 years ago.

Prime Minister Narendra Modi echoed these sentiments during his address at the UN's Summit of the Future, where the 'Pact of the Future' was adopted. He stated, "Reform is the key to relevance... Global action must match global ambition," calling for reforms that reflect the evolving dynamics of the world and ensure that the UN remains a robust and effective organization for the challenges of the 21st century.

North Korea Preparing to Send More Troops, Drones to Russia



North Korea has been supplying Russia with artillery systems, including 240-millimeter rocket launchers and 170 mm self-propelled artillery.

Additionally, there are signs that North Korea is working to manufacture and supply suicide drones, a weapon type first showcased by Kim Jong-un during a military inspection in November. The drones are seen as a vital tool in modern warfare due to their low cost and high effectiveness. North Korea's decision to ramp up the production of these drones aligns with its broader strategy to gain valuable battlefield experience and modernize its conventional weapons systems.

The move also highlights the deepening military ties between North Korea and Russia, with both nations increasingly relying on each other amidst international sanctions and isolation. While there have been no direct signs of provocation from North Korea in recent days, its growing cooperation with Russia signals a significant shift in the region's security dynamics. The increased deployment of troops and arms supplies from North Korea may further complicate the situation in Ukraine and add to global concerns over the proliferation of military technologies.

SEOUL: North Korea is reportedly preparing to deploy additional troops and military equipment, including suicide drones, to Russia in support of its ongoing war in Ukraine, according to South Korea's military. The country's Joint Chiefs of Staff (JCS) stated on Monday that intelligence gathered indicates North Korea plans to increase its involvement in the conflict by rotating or expanding

its military presence in Russia.

The South Korean military's assessment follows reports that North Korea has already sent thousands of soldiers to fight alongside Russian forces in Ukraine. The number of North Korean casualties is estimated at around 1,100, highlighting the significant human cost of their participation. The JCS also revealed that

Don't Need "Proxy Force" To Take Action: Iran Ayatollah's Latest Warning



IRAN: Iran's Supreme Leader, Ayatollah Ali Khamenei, denied claims that Tehran uses militant groups in the region as proxies, insisting that if Iran were to take military action, it would do so without relying on outside forces. The comments came after a year marked by heavy losses for Iran-backed Hezbollah in Lebanon and Hamas in Gaza, as well as the recent fall of Syrian President Bashar al-Assad, a longtime ally of Tehran.

Khamenei's remarks challenge the widespread perception that groups like Hezbollah, Hamas, and Yemen's Huthi rebels act as Tehran's proxies. These groups, often aligned with Iran's strategic goals, have faced military setbacks in their respective regions, notably during the Israel-Hamas conflict and U.S.-led strikes on the Huthis. Khamenei, however, emphasized that these groups are motivated by their own beliefs and not by orders from Tehran.

"The Islamic Republic does not have a proxy force," Khamenei told visitors in Tehran. He continued, "Yemen fights because it has faith. Hezbollah fights because the power of faith draws it into the field. Hamas and Jihad fight because their beliefs compel them to do so." Khamenei dismissed American claims that Iran had lost its proxies in the region, adding that Iran would not need such groups if it chose to take direct action. Khamenei also commented on the recent developments in Syria, where Assad's regime faced significant challenges from rebel forces, which culminated in the loss of Damascus. Khamenei predicted that Syria would see the emergence of "a strong, honorable group" to counter what he described as foreign-imposed insecurity.

We Want Her Here: Bangladesh Asks India To Send Back Deposed PM Sheikh Hasina

DHAKA: Bangladesh's interim government announced on Monday that it has formally requested India to return deposed Prime Minister Sheikh Hasina to Dhaka. Hasina, 77, has been living in exile in India since August 5, after fleeing the country amid widespread student-led protests that resulted in the fall of her 16-year rule.

The Dhaka-based International Crimes Tribunal (ICT) issued arrest warrants for Hasina, along with several former cabinet ministers, advisers, and military and civil officials, for alleged "crimes against humanity and genocide." In response to this, Bangladesh's Foreign Affairs Adviser, Touhid Hossain, confirmed that a diplomatic note, also known as a "note verbale," has been sent to the Indian government requesting Hasina's extradition.

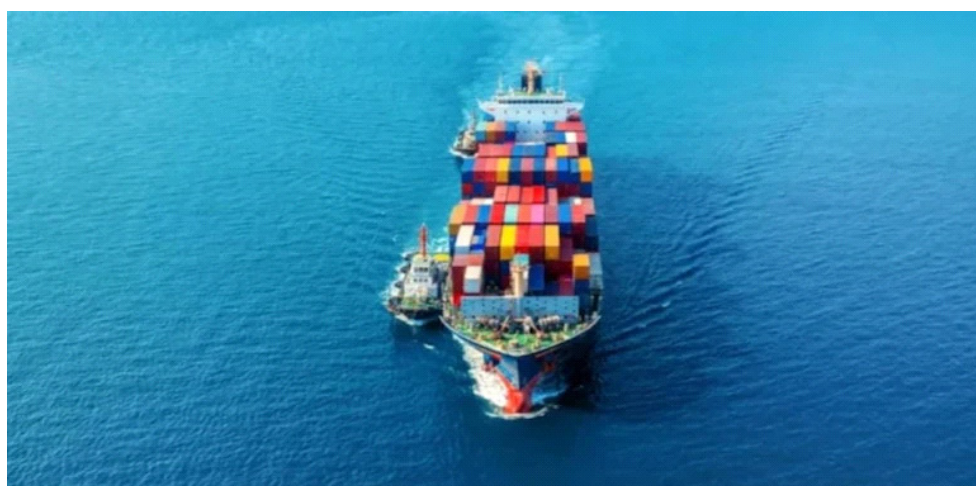
"We have sent a note verbale to the Indian government saying that Bangladesh wants her back here for the judicial process," Hossain told reporters at his office. He added that the government is actively pursuing the legal process to bring Hasina back to face charges.

In parallel, Home Advisor Jahangir Alam revealed that a letter has been sent to the Ministry of Foreign Affairs in Bangladesh to facilitate the former prime minister's extradition from India. Alam emphasized that an existing extradition treaty between Bangladesh and India could be used to bring Hasina back to her home country.

The demand for Hasina's return is part of ongoing legal and political tensions in Bangladesh. The exiled leader's return could mark a significant development in the ongoing judicial process related to her alleged involvement in various crimes. Hasina's time in exile, which began following the collapse of her government, has been a point of contention, especially given the legal actions now being pursued against her by the Bangladesh government.

Bangladeshi Traders "Forced" To Import From Pakistan Amid Growing Maritime Ties

DHAKA: Trade and maritime relations between Pakistan and Bangladesh are strengthening, with the recent arrival of a second cargo vessel from Karachi to the Chittagong port, sparking concerns in India. The Panama-flagged vessel, 'MV Yuan Xiang Fa Zhan,' entered Bangladeshi waters on Sunday, carrying 811 containers of essential industrial goods like soda ash, dolomite, and marble blocks, along with consumer products such as garments raw materials, sugar, and electronics. This follows the arrival of a similar vessel earlier in the week.



This development coincides with a meeting between Bangladesh's interim leader, Professor Muhammad Yunus, and Pakistan's Prime Minister

Shehbaz Sharif in Cairo, where the two countries agreed to strengthen bilateral relations. Reports suggest that Bangladesh's traders are increasingly

being pushed to import goods from Pakistan, prompting some officials to suggest reviewing the India-Bangladesh shipping pact, which currently

grants India access to the Chittagong and Mongla ports.

Chittagong Port holds significant strategic value, located in the Bay of Bengal, and has been closely monitored by India. Historically, India has kept a close eye on activities at the port, particularly after a 2004 incident where 1,500 boxes of Chinese ammunition, allegedly linked to Pakistan's Inter-Services Intelligence (ISI), were confiscated at the port. The consignment was reportedly meant for the insurgent group ULFA in India's north-east.

India is also concerned about a potential resurgence of Islamist extremism in Bangladesh, which could threaten

its security. In a move that adds to these worries, Bangladesh recently lifted a policy requiring physical inspections of Pakistani cargo at Chittagong, making it easier for Pakistan to utilize the port without scrutiny. This change, along with the resumption of direct maritime trade between Bangladesh and Pakistan, marks a significant shift in relations, particularly under Yunus, who has taken steps to improve ties with Islamabad since assuming office in August.

The growing Bangladesh-Pakistan ties are seen as a reversal of the pro-India policies of former Prime Minister Sheikh Hasina, raising alarm in New Delhi over the implications for regional security.

Markets Rebound After Five-Day Slide; Sensex Gains 498 Points, Nifty Rises 165 Points

The five-session losing streak came to an end. Domestic stock markets ended in gains on Monday. Positive signals were received from international markets. Better US economic and inflation data, and a rebound in metal and heavyweight stocks led to positive sentiment. On the other hand, investors bought quality shares available at attractive prices. Nifty rose by 165 points and Sensex by 498 points. It is noteworthy that at one stage, Nifty gained up to 280 points. However, the rupee touched a lifetime low.



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The BSE Sensex, which closed at 78,041 in the previous session, started at 78,488 today. It touched an intraday low of 78,189. It reached an intraday high of 78,918. Finally, it rose by 498 points and closed at 78,540. The NSE Nifty, which opened at 23,738 on Monday, touched a low of 23,647 and a high of 23,869. It closed at 23,753, up 165 points. The Bank Nifty rose 558 points to settle at 51,317.

In the Nifty50, 32 companies gained while 18 lost. JSW Steel, ITC, Hindalco, Trent and HDFC Bank were the top gainers. Hero Moto, Maruti, HCL Tech, HDFC Life and Bajaj Finserv were the biggest losers. All sectoral indices rose today, except auto, media and healthcare. Bank, finance, FMCG, metal, realty, consumer durables, oil and gas indices were in a good position.

Despite the gains in benchmark indices, the market breadth on NSE today was more in favor of sellers. 1130 stocks advanced while 1704 declined. Shares of 46 companies reached 52-week highs while 82 touched 52-week lows.

Rupee closed at a record low of

85.11 against the dollar. Adani Defence to acquire 85.8% stake in Air Works India. Nuwama maintains 'hold' on IndiGo, SpiceJet. NSE and BSE will conduct live trading sessions on Saturday, February 1, 2025. Concord Enviro Systems IPO received a response of 5.19 times. DAM Capital Advisors IPO received a response of 35.64 times. 27 lakh shares changed hands in a block deal held in Reliance Industries. BEL received an order worth Rs. 973 crore on December 9. JBM Eco-life Mobility received an order of Rs. 1800 crore. Adani Ports recovered from five consecutive days of losses. Bharti Airtel added 19.28 lakh new customers in October, after losing 14.35 lakh customers in September.

Jubilant FoodWorks Ltd. (JUBLFOOD)

As of December 2024, Jubilant FoodWorks holds a significant share in the Indian QSR (Quick Service Restaurant) segment, with Domino's being a leading pizza delivery brand in the country. The introduction of value meals aimed at budget-conscious customers has been a key driver in attracting a broader customer base, especially amid high inflation and rising food prices. Despite revenue growth, the company faced increased costs due



to higher prices for key ingredients, leading to a contraction in its EBITDA margin from 21.1% to 19.3%.

Aster DM Healthcare Ltd. (AS-TERDM)

The company has a diversified portfolio, including hospitals, clinics, and pharmacies, catering to a wide patient base across multiple geographies. The company continues to invest in expanding its network and enhancing service offerings, aiming to strengthen its presence in existing markets and explore new opportunities. The healthcare sector faces regulatory challenges and competitive pressures, which could impact profitability.



SBI Life Insurance Company Ltd. (SBILIFE)

Leveraging the extensive network of its parent, State Bank of India, SBI LIFE has a strong distribution network across the country. The company has demonstrated robust growth in premium collections and a steady increase in market share within the life insurance sector. Focus on digital initiatives and customer-centric products has enabled SBILIFE to enhance cus-



tom experience and operational efficiency. The insurance industry is subject to regulatory changes and market volatility, which can affect investment returns and policyholder behavior.

One97 Communications Ltd. (PAYTM)



Paytm has a significant user base, offering services ranging from mobile recharges to financial products, making it a key player in India's digital ecosystem. The company has been focusing on reducing losses and achieving operational profitability, with improvements observed in recent quarterly results. Expansion into financial services, including lending and wealth management, aims to diversify revenue streams and enhance profitability. Intense competition in the digital payments space and regulatory scrutiny pose challenges to sustained growth.

Lupin Ltd. (LUPIN)

Lupin is among the top pharmaceutical companies in India, with a significant global footprint, particularly in the United States and Japan. The company has experienced revenue growth driven by new product launches and expansion in key markets. Focus on research and development, especially in complex generics and biosimilars, positions Lupin for future growth opportunities. Regulatory challenges, pricing pressures in key markets, and competition in the generic drug space are potential hurdles.



Oil Prices Settle Flat Amid Chinese Demand and U.S. Inflation Data



HOUSTON (Reuters) – Oil prices closed little changed on Friday as markets weighed concerns over Chinese demand alongside expectations of interest rate cuts following data showing cooling U.S. inflation.

Brent crude futures rose by 6 cents, or 0.08%, closing at \$72.94 a barrel. Meanwhile, U.S. West Texas Intermediate (WTI) crude futures gained 8 cents, or 0.12%, to settle at \$69.46 per barrel. Despite the slight uptick, both benchmarks ended the week approximately 2.5% lower.

The U.S. dollar, which had reached a two-year high earlier in the week, retreated after inflation data indicated a slowdown in November. This brought relief to markets, as it followed the Federal Reserve's decision to cut interest rates, although the central bank also reduced its outlook for further rate cuts in 2025. A weaker dollar typically makes oil more affordable for buyers using other currencies, while potential rate cuts could stimulate oil demand.

John Kilduff, partner at Again Capital in New York, remarked that concerns about the Fed potentially halting its support for the market had faded. However, he acknowledged the ongoing worries about the demand outlook, particularly in China. The Chinese government's forecast that oil consumption would peak by 2027 and the weakening demand for diesel and gasoline raised doubts about the strength of global demand.

Emril Jamil, a senior research specialist at LSEG, emphasized that OPEC+ needed to maintain supply discipline to calm market nerves amid continuous revisions to the demand forecast. OPEC+ recently downgraded its global oil demand growth projection for 2024 for the fifth consecutive month.

JPMorgan forecast that the oil market would transition from balance in 2024 to a surplus of 1.2 million barrels per day in 2025, driven by rising non-OPEC+ production.

India's savings rate surpasses global average amid rising financial inclusion: SBI report



India's savings rate has surpassed the global average, reaching 30.2%, higher than the global average of 28.2%, according to a report released by the State Bank of India (SBI) on Monday. The report highlights the growing financial inclusion in the country, noting that over 80% of Indian adults now have formal financial accounts, a significant improvement from around 50% in 2011.

The increase in financial inclusion has contributed to a higher financialisation of household savings. The report states that the share of net financial savings in total household savings has grown from 36% in FY14 to 52% in FY21. However, there has been a slight deceleration in this trend during FY22 and FY23. In FY24, trends show that the share of physical savings is once again on the decline, with more people turning to financial products.

As new investment avenues such as mutual funds gain popularity, the share of bank deposits and currency in household financial savings is decreasing. The SBI research also pointed out that, in the past decade, Indian companies have significantly increased their fund-raising from capital markets, with the amount raised surging more than ten-fold, from Rs 12,068 crore in FY14 to Rs 1.21 lakh crore in FY25 (up to October).

Household investment in shares and debentures has also grown, reaching around 1% of GDP in FY24, up from just 0.2% in FY14. Additionally, the share of household financial savings invested in these areas has increased from 1% to 5%. This indicates that Indian households are now playing a more substantial role in funding the country's capital needs.

HDFC Securities Projects India's GDP Growth at 6.4% in 2024-25

HDFC Securities has projected India's GDP growth for 2024-25 at 6.4%, citing potential downside risks due to a slowdown in urban demand and a lack of substantial revival in private capital expenditure (capex). While these factors present challenges, the firm also pointed to growing rural demand and an expected increase in government spending as key drivers for economic growth.

The Reserve Bank of India (RBI) had recently revised its growth forecast for the same period, lowering it to 6.6% from the earlier 7.2%. The downward revision followed a 5.4% real GDP growth in the July-September quarter of the 2024-25 financial year, a



significant miss from the RBI's earlier es-

timate of 7%. The lower-than-expected quarterly growth has raised concerns about the pace of recovery in the economy.

HDFC Securities noted that despite the weaker-than-anticipated performance in the first half of the fiscal year, India's economy is expected to recover in the coming years. For FY 2025-26, the firm forecasts a modest improvement in GDP growth to 6.7%. This suggests that while the short-term outlook may be tempered, long-term growth expectations remain optimistic, driven by factors like rural consumption and government expenditure, which are likely to provide a cushion against the urban slowdown.

NSE and BSE Announce Special Trading Session for Union Budget 2025

The National Stock Exchange (NSE) and the Bombay Stock Exchange (BSE) have announced a special live trading session on Saturday, February 1, 2025, due to the presentation of the Union Budget for the year 2025. Both exchanges will operate as usual, with trading hours from 9:15 AM to 3:30 PM. Additionally, the commodity derivatives segment will also be open for trading during the morning session.

Typically, stock exchanges in India are closed on Saturdays and Sundays. However, in special cases, such as significant events like the Union



Budget, both exchanges conduct live trading sessions to accommodate market partici-

pants and ensure uninterrupted operations.

The Union Budget 2025 will be presented by Finance Minister Nirmala Sitharaman following the 2024 general elections. This will mark her second comprehensive budget since taking office, and expectations are high regarding the proposals. The budget is likely to focus on India's ongoing economic transition toward the goal of achieving a "Viksit Bharat" (Developed India) in the framework of "Amrit Kaal," the period from 2022 to 2047, which is seen as a transformative phase for the nation.

Over 20 Android Smartphones to Lose Access to WhatsApp in 2025



WhatsApp, Meta's widely used instant messaging and calling platform, has become an essential app for nearly every Android smartphone user around the world. However, as the app continues to evolve with new features and capabilities, the minimum system requirements to run it also increase. This means that some older smartphones will lose access to WhatsApp permanently.

According to a report by HDBlog, published on December 20, 2024, more than 20 Android smartphones will no longer be able to run WhatsApp starting January 1, 2025. The main reason for this is that these devices are still running Android KitKat or earlier versions of the operating system. As a result, users with these outdated smartphones will find that they can no longer use WhatsApp after the new year begins. Additionally, other Meta apps, such as Facebook and Instagram, are also likely to stop working on these older de-

vices in the near future.

The list of smartphones that will lose access to WhatsApp includes devices from brands like HTC and LG, which stopped producing smartphones several years ago. This highlights the ongoing issue of software compatibility with older devices as smartphone manufacturers and app developers continue to push for more advanced features that older operating systems simply cannot support.

For users with affected devices, this may mean upgrading to a newer smartphone if they wish to continue using WhatsApp and other Meta apps. While this can be an inconvenience, it also emphasizes the importance of keeping devices up to date in order to access the latest apps and features. As technology continues to advance, users with older devices will face similar challenges in the future.

Viral Secret Santa Gift: Employee Gets Tub Of Dahi, Internet Cannot Stop Laughing

An unusual and hilarious Secret Santa gift from an Indian office's Christmas celebration has gone viral, leaving social media users in fits of laughter. The present, a big tub of 'dahi' (yoghurt), was revealed in a post on the platform X, quickly capturing attention with its quirky charm.

Christmas festivities are in full swing around the world, with people indulging in festive meals, watching Christmas movies, and participating in the beloved tradition of Secret Santa. In this tradition, employees draw names randomly to buy gifts for one another. While many go out of their way to get creative or extravagant gifts, others often resort to last-minute solutions. The latter was the case for one Secret Santa in an Indian office, who decided to gift a large tub of dahi to their randomly assigned colleague.

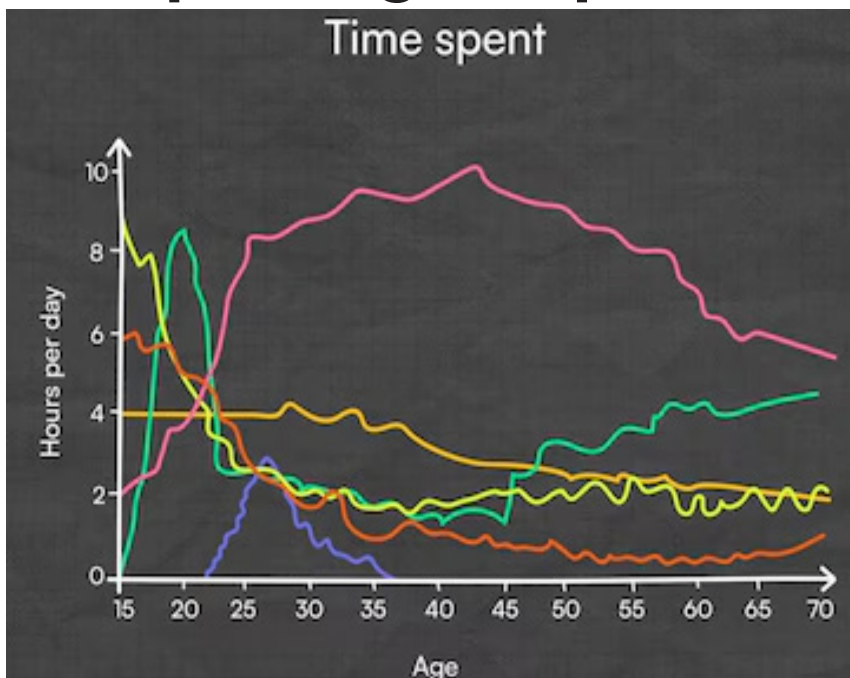
In the viral photo, the office Christmas tree, beau-



tifully decorated with festive ornaments, is surrounded by neatly wrapped presents. However, one gift stands out — a plain, unwrapped tub of yoghurt, sitting prominently with a simple yellow name tag. The contrast between the other polished gifts and the humble tub of dahi has caused a stir online. The caption accompanying the post read, "Secret Santa mei kisi ko dahi gift kr diya. Welcome to Haryana," humorously acknowledging the regional flavor of the gift.

The internet has erupted with laughter, with many sharing their own experiences of quirky or last-minute Secret Santa gifts. This hilarious moment from an office celebration has captured the spirit of fun and spontaneity that often accompanies the holiday season. It's a reminder that, sometimes, the most unexpected gifts are the ones that bring the most joy — or at least, the most laughs!

Zerodha Explores Time Spent With Family Vs Co-workers In Eye-opening Graphic



Zerodha, the online brokerage firm co-founded by Nithin and Nikhil Kamath, has recently shared a thought-provoking post on social media emphasizing the importance of work-life balance. In an era where corporate employees often find themselves caught up in a relentless work schedule, Zerodha's post offers a wake-up call about the need to prioritize family time and personal well-being.

The company's Instagram post features a powerful graphic that highlights the stark contrast between the time employees spend working and the time they dedicate to family. The graphic paints a clear picture of how the modern work environment can often lead to a significant imbalance, where family and personal life take a backseat to work commitments. Many employees, especially in high-pressure corporate settings, may find it difficult to carve out time for their loved ones due to long working hours and increasing work demands.

The post resonated with many,

as it reflects the struggles faced by numerous professionals who are caught up in the "rat race" and feel overwhelmed by work responsibilities. Zerodha's message is clear: the pressures of work should not come at the expense of mental health and family connections. The graphic urges individuals to reflect on their daily routines and reassess the importance of making time for their loved ones and personal well-being.

With the caption "If the realization hasn't hit you yet, swipe through again," Zerodha encourages its followers to take a moment to pause and evaluate their work-life balance. The post is a timely reminder that true success includes not just professional achievements, but also the happiness and fulfillment that come from spending quality time with family.

By sharing this insightful graphic, Zerodha is sparking a conversation about the need for employees to reclaim their time, balance their priorities, and put their well-being first.

Why Sugar is Now Viewed as Harmful: Expert Insights

In recent years, sugar has gone from being a staple in celebrations to a villain in many health-conscious diets. The shift in perception has led to people cutting down on sugar in their daily meals, from skipping desserts to checking ingredient labels. But why has sugar, once a symbol of festivity and joy, become associated with harm? Here's what the experts have to say.

Why Sugar Is Seen as Harmful Today

Historically, sugar was consumed sparingly, mostly during special occasions. People enjoyed homemade sweets like laddoos, kheer, and halwa without worrying about health risks. However, in today's world, sugar is found everywhere—from cookies and cakes to beverages like sodas and juices. This constant presence of sugary treats is a major factor in the growing concerns about sugar consumption. Nutritionist Simrat Kathuria explains that, unlike our ancestors, who only indulged in sweets occasionally, modern lifestyles expose us to sugar more regularly, often in processed foods and drinks.

Another contributing factor is the rise in sedentary lifestyles. With many people spending most of their day sitting at desks or engaging in minimal physical activity, the body doesn't burn off excess sugar efficiently. Without adequate exer-



cise, the negative effects of consuming sugary foods are more pronounced.

Health Risks of Excessive Sugar Consumption

Overindulging in sugar can lead to various health issues. Nutritionist Neha Sahaya highlights some common effects of too much sugar in the diet:

1. Energy Fluctuations: Consuming sugar leads to spikes in blood sugar levels followed by crashes, leaving you feeling drained after the initial burst of energy.

2. Swollen Face: Excessive sugar can cause water retention, leading to facial puffiness and bloating.

3. Digestive Issues: Too much sugar can disrupt digestion, resulting in bloating and discomfort.

4. Sleep Disturbances: High sugar intake can interfere with sleep patterns, making it harder to fall asleep.

5. Skin Problems: Sugar promotes inflammation, which can lead to issues like acne, wrinkles, and reduced skin elasticity.

How to Cut Down on Sugar

If you're concerned about your sugar intake, experts suggest starting with small changes. Opt for fresh fruits instead of sugary snacks, read food labels carefully to spot hidden sugars, and stay hydrated throughout the day to reduce sugar cravings. Switching to natural sweeteners in moderation can also help satisfy your sweet tooth without overloading on sugar.

In conclusion, sugar doesn't need to be completely eliminated from your diet, but moderation is key. As long as it's consumed occasionally and in small amounts, it can be part of a healthy lifestyle. However, if you have specific health concerns, it's always advisable to consult a healthcare professional before making significant dietary changes.

Biryani Tops Swiggy's Year-End Report with 83 Million Orders in 2024

Swiggy has unveiled its year-end report for 2024, revealing significant insights into the most popular food trends. As in previous years, biryani continues to reign supreme, maintaining its position as the most ordered dish on the platform. Swiggy recorded an astonishing 83 million biryani orders between January 1 and November 22, 2024, which translates to 158 orders every minute, or approximately two orders per second.

Chicken biryani was the most preferred variation, accounting for 49 million of those orders. Southern India, particularly Hyderabad, has a strong preference for this dish. Hyderabad emerged as the top city for biryani orders, with 9.7 million orders in 2024. Bengaluru and Chennai followed closely with 7.7 million and 4.6 million orders, respectively.



In addition to biryani's continued dominance, dosa also made its mark, with 23 million orders this year. Swiggy also highlighted biryani's popularity during late-night hours, noting that it was the second-most ordered dish between midnight and 2 a.m., following chicken burgers. Moreover, biryani was frequently chosen by travelers, as Swiggy's collaboration with IRCTC enabled deliveries

at select train stations.

Swiggy also shared a fun anecdote from earlier in the year, revealing that during Ramadan 2024, around 6 million plates of biryani were ordered, with Hyderabad once again leading the charge with over a million orders. One particular Swiggy user in Kolkata even began the year with a biryani order at 4:01 a.m. on January 1, 2024, marking a flavorful start to the year.

This ongoing love for biryani is not exclusive to Swiggy. Rival platform Zomato's year-end report for 2023 also highlighted the dish's popularity, with biryani topping the charts for New Year's Eve orders, further cementing its status as a beloved dish across India.



India Women Eye Series Win Against West Indies in 2nd ODI

After a dominant 211-run victory in the opening ODI, the India women's cricket team is poised to seal the series in the second ODI against the West Indies in Vadodara on Tuesday. The Harmanpreet Kaur-led team has shown impressive form in the first match, ticking almost all the boxes. As the series progresses, India will look to guard against complacency and ensure they finish strong against a West Indies side that is currently underperforming.

India's morale is high following their massive win in the series opener, where Smriti Mandhana's classy 91 and a stellar five-wicket haul from Renuka Singh stood out. India's preparations for the upcoming ICC World Cup are crucial, as they aim to end their title drought at home. The team is well aware of the importance of building momentum leading up to the mega event in 2026, alongside strong contenders like Australia and England.

Despite a recent 0-3 defeat in Australia, India's performance in this series has been a significant bounce-back. Their 2-1 victory over the West Indies in a T20I series earlier, which marked their first home win in the shortest format in over five years, added to the optimism. However, their failure to qualify for the T20 World Cup semifinals highlighted areas for improvement.

India's squad has been undergoing experiments, giving debuts to seven players, including Titus



Sadhu, Priya Mishra, and Pratika Rawal. Pratika impressed in her debut match with a 40-run knock, forming a solid partnership with Mandhana. The team will also be looking for continued contributions from key players, including Deepti Sharma and Jemimah Rodrigues.

On the West Indies' side, senior players like Hayley Matthews, Deandra Dottin, and Shemaine Campbelle must step up to challenge the dominant Indian team. The West Indies will need to raise their game significantly to stay competitive in the remaining ODIs.

As the series heads into its crucial second match, India will be aiming for a series win while keeping their focus sharp ahead of the World Cup.

Australia Clinch ICC Women's Championship Title for Third Consecutive Time

Australia has secured their third consecutive ICC Women's Championship title, capping off a dominant 24-match campaign with a commanding 75-run victory over New Zealand at the Basin Reserve in Wellington. This win has propelled Australia to an unassailable position in the tournament standings, finishing with 39 points from 17 wins, three no-results, and three losses. With their total points now beyond reach, Australia's closest competitor, India, can only achieve a maximum of 37 points from their remaining matches against the West Indies and Ireland.



For New Zealand, the loss carries significant consequences as they now face uncertainty regarding their automatic qualification for the 2025 ICC Women's Cricket World Cup. Currently sitting in the final automatic qualification spot with 21 points from 24 matches, New Zealand is at risk of being overtaken by Bangladesh (19 points with three matches left) or the West Indies (14 points with five matches remaining). If displaced, New Zealand will have to compete in the Cricket World Cup Qualifier, where six teams will battle for the last two spots.

Australia's victory also secures an automatic World Cup spot for Sri Lanka, as they can no longer be overtaken by other teams with matches still to be played.

Australia's performance in the match reinforced their dominance in women's cricket. Opting to bat first, Australia posted an imposing 290, thanks to solid contributions from Alyssa Healy and Phoebe Litchfield, who put on an 88-run opening stand, followed by key knocks from Annabel Sutherland (42 off 43) and Ashleigh Gardner (74 off 62). In reply, New Zealand's chase faltered after a promising start at 106/1 in the 20th over. Australia's bowlers, led by Sutherland (3-39) and Alana King (3-34), took control, bowling New Zealand out for 215.

Australia remains the only team to have won the ICC Women's Championship, having also claimed the title in the 2014-16 and 2017-20 cycles.

Pakistan Makes History with 3-0 ODI Sweep Against South Africa

Pakistan made cricket history by becoming the first team ever to beat South Africa 3-0 in an ODI series on their home soil. Under the captaincy of Mohammad Rizwan, the Pakistani team completed a dominant clean sweep in Johannesburg, securing a 36-run victory in the third ODI to seal the historic series win.

South Africa, a team that has been playing official ODI series since 1991, had never suffered a 3-0 defeat at home. Despite already securing an unassailable 2-0 lead in the series, Pakistan refused to let up in the final match. The team delivered a balanced performance, combining powerful batting with

excellent bowling to make history.

In the third ODI, Saim Ayub starred with the bat, scoring a dazzling century (101 off 94 balls), his second of the series. Ayub's knock included 13 fours and two sixes. Alongside him, Babar Azam contributed a solid 52, forming a crucial 115-run partnership with Ayub. Pakistan's captain, Mohammad Rizwan, also added 53 off 52 balls, helping his team reach a competitive total of 308/9. The late contributions from Salman Agha (48 off 33 balls) and Tayyab Tahir (28 off 24 balls) ensured Pakistan posted a daunting total.

Kagiso Rabada was the standout bowler for

South Africa, taking 3 wickets for 56 runs, while Marco Jansen and Bjorn Fortuin also picked up wickets.

In response, South Africa's chase started brightly, but Pakistan quickly gained control with Naseem Shah removing Temba Bavuma. The Proteas tried to rebuild with Aiden Markram and Rassie van der Dussen, but regular wickets derailed their chase. Heinrich Klaasen fought valiantly with an 81-run knock, but Pakistan's bowlers, especially Sufiyan Muqeem (4/52) and Shaheen Shah Afridi (2/70), sealed the victory by bowling South Africa out for 271, completing a historic 3-0 sweep.



India Clinches Women's U19 Asia Cup Title with Dominant Win Over Bangladesh

India emerged as the champions of the inaugural Women's U19 Asia Cup, defeating Bangladesh by 41 runs in a low-scoring final. The match, held on Sunday, saw a brilliant performance by India's spinners, who helped their team secure a dominant victory after posting a modest total of 117/7.

Opener G Trisha played a crucial role in India's innings, scoring a steady 52 off 47 balls, including 5 fours and 2 sixes. Her knock anchored the Indian innings, and the biggest partnership of the match came between Trisha and captain Nikki Prasad, who put on 41 runs for the fourth wicket. Despite Trisha's efforts, India struggled against Bangladesh pacer Farjana Easmin, who claimed four wickets, keeping the Indian total in check.

In response, Bangladesh was off to a solid start, reaching 44/2 in the seventh over. However, the Indian spinners took control of the match from that point. Ayushi Shukla (3/17), Sonam Yadav (2/13), and Parunika Sisodia (2/12) put the brakes on the Bangladesh batting line-up, reducing them to a paltry 76 all out in just 18.3



overs. The collapse was swift, with Bangladesh losing their last eight wickets for just 32 runs.

India's spinners were the key to their success, cutting through the Bangladesh top order and ensuring a comfortable win. This victory marked India's first-ever Women's U19 Asia Cup title, a remarkable achievement for the young team.

Brief Scores:

India: 117/7 in 20 overs (Trisha 52; Easmin 4/32)
Bangladesh: 76 all out in 18.3 overs (Ferdous 22; Shukla 3/17, Yadav 2/13, Sisodia 2/12)

Real Madrid Move to Second Place with 4-2 Victory Over Sevilla

Real Madrid secured a 4-2 win against Sevilla on Sunday, moving up to second place in La Liga and narrowing the gap to Atletico Madrid to just one point. Kylian Mbappe was instrumental in the victory, scoring the opening goal and providing an assist to help his team extend their lead.

Mbappe opened the scoring in the 10th minute with a powerful strike from outside the box, setting the tone for the match.

Just 10 minutes later, Federico Valverde doubled Real Madrid's lead with a long-range effort. Sevilla struggled to respond, and in the 34th minute, Rodrygo added a third goal, finishing off a cross from Lucas Vazquez.

Sevilla managed to pull one back a minute later, with Isaac Romero heading home to reduce the deficit. However, Real Madrid regained their three-goal advantage early in the second half. In the 53rd minute, Brahim Diaz finished a well-executed move, with Mbappe and Vazquez combining to set him up for the goal.

Sevilla made a late push when Dodi Lukebakio found the net in the 85th minute, but it was too little too late. Real Madrid held on to the lead and saw out the game to secure all three points. With the win, they move two points clear of Barcelona, who are in third place with 38 points, but have played a game more than the top two.

The victory puts Real Madrid in strong contention for the La Liga title as they head into the winter break, with Atletico Madrid still leading the table.





Venkatesh's "Sankranthiki Vasthunnam" Features Grand Sankranthi Song

Venkatesh is all set to enthrall audiences with his upcoming triangular love and crime thriller, *Sankranthiki Vasthunnam*, which has been generating significant buzz with its impressive promotional content. The film's first two songs, "Godari Gattu" and "Meenu," have already become massive hits, capturing the attention of fans and music lovers alike.

Currently, the film's team is shooting

a vibrant Sankranthi-themed song featuring the lead cast in a grand set erected at the Ramanaidu Film Studios (RFC). The poster for the song showcases a lively Sankranthi celebration, with Venkatesh, Aishwarya Rajesh, and Meenakshi Chaudhary at the center of the festivities. The song, composed by Bheems Ceciroleo, promises to perfectly capture the joyous spirit of the Sankranthi festival.

Directed by Anil Ravipudi, known for his hit films, and produced by Dil Raju and Shirish under the banner of Sri Venkateswara Creations, *Sankranthiki Vasthunnam* is slated for a grand release on January 14, 2025, just in time for the Sankranthi festival. The film is expected to draw large crowds, thanks to its exciting mix of romance, suspense, and drama, coupled with its catchy music and festive vibe.



Aadi Saikumar's Birthday Poster for *Shambala* Creates Buzz

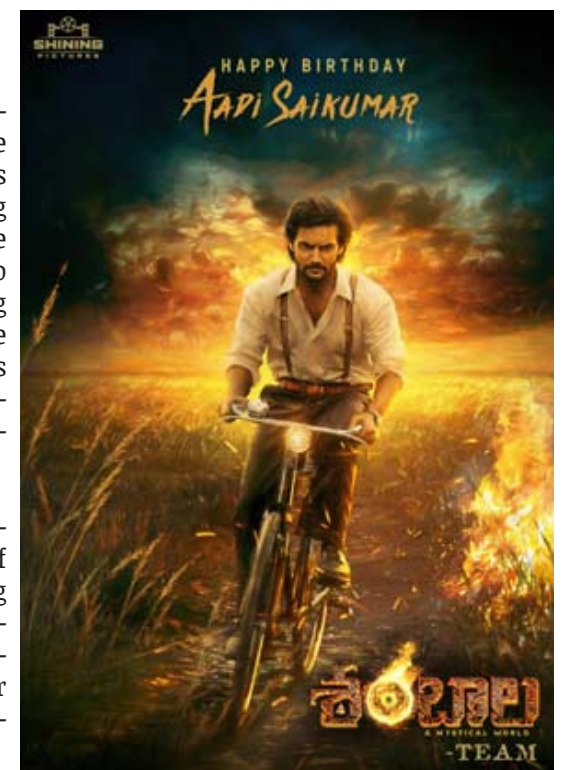
Telugu actor Aadi Saikumar is celebrating his birthday today, and to mark the special occasion, the makers of his upcoming film *Shambala* have unveiled an intriguing new poster. The poster showcases Aadi riding a bicycle through a fiery field, his expression intense and full of determination. This striking visual has piqued fans' curiosity, leaving them eager to learn more about the film and Aadi's character.

Shambala is a supernatural horror thriller that promises to offer a fresh cinematic experience. Directed by Ugandhar Muni, known for his earlier work *A (Ad Infinitum)*, the film introduces a mystical and gripping narrative. In *Shambala*, Aadi Saikumar takes on the role of a geo-scientist, while Archana Iyer plays the female lead. The movie also features a talented supporting cast, including Swasika, Ravi Varma, Meesala Laxman, and Madhundan, all of whom contribute to the film's in-

triguing storyline.

The film is produced by Rajasekhara Anabhimaju and Mahidhar Reddy under the banner of Shining Pictures, and it comes with a high production budget, ensuring top-notch visuals and effects. Music for the film is composed by Sriram Madduri, who brings his extensive experience working with renowned Hollywood composers like Hans Zimmer. This collaboration promises a unique and atmospheric score that is expected to introduce fresh sounds never before heard in Indian cinema.

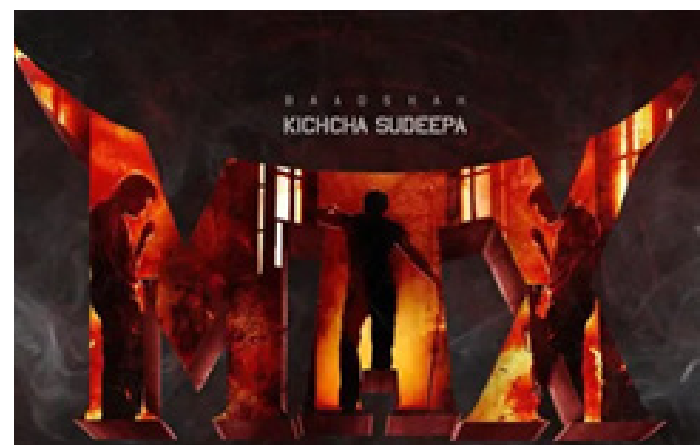
With its supernatural premise, Aadi Saikumar's intense role, and the involvement of an impressive team, *Shambala* is shaping up to be an exciting project. The newly released poster has already sparked significant interest, and as the film gears up for release, fans are eager to see how this intriguing thriller unfolds on screen.



Kichcha Sudeep's MAX Trailer Sets High Expectations Ahead of Release

Kichcha Sudeep, one of Sandalwood's most prominent stars, is all set to make a grand impact with his upcoming action drama *MAX*. Directed by Vijay Karthikeya, the film is scheduled for a highly anticipated Kannada release on December 25, 2024. Adding to the excitement, fans of the actor will also be able to enjoy the Telugu version of *MAX*, which is set to hit theaters on December 27, 2024, with Asian Suresh Entertainment LLP managing the release.

The recently released trailer has generated considerable buzz, quickly capturing the attention of fans. It showcases Kichcha Sudeep delivering powerful dialogues and featuring intricately choreographed action sequences, making it clear that *MAX* will be packed with high-octane moments. The trailer's gripping visuals and intense per-



formances have left fans eagerly awaiting the film's release, building anticipation for what promises to be an exciting cinematic experience.

MAX features a talented ensemble cast that includes Varalaxmi Sarathku-

mar, Sunil, Samyukta Hornad, and Sukrutha Wagle, among others, each playing key roles that add depth to the storyline. The film is backed by renowned producer Kalaippuli S. Thanu, who has been a part of several successful ventures. Music for the film is composed by the talented Ajaneesh Loknath, ensuring a memorable soundtrack that complements the high-energy narrative.

With a storyline full of action, drama, and emotional depth, *MAX* is poised to appeal to a wide audience, not only in Kannada but also in Telugu, thanks to its gripping trailer and the star power of Kichcha Sudeep. As the release date draws closer, fans are eagerly counting down the days to see the film hit the big screen and experience this thrilling ride.

Anupama Parameswaran: A Modern-Day Muse, Gracing the Cover of Vogue India

Anupama Parameswaran graces the January-February cover of Vogue India, channeling the timeless elegance of Raja Ravi Varma's iconic muses. Dressed in a stunning pink outfit and adorned with a delicate bindi, she embodies the ethereal grace of Padmini, the lotus nymph, in a contemporary reimagining of the celebrated artworks. The actress, known for her versatile acting skills and natural beauty, strikes a perfect balance between tradition and modernity in this breathtaking photoshoot.

In an exclusive interview with the magazine, Anupama opens up about her journey to stardom. Reflecting on her childhood, she shares, "When I was younger, I longed for the grace of Raja Ravi Varma's muses, secretly longing to carry it as my own." Now, as she appears on the cover, that childhood dream has become a reality, marking a significant milestone in her career. Anupama's fluency in five languages—Tamil, Telugu, Malayalam, Kanna-

da, and English—has allowed her to take on a wide range of roles in Indian cine-



ma. From her breakthrough performance in *Premam* to her recent successes in *Karthikeya 2* and *18 Pages*, she continues to impress audiences with her versatility and range.

Despite her fame, Anupama is refreshingly grounded and candid about the challenges she faces. While she excels in her craft, she admits, "I do not mind mugging ten pages of conversation, but photoshoots and interviews stress me out." This honesty and humility make her even more relatable, revealing the calm strength behind the starlet's busy life in the public eye.

With over 16 million followers on Instagram, Anupama is one of the most popular celebrities on social media. As she gears up for the release of six new films in 2024, spanning multiple languages, her star continues to rise. Her cover shoot for *Vogue India* is just the beginning of what promises to be another groundbreaking year for this unstoppable talent.



Chinni Song Release Time Announced for Daaku Maharajaaj

Nandamuri Balakrishna's much-anticipated film *Daaku Maharajaaj* is creating waves ahead of its grand theatrical release on January 12, 2025. Directed by Bobby Kolli, the movie features a star-studded cast, including Shraddha Srinath as the heroine. Fans are eagerly awaiting the film's release, and the excitement continues to build with the unveiling of its music.

Following the massive success of the first single, *The Rage of Daaku*, which resonated deeply with music lovers, the makers are set to release the second single, *Chinni*. This emotional track is expected to tug at the heartstrings, showcasing the poignant bond between Balakrishna's character and a young girl. Composed by the talented Thaman, *Chinni* will be released today at 04:29 PM, and anticipation is high as fans eagerly await the song's emotional depth and connection.

Daaku Maharajaaj boasts a strong ensemble cast, with Bobby Deol, Urvashi Rautela, and Chandini Chowdary among the key actors, each playing pivotal roles that add to the film's intrigue. Produced by Sithara Entertainment and Fortune Four Cinemas, the film is already generating considerable buzz. With its captivating storyline, stellar performances, and a captivating soundtrack, *Daaku Maharajaaj* is quickly becoming one of the most anticipated releases of early 2025.

As the film's release date approaches, fans are looking forward to more updates, especially with *Chinni* now on the horizon. Stay tuned as *Daaku Maharajaaj* promises to be a thrilling cinematic experience for audiences.