

POINT

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Weather Forecast

HYDERABAD	VIJAYAWADA	TIRUPATHI
H 27° C L 14° C	H 30° C L 19° C	H 26° C L 21° C

Former Prime Minister

Manmohan Singh Passes Away at 92

TPN Correspondent
New Delhi, Dec 27

Former Prime Minister of India, Dr. Manmohan Singh, passed away at the age of 92 after being admitted to AIIMS Delhi due to a serious illness. He was under treatment in the emergency department and breathed his last as his condition deteriorated.

Dr. Manmohan Singh, a senior Congress leader and distinguished economist, served as the 13th Prime Minister of India from 2004 to 2014, leading the UPA-1 and UPA-2 governments. Known as the architect of India's economic reforms, he played a pivotal role in shaping modern financial institutions.

Born on September 26, 1932, in Pakistan (pre-partition), Singh's family migrated to India during the partition. Over a long and illustrious career, he served as the Finance Minister under Prime Minister P.V. Narasimha Rao (1991-1996), introducing transformative Liberalization, Privatization, and Globalization (LPG) reforms that steered India towards economic progress.

Dr. Singh also served as the Governor of the Reserve Bank of India (1982-1985), Deputy Chairman of the Planning Commission, and Chairman of



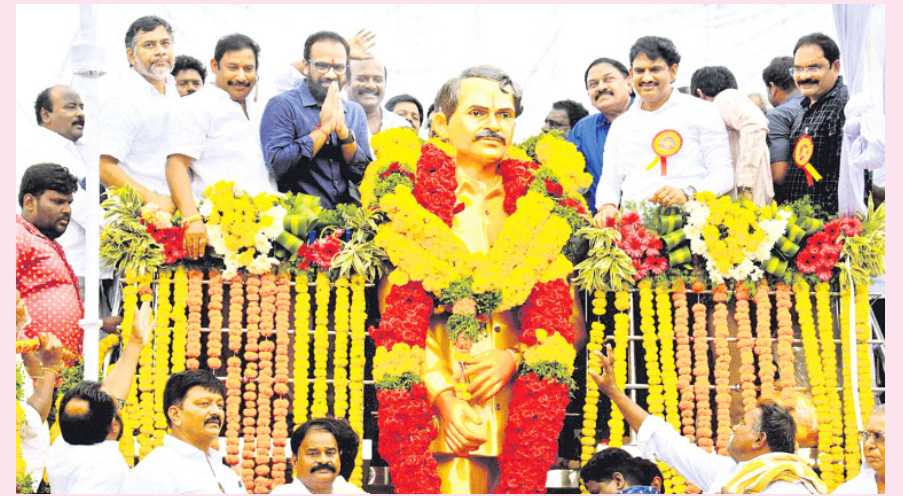
the University Grants Commission (UGC). A Rajya Sabha member for 33 years, he was the Leader of the Opposition from 1998 to 2004.

Among his many accolades, Dr. Singh was awarded the Padma Vibhushan in 1987, the Euromoney Award for Best Finance Minister (1993 and 1994), and the World Statesman Award in 2010. In 2017, he received the presti-

gious Indira Gandhi Prize for Peace, Disarmament, and Development.

He is survived by his wife, Gurusharan Kaur, and three daughters—Upinder, Daman, and Amrit Singh. Dr. Manmohan Singh will be remembered as a statesman, a visionary economist, and a humble leader who left an indelible mark on India's history.

A Grand Tribute to Vangaveeti Mohana Ranga on His 36th Death Anniversary



TPN Correspondent
Chinaganjam, Dec 27

Vangaveeti Mohana Ranga's name continues to resonate in the hearts of his admirers as grand tributes were paid on the occasion of his 36th death anniversary. A 10-foot bronze statue of the former MLA was unveiled at Sopirala Railway Gate Center in Chinaganjam mandal on Thursday. The event, marked by pomp and reverence, saw the participation of prominent leaders and supporters.

Vangaveeti Radhakrishna, the chief guest, unveiled the statue, constructed at a cost of ₹25 lakhs, alongside MLA Eluri Sambasivarao. Floral tributes were offered to Ranga's statue, and bus shelters were inaugurated as part of the occasion. Addressing the gathering, Radhakrishna stated that his father's name would remain immortal as long as the Kapu community exists. He emphasized that even decades after Ranga's passing, his ideals and vision are alive in the minds of the people. Radhakrishna expressed gratitude to MLA Eluri for his efforts in unveiling the statue, adding that this act increases everyone's responsibility to work towards Ranga's dream. Eluri described Ranga as an epitome of struggle and a leader of the people, transcending caste and community lines. He lauded Radhakrishna's commitment to carrying forward his father's legacy with humility and dedication.

The event also featured cultural performances, including poetry recitals by DV Subbarao. Leaders from various political and community groups, including South India KBT Convener Rasari Ramu and Kapunadu National President Galla Subrahmanyam, attended and paid homage. Similar tributes were observed across the region. In Parchuru, leaders anointed Ranga's statue with milk and distributed fruits and sweets. In Inkolli, a communal food distribution program marked the occasion. Fans and leaders in Chirala paid tribute near the Jana Sena Party flagpole and distributed food to hospital patients.

Vangaveeti Mohana Ranga's legacy remains a beacon of inspiration, celebrated by all sections of society for his relentless efforts for the upliftment of the poor and marginalized.

Caste, Efficiency, Sincerity: Which influences the decision on the new Chief Secretary?

TPN Correspondent
Andhra Pradesh, Dec 27

The selection of the new Chief Secretary of Andhra Pradesh has become a hot topic in political circles. Suddenly, a media outlet brought up the name of Mr. G. Sai Prasad, a 1991 batch IAS officer. As per rumors, a lobby is actively promoting his candidacy, influencing the media to publish articles favoring him, or possibly involving the media owner in the lobbying efforts. This lobby is attempting to portray Mr. Sai Prasad as an efficient officer and create pressure on Chief Minister Mr. N. Chandrababu Naidu to appoint him. Mr. Sai Prasad belongs to the same community as Mr. Naidu, and his efficiency is unquestionable, considering his career trajectory. He served as Principal Secretary in the Chief Minister's Office (CMO) during the 2014-19 TDP regime. However, Mr. Sai Prasad has faced criticism from TDP circles for his tenure as the Chief Commissioner of Land Administration (CCLA), where he allegedly cooperated with the YSRC Government in controversial land dealings. This association with the previous regime is a significant factor potentially hindering his appointment. While community considerations may not pose a barrier currently, his alleged affiliation with Mr. Jagan Mohan Reddy's team is a critical issue influencing the Coalition Government's decision on the new Chief Secretary.



According to reports, Mr. Nara Lokesh, Minister for IT & Education, is hesitant to approve Mr. Sai Prasad's appointment due to his

activities during the YSRC regime. On the other hand, Mr. RP Sisodia is emerging as a strong contender, competing on the grounds of efficiency, commitment, sincerity, and public welfare. Mr. Sisodia has a spotless record with no affiliations and faced challenges under YSRC rule due to his integrity. Moreover, his work has impressed Deputy Chief Minister Mr. Pawan Kalyan. However, his caste, in comparison to Mr. Sai Prasad, is perceived as a potential disqualification.

In the current scenario, the Coalition Government faces significant challenges, with YSRC-affiliated officials reportedly obstructing many of its activities. The Chief Secretary's role is crucial in overcoming these challenges. If the government prioritizes independence and commitment, Mr. Sai Prasad's alleged affiliations could weigh against his candidacy.

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Tributes Paid to Vangaveeti Mohana Ranga on His 36th Death Anniversary



TPN Correspondent
Jaggayyapet, Dec 27

The 36th death anniversary of Vangaveeti Mohana Ranga was commemorated with great reverence and enthusiasm in Jaggayyapet. Under the auspices of the Jana Sena Party in the Jaggayyapet constituency, a massive rally was organized to honor the late leader, led by NTR District Jana Sena President Samineni Udayabhanu. The rally commenced at Kodad Road in Jaggayyapet town and culminated at the statue of Vangaveeti Ranga, where floral tributes were offered. Slogans of "Johar Vangaveeti Ranga" reverberated through the town, capti-

vating the local community. Speaking at the event, Samineni Udayabhanu garu emphasized that Vangaveeti Mohana Ranga was not a leader confined to any one caste but a true champion of the poor, down-trodden, and weaker sections of society. He highlighted Ranga's extraordinary ability to connect with people from all walks of life and his significant impact within a short political career. Udayabhanu also lamented that Ranga's untimely demise was the result of political conspiracies. Municipal Vice Chairman Tummala Prabhakar Rao, Councilor Kolagani Ramu, Jana Sena leaders Aval Bhavani Prasad, and former MPP Matangi Venkateswarlu echoed similar sen-

timents. They noted that Ranga's legacy has endured for 36 years and continues to inspire people, with his three-year tenure as an MLA leaving an indelible mark. The event witnessed a significant turnout of Jana Sena leaders and activists from across the Jaggayyapet constituency, demonstrating the enduring respect and admiration for Vangaveeti Mohana Ranga. His commitment to the welfare of marginalized communities and his efforts to uplift the weaker sections remain etched in the hearts of the people. The rally and tributes reflected the collective resolve to keep Vangaveeti Ranga's memory alive and to carry forward his mission of serving the underprivileged.



Minister Atchannaaidu Blames Jagan for Rising Electricity Charges in AP

TPN Correspondent
Andhra Pradesh, Dec 27

Minister Atchannaaidu has launched a scathing attack on YS Jagan Mohan Reddy and the YSR Congress Party (YCP) over the issue of rising electricity charges in Andhra Pradesh. Responding to YCP protests accusing the coalition government of burdening the public with high power bills, Atchannaaidu countered by holding Jagan responsible for the current state of the electricity sector. Addressing the media, Atchannaaidu stated that Jagan is the "cause, karma, and action" behind the electricity charges in the state. He alleged that during Jagan's tenure as Chief Minister, the electricity system was severely weakened. Atchannaaidu criticized Jagan for making decisions that led to inflated power purchase costs, claiming that electricity was purchased for ₹8 per unit when it was available for ₹5 per unit, suggesting that these decisions were driven by commissions and vested interests. The Minister further condemned the YCP for what he termed as hypocritical behavior, stating that it was shameful for the party to burden people with high charges during its rule and now hold protests and rallies against the same issue. He argued that the policies and actions of the previous government have directly resulted in the financial strain faced by the electricity sector today. Atchannaaidu concluded by emphasizing that the "sins committed by Jagan" during his rule have now become a burden for the people of Andhra Pradesh. He urged the public to see through the YCP's tactics and hold them accountable for the mismanagement of the power sector.

Key Officials Attend Review Meeting at Visakhapatnam Collector's Office



TPN Correspondent
Visakhapatnam, Dec 27

A high-level review meeting was conducted at the Visakhapatnam Collector's Office, attended by prominent officials and leaders from the region. Former MLA and Visakhapatnam TDP President Shri Gandhi Babji, Visakhapatnam MP Shri Bharat, District Collector Shri Harendra Prasad, and VMRDA Commissioner Shri Vishwanath were among the key participants. The meeting focused on various

developmental and administrative issues affecting Visakhapatnam and surrounding areas. Discussions included urban planning, infrastructure projects, and measures to improve public services in the city. District Collector Shri Harendra Prasad highlighted ongoing initiatives aimed at enhancing the quality of life for residents, while VMRDA Commissioner Shri Vishwanath provided updates on the progress of major infrastructure and urban development projects.

Former MLA Shri Gandhi Babji and MP Shri Bharat emphasized the importance of aligning efforts with the aspirations of the people, urging officials to ensure timely implementation of projects and effective utilization of resources. The meeting concluded with a commitment to addressing key challenges and fostering collaboration among various departments to achieve the city's development goals. Further updates on specific resolutions and action plans are expected in the coming weeks.

Special Chief Secretary RP Sisodia to Address Revenue Issues in Pedapalaparru

TPN Correspondent
Eluru, Dec 27

Special Chief Secretary RP Sisodia is set to attend a crucial revenue meeting at the Sri Ganga Bhramaramba Sametha Malleswara Swamy Temple in Pedapalaparru village, Mudinepalli Mandal, Eluru district, this Friday. The meeting, part of a series of statewide revenue initiatives, aims to address longstanding grievances of the public related to revenue and land issues. Officials, including Eluru RDO Ambareesh and Mudinepalli Tahsildar Subani, along with Gudivada Market Yard ex-chairman Challagulla Shobhanadri Chowdary, reviewed the arrangements in the village on Thursday. According to Shobhanadri Chowdary, the visit by Sisodia offers hope for resolving issues caused by chaotic land surveys carried out under the previous administration. The meeting will be attended by senior officials, including Eluru Collector Vairaiselvi and Joint Collector Dhatri Reddy. During the event, Sisodia will hear grievances from the villagers and provide directives to address their concerns. Sisodia's arrival is scheduled for 11 a.m., following which he will proceed to the



Velagapudi Secretariat to review progress on revenue reforms and related initiatives across the state. The visit highlights the government's commitment to improving efficiency in revenue administration and addressing the concerns of the rural populace. Villagers and local leaders expressed optimism about finding solutions to their long-pending issues during the Special Chief Secretary's visit.

Big Alert for AP, Heavy Rains Predicted

TPN Correspondent
Andhra Pradesh, Dec 27

The Meteorological Department has issued a weather alert for Andhra Pradesh and Telangana, forecasting heavy rains due to the formation of a low-pressure system. Coastal Andhra Pradesh is expected to experience significant rainfall over the next three days, while Telangana may also see rain for the next two days.

- Heavy rains are likely in many parts of coastal Andhra Pradesh, especially in the Nellore district.
- A surface circulation at 1.5 km altitude has formed due to the

low-pressure system, leading to strong winds along the coast. Gusts of up to 65 km/h are expected, particularly in the north coast and Yanam region.

- Light to moderate rains are predicted today, December 26, with more widespread rainfall on December 27. The weather is expected to remain dry on December 28.
- Specific districts such as Prakasam, Nellore, Anantapur, Sri Sathya Sai, YSR, Annamayya, Chittoor, and Tirupati may see light rains on December 27.
- The Hyderabad Meteorological Center predicts light to moderate

rainfall in the state over the next two days.

- Temperatures are likely to drop further, with an increase in cold intensity. The elderly and children are advised to take precautions.
- Gusty winds of 30-40 km/h, with a maximum speed of 50 km/h, are expected along the coastline.
- Residents are advised to stay updated on weather conditions and take necessary precautions, especially in areas prone to heavy rainfall and strong winds.

Stay safe and prepared as Telugu states brace for heavy rains and cooler temperatures in the coming days.





Yarlagadda Venkatarao Criticizes Jagan for Skipping Assembly Sessions

TPN Correspondent
Gannavaram, Dec 27

Gannavaram MLA and Government Whip Yarlagadda Venkatarao strongly criticized Pulivendula MLA and former Chief Minister Y.S. Jagan Mohan Reddy for his repeated absence from the Andhra Pradesh Legislative Assembly. Speaking at a program held in Ramavarappadu on Thursday, Venkatarao accused Jagan of undermining democracy by avoiding the assembly, which serves as the primary platform for discussing public issues.

Venkatarao alleged that Jagan's refusal to attend the assembly stems from his lack of courage to face Chief Minister Chandrababu Naidu. He described Jagan's Praja Darbar initiative as laughable, questioning whether Jagan intends to address grievances using his personal funds. He further criticized Jagan for falsely claiming that he was not being allowed to speak in the assembly, calling it an excuse to cover his absence.

Highlighting a precedent from 1994, Venkatarao recalled that even without the official opposition status, Congress members participated in legislative proceedings. In contrast, he accused Jagan of insulting democracy by avoiding the assembly. He also questioned why YSRCP members were attending the Legislative Council and other houses like the Rajya Sabha and Lok Sabha despite lacking opposition status there.



The Government Whip pointed out that Jagan, during his tenure as Chief Minister, attempted to strip opposition status from Chandrababu Naidu, but now he finds himself without the same privilege. He remarked that even YSRCP MLAs are frustrated with Jagan's behavior, lamenting their limited involvement in the assembly. Venkatarao criticized the lack of development under Jagan's government, stating that progress has been stagnant since 1955. He condemned the government's attack on language and questioned how opposition status could be granted with only 11 MLAs. He concluded by asserting that the people have deliberately denied Jagan the status of opposition leader.

Jagan's Governance is Built on Lies and Corruption - Varla Ramaiah

TPN Correspondent
Amaravati, Dec 27

TDP National General Secretary Varla Ramaiah launched a scathing attack on YSRCP chief and former Chief Minister Y.S. Jagan Mohan Reddy, calling his five-year rule corrupt and dishonest. Speaking to reporters on Thursday, Ramaiah accused Jagan of burdening the state with severe financial distress, particularly in the electricity sector.

"Every word Jagan speaks is a pack of lies," stated Ramaiah, emphasizing that Jagan's misgovernance led to a Rs. 1.29 lakh crore burden on the people through inflated electricity charges. He challenged Jagan to participate in a public debate on the issue, asserting that no new power plants were established during his tenure. Ramaiah also accused Jagan's party of procuring substandard coal, which decreased electricity production in Jan Co plants and further burdened the public. The TDP leader credited Chandrababu Naidu with transforming Andhra Pradesh's power sector, citing an increase in power generation capacity by 15,000 megawatts during Naidu's rule. He also highlighted Naidu's implementation of the Electricity Reforms Act in 1998 and the installation of 21 lakh streetlights across the state, challenging Jagan to account for any comparable achievements during his tenure.

Responding to former minister R.K. Roja's praise of Jagan as a "good businessman and family man," Ra-



maiah ridiculed the statement. "Jagan's business success comes from embezzling Rs. 43,000 crores of public money, as even the CBI has stated," he quipped. He further questioned Jagan's family values, pointing to his alleged disrespect toward close relatives. Ramaiah concluded by asserting that the legacy of governance and integrity belongs to TDP chief Chandrababu Naidu and not to Jagan, whose tenure, he claimed, responded only burden and betrayal to the people of Andhra Pradesh.

Roja Blames Propaganda for YSRCP's Loss, Confident of Return to Power

TPN Correspondent
Andhra Pradesh, Dec 27

YSR Congress Party (YSRCP) leader and former minister R.K. Roja expressed her confidence in the party's resurgence while addressing a review meeting in Nagari on Thursday. She criticized the coalition government for failing to deliver on its promises and accused it of creating hardship for women, students, and youth within just six months of coming to power.

Roja alleged that the coalition government is misleading people with false propaganda, which she claimed was the main reason for YSRCP's defeat, not a lack of public support. She stated that under Jagan Mohan Reddy's leadership, various welfare schemes were effectively implemented, and significant improvements were made in schools during YSRCP's tenure. In contrast, she criticized the current government for focusing on



developing wine shops instead of public welfare. She accused Chandrababu Naidu of pushing the state into debt by taking "loans on loans," contrary to his promises of creating wealth. Roja also targeted government employees, accusing them of playing a role in Jagan's defeat and now regretting their decision to support Chandrababu.

Roja expressed her confidence that YSRCP would return to power in the next elections, winning all constituencies, including Kuppam, in the Chittoor district. She warned that those troubling the YSRCP cadre would face consequences "with interest."

Further, Roja criticized the "green media" for spreading lies and contributing to the negative perception of the party. She assured the people that the next government would once again be led by the YSR Congress Party, committed to delivering comprehensive development and welfare.

TDP Alleges Neglect of Rallapadu Project by Previous Government

TPN Correspondent
Andhra Pradesh, Dec 27

TDP leaders have criticized the previous YSRCP government for neglecting the maintenance of the Rallapadu project,



leading to its current poor state. In a press conference held at the TDP office in Kandukur constituency, TDP Mandal Party President Narne Rosaiah and Pattana Gudluru Mandal TDP President addressed the issue.

Speaking at the event, Kandukur Mandal Party President Rosaiah stated that the accusations made by former MLA Burra Madhusudan Yadav were baseless. He accused Yadav of resorting to disrespectful remarks about local MLA Inturi Nageswara Rao and urged him to adopt a more respectful tone. Rosaiah questioned Yadav's understanding of the actual area and situation of the Rallapadu project, urging him to gather accurate information before making statements.

Highlighting efforts to address the issue, Rosaiah said that TDP MLA Inturi Nageswara Rao has been actively discussing the condition of the Rallapadu project and the repairs needed for the right canal gates with TDP leader Nimmala Ramanaidu for the past 20 days. Plans are underway to install large motors to release water into reservoirs and ensure water supply to the last ayacut, aiming to prevent farmers' fields from drying out. The TDP leaders stressed their commitment to resolving the challenges faced by the project and providing irrigation water to farmers. They urged Yadav and other opposition leaders to refrain from spreading misinformation and instead focus on constructive contributions.

YS Sharmila Accuses Central Govt of Conspiring to Sell Visakhapatnam Steel Plant

TPN Correspondent
Andhra Pradesh, Dec 27

Andhra Pradesh Congress Committee (APCC) Chief Y.S. Sharmila Reddy has made sensational allegations against Prime Minister Narendra Modi and the central government, accusing them of plotting to privatize the Visakhapatnam Steel Plant (VSP). Addressing the media on Thursday, Sharmila criticized the Center for neglecting the rights of Andhra Pradesh while prioritizing aid to other states.

Sharmila alleged that the Center has been systematically pushing VSP towards bankruptcy, claiming there is a conspiracy to sell the plant to "Modi's friends" under the guise of privatization. She accused the Center of showing favoritism by providing Rs. 15,000 crores in financial aid to the Karnataka Steel Plant, which employs only 243 people, while neglecting Visakha Steel, which employs 26,000 workers.

"Visakhapatnam Steel Plant, a symbol of Andhra's pride, is being deliberately undermined. Despite its massive workforce and significance, the plant is being left to languish without raw materials or financial support," Sharmila stated. She pointed out that workers have been protesting for over 1,400 days, demanding immediate assistance to prevent the plant's closure.



Sharmila also criticized the AP MPs, calling their inability to secure funds for the plant a "shameful display of incompetence." She questioned why Chief Minister Chandrababu Naidu is discussing deals with Mittal Steel while the steel plant suffers. "Where is the justice in denying raw materials to VSP while facilitating new ventures for private entities?" she asked. The Congress leader demanded that the Center merge VSP with SAIL, similar to the support extended to Karnataka Steel. She urged the central government to allocate funds to revive production, increasing the plant's capacity from 7 million tons to 20 million tons in the future. Sharmila concluded with a call for action, urging the TDP and Jana Sena parties to withdraw from the NDA alliance if they fail to secure justice for Visakhapatnam Steel.

Viskha Dairy Chairman Adari Anand Joins BJP

TPN Correspondent
Visakhapatnam, Dec 27

In a significant political development, Visakhapatnam Dairy Chairman Adari Anand Kumar, along with his sister Pilla Ramakumari, Chairperson of Elaman-chili Municipality in Anakapalle district, formally joined the Bharatiya Janata Party (BJP). The duo took the party's oath in the presence of BJP state president Daggubati Purandeswari in Rajahmundry.

Joining them were several other directors of Visakhapatnam Dairy, including SVV Shankara Rao, S. Suryanarayana, Kolla Katamayya, Dadi Pawan Kumar, Aarangi Ramana Babu, Chitike-la Rajakumari, Reddy Ramakrishna, Sundarapu Easwar, and Paradeshi Gangadhar, who also pledged their allegiance to the BJP. Speaking on the occasion, Adari Anand Kumar expressed admiration for Prime Minister Narendra Modi's policies, stating, "I firmly believe that the development of Andhra Pradesh is possible only under BJP's leadership. I have joined the party to contribute to its growth and work sincerely for its success." State president Purandeswari welcomed the new members, emphasizing the importance of embracing the party's ideology and discipline to strengthen the BJP.



On the same day, the Vishva Hindu Dharma Parirakshan Rama Sena President Kambala Srinivasa Rao, along with approximately 10,000 supporters, joined the BJP during a public meeting held in Gokavaram, East Godavari district. Addressing the gathering, Purandeswari announced that the BJP's membership in Andhra Pradesh has reached a milestone of 25 lakh members.

BJP MLA Vishnu Kumar Raju highlighted the significance of the large-scale additions, especially in rural areas, calling it a moment of pride. The event saw the participation of senior leaders, including former BJP state president Somu Veeraj, state general secretary Sagi Kashi Vishwanath Raju, and vice presidents V. Suryanarayana Raju and Relangi Sridevi. The BJP's increasing membership and influence in Andhra Pradesh reflect its growing presence in the state's political landscape.



Vijayawada Police Commissioner Expresses Gratitude for Successful Bhavani Diksha Program

TPN Correspondent
Vijayawada, Dec 27

On the conclusion of the Bhavani Diksha program in Vijayawada on December 26, 2024, Police Commissioner S. V. Rajasekhara Babu, IPS, expressed his heartfelt gratitude to various government departments, voluntary organizations, media representatives, the public, and police officers for their cooperation in ensuring the program's success. In a meeting with police officers from other districts at the Police Command Control Office, the Commissioner acknowledged the significant role played by the officers and staff in the peaceful conduct of the program. The Bhavani Diksha was efficiently managed, with the assistance of the Bhavani Deeksha App, allowing devotees from far-off locations to complete their darshan of the goddess without any issues. The entire program ended without any significant incidents, showcasing the effectiveness of the security measures. The Commissioner highlighted several key factors that contributed to the program's smooth execution, including improved holding areas and faster darshan processes due to the use of technological solutions like the Child Monitoring Sys-



tem app and the Astram system. Additionally, better crowd management, including opening the Ratham Center for devotees to join the queue lines directly, helped avoid overcrowding. S. V. Rajasekhara Babu praised the coordination among various departments and local police in regulating traffic and maintaining security. He specifically noted that there were no thefts, accidents, or unwanted incidents, reflecting the dedication and responsibility of all involved. The Commissioner also honored the officers and officials with remaining cloth, photos, and laddu prasadam of Goddess Kanakadurga as a token of appreciation. The event was attended by key officials, including DCPS Gautami Shali, Tirumaleswara Reddy, and others involved in the program's organization.

Vijayawada Municipal Corporation's Efforts Make Bhavani Deeksha a Grand Success

TPN Correspondent
Vijayawada, Dec 27

The Bhavani Deeksha ceremonies concluded successfully, thanks to the dedicated efforts of the Vijayawada Municipal Corporation (VMC) staff, who played a pivotal role in ensuring seamless arrangements. On Thursday, VMC Commissioner Dhyanchandra commended the staff for their tireless contributions, which helped in the smooth completion of the Deeksha rituals. The Commissioner acknowledged that the event was effectively managed through the collaborative efforts of various departments, including Police, Endowments, Health, Revenue, Fire, APCPDCL, and ICDS. One of the major areas of focus was sanitation, which was monitored using drone surveillance. Officials tracked operations in real-time via live streaming at the integrated control room, allowing for immediate responses to any shortcomings, ensuring uninterrupted cleanliness during the Bhavani Deeksha Viramana. Approximately 10 lakh water bottles and 6.5 lakh water packets were distributed to devotees, while 200 temporary toilets were installed at 15 locations to accommodate the large crowd. A command control room was set up to monitor the water supply, and 300 engineering staff worked around the clock to maintain water distribution and toilet facilities. In terms of waste management, 1,400 sanitation workers, under the supervision of 104 senior staff members, worked diligently to collect and process around 750 tons of solid waste. Conveyor belts were used to effi-



ciently transport waste to the excel plant for disposal. To further assist devotees, six free cloakrooms were established, and public announcements were made every 30 minutes to ensure maximum utilization of these services. The veterinary and malaria wings of VMC took proactive measures to ensure a safe and hygienic environment, including regular fogging and ML oil spraying to prevent any inconvenience from mosquitoes or animals. Although the official Deeksha rituals were held from December 21 to 25, preparations began a day in advance, and the staff continued working after the event's conclusion. The Commissioner praised the staff's dedication and commitment, which contributed to the grand success of the Bhavani Deeksha.

Ration Mafia Allegations Surface in Vijayawada's YSR Colony



TPN Correspondent
Vijayawada, Dec 27

YSR Colony in Jakkampudi, once a hotspot for illegal marijuana and blood batch activities, is now allegedly becoming a center for a ration mafia, according to local claims. TDP leader Bommasani Subbarao is being accused of overseeing a widespread racket involving the illegal diversion of ration rice intended for the poor. The allegations center around six ration depots in the YSR Colony, which together import 103 tons of ration rice. It is claimed that only 10 percent of the rice intended for 20,600 eligible beneficiaries is being distributed to the poor, while the remaining 80 tons—worth approximately ₹30 lakh—is being exported to other states. The syndicate reportedly includes several figures, with Viyyapu Rambabu, Bevara Gauri Shankar, and Kalla Satyam allegedly controlling the ration rice business from block 1 to block 169, while Uppu Vijaya Raju is said to be managing blocks 170 to 263 in Gollapudi. Further accusations suggest that these figures, including Bevara Gauri Shankar, who holds an MDO van under the BC quota, are using political influence to maintain control over the racket. Allegedly, they are operating with little interference from authorities, using intimidation tactics with the backing of the Bommasani Syndicate. Recent incidents have raised concern over the extent of the racket. Civil Supply ASO Narayana Reddy was reportedly handed illegal ration rice seized by the law enforcement, but Bommasani Subbarao allegedly intervened, ensuring the release of the vehicle. Moreover, five new ration depots in YSR Colony, reportedly linked to Bommasani Syndicate members, were given notifications despite the exam results being pending. Local candidates are criticizing the government for what they perceive as political favoritism, with the Bommasani Syndicate allegedly influencing the allocation of ration depots, bypassing merit-based selection processes. The allegations have sparked public outrage, with citizens demanding transparency and action against those exploiting the welfare system meant for the poor.

36th Death Anniversary of Vangaveeti Ranga: A Tribute to the People's Leader

TPN Correspondent
Vijayawada, Dec 27

The 36th death anniversary of the late Vangaveeti Ranga, a leader remembered as a beacon of hope for the weaker sections of society, was observed with grand tributes at his statue. Held at the residence of Vangaveeti Ranga, the memorial event was attended by numerous admirers, including his son, Vangaveeti Radha Ranga, who paid homage to his father's legacy. The anniversary celebrations were marked by a pooja program at the statue of Vangaveeti Mohan Ranga at the Nirmala Auja Bhavan on Bandar Road, where Ranga's supporters gathered to honor his contributions. Vangaveeti Radha Ranga, in his address, highlighted the enduring inspiration of his father, stating, "Ranga has become a system, a protective wall for his community. It is everyone's responsibility to carry



forward his dreams and aspirations." He emphasized that despite more than three decades since Ranga's passing, his influence continues to resonate deeply within the community. Penumuluru MLA Bode Prasad also shared heartfelt remarks, recognizing Vangaveeti Ran-

ga's relentless fight for the welfare of marginalized groups. "He was for everyone. In his pursuit of justice, some forces conspired against him, but his legacy lives on in the hearts of the people," Prasad said. The event saw participation from various leaders and supporters, including Kumar Shankar, the Janasena Central Convener, former corporators from the TV division, and members of the Radha Ranga Mitramandal. A special highlight was the unveiling of the Vangaveeti Mohan Ranga New Year calendar, a tribute organized by the committee, showcasing his lasting impact on the community. The celebration underscored the deep affection and respect Vangaveeti Ranga earned from his supporters, solidifying his place as a beloved figure who fought tirelessly for the rights of the poor and marginalized.

Accident Averted on Idala Maddali Bridge as Authorities Neglect Repairs



TPN Correspondent
Pamaru, Dec 27

A major accident was narrowly avoided when a tractor-truck overturned on the Idala Maddali bridge, which is part of the crucial road connecting Pedaparupudu Mandal to Vijayawada. The incident has raised serious concerns about the poor condition of the infrastructure and the negligence of local authorities. The tractor-truck, which was traveling on the Gudivada-Kankipadu road, overturned due to the dilapidated state of the bridge. Fortunately, no major casualties were reported. Jana Sena Party district leader Sandu Pawan alerted the public by sharing the details of the incident and urging motorists to be cautious while traveling through the area. The road in question has been in poor condition for quite some time, with villagers repeatedly raising complaints with the authorities about the need for urgent repairs. Despite these appeals, there has been no action from the concerned officials. The Idala Maddali bridge, a key route for daily commuters, has become increasingly hazardous, with the recent accident serving as a stark reminder of the urgent need for intervention to prevent further incidents.

Police Detain Suspects in Major Theft Case Involving Copper Wires and Brass Plumbing Equipment

TPN Correspondent
Gannavaram, Dec 27

In a significant breakthrough, the Gannavaram DSP Srinivasa Rao held a press meet on Thursday to announce the arrest of suspects involved in stealing electrical copper wires and brass plumbing equipment from villas, apartments, and solar plants under construction in the area. The total value of the stolen equipment is estimated at Rs. 11 lakhs. During the investigation, it was revealed that the thefts were committed by a group of eight individuals, four of whom have been detained. The



police are currently on the lookout for the remaining four suspects. The accused were apprehended in Edu-pugallu, and it has come to light that they have several cases pending against them at various police stations. DSP Srinivasa Rao commended the efforts of the police team, particularly Bajji Babu, for his special role in cracking the case. Additionally, the DSP presented rewards to Kankipadu CI Murali Krishna, SI Sandeep, and their staff for their diligent work in bringing the culprits to justice.

YCP Leader Pothin Mahesh Pays Tribute to Vangaveeti Ranga on 36th Death Anniversary

TPN Correspondent
Vijayawada, Dec 27

On the occasion of the 36th death anniversary of the late Vangaveeti Ranga, senior leader Pothin Mahesh of the YSR Congress Party (YCP) paid floral tributes to Ranga's statue at the Cheruvu Center in Vijayawada. During his address, Mahesh made sensational remarks about Vangaveeti Radha, Ranga's son, and the ongoing struggle for the Kapu community. Mahesh began by lauding Vangaveeti Ranga as an inspiration to future generations, highlighting his role as a person who championed the lives of the poor. "Vangaveeti Ranga will always be an inspiration to us. He was a man who showed us how to stand up for our goals," Mahesh remarked. However, Mahesh also criticized



the portrayal of Ranga as a leader of a specific section of society, pointing out that there is a political conspiracy behind it. He questioned the commitment of Vangaveeti Radha, stating that Radha has not spoken out on key issues like Kapu reservations, despite his claim to be the rightful successor to Ranga's legacy. "Ranga's son Radha has not said a single word on Kapu reservations. He only unveils idols, but doesn't stand for Ranga's aspirations," Mahesh expressed with frustration.

Mahesh further noted that Radha's reluctance to address public issues and the problems of the Kapu community is disheartening. "Radha comes out only during elections. Not addressing other significant issues hurts people like us, the descendants of Ranga," Mahesh said, adding that it is unfortunate that Radha has aligned himself with those who are allegedly undermining the future of the BC (Backward Classes) communities. Mahesh concluded by emphasizing that, unlike Radha, the descendants of the Ranga movement are not driven by the desire for political positions but are committed to continuing the fight for the community's welfare, even without official recognition.

YS Jaganmohan Reddy Holds Public Darbar in Pulivendula



TPN Correspondent, Pulivendula : Former Chief Minister YS Jaganmohan Reddy is currently on a four-day tour of Kadapa district. During his visit, he is holding a public darbar at the MLA office in Pulivendula, where YSR Congress Party (YSRCP) leaders and activists have gathered in large numbers to present their grievances and issues directly to him.

The event has attracted significant attention, with people eager to voice their concerns and seek assistance from the former Chief Minister. YS Jaganmohan Reddy is expected to address the issues raised during the darbar and provide solutions to the various problems faced by the public.

DIG Ashok Kumar Conducts Inspections in Peddapuram Constituency

TPN Correspondent, Kakinada Dist : As part of annual inspections, Eluru Range DIG Ashok Kumar visited the Peddapuram DSP office on Thursday. He was welcomed by Peddapuram DSP Srihari Raju and Division Faridhi police personnel. DIG Ashok Kumar reviewed case records, inspected the office premises, and expressed satisfaction with the staff's performance.

During a media conference, the DIG highlighted key points:

- 1. Combating Ganja Smuggling:** Peddapuram, being near the Sub-Division Agency, has seen attempts by smugglers to transport ganja, especially in Tuni and Samarlakota. District police are intensifying efforts to curb ganja transport, which is mainly orchestrated by outsiders with some local cooperation.
- 2. Use of Technology:** Drones are being deployed to monitor marijuana users, who could pose risks. CCTVs and drones have significantly reduced the crime rate and expedited case resolution. Plans are in place to enhance the use of



technology further.

- 3. Helmet Awareness Campaigns:** Various awareness programs are being conducted to promote helmet usage, particularly for long-distance travelers, emphasizing personal safety.
- 4. Addressing Personal Conflicts:** Special drives are being initiated in vil-

lages to raise awareness and prevent conflicts stemming from personal reasons. Staff were advised to report law and order issues promptly.

5. Ongoing Investigations:

Inspections into the smuggling of PDS rice via Kakinada Port are underway, with consultations involving SIT officers. The Vetlapalem triple murder case is being reviewed, and actions will be taken against any staff lapses.

6. Cybercrime Prevention:

Citizens are urged to be vigilant against cybercrimes and avoid sharing personal information. Cooperation from the public, bankers, and officers is vital in addressing such crimes.

7. Women's Safety Initiative:

A special team named "Mahila Rakshak" has been formed in each district to prevent crimes against women. The team conducts patrols and awareness programs in schools and colleges to encourage reporting and monitor offenders. The DIG also announced that police recruitment will soon commence in three districts, ensuring strengthened law enforcement.

CPM's B.V. Raghavulu: India Alliance Will Strengthen, BJP's Rule to End

TPN Correspondent, Narasapuram : CPM Polit Bureau member B.V. Raghavulu has voiced confidence that the India Alliance will grow stronger by the next general election and predicted the end of BJP's rule at the Centre. Addressing the media on Thursday, he criticized the BJP for undermining democratic institutions and raised concerns over its policies.

Raghavulu accused regional parties of prioritizing their ties with Prime Minister Modi over the welfare of their states. "These parties praise Modi in Delhi while neglecting the interests of their people," he alleged. The CPM leader also raised alarm over the proposed 'One Nation, One Election' policy, describing it as a grave threat to democracy.

"This move undermines the federal structure, diminishes state rights, and weakens regional parties, which are vital for India's democratic fabric," Raghavulu said.

He alleged that the Election Commission has become a pawn for the BJP, claiming that the institution is being misused to manipulate electoral processes in favor of the ruling party.

In response to Union Home Minister Amit Shah's controversial remarks about Dr. B.R. Ambedkar, Raghavulu demanded an immediate apology from Prime Minister Modi. "Dr. Ambedkar is a symbol of democracy in India. Disparaging comments against him cannot be tolerated. Modi must apologize

and take action against those responsible," he stated.

Raghavulu also accused the BJP of damaging democracy through unethical practices and emphasized the importance of alliances to counter the party's dominance.

"The BJP's policies are a danger to the nation's democratic foundation, but with the India Alliance strengthening, we are confident the BJP will be dethroned in the upcoming elections," he concluded.

This statement underscores the CPM's commitment to safeguarding democratic values and supporting the India Alliance's efforts to bring change in governance.



Maharashtra Governor CP Radhakrishnan Visits Sri Venkateswara Swamy Temple in Tirumala



TPN Correspondent, Tirumala : Maharashtra Governor CP Radhakrishnan visited the revered Sri Venkateswara Swamy Temple in Tirumala on Thursday morning. The Governor, along with his family members, participated in the morning service of the Lord during the VIP break. Upon his arrival at the temple's main gate, he was warmly wel-

comed by temple officials and priests, who made special arrangements for his darshan.

After offering his prayers at the temple, the Governor was invited to the Ranganayakula Mandapam, where Vedic scholars blessed him with traditional Vedic mantras. Following the darshan, temple officials present-



ed Srivari Tirtha Prasadam and honored Radhakrishnan with a silk robe as a mark of respect.

Speaking to the media outside the temple, Governor Radhakrishnan expressed his hopes for peaceful, fair, and honest Maharashtra elections. "The elections should be conducted in a manner that is peaceful, ac-

ceptable, and without conflict," he stated, emphasizing the importance of a harmonious electoral process.

The Governor also voiced his strong opinion on issues of women's safety, stating that individuals who commit attacks on women should face severe punishment. "If strict punishments are imposed, it will instill fear in those who contemplate committing crimes," Radhakrishnan said. He stressed that real protection for women can only be achieved when wrongdoers face the full force of the law.

Radhakrishnan's visit to the temple underscored his commitment to promoting peace and justice, both in his state and across the nation.

Unveiling of Bronze Statue of Badeti Bujji in Eluru



TPN Correspondent, Eluru : Ministers Nimmala Ramanaidu and Kolu Parthasaradhi unveiled the bronze statue of the late former MLA Badeti Bujji in Eluru on Thursday. The ceremony was attended by several prominent figures, including MLAs and Zilla Parishad Chairperson Padma Shri. At the event, the ministers paid tribute to Badeti Bujji, recalling his significant contributions and the lasting impact he had on the people of the region. They acknowledged his exemplary service as a public representative and his esteemed position in the hearts of the people.

The ministers also expressed their hopes for Badeti Bujji's son, MLA Badetichanti, to continue his father's legacy of public service and excel as a leader, following in the footsteps of his late father. The unveiling of the statue served as a reminder of Badeti Bujji's dedication to his community and the strong legacy he left behind as a public servant.

Clash Between Two Groups at Mupalla Wine Shop Leaves One Injured

TPN Correspondent, Palnadu Dist : A violent clash broke out between two groups of youths from Mulakalur and Mupalla villages at a wine shop in Mupalla, allegedly under the influence of alcohol. The altercation escalated when a man named Seshu was attacked with beer bottles by members of the opposing group. Seshu sustained serious head injuries as a result of the attack and was immediately rushed to the Sattenapalli Area Hospital for treatment. Authorities have launched an investigation into

the incident to determine the causes of the clash and to identify those responsible for the assault.

Local police are working to resolve the situation and maintain peace in the area. Further updates are awaited as the investigation continues.



Police Crack Down on Illegal Storage of Ration Rice in Emmiganur

TPN Correspondent, Emmiganur: Police in Emmiganur are taking strict action against the illegal storage of ration rice in the district. Acting on a tip-off, the police conducted an inspection in Yellamma Beedu Colony and discovered a significant quantity of 21.4 quintals of ration rice being stored illegally in a house.

CI Srinivasulu confirmed that the illegally stored rice was seized, and a case has been registered against the rice trader involved in the unlawful activity. The police have vowed to continue their crackdown on such illegal practices to ensure that ration rice reaches the intended beneficiaries.

Theft in Broad Daylight Solved: Gold Worth Rs. 15 Lakhs Recovered in Prakasam

TPN Correspondent, Kanigiri : In a significant breakthrough, the police have arrested an accused involved in a daylight theft and recovered gold ornaments worth Rs. 15 lakhs. The theft occurred on January 29, 2024, at a residence in Kanigiri town.

District SP Damodar revealed the details of the case at a press conference, explaining how Bathula Venkata Ramana, the wife of Srinu, was the victim of the theft. The stolen gold ornaments, valued at Rs. 15 lakhs, were reported missing from the house when the complainant was away.

Upon investigation, the police focused on Vemula Akhil, a relative of the

complainant, who became a suspect. The police tracked her movements and apprehended her while she was attempting to sell the stolen gold ornaments in Ongole. During interrogation, Akhil confessed to the crime, admitting that she had stolen the gold while the complainant was absent from the house.

SP Damodar lauded the police for their meticulous investigation and quick action. He confirmed that a case has been filed against the accused, and legal proceedings will be initiated in court.

The successful resolution of the case has been hailed as a testament to the police's dedication to justice.



“Bhagavad Gita: The True Foundation of Sanatana Dharma, Not Manusmriti”

The assertion that there is no casteism inherent in Hinduism is rooted in a broader understanding of the religion's foundational texts and philosophies. It is important to recognize that while certain historical practices may have led to the entrenchment of caste divisions, these do not reflect the core tenets of Hinduism as articulated in its most revered scriptures.

One such text, the Manusmriti, often cited in discussions about caste, should not be regarded as a definitive religious scripture of Hinduism. Instead, it is an administrative text that reflects the norms and of a particular time and context, moreover original author's script was missing and translators were Britishers they deliberately misinterpreted and maligned Hinduism by wrong things out of it.

Sanatana Dharma, often referred to as Hinduism, is a profound and ancient tradition that encompasses a wide range of beliefs, practices, and philosophies. At the heart of this tradition



Dr Srinath Booragadda
President, VHP, Krishna District

lies the Bhagavad Gita, which serves as a foundational text for its adherents. The Gita is not merely a religious scripture; it functions as a guiding constitution for those who follow its teachings. It addresses the nature of duty, righteousness, and the path to spiritual realization, emphasizing the importance of individual conscience and moral action.

Caste division, a social construct that has evolved over centuries, is notably absent from the teachings of the Bhagavad Gita and other significant scriptures such as the Ramayana and Mahabharata. These texts focus on the universal principles of dharma (righteousness), karma (action), and the pursuit of spiritual knowledge, rather than on social stratification. In fact, the Bhagavad Gita explicitly promotes the idea of equality among all beings. The 18th verse of the 5th chapter highlights this egalitarian ethos by stating that a learned scholar, a cow, an elephant, a dog, and even

a dog-eater should be regarded with equal respect. This profound teaching underscores the inherent value of all life and the interconnectedness of all beings.

The principles articulated in the Bhagavad Gita resonate deeply with contemporary discussions on socialism, social equality, human rights, animal rights, and ecological balance. Lord Krishna's teachings advocate for a society where individuals are valued not for their social status or birth but for their actions and character. This vision aligns with modern ideals of social justice and equality, emphasizing the need for compassion, respect, and understanding among all members of society.

In conclusion, the essence of Sanatana Dharma, as encapsulated in the Bhagavad Gita, transcends the limitations of caste and social division. It calls for a recognition of the inherent dignity of every individual

Indian Test Cricket on the Brink of Change: Embracing the Future with Confidence



As we enter a new year, the question facing Indian Test cricket is not whether change is coming, but how it will be embraced. The ongoing transition within the team raises several key considerations: youth vs. experience, traditional strategies vs. innovative approaches, and high-risk gambles vs. safe choices. While the conventional answer may be to blend these elements carefully, the reality of managing a team in transition requires more than just playing it safe—it demands a readiness to embrace change.

Indian cricket, historically known for its attachment to seniority and experience, is gradually moving toward a future where young players are taking center stage. Gone are the days when the departure of legends like Sunil Gavaskar, Kapil Dev, or Sachin Tendulkar was met with palpable anxiety. Today, with the likes of Virat Kohli, Rohit Sharma, and Mohammed Shami, the team is seeing an influx of fresh talent ready to step up. In fact, during the 2023 home series against England, India fielded five Test debutantes, including promising players like Sarfaraz Khan, Devdutt Padikkal, and Dhruv Jurel. Youngsters like Yashasvi Jaiswal, who accumulated over 700 runs in the series, are beginning to reshape the narrative of Indian Test cricket.

This shift is not without its challenges. While India's talent pool is deeper than ever, consistency, especially in overseas conditions, remains a work in progress. Nevertheless, the rise of players like Jaiswal, Nitish Kumar Reddy, and Washington Sundar indicates a healthy pipeline of talent emerging from the domestic circuit. The key to success lies in nurturing these players, as they are the future of Indian Test cricket, a team designed to thrive for the next five to ten years.

The approach to building a team around young players is starting to show positive results. With Gautam Gambhir at the helm as coach, the Board of Control for Cricket in India (BCCI) has committed to a long-term strategy, even if it means facing short-term setbacks. However, for this vision to succeed, India must start winning big series, including the upcoming tour of Australia. The loss to New Zealand in 2023 was a setback, but success in Australia, alongside qualification for the World Test Championship (WTC) final, would validate the current approach.

There Are No Permanent Villains: Shyam Benegal on Bollywood's Bad Men and Grey Characters

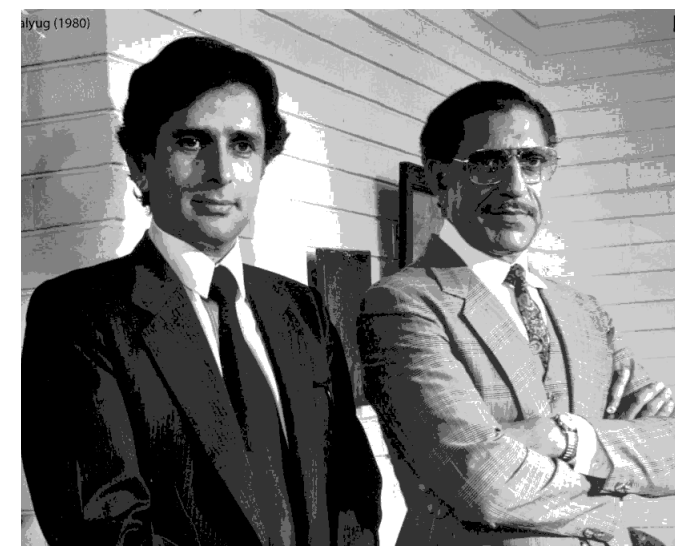
In a conversation with renowned filmmaker Shyam Benegal in 2010, I delved into the complexities of Bollywood's villains and anti-heroes while working on my book, *Pure Evil – The Bad Men of Bollywood*. Benegal, a master of nuanced storytelling, shared his insights into the evolving nature of characters in Hindi cinema, especially the villainous and ambiguous ones.

Benegal began by addressing the evolution of villains in films, noting how the moral narratives had shifted over time. “The face of villains has been changing for the last 60 years,” he said, pointing out that early cinema adhered to a more rigid morality. “In our films, villains were designed in line with our traditions, but from the late 1960s, the definition of heroes and villains became more complex.” He noted the shift from clear-cut morality tales to more intricate portrayals, similar to the Mahabharata, where characters have various shades of grey.

I pressed him further, citing films like *Kismet* (1943) and *Awara* (1951), where anti-heroes seemed to emerge. Benegal explained that although these films appeared to introduce anti-heroes, the protagonists still adhered to the notion of ultimate goodness. It wasn't until the 1970s, influenced by films like *Dirty Harry*, that the hero became more morally complex, often using “evil” means to achieve good ends—a theme that found its way into Amitabh Bachchan's *Zanjeer* (1973).

Benegal illuminated the distinction between an anti-hero and a villain. “A villain has a bad motive, whereas an anti-hero has good intentions but uses improper means to achieve them,” he explained, which became a pivotal realization for me in understanding Bollywood's grey characters.

When we shifted the conversation to *Kalyug* (1981), one of Benegal's masterpieces, he explained the absence of a clear villain in the story. The character of Karan Singh, akin to Karna in the Mahabharata, was morally conflicted. “Karan was not a villain. He was a tragic hero,” Benegal clarified, emphasizing the layers of human emotion that made his character resonate deeply with audiences.



Further insights came from discussing films like *Ankur* (1974) and *Nishant* (1975), where the notion of power, responsibility, and human relationships were explored in greater depth. Benegal's understanding of the human condition reflected in his films painted the villains not as one-dimensional characters but as individuals shaped by circumstances and emotions.

As our conversation concluded, I asked him about the future of villains in Hindi cinema. “There will be no permanent villain or permanent hero,” he predicted. “It will depend on situations. Circumstances change, and perceptions of characters will evolve accordingly,” he concluded, offering a thoughtful reflection on the ever-changing dynamics of human nature in cinema.



Empowering India's Farmers: PM Modi's Vision for Agricultural Transformation

Prime Minister Narendra Modi has revolutionized India's agricultural landscape, making farmers the focal point of the nation's development. His government has introduced transformative policies that empower farmers, bridge the gap between rural communities and opportunities, and foster a prosperous, sustainable agricultural ecosystem.

At the heart of Modi's agricultural vision is a deep connection to rural India, an understanding that agriculture is not just a profession, but a way of life. His government has launched several initiatives aimed at improving farmer welfare and ensuring inclusive growth. One of the flagship schemes, the PM-KISAN (Pradhan Mantri Kisan Samman Nidhi), provides direct income support of

Rs 6,000 annually to over 11 crore farmers, ensuring a safety net for small and marginal farmers. Over Rs 2.60 lakh crore has been disbursed since its launch, significantly alleviating financial pressures.

In addition to income support, the Modi government has prioritized infrastructure development through the Agriculture Infrastructure Fund (AIF), which aims to build modern facilities and community farming assets. This is complemented by the Digital Agriculture Mission, which harnesses technology to provide farmers with real-time data on crop conditions, soil health, and market trends. Through tools like AgriStack and geospatial platforms, farmers can make informed decisions to improve yields and efficiency.

CM Chandrababu Naidu Seeks Financial Assistance from PM MODI for AP's Key Projects

TPN CORRESPONDENT NEW DELHI
DECEMBER.27

Andhra Pradesh Chief Minister N Chandrababu Naidu has requested financial aid from the Centre, emphasizing the need for special assistance to support the state's ongoing development projects. Naidu made these requests during his visit to Delhi on Wednesday, where he attended the NDA partner coordination meeting and met with Prime Minister Narendra Modi, along with several Union ministers including Nirmala Sitharaman, Amit Shah, Ashwini Vaishnav, and HD Kumaraswamy.

Naidu's meetings with the central leadership come ahead of the preparations for the next Union Budget, with discussions on funding key state projects, particularly Amaravati and Polavaram, which are priorities for the Naidu government. In the last budget, the TDP, a key ally in the NDA, had secured funds for these projects through soft loans from multilateral development agencies and central assistance.

During his meeting with Prime Minister Modi, Naidu highlighted the financial damage caused to Andhra Pradesh by the previous government, particularly how it derailed the state's financial system.



He informed Modi that the previous administration had used the revenue deficit grant, meant for five years, within just three years. Naidu also drew attention to the diversion of funds intended for 94 centrally sponsored schemes, a move that had a detrimental impact on the state's development. Naidu noted that 74 of these schemes had been relaunched under his government's leadership.

In addition to financial support, Naidu raised the issue of the establishment of an ArcelorMittal Steel Plant in Andhra

Pradesh. He requested central assistance to ensure a steady supply of raw materials for the plant and sought help in clearing technical hurdles to facilitate the plant's development.

Naidu also updated Modi on the progress of key state projects, particularly the Polavaram multipurpose project and the development of Amaravati. He thanked Modi for the central assistance provided in the past and expressed appreciation for the support extended to complete these projects.



Mamata Banerjee's "Happy New Year" Response To INDIA's AAP, Congress Row

TPN CORRESPONDENT DELHI
DECEMBER.27

West Bengal Chief Minister Mamata Banerjee offered a neutral response to the escalating feud between the Aam Aadmi Party (AAP) and Congress, despite growing tensions within the opposition alliance. When asked about the contentious split between the two parties, Banerjee kept her remarks diplomatic, wishing both parties a "happy New Year" and expressing hopes for a peaceful journey in the coming year. "I have great respect for all political parties... Let the New Year be enjoyable for all of us," she said, offering no direct comment on the friction.

Banerjee's Trinamool Congress (TMC), the AAP led by Arvind Kejriwal, and Congress are all part of the opposition alliance INDIA, which managed to outperform expectations in the April-June federal election and prevent Prime Minister Narendra Modi's Bharatiya Janata Party (BJP) from securing an outright majority in Parliament. However, unity within the alliance has become increasingly fragile in the aftermath of the election.

The feud between Congress and AAP has been simmering for months, notably around seat-sharing agreements in states like Haryana. During the Haryana elections in October, the two parties failed to reach a consensus on distributing the 90 assembly seats, resulting in a squabble that continued into the aftermath of Congress's disappointing performance in the polls.

Tensions heightened further with the AAP accusing Congress of undermining their efforts ahead of key elections, including the Delhi elections next year. Last month, AAP leaders, including Delhi Chief Minister Atishi and Rajya Sabha MP Sanjay Singh, accused Congress of acting in favor of the BJP, particularly after remarks made by Congress leader Ajay Maken, which they saw as a direct attack on AAP leader Arvind Kejriwal.

This has culminated in a serious ultimatum from the AAP, demanding Congress respond within 24 hours or face potential expulsion from the INDIA alliance. The situation signals an increasingly fractured opposition front as India heads into critical state and national elections.



Uddhav Thackeray Begins Assessment of Shiv Sena (UBT) Position Ahead of Key BMC Polls

TPN CORRESPONDENT MUMBAI
DECEMBER.27

Shiv Sena (UBT) leader and former Maharashtra Chief Minister Uddhav Thackeray has initiated a three-day exercise to evaluate his party's position in Mumbai as it gears up for the upcoming civic elections. The Brihanmumbai Municipal Corporation (BMC) polls, which are likely to take place in March-April 2025, will be a crucial test for Sena (UBT) in maintaining its control over the city's local body. Thackeray's assessment comes after the party's disappointing performance in the 2024 Maharashtra assembly elections, where the opposition Maha Vikas Aghadi (MVA), of which Sena (UBT) is a part, struggled to secure a significant foothold. In the 2024 assembly elections, the MVA faced a setback, securing only 46 seats out of 288 in the state legislature. Of these, Sena (UBT) won just 20 seats, a far cry from its previous stature. In Mumbai, which has 36 assembly seats, Sena (UBT) contested 21 constituencies, winning only 10. This outcome has underscored the importance of strengthening the party's position at the local level ahead of the upcoming municipal elections.

To prepare for the BMC elections, Uddhav Thackeray is reviewing the party's poll readiness in all 227 municipal wards of Mumbai. Anil Parab, a prominent leader of Sena (UBT), confirmed that Thackeray is leading the effort to assess the party's standing and strategize for the local body elections. This exercise, which will span three days, is expected to focus on strengthening the party's base and making key decisions to ensure a robust campaign.

Delhi polls: Arvind Kejriwal Inducts wrestlers, BodyBuilders To 'Power' AAP



TPN CORRESPONDENT NEW DELHI
DECEMBER.27

As Delhi's assembly elections draw closer, the Aam Aadmi Party (AAP) is expanding its outreach by targeting a new voter segment: health and fitness professionals. Several well-known sportspersons, including wrestlers and bodybuilders, joined AAP in a move that aims to strengthen the party's ties with fitness enthusiasts in the city. The party's National Convener, Arvind Kejriwal, welcomed fitness influencers Tilakraj, Rohit Dalal, and Akshay Dilawari

at the AAP office on Thursday, presenting them with party scarves and caps.

Kejriwal announced that around 70-80 bodybuilders and wrestlers have joined the party, a move he believes will help align AAP more closely with health and fitness issues. He emphasized that the inclusion of these professionals would not only enhance the party's strength but also bring attention to the challenges faced by sportspersons and fitness experts in Delhi.

With the upcoming elections in mind,

Kejriwal promised that if the AAP retains power, the party would work on resolving the issues that sportspersons face in the city. He also hinted at further support for gym owners and fitness professionals, with many more expected to join AAP in the coming days.

The party's efforts were also backed by Delhi Assembly Speaker Ram Niwas Goel, who highlighted the influence of those joining the AAP, particularly within Delhi's gym and fitness circles. Rohit Dalal, one of the new joiners, expressed his appreciation for the party's work on behalf of sportspersons and gyms, indicating his desire to contribute to its mission.

Tilakraj also noted the increasing involvement of the sporting community in politics and the growing support for AAP within Delhi's sports fraternity. He predicted that many more athletes from the city would join the party in the near future.

AAP is hoping to secure a third consecutive term in power, having won 62 out of 70 seats in the previous elections. With the BJP emerging as its main rival in Delhi, AAP aims to maintain its dominance in the capital.

Delhi BJP Mahila Morcha Protests Against AAP's Mahila Samman Yojana

TPN CORRESPONDENT DELHI
DECEMBER.27

The Delhi BJP Mahila Morcha staged a peaceful protest outside the residence of Aam Aadmi Party (AAP) national convener Arvind Kejriwal on Thursday, condemning the recently announced 'Mahila Samman Yojana.' The scheme, which promises Rs 2,100 per month to women if AAP retains power, was labelled as "fraudulent" by the BJP. The protesters accused the AAP of deceiving women with false promises to gain electoral advantage ahead of the 2025 Delhi Assembly elections.

BJP workers alleged that the scheme was a ploy to gather personal data from women under the guise of financial assistance. They also pointed to similar promises made by AAP in Punjab, where the party had pledged Rs 1,000 per month to women but failed to deliver once it came to power. The protesters criticized Kejriwal for making misleading promises and for exploiting women for political gains.

Richa Pandey, president of Delhi BJP Mahila Morcha, addressed the protesters, saying, "We are here to question Arvind Kejriwal about his false promises. He made similar



commitments in Punjab, but they were never fulfilled. This scheme is fraudulent, and it is aimed at collecting data under the guise of providing financial help. He thinks women are fools and is insulting their intelligence. We will file a police complaint against this deceptive act."

BJP councillor Yogita Singh also spoke out, stating, "Kejriwal promised Rs 1,000 to women in Punjab, but it was never delivered. Now, he's making the same fraudulent promises

in Delhi. Women have reported unauthorized deductions from their accounts, which is outright fraud. Kejriwal and Delhi CM Atishi must apologize for misleading women."

The protesters accused AAP of using the scheme as an election stunt to secure votes. Pandey further added, "If Kejriwal was sincere, why didn't he introduce such schemes during his decade-long tenure? These fake promises are just tactics to gain votes as their hold on power weakens."



PM Modi May Visit China: India Gears Up for Key Diplomatic Engagements in 2025

DELHI: As 2025 approaches, India is preparing to strengthen its foreign policy and diplomatic ties on the global stage. External Affairs Minister S. Jaishankar is set to visit the United States this week, where he will meet both outgoing officials of the Biden administration and members of the incoming Trump team. The meetings will focus on aligning the India agenda and setting the stage for high-level engagements after Donald Trump's inauguration on January 20. Jaishankar is also expected to discuss the possibility of Trump's early visit to India for the upcoming Quad Summit, which will be hosted by Prime Minister Narendra Modi.

The Quad, comprising Australia, India, Japan, and the United States, remains a crucial platform for multilateral cooperation. With Trump promising a shift in policies, especially on issues like health and climate change, the 2025 summit will be a significant event for member countries. Additionally, Prime Minister Modi is likely to travel to the U.S. to meet the incoming president, further strengthening Indo-U.S. relations.

India's diplomatic calendar also includes high-profile events such as the annual summit with Russia. President Vladimir Putin is expected to visit New Delhi for the first time since the Russia-Ukraine conflict began, marking an important moment in India-Russia relations. Other key summits include the BRICS summit in Brazil, where major



discussions are expected between Modi, Russian President Putin, and Chinese President Xi Jinping, particularly concerning the Line of Actual Control (LAC) situation. The SCO summit in China in August-September could also feature significant dialogues.

Additionally, India will host several international leaders in 2025. Singaporean President Tharman Shanmugaratnam will visit in mid-January, followed by Indonesian President Prabowo Sub-

ianto Djojohadikusumo, the chief guest for India's Republic Day celebrations. Chilean President Gabriel Boric Font is also expected in March or April. Prime Minister Modi may also visit France and Japan for key summits during the year.

Later in 2025, Modi may participate in the G20 summit in South Africa and the ASEAN summit in Malaysia, ensuring India's active involvement in global governance discussions.



Imran Khan Calls for Party Meeting Ahead of Talks with Pakistan Government

ISLAMABAD: Imran Khan, the jailed former prime minister and leader of the Pakistan Tehreek-e-Insaf (PTI), has requested a meeting with his negotiating team currently in discussions with the Pakistan government. Khan, who has been incarcerated in Rawalpindi's Adiala Jail since last year, believes that a meeting will make the talks more "meaningful" and enhance the effectiveness of the negotiation process.

The 72-year-old leader emphasized that if the government addresses the demands of PTI, he would consider postponing the civil disobedience movement he had previously announced. This move signals Khan's willingness to de-escalate the ongoing political crisis, provided his party's demands are taken seriously by the government.

Khan's call for a meeting came during a session with his legal team on Tuesday. The former prime minister's party has been vocal about their concerns regarding political repression and the lack of fair treatment of PTI members and supporters. As the political impasse continues, Khan's decision to seek direct communication with his team in the negotiation process underlines the importance he places on the dialogue, despite his current imprisonment.

The PTI's demands, if met, could pave the way for a resolution to the tense political situation in Pakistan, which has been marred by widespread protests and government crackdowns. Khan's move to possibly delay the civil disobedience campaign suggests a shift towards finding a peaceful and negotiated solution to the ongoing turmoil. As negotiations continue, the outcome will significantly affect Pakistan's political future, with the PTI pushing for reforms and the restoration of their rights. Imran Khan's involvement in the negotiation process remains crucial, as his leadership continues to play a key role in shaping the direction of his party and the broader political landscape.



US To Continue Arms Surge To Ukraine After Russia's Christmas Attack: Biden

WASHINGTON: President Joe Biden has urged the U.S. Department of Defense to maintain its surge of weapons deliveries to Ukraine following a devastating Christmas Day attack by Russia. The attack targeted Ukrainian cities and critical energy infrastructure, exacerbating the country's struggles amid the ongoing conflict.

Biden condemned the assault, emphasizing that Russia's objective was to cut off the Ukrainian people's access to heat and electricity during the harsh winter months. The attack also aimed to compromise Ukraine's energy grid, further escalating the humanitarian crisis. "The purpose of this outrageous attack was to deprive Ukrainians of basic necessities and endanger the stability of their energy system," Biden said in a statement.

As of now, Washington has committed \$175 billion in aid to Ukraine since Russia's full-scale invasion in 2022. The U.S. has sent a wide range of military assistance, including advanced weapons and financial support, to bolster Ukraine's defenses against Russian aggression. Biden's call for continued weapon deliveries highlights the ongoing U.S. commitment to Ukraine's defense, even as tensions rise in the region.

The Biden administration's support for Ukraine is set to continue under the current president, but with Republican President-elect Donald Trump poised to take office on January 20, questions remain about how U.S. foreign policy towards Ukraine might evolve in the coming years.

Despite the looming change in leadership, Biden's administration remains focused on ensuring Ukraine receives the necessary resources to withstand Russian attacks. The U.S. defense surge is part of a broader international effort to support Ukraine in its fight for sovereignty and independence amidst Russia's ongoing military aggression.

On Christmas, Kremlin targets Ukrainian energy infrastructure



KYIV: In his Christmas message on Wednesday, Pope Francis called for negotiations between Ukraine and Russia to bring an end to the devastating war that began two years ago with Russia's full-scale invasion. Addressing the faithful in his traditional "Urbi et Orbi" (to the city and world) message, the Pope specifically mentioned the ongoing conflict and urged for "the boldness needed to open the door to negotiation." Speaking from the balcony of St. Peter's

Basilica, the Pope made a heartfelt appeal, saying, "May the sound of arms be silenced in war-torn Ukraine!" His message echoed the growing international concern over the devastating toll of the war, which has claimed tens of thousands of lives and caused immense suffering.

Meanwhile, on the same day, Russia launched a brutal Christmas Day assault on Ukraine's energy infrastruc-

ture. The attack, which involved cruise and ballistic missiles as well as drones, targeted Ukrainian cities and energy systems. Ukrainian President Volodymyr Zelenskiy condemned the strikes, calling them "inhuman," as they occurred on Christmas Day. The assault left nearly half a million people in the Kharkiv region without heating during freezing temperatures, and widespread blackouts were reported in Kyiv and other areas.

At least six people were injured in Kharkiv, and one person was killed in the Dnipropetrovsk region, local authorities confirmed. The Russian Defence Ministry acknowledged the attack, stating it had carried out a "massive strike" on energy facilities vital to Ukraine's military and industrial operations.

The timing of the attack, on Christmas Day, sparked outrage and condemnation, with Zelenskiy criticizing President Vladimir Putin for choosing the holiday to escalate the conflict. "What could be more inhuman?" he said, highlighting the stark contrast between the holiday spirit and the ongoing violence. The strikes have intensified concerns about the humanitarian crisis in Ukraine, particularly as winter conditions worsen.

Russia thwarted Ukrainian plots to kill high-ranking officers, families: FSB

RUSSIA: Russia's Federal Security Service (FSB) announced on Thursday that it had thwarted multiple assassination attempts orchestrated by Ukrainian intelligence services aimed at high-ranking Russian military officers and their families in Moscow. The plots involved bombs disguised as power banks or document folders, intended to carry out targeted killings.

According to the FSB, the assassination attempts were part of a series of coordinated efforts to eliminate senior Russian military personnel. One such plot successfully targeted Lieutenant General Kirillov, the head of Russia's Nuclear, Biological, and Chemical Protection Troops, who was killed on December 17 in Moscow. The attack, which occurred outside his apartment building,

involved a bomb detonated on an electric scooter, a method attributed to the Ukrainian SBU intelligence service.

The FSB stated that it had successfully intercepted the plans and arrested four Russian citizens who had been recruited by Ukrainian intelligence agencies. These individuals were allegedly involved in the preparation of the attacks, which were aimed at high-ranking officials within Russia's Ministry of Defence.

The FSB detailed one specific plot where a bomb disguised as a power bank was retrieved in Moscow. The bomb, which had magnets attached, was intended to be placed on the car of a senior Defence Ministry official. The foiled attacks highlight the ongoing intelligence bat-

tle between Russia and Ukraine, as both sides continue to target military and political leaders.

The FSB, which is the successor to the Soviet-era KGB, did not release the names of the arrested suspects, but the operation underscores the high stakes and risks involved in the ongoing conflict. The Kremlin has yet to comment on the recent developments, but the situation adds to the already tense atmosphere surrounding the war, with both countries engaged in intelligence and military operations.

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Markets End Flat Amid Mixed Asian Cues; Nifty Gains 22 Points, Sensex Stays Unchanged

Domestic stock markets ended flat on Thursday. This was due to mixed signals from Asian markets. The indices, which started with gains in the morning, fell as they hit resistance levels. Then they moved in a range-bound manner. The rupee weakened further against the dollar and conditions were not conducive for bulls to take charge, so they finally closed at the same level. Nifty rose 22 points, while Sensex was unchanged. Shares from banking, pharma and auto sectors rebounded.



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The BSE Sensex, which closed at 78,472 in the previous session, opened at 78,557 today. It touched an intraday low of 78,173. It reached an intraday high of 78,898. It finally closed flat at 78,472. The NSE Nifty, which opened at 23,775 on Thursday, touched a low of 23,653 and a high of 23,854. It closed at 23,750, up 22 points. The Bank Nifty fell 62 points to settle at 51,170.

In the Nifty50, 31 companies gained and 18 lost. Adani Ports, M&M, SBI Life, Maruti, and Shriram Finance were the top gainers. Titan, Asian Paints, Tata Consumers, JSW Steel, and Grasim lost the most. Today, the bank, FMCG, and media sector indices turned red. The auto, pharma, PSU bank, healthcare, and consumer durables indices were mixed.

On NSE today, the market breadth turned in favor of sellers. Out of 2921 stocks traded, 1226 gained and 1605 lost. 45 shares reached 52-week highs. 67 touched 52-week lows. Investors can buy shares of Hindpetro, Adani Ports, Sun Pharma, Indigo, and Subros in the short term.

The rupee weakened further against the dollar and settled at 85.26. International Gemological shares rose for the fourth consecutive day. Mazgaon Dock shares recovered from five consecutive days of losses. They gained 2% today. Adani Port shares rose 6%. Antoine Waste Company has been given a long call with a target price of Rs. 720. PVR stock, which fell 3% today, has fallen 13% so far in December. Taj GVK shares rose 9% today. Vantage Knowledge Academy is con-

sidering issuing bonus shares. Red Tape shares rose 4.4% after proposing bonus shares in a 3:1 ratio. ACME Solar Holdings received a loan of Rs 1988 crore from PFC. Adani Group stocks surged today. Amber Enterprises shares gained for the fifth consecutive session. Motilal Oswal has given a buy rating to PNB Housing with a target price of Rs 1160. 49 lakh shares changed hands in three block trades held at Vishal Megamart. MobiKwik shares rose 8% after a block deal worth Rs 118 crore. Motilal Oswal has given a Buy rating to Raymond Lifestyle.

1. Hindustan Petroleum Corporation Limited (Hindpetro)
Robust revenue generation due to its large refining and



distribution network. Profitability is influenced by crude oil price fluctuations and refining margins. Hindpetro's performance depends on crude oil price trends, government regulations, and demand for petroleum products. Low valuation makes it attractive for long-term investors, but volatile margins pose risks.

2. Adani Ports :

India's largest private port operator with a diversified portfolio of 13 ports and terminals.



Strong cargo volume growth, particularly in coal, crude oil, and container segments. Regulatory risks and high debt levels could impact future growth. Positive growth trajectory driven by operational efficiency and expansions in port capacity.

3. Sun Pharmaceutical Industries Limited (Sun Pharma)

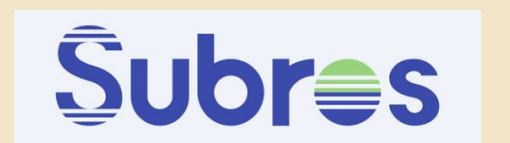
The company has a strong presence in generics and specialty segments globally. Focus on R&D and strategic acquisitions to enhance its product portfolio. Exposure to regulatory scrutiny and pricing pressures in global



markets. Strong growth prospects due to its focus on specialty drugs and global market expansion.



4. InterGlobe Aviation Limited (IndiGo) Aviation, increased passenger load factor and higher yields contributed to profitability. High fuel costs and currency volatility pose challenges. Competitive pressures in the Indian aviation market. Strong growth potential supported by expanding fleet size and market dominance in domestic aviation.



5. Subros Limited Automotive Thermal Products Subros is a leader in the automotive thermal products segment, supplying to major OEMs in India. Focus on expanding its product portfolio to include electric vehicle (EV) components. Dependence on the auto sector's cyclical nature. Raw material cost fluctuations may impact margins. Positive growth outlook driven by increasing demand for automotive components and diversification into EV segments.

India's Trade Share Hits 2.4% of Global Market, Growth Slows in the Last 10 Years



India's contribution to global trade has seen remarkable growth over the last two decades, with its share in both exports and imports more than doubling, as revealed by a report from the National Stock Exchange (NSE). According to the report, India's share in global merchandise exports rose from just 0.9% in 2005 to 1.8% in 2023, while its share in services exports more than doubled from 2% to 4.3%.

The overall export share of India has also shown significant improvement, increasing from 1.2% in 2005 to 2.4% in 2023. This rise in exports can be attributed to various factors, including strengthened trade agreements, a diversified export portfolio, and enhanced logistics infrastructure. Additionally, government initiatives like the 'Make in India' campaign and the Production-Linked Incentive (PLI) scheme have played pivotal roles in boosting India's export capacity.

While the growth in India's trade share has been impressive, the report also notes that the pace of

increase has moderated in the last decade. Despite this, India continues to be a significant player in the global trade arena, with both its merchandise and services exports expanding steadily.

India's focus on diversifying its export sectors and improving its manufacturing capabilities has contributed to its stronger presence in global markets. The rise in services exports, in particular, reflects India's growing prominence in sectors such as IT and business services, which continue to attract international demand.

With the continued implementation of strategic initiatives and a focus on improving competitiveness, India is well-positioned to expand its trade share even further in the coming years. As the global economy evolves, India's trade growth will remain crucial to its economic development and global influence.

Nirmala Sitharaman Chairs Fourth Pre-Budget Consultation for Union Budget 2025-26

Union Finance Minister Nirmala Sitharaman chaired the fourth Pre-Budget Consultation meeting on Thursday, engaging stakeholders and experts from the export, trade, and industry sectors in preparation for the Union Budget 2025-26. The meeting took place in New Delhi, with the Ministry of Finance sharing the update on social media. The session was attended by Pankaj Chaudhary, Minister of State for Finance, as well as senior officials including the Finance Secretary, Secretary of the Department of Economic Affairs, and Chief Economic Adviser to the Government of India.



Alongside Pankaj Chaudhary, the meeting in Jaisalmer also saw participation from Chief Ministers of Goa, Haryana, Jammu and Kashmir, Meghalaya, and Odisha, along with Deputy Chief Ministers from several states. Finance ministers, as well as senior officials from the Ministry of Finance, were also present.

These consultations are part of the Finance Ministry's annual exercise to gather input from different sectors and regions to shape the Union Budget. Sitharaman

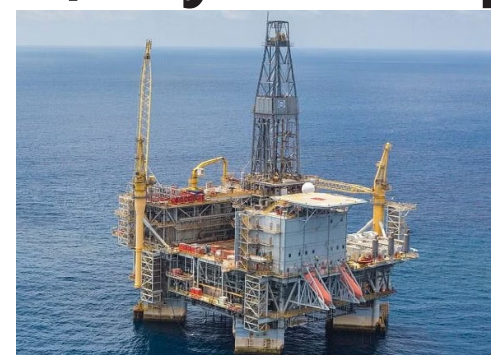
Earlier in the week, Prime Minister Narendra Modi also interacted with a group of eminent economists and thought leaders to discuss priorities for the upcoming budget at the NITI Aayog premises. This was part of a broader consultation process that has been ongoing for weeks. On December 20, Sitharaman had chaired a pre-budget meeting in Jaisalmer with finance ministers from various States and Union Territories, discussing regional concerns and fiscal priorities.

has already met with representatives from MSMEs, farmers' associations, and economists as part of this extensive process.

The formal preparations for the 2025-26 Budget, set to be presented on February 1, 2025, have already begun. This will mark Sitharaman's eighth budget presentation, and it is expected to provide critical economic guidance for the remainder of the Modi 3.0 government's tenure. Stakeholders are keenly anticipating the key announcements that will shape India's economic trajectory in the coming year.

India to Drive Global Oil Demand Growth Until 2035, Says IEA Report

India is set to become the primary driver of global oil demand growth through 2035, according to a recent report from the International Energy Agency (IEA). The report predicts that India will contribute nearly 2 million barrels per day (mb/d) to global oil demand, making it the largest source of growth in the oil market during this period.



Historically, China has been the key engine behind global oil demand, but the IEA notes that this dynamic is shifting. As China transitions towards a more electricity-driven energy system, particularly with the rise of electric vehicles, its oil consumption for road transport is expected to decline. However, this reduction will be somewhat offset by increased oil use in petrochemical production.

The IEA report highlights that, globally, oil demand growth is slowing down un-

der the Stated Policies Scenario (STEPS), which presents challenges for major oil producers. These nations could face an oversupply situation, as spare crude oil production capacity is expected to rise to 8 mb/d by 2030.

Geopolitical tensions, particularly in the Middle East, also pose risks to oil and gas supply stability. The Strait of Hormuz, a vital chokepoint for global oil and liquefied natural gas (LNG) supplies, accounts for approximately 20

percent of the world's oil and LNG shipments. Despite these risks, the IEA suggests that easing market balances and slowing oil demand growth could help stabilize prices in the long run.

A significant shift is also occurring in the transportation sector, traditionally a major driver of oil demand. Over the past decade, road transport accounted for nearly half of global oil demand growth. However, this trend is reversing, with a projected decline of 1 mb/d in oil demand for passenger cars by 2030. This shift is expected to contribute to a peak in global oil demand by the end of the decade.

Looking ahead, new LNG projects are expected to increase global export capacity by almost 50 percent by 2030, reshaping the energy landscape. India's growing energy needs will play a pivotal role in shaping the future of global oil markets.



Nature's 900-Year-Old Brain Corals: Ocean Architects at Risk

Brain corals, often mistaken for giant underwater brains, are remarkable ocean architects essential to the health of coral reefs. These grooved creatures, belonging to the hard coral family, aren't individual animals but rather collections of tiny polyps—jellyfish-like organisms that live together to build sturdy calcium carbonate skeletons. These skeletons provide the foundation for vibrant reef ecosystems, offering habitats for countless marine species.



There are around 50 species of brain corals, and their distinctive brain-like appearance is the result of the way polyps intertwine to form a communal structure. These corals are incredibly resilient, with some species surviving for up to 900 years, growing just a few millimeters each year. The grooved brain coral (*Diploria labyrinthiformis*), found commonly in the Caribbean, can grow to almost six feet in diameter, making it hard to miss.

One of the key factors behind the striking colors of brain corals is their symbiotic relationship with algae known as zooxanthellae. These algae give the corals their vibrant

hues and, in return, benefit from the coral's waste products. However, when brain corals experience stress—often due to rising ocean temperatures—they expel the algae, leading to coral bleaching. While coral bleaching doesn't necessarily kill the coral, it weakens it, leaving it more vulnerable to disease and further damage.

Unfortunately, brain corals are increasingly threatened by climate change, ocean warming, and coral bleaching. Some species, such as the Chagos brain coral, are now critically endangered. Protecting these ancient organisms is crucial for preserving the delicate balance of ocean ecosystems. Their survival ensures the stability of reef habitats, which are vital for maintaining biodiversity in our oceans. As we continue to face the effects of climate change, efforts to protect brain corals have become more urgent than ever.

Antarctic Ice Melt Fuels Stormy Future for the Southern Ocean

The rapid decline of Antarctic sea ice in 2023 has raised alarms among scientists, as new research reveals the far-reaching effects this has had on the Southern Ocean and global climate systems. With ice coverage plummeting, unprecedented heat has escaped from the ocean into the atmosphere, disrupting circulation patterns and triggering more frequent storms. This shift could have significant long-term consequences for the Earth's climate.



Key areas such as the Bellingshausen and Weddell Seas experienced ice losses of up to 80%, while the Ross Sea and Enderby Land saw declines nearing 50%. As the ice melted, the ocean underneath became more vulnerable, with denser surface waters sinking rapidly. This change threatens to destabilize deep ocean currents, which play a critical role in regulating global heat distribution and nutrient flow, potentially affecting ecosystems far beyond the Southern Ocean.

The findings, published in *Nature*, indicate a sharp rise in storm activity, particularly in regions like the northern Weddell Sea, where

storm days have increased by seven per month compared to historical averages. These extreme weather events, once rare, are now becoming increasingly common, raising concerns about the long-term impact on both the Southern Ocean and global weather systems.

As 2024 continues to follow this worrying trend, scientists emphasize the urgent need for improved climate models to predict and understand these changes. The Southern Ocean is vital for carbon storage and global weather regulation, and its disruption could have ripple effects across the planet. The central question remains whether this is a temporary anomaly or the beginning of a fundamental shift in Antarctic ice stability. Either way, researchers warn that the consequences for the Earth's climate are becoming increasingly severe.

Creepy Job: Rs 25,000 Salary for Spending 10 Minutes with Dead Bodies Goes Viral



A bizarre and unsettling job offer from China has gone viral on social media, leaving many users both intrigued and disturbed. The position, offering a monthly salary of Rs 25,000, requires applicants to endure a chilling test that involves spending 10 minutes in a freezing room surrounded by dead bodies. This eerie job offer is intended for workers at a funeral home in Rushan, located in China's Shandong province.

The job advertisement, posted on December 11 by Rushan Xinmike Human Resources Corporation Limited, quickly garnered attention for its unusual and extreme selection process. The position requires candidates to pass a series of tough tests, including the disturbing challenge of staying in freezing temperatures surrounded by deceased bodies for 10 minutes. This test is designed to assess applicants' physical and mental endurance under extreme conditions.

Applicants must be male and 45 years old or younger, with the

role involving 24-hour shifts. In addition to the freezing test, candidates must undergo a background check, a medical exam, and an interview. They must also successfully complete a six-month probation period before securing the position. Those who live in Rushan are given special preference, and applicants are required to pay an application fee of approximately Rs 853.

While the prospect of working in such grim circumstances for Rs 25,000 per month might seem unsettling, some view it as a unique opportunity. The job offers extra pay for night shifts, which may make the tough conditions more appealing to certain job seekers. However, for others, the idea of enduring such an eerie environment for the salary offered is simply not worth it.

Despite the chilling nature of the job, it has sparked widespread interest, as many people express curiosity about the unusual position and the extreme requirements for applicants.

16-Year-Old Student Develops Human-Carrying Drone Inspired by China's Air Taxi

A 16-year-old student from Gwalior, Medhansh Trivedi, has developed an impressive human-carrying drone, capable of lifting a person weighing up to 80 kg. The drone, named MLDT 01, was inspired by China's advanced air taxi technology. Trivedi, a Class 12 student at The Scindia School, designed the drone at a cost of Rs 3.5 lakh and completed the project in just three months.

Trivedi's inspiration came from a YouTube video about China's air taxi, a four-seater drone that was quite expensive. Intrigued by the concept, he decided to build his own human-carrying drone on a budget. "One day, I was scrolling through YouTube about how to make drones, and a recommendation came up about China's air taxi. I watched the video, and from that day, I was determined to develop a similar drone," Trivedi explained.

Having previously built remote-controlled airplanes, cars, and even suicide drones, Trivedi's interest in technology and drones



is not new. His previous projects helped him gain experience, which he applied to this more ambitious creation. The MLDT 01 is designed to be a heavy-duty drone, and Trivedi's ability to create a functional and human-capable drone at such a young age is a remarkable feat.

The drone's development required several iterations and technical expertise. With its capacity to carry a person, the MLDT 01 could potentially revolutionize personal transportation. However, Trivedi remains focused on refining his design to make

it more efficient and reliable for real-world use.

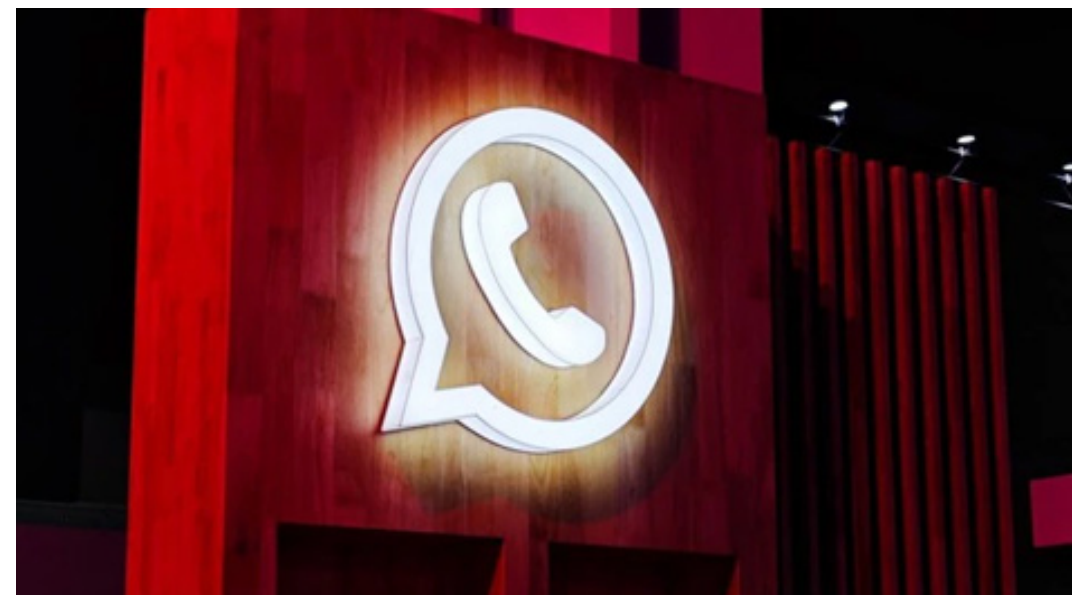
Medhansh Trivedi's creation showcases the talent and innovative spirit of young minds, highlighting the potential for future advancements in drone technology. His achievement is a testament to the power of curiosity and determination in pursuing groundbreaking ideas.

Iran Lifts Ban on WhatsApp and Google Play as Part of Internet Restriction Rollback

In a significant move, Iranian authorities have lifted the ban on Meta's WhatsApp and Google Play as the first step toward scaling back the country's stringent internet restrictions. This development, reported by Iranian state media on Tuesday, marks a notable shift in the nation's approach to online access.

Iran has long been known for its tight control over internet use, with heavy restrictions on foreign social media platforms like Facebook, Twitter, and YouTube. These platforms have been routinely blocked, but many Iranians have found ways to bypass these restrictions using virtual private networks (VPNs), allowing them to access content from abroad despite the government's efforts to control online activity.

The lifting of the WhatsApp and Google Play bans comes amid growing pressure both domestically and internationally to relax these harsh internet controls. WhatsApp, a widely used messaging app, and Google Play, the app store for Android devices, are important tools for communication and access to digital services, making this move a significant step toward improving digital freedoms in Iran.



The decision could also be a response to the ongoing protests and demands for more access to information. The Iranian government has been facing mounting pressure to loosen its grip on the internet and allow citizens greater freedom to communicate and access information. While this change is being hailed as a positive development, many experts suggest that it remains to be seen whether the government will make further moves

toward relaxing internet restrictions or if this is a temporary measure.

While the lifting of these bans is a hopeful sign, Iran's internet controls remain some of the most stringent in the world. The continued use of VPNs by citizens highlights the demand for more open access to the global internet, and many are watching closely to see if this change signals broader reforms in Iran's digital landscape.



Record Crowd Watches Australia Reach 311/6 on Day 1 of Boxing Day Test



A record-breaking 87,242 spectators packed the iconic Melbourne Cricket Ground (MCG) on the opening day of the Boxing Day Test between India and Australia. This remarkable turnout set a new benchmark for the highest single-day attendance in a five-day Test match between the two cricketing giants. The tickets for the first day of the fourth Test had sold out more than two weeks before the match, reflecting the immense anticipation surrounding the game.

The action on the field lived up to the hype as debutant Sam Konstas made his mark in the first session, challenging India's pace spearhead Jasprit Bumrah. Konstas showed resilience under pressure, but it was Bumrah who made the crucial breakthroughs in the latter part of the day, swinging the momentum in India's favor as the match progressed.

Australia finished the opening day on a strong note at 311 for six, with contributions from key players stabilizing the innings. Despite some late breakthroughs from the Indian bowlers, Australia remains well-positioned to build on their solid total.

This thrilling contest comes at a crucial point in the ongoing five-match series, which is currently tied at 1-1, making each day of play highly significant. The high-energy atmosphere at the MCG, combined with the quality of cricket on display, promises a gripping series ahead.

As the Boxing Day Test continues, fans are eagerly awaiting the next chapter of this fiercely contested series, with both teams aiming to gain the upper hand in what has already been a thrilling encounter.

Virat Kohli Fined and Given Demerit Point for Breaching ICC Code of Conduct

Virat Kohli has been fined 20% of his match fees and handed one demerit point by the International Cricket Council (ICC) for breaching Level 1 of the ICC Code of Conduct. The sanction follows an incident on Day 1 of the fourth Test between India and Australia at the Melbourne Cricket Ground (MCG), where Kohli was involved in a shoulder-bumping altercation with Australia's Sam Konstas.

The ICC announced the penalties on Thursday, stating that Kohli had accepted the sanctions without the need for a formal hearing. The decision was made following a review by the match officials, including on-field umpires Joel Wilson and Michael Gough, third umpire Sharfuddoula Ibne Shahid, and fourth umpire Shawn Craig. The charge was leveled against Kohli for inappropriate physical contact, which is outlined under Article 2.12 of the ICC's Code of Conduct, which addresses inappropriate physical contact during international matches.

Kohli's incident occurred after stumps on Day 1 when he and Konstas had a brief exchange that escalated to physical contact. Kohli, a former Indian captain known for his intense on-field demeanor, accepted the proposed sanctions by the match referee, Andy Pycroft, and did not contest the decision.

The charge of inappropriate physical contact falls under the category of Level 1 breaches, which are typically punishable by fines or demerit



it points. Kohli's acceptance of the penalty ensures that no further disciplinary action is required. The incident has stirred debate regarding the aggressive nature of the confrontation, but the matter has now been resolved with the imposed fine and demerit point.

Kohli's fine is the latest chapter in the ongoing rivalry between India and Australia, with both teams known for their competitive spirit on the field. This fine adds to the list of disciplinary actions that cricketers occasionally face as part of maintaining the integrity of the sport.

South Africa Targets WTC Final Spot with All-Seam Attack Against Pakistan

South Africa will be aiming to secure a spot in the World Test Championship (WTC) final as they face Pakistan in the first Test starting Thursday. The Proteas need to win one of their remaining two Test matches in the current WTC cycle to guarantee a place in the final at Lord's next year.

With the stakes high, captain Temba Bavuma expressed confidence in his team's ability to perform under pressure. "There'll be pressure that comes with that," Bavuma acknowledged. "But to be honest with you, we're coming into the series to win the series 2-0. We understand that for us to do that, there's certain things that we need to do as a team: keep things simple, keep doing the small things right, and allow the results to take care of itself."

For the first Test, South Africa has opted for an all-seam attack, including four fast bowlers in their lineup. This marks the debut of Corbin Bosch, who consistently bowls over 140 kph, and will play in his hometown. Bosch will be joined by experienced fast bowlers Kagiso Rabada, Marco Jansen, and Dane Paterson, forming a potent pace attack on the expected



fast and bouncy Centurion pitch. The pitch has historically favored fast bowlers, with 227 wickets taken by pacers over the last six years, while spinners have claimed just 16.

However, South Africa's top-order batters have struggled against Pakistan in the recent 3-0 ODI white-wash. Tony de Zorzi, Ryan Rickelton, and Tristan Stubbs all found it difficult to read the off-spin of Pakistan's Salman Ali Agha in the opening match of the series. South Africa will need to address these issues if they are to come out on top in the Test series and keep their WTC final hopes alive.

The Proteas' focus is clear: win the series and secure their place in the WTC final.

Jasprit Bumrah Shines as India Fight Back on Day 1 of Fourth Test in Melbourne

Jasprit Bumrah once again proved his class as India staged a fight-back on Day 1 of the fourth Test against Australia in Melbourne. At stumps, Australia had reached 311/6, with Steve Smith unbeaten on 68* and Pat Cummins on 8*, as the hosts looked to build on their strong position.

Debutant Sam Konstas made an impressive start to his international career, scoring a dynamic 60 runs, with some exquisite strokes that lit up the Melbourne Cricket Ground. Alongside him, Usman Khawaja (57) and Marnus Labuschagne (72) also played vital innings, contributing fifties to Australia's steady progress. Steve Smith continued his consistent form, remaining not out at the close of play with 68 runs to his name.

Despite the solid contributions from the Australian top order, it was the indomitable Jasprit Bumrah who stood out for India. The star pacer claimed 3 wickets for 75 runs, providing crucial breakthroughs and ensuring that Australia couldn't build substantial partnerships. Bumrah's skillful bowling, particularly in the post-lunch session, helped India stem the flow of runs and provide hope for a strong finish to the day's play.



Australia's batting line-up, however, remains formidable. Mitchell Marsh and Travis Head will look to push the score further, while Cummins and Smith will aim to steer the team to a dominant total in the coming sessions. India, on the other hand, will rely on Bumrah and the rest of their bowlers to break the remaining partnerships and restrict the hosts from posting a massive first-innings score.

With a good batting surface on offer, Day 2 promises to be an intriguing contest as both teams look to take control of the match. Australia will be eyeing a score well beyond 350, while India will aim to finish strong with the ball and keep the game in the balance.

Babar Azam Achieves Milestone Despite Early Dismissal in Centurion Test

Pakistan's Babar Azam made history on the opening day of the first Test against South Africa in Centurion by becoming only the third cricketer to score over 4,000 runs in all three formats of international cricket. His milestone, however, came amidst a challenging day for him personally, as he was dismissed for just four runs, failing to make a significant contribution to Pakistan's innings.

Babar, who had been dropped from the Test squad during the England se-

ries, returned to the fold with a point to prove. While his brief stay at the crease was disappointing, it did mark a historic achievement. Babar joined the elite club of players who have scored over 4,000 runs in Tests, ODIs, and T20Is, a feat previously accomplished by Indian cricket stars Virat Kohli and Rohit Sharma.

Babar's statistics across all formats are impressive. In Tests, he has now accumulated 4,001 runs in 56 matches, with an average of 43.49, including



nine centuries and 26 fifties. In ODIs, the 30-year-old has scored 5,957 runs in 123 matches at an average of 56.73, with 19 centuries and 34 fifties. In T20Is, Babar has amassed 4,223 runs in 128 matches, averaging 39.84, with three centuries and 36 fifties.

Despite Babar's achievement, Pakistan's batting woes continued on Day 1 as wickets continued to fall. Saud Shakeel, eager to accelerate the scoring, also departed early after gloving a delivery to wicketkeeper Kyle Ver-

reynne, contributing just 14 runs off six balls. Pakistan found themselves in a precarious position at 56/4.

However, Kamran Ghulam and Mohammad Rizwan steadied the innings. Ghulam took charge of the scoring, maintaining a strike rate over 100, while Rizwan played a more measured innings. The pair worked to rebuild the innings, offering hope for Pakistan's recovery as they sought to stabilize their position in the match.



Naveen Polishetty's A Look at Anaganaga Oka Raju and His Pre-Wedding Video

Naveen Polishetty, the beloved actor known for his stellar performances in **Jathi Ratnalu** and **Agent Sai Srinivasa Atreya**, has seen a remarkable rise in popularity. His charm and comic timing have garnered a dedicated fan base, propelling him into the limelight of the Telugu film industry. As he continues to captivate audiences with his unique style, his upcoming projects are highly anticipated. One such film is **Anaganaga Oka Raju**, which promises to be another exciting chapter in his growing career, following his success in **Miss Shetty Mr. Polishetty**.

Recently, the makers of **Anaganaga Oka Raju** launched a special pre-wedding video to celebrate Naveen's birthday. The video, which adds a fun and lighthearted touch to the promotional campaign, opens with the hilarious dialogues of Chamak Chandra from the wedding feast scene. In this scene, a character humorously remarks, "These are plates of gold, sweet gold," to which another guest replies, "This is our king's wedding." The playful tone sets the

stage for the comedic nature of the film, while also highlighting Naveen's connection to the upcoming wedding festivities.

Interestingly, in the pre-wedding video, Naveen is seen watching a wedding cassette of Anant Ambani, the son of business magnate Mukesh Ambani. In the video, the humorous exchange unfolds as Mukesh's uncle is asked about the phone numbers of the celebrities attending the event. The video further plays with the idea of grandeur, juxtaposing the luxurious Ambani wedding with the forthcoming Rajugari wedding, adding a layer of humor reminiscent of the iconic **Jathi Ratnalu** style.

Produced by Sitara Entertainment, **Anaganaga Oka Raju** also stars Meenakshi Chaudhary in the lead female role. The film is backed by Sri Kara Studios and produced by Fortune Four Cinemas, with Mickey J. Meyer composing the music. As the film gears up for its release, fans of Naveen Polishetty are eagerly awaiting another dose of his signature humor and charm.

Nani's Hit: The Third Case: A Glimpse at Arjun Sarkar's Action-Packed Journey

Nani's much-awaited film **Hit: The Third Case** is all set to be the third installment in the highly successful **Hit** movie franchise. Directed by Shailesh Kolanu and produced by Prashanthi Tipirneni, this crime thriller promises to elevate the gripping saga of the **Hit** universe. Nani takes on the powerful role of Arjun Sarkar, a determined and fearless police officer, as the movie delves deeper into the world of crime, mystery, and intense action.

The film's latest updates have been creating a buzz, with a new poster being released on Christmas, offering a glimpse of Nani in an elegant, yet intense avatar. The poster showcases his captivating presence, and fans are already excited about his dynamic portrayal of the character. Currently, the film is being shot in the scenic yet mysterious landscapes of Kashmir, where crucial action sequences are being filmed. These high-octane scenes are expected to be a major high-

light of the film, adding more excitement to the plot.

Srinidhisetty stars as the female lead, playing an integral role in this tense narrative. The movie also boasts a talented technical team, with Sanu John Varghese handling the cinematography and Mickey J. Meyer composing the music. Shailesh Kolanu, who has previously impressed audiences with his directorial skills, also wrote and directed this much-awaited sequel.

The makers have confirmed that **Hit: The Third Case** will hit the big screens on May 1 next year, and the anticipation is already building. With its gripping storyline, intense action sequences, and Nani's power-packed performance, the film is sure to be another hit in the successful franchise. Fans of Nani and the **Hit** series can't wait to see what unfolds as Arjun Sarkar's journey takes center stage in this thrilling crime drama.



Daaku Maharaj: Balakrishna's Intense Look Revealed in New Poster

Nandamuri Balakrishna, the iconic actor known for his powerful performances, is all set to star in **Daaku Maharaj**, his upcoming film, which is slated for a grand worldwide release on January 12, 2025. Directed by Bobby (Bobby), this high-octane action film, which is being produced as **NBK109**, is generating immense excitement among fans. To add to the holiday celebrations, the makers have released a special Christmas poster, offering a sneak peek into the world of **Daaku Maharaj**.

The newly released Christmas poster showcases Balakrishna in an intense avatar, wielding an axe, a symbol of the rugged and fierce character he is portraying. Alongside him, Bollywood sensation Urvashi Rautela is seen holding a pistol, giving viewers a glimpse of the strong roles both female leads will play. The poster also teases the presence of key actors like Bobby Deol, Pragya Jaishwal, and Shraddha Srinath, hinting at their significant roles in the film, further raising anticipation.

The movie has already gained attention with the release of its high-energy track, **FIERCE**, which has gone viral, further building the hype around the film. Urvashi Rautela and Shraddha Srinath will play the female lead roles, while Bobby Deol is set to face off with Balakrishna as the antagonist. Pragya Jaishwal and Chandini Chaudhary round out the cast in key supporting roles.

Daaku Maharaj is being co-directed by Suryadevara Nagavanshi and Sai Saujanya under the banners of Sitara Entertainment and Fortune Four Cinemas. To mark the film's highly anticipated release, a pre-release event will be held in Dallas, Texas, on January 4, 2025, at the Texas Trust CU Theater, starting at 6 PM.

With its action-packed storyline, larger-than-life per-



formances, and a star-studded cast, **Daaku Maharaj** is shaping up to be one of the most exciting films of the year. Fans are eagerly awaiting the release, and the Christmas poster has only added to the mounting anticipation.

Suriya's Retro Teaser: A Perfect Mix of Bloodshed, Romance, and Intensity

Suriya, the beloved Tamil actor known for his intense roles, is collaborating with director Karthik Subbaraj for his 44th film, titled **Retro**. Produced under his 2D Entertainment banner, the film's first teaser was unveiled on Christmas, offering a glimpse into the thrilling and emotional journey the movie promises to deliver.

The teaser presents Suriya and Pooja Hegde as a pair of lovebirds, sharing a quiet, intimate moment that reflects their deep connection. The serene and romantic atmosphere, however, quickly shifts as Suriya's character reveals the internal conflict he faces. With tension in his eyes, he vows to leave behind his violent past, promising not to follow the brutal path of his father. In a poignant scene, he proposes to Pooja, who joyfully accepts, hinting at a hopeful future despite the darkness surrounding them.

However, the teaser doesn't shy away from the darker aspects of Suriya's character. His past is



filled with vengeance, bloodshed, and a notorious legacy that he is bound to. The contrast between the peaceful love story and the intense violence that defines his past sets the stage for a gripping narrative that balances both mass appeal and emotional depth.

With Shreyaas Krishna's stunning cinematography capturing the essence of both love and chaos, and Santosh Narayanan's captivating music intensifying the drama, **Retro** seems poised to offer a cinematic experience like no other. The teaser also hints at Suriya's

fierce transformation into a rugged gangster by the end, leaving a lasting impression on viewers.

With its compelling mix of romance, action, and emotional conflict, **Retro** is shaping up to be an exciting and impactful film. Fans are eagerly awaiting the film's release, excited to see Suriya in a role that promises both heart and hard-hitting action.

Marco: The Most Violent Malayalam Movie Set to Release in Telugu

Violence is becoming a dominant trend in cinema, with audiences increasingly drawn to films that deliver intense, stylish action. While OTT platforms have often been the breeding ground for such films, a Malayalam movie is now shifting the dynamics in mainstream cinema. **Marco**, dubbed as the most violent Malayalam film ever, is set to make its Telugu debut on January 1, 2025.

Directed by Haneef Adeni, **Marco** has already made waves in the Malayalam film industry, grossing an impressive 50 crores in just five days. The film is centered around mafia wars and is filled with extreme violence and gripping action sequences. The revenge story follows one of the brothers in a mafia gang, Marco, as he seeks vengeance in the midst of chaotic and brutal gang wars.

The lead role of Marco is played by Unni Mukundan, known for his performances in films like



Bhagmathi. His portrayal of a character deeply entrenched in violence and revenge is expected to be one of the highlights of the film. The intense and often gruesome action scenes, choreographed to perfection, have captivated the audience, making **Marco** a standout in the action genre.

With its Censor rating of A, **Marco** is undoubtedly not for the faint-hearted. The movie promises to be a thrilling ride for action fans, delivering a level of violence rarely seen in Indian cinema. As the film prepares for its Telugu release, it remains to be seen how the audience here will respond to the brutal intensity of **Marco**.

If **Marco** continues its strong box office performance in Telugu as it did in Malayalam, it could set a new benchmark for violent action films in regional cinema. Fans of high-octane action and intense storytelling are eagerly waiting for the release on January 1.