



Weather Forecast

| HYDERABAD | VIJAYAWADA | TIRUPATHI |
|--------------------|--------------------|--------------------|
| TEMPERATURE | TEMPERATURE | TEMPERATURE |
| H 28° C L 22° C | H 29° C L 24° C | H 26° C L 24° C |

Film Industry Gets Govt Support

No More Benefit Shows: CM Stands Firm Promoting Eco-Tourism Through Cinema Government Support for Affordable Ticket Pricing Grand Conference to Attract Global Film Industries Cabinet Subcommittee to Address Film Industry Issues

TPN , Hyderabad : Chief Minister Revanth Reddy has firmly stated that there will be no more benefit shows in Telangana, reiterating his commitment to his declaration in the Assembly. On Thursday, prominent film personalities met with the Chief Minister to discuss issues affecting the industry, including ticket pricing, benefit shows, and development initiatives.

During the meeting, representatives from the film industry, including FDC Chairman Dil Raju, producer Allu Aravind, and actors Venkatesh and Nagarjuna, requested an exception for Sankranti releases. However, CM Reddy denied the request, emphasizing the government's stance on main-

taining law and order. He cited the recent Sandhya Theater incident as an example of why strict measures are necessary. The Chief Minister also stressed the need for celebrities to take responsibility for controlling fan behavior and to avoid employing bouncers unnecessarily. The Chief Minister encouraged the film industry to promote eco-tourism and temple tourism, urging filmmakers to shoot in Telangana's temples and scenic locations. He assured them of government support while asking for cooperation in driving investments into the state.



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Former PM Manmohan Singh Passes Away at 92

TPN , New Delhi: 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.



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Trio's Death Sparks Mystery

Bodies Recovered from Adlur Yellareddy Pond Mysterious Connection Between the Deceased Ongoing Investigation to Unravel Truth



TPN , Kamareddy : The district is reeling under shock after the bodies of Sub-Inspector Sai Kumar, Constable Shruti, and Nikhil, a computer operator, were recovered from the Adlur Yellareddy pond in Sadashivanagar mandal under suspicious circumstances.

The incident came to light after Shruti, a constable from Bibipet police station, failed to return home on Wednesday afternoon. Her worried parents informed the police, who traced her phone signal to the pond. Upon arriving at the location, police officers discovered belongings, including mobile phones and footwear, belonging to the trio. This prompted a search operation led by District SP Sindhu Sharma.

By midnight, the bodies of Shruti and Nikhil were retrieved from the pond. The search continued for SI Sai Kumar, whose body was found on Thursday morning. The three individuals were reported missing earlier, sparking widespread speculation.

Preliminary reports reveal that SI Sai Kumar, previously posted at Bibipet and recently transferred to Bikkanoor, had professional ties with Shruti. Nikhil, a computer operator from Bibipet, often visited police stations to repair systems. However, the sequence of events that led them to the pond and their apparent suicide remains a mystery.

Questions abound regarding their relationship, possible disputes, and what transpired before their deaths. The incident has become a hot topic of discussion within the police department and the public.

Authorities are conducting a thorough investigation to unravel the mystery. Meanwhile, the tragic deaths have cast a pall of gloom over Kamareddy district, with residents and officials alike awaiting answers.

Errolla Srinivas Granted Bail by Nampally Court

Court Grants Conditional Bail with Stringent Requirements BRS Leaders Rally in Support of Errolla Srinivas Srinivas Vows to Follow Court Orders, Thanks Party Leadership

TPN , Hyderabad: The Nampally court has granted bail to senior Bharat Rashtra Samithi (BRS) leader and former chairman of the SC and ST Commission, Errolla Srinivas. The court issued conditional bail after hearing arguments from both sides, requiring Srinivas to provide a surety of Rs. 5,000 and two additional sureties. Srinivas was also directed to cooperate fully with the ongoing investigation.

Srinivas was produced before the court on Thursday afternoon following his arrest earlier in the day. The police had registered a case against him for allegedly obstructing officers in the performance of their duties. Despite being summoned for questioning three times, Srinivas reportedly failed to appear, leading to his



arrest. Before his court appearance, he underwent medical examinations at Osmania Hospital. Prominent BRS leaders, including Harish Rao, KP Vivekananda, Bandari Lakshma Reddy, Errabelli Dayakar Rao, Kranthi, and Alla Venkateswar Reddy, visited Srinivas at the Masabtank police station before his court hearing. Meanwhile, BRS student leaders attempted to block the police vehicle transport-

ing Srinivas to court, showing their solidarity with the leader. Speaking to the media after being granted bail, Srinivas said, "Righteousness has triumphed over the government's illegal cases against me. Unrighteousness has been defeated. I will fully adhere to the court's orders. I extend my heartfelt gratitude to KTR, Harish Rao, and all the leaders of the Gulabi party who stood by me. Special thanks to the BRS legal team for meticulously examining the case and ensuring my release on bail."

This development marks a significant moment for the BRS leader, who continues to enjoy strong support within his party. The case and its proceedings remain under close scrutiny by both party members and the public.

High Court Dismisses Petitions on Group-1 Exam Results

TPN , Hyderabad: The Telangana High Court has dismissed multiple petitions filed by candidates concerning the Group-1 examination conducted by the Telangana State Public Service Commission (TGPSC). The candidates approached the court, raising issues regarding reservations and requesting a stay on the declaration of results until the matter was resolved.

The petitioners urged the court to issue orders to halt the announcement of the results, citing the need for clarity on reservation policies. However, after hearing the arguments, the court dismissed the petitions, allowing TGPSC to proceed with the results. The Group-1 Mains examinations were conducted from October 21 to 27, 2024. TGPSC Chairman Burra Venkatesham recently stated that the results are expected to be announced by March 2025.



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Govt Support

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CM Reddy highlighted that the government has already taken steps to support the industry, such as issuing special GOs for eight films and providing police assistance for the blockbuster Pushpa. He announced plans for a grand conference in Hyderabad to attract Hollywood and Bollywood productions and to enhance Telangana's standing as a global film hub.

To address industry challenges, the Chief Minister formed a cabinet subcommittee under Deputy CM Bhatti Vikramarka to resolve issues such as ticket pricing and benefit shows. He urged the film industry to form its own committee to collaborate with the government.

"Our government values the film industry alongside IT and Pharma. It is crucial to ensure ticket prices are affordable for audiences while promoting the industry responsibly. We remain committed to supporting the industry's growth," said CM Reddy.

He also announced initiatives like establishing a Sports University to enhance employment opportunities and Young India Skills University to develop advanced skills.

The meeting underscored the government's intent to uphold law and order, foster the Telugu film industry's growth, and promote Hyderabad as a cosmopolitan destination for global cinema.

Key attendees included Deputy CM Bhatti Vikramarka, Minister Komatireddy Venkata Reddy, and Chief Minister's Advisor Narendra Reddy.

Group-1 Exam Results

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This decision by the High Court clears the way for TGPS to finalize and release the Group-1 results as scheduled, bringing relief to the commission and candidates awaiting the outcome. However, it has also sparked discussions on the clarity and implementation of reservation policies in competitive examinations.

Candidates and stakeholders will now focus on the forthcoming announcement of results, which will shape the future of many aspirants.

Former PM Manmohan Singh Passes Away at 92

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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 Euro-money Award for Best Finance Minister (1993 and 1994), and the World Statesman Award in 2010. In 2017, he received the prestigious 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.

Govt-Industry Collaboration Discussed

TPN , Hyderabad : Several prominent figures from the film industry met with Telangana Chief Minister Revanth Reddy to discuss the future of cinema in the state. The meeting saw luminaries share suggestions to enhance Hyderabad's global appeal as a filmmaking hub and addressed pressing industry concerns.



Veteran filmmaker Raghavendra Rao highlighted the need for an International Film Festival in Hyderabad, citing the city's legacy of hosting children's film festivals in the past. "All CMs have supported the film industry, and this government is no exception. We also welcome Dil Raju's appointment

as FDC Chairman," he said.

Producer Suresh Babu expressed faith in the government, emphasizing Hyderabad's potential to become an international film destination. "With the support of previous governments, the film industry thrived here. If supported

further, we can make Hyderabad a global film hub," he added.

Actor and producer Nagarjuna urged the government to provide capital incentives, suggesting that such measures could elevate the industry to a global level. "The studio setup here should meet universal standards, making Hyderabad the world cinema capital," he proposed.

DGP Jitender addressed law and order issues, stating the importance of ensuring public safety during film screenings. He assured action against uncooperative bouncers while acknowledging their positive role in many

cases. Deputy Chief Minister Bhatti Vikramarka stressed the need for non-political collaboration with the industry. "Ours is a people's government. The film industry should partner with us to achieve mutual growth," he remarked.

Veterans like Shyam Prasad Reddy and Murali Mohan voiced concerns over industry challenges, including the competitive nature of film releases and the need for government recognition.

The meeting underscored the government's intent to support the industry while ensuring accountability and safety for the public.

No Fear of Intimidation : KTR

TPN , Hyderabad : Former Minister and BRS Working President K.T. Rama Rao (KTR) strongly condemned the arrest of senior BRS leader Errolla Srinivas, calling it an illegal and oppressive act. In a press release issued on Thursday, KTR accused the government of harassing Srinivas with false cases and attempting to intimidate his family by raiding their house early in the morning without prior notice.



Expressing outrage, KTR described the arrest as part of a larger strategy to stifle political opposition, likening the current administration's actions to the "Emergency" period. He alleged that the government, unable to control the rising crime rate, is instead focusing on suppressing the opposition.

"The culture of using false cases to intimidate political rivals must end," KTR said. He demanded the immedi-

ate release of Errolla Srinivas and criticized the ruling party for its attempts to silence dissent. KTR also emphasized that such intimidation tactics will not deter the BRS party, which has a legacy of enduring struggles for self-respect and justice.

In his statement, KTR reassured supporters that the BRS will continue to stand firm against such oppressive measures, asserting, "No one in Telangana fears these threats."

CM Revanth Challenges Telugu Film Industry: Dil Raju

TPN , Hyderabad : Prominent producer Dil Raju described the recent meeting with Telangana Chief Minister Revanth Reddy as a "big challenge" for the Telugu film industry. Speaking to the media after the meeting, Dil Raju stated that the focus was on elevating Telugu cinema to a global level, leaving behind discussions about ticket rates, benefit shows, and Sankranti movie releases. "The CM has asked us to provide suggestions for attracting Hollywood productions to Hyderabad. The discussions centered entirely on how to grow the industry globally," Dil Raju revealed. He emphasized that Telugu cinema is earning respect nationwide and now aims to expand its footprint internationally.



Dil Raju clarified that there was no deliberation on ticket rates or benefit shows during the

meeting. "Sankranti movies and ticket pricing are not important at this point. Our discussions are directed towards creating a global platform for Telugu cinema," he remarked. The meeting showcased the government's commitment to working with the industry for its growth. Dil Raju expressed confidence in the collaborative efforts to position Hyderabad as a key destination for international film productions, marking a new chapter for Telugu cinema.

Feelings Song Forced on Rashmika: CPI



TPN , Hyderabad: CPI leader Narayana made sharp comments about the film industry, particularly targeting the upcoming movie Pushpa 2 and its portrayal of red sandalwood smuggling. He questioned whether glorifying a red sandalwood thief as a hero sends the right message to society, especially to the youth.

Narayana expressed outrage over reports that actress Rashmika Mandanna was forced to perform in the song "Feelings" against her will at the director's insis-

tence. He criticized the industry for pushing women into roles that compromise their self-respect. "Many women are compelled to work in conditions that rob them of their dignity," he said.

The CPI leader also referred to a tragic incident at Sandhya Theater, highlighting that compensation cannot replace the life lost. He criticized the government for offering Rs. 2 crores in relief, saying it should have been at least Rs. 5 crores.

Narayana further raised concerns about rising ticket prices, accusing the government of enabling the black market by allowing price hikes. He urged the Chief Minister, who is currently holding discussions with film personalities, to ensure that the film industry operates responsibly and does not burden common people. "Movies should entertain, not mislead. Those responsible must be held accountable to ensure such practices do not repeat," Narayana stated, calling for immediate reforms in the film industry.

CM Cup 2024 State-Level Competitions to Begin Tomorrow



TPN , Hyderabad: The Telangana government's CM Cup 2024 state-level sports competitions are set to begin tomorrow, December 27, and will continue until January 2. Organized under the auspices of the Telangana Sports Authority, the event aims to strengthen the rural sports ecosystem in the state and discover untapped talent from villages.

The CM Cup 2024 seeks to identify and nurture local sports talents with the vision of transforming them into world-class champions. After the successful completion of competitions at the village, mandal, and district levels, the state-level games promise to be a grand affair.

Telangana Sports Authority Chairman Shiv Sena Reddy stated that arrangements have been made to conduct the competitions in a festive atmosphere. He highlighted the use of the Games Management System to register and summarize the information of over two lakh participants. The event also incorporates modern technological services to enhance players' experiences, providing a benchmark for future sports initiatives in the state.

The CM Cup 2024 symbolizes the government's commitment to promoting sports and fostering a vibrant sports culture in Telangana. These competitions are expected to inspire the next generation of athletes while spotlighting the talent hidden in rural areas.

Harish Rao Slams Revanth Reddy Over Sandhya Theater Incident

TPN , Hyderabad: Senior BRS leader Harish Rao criticized Telangana Chief Minister Revanth Reddy, accusing him of politicizing the tragic Sandhya Theater incident to gain public sympathy. A stampede during the premiere of Pushpa 2 at Sandhya Theater resulted in the death of Revathi and injuries to her son, Sritej, who is currently receiving treatment at KIMS Hospital in Secunderabad.

Harish Rao criticized Revanth Reddy for allegedly attempting to "do good by scaring moviegoers" and accused him of using the tragedy for political gain. He questioned the CM's inaction in other tragedies, such as deaths in gurukuls and hostels, and raised concerns about accountability



within the government, particularly pointing to the alleged involvement of the CM's brother in a suicide case.

"The law should be equal for everyone," Harish Rao emphasized, demanding answers and accountability from the Chief Minister.

Raghunandan Accuses Revanth of Introducing Bouncer System

TPN , Hyderabad: BJP MP Raghunandan Rao has accused Telangana Chief Minister Revanth Reddy of introducing the private bouncer system in the state. His remarks come in the wake of the recent arrest of Allu Arjun's bouncer, Antony, by Chikkadapalli police following a scuffle near Sandhya Theater. Antony, who works as an organizer for Allu Arjun's bouncers, is currently being interrogated.

Speaking in Medak on Wednesday, Raghunandan Rao criticized Revanth Reddy for allegedly initiating the bouncer culture when he was the PCC chief. He claimed that Revanth Reddy had set up the "bouncer shop" in the state, promoting a culture of intimidation by using private security to push people aside.

Raghunandan Rao questioned why celebrities like Allu Arjun are bringing bouncers into public events, such as panchayats. He suggested that if Hyderabad City Police Commissioner CV Anand is sincere, he should work towards completely abolishing the private bouncer system.

The comments from Raghunandan Rao add to the ongoing debate about the growing use of bouncers in public spaces and events across Telangana.



CPI Celebrates 100 Years of People's Fight



TPN , Telangana : CPI Executive Member Chada Venkat Reddy emphasized the party's continuous struggle for people's rights during a meeting organized to mark the 100th foundation day of the Communist Party of India. Speaking at the event, Reddy highlighted that the CPI was built on Leninist principles and has been at the forefront of advocating for the rights of the people. He criticized the fact that the rights enshrined in the Indian Constitution have yet to be fully implemented, and noted that land and workers' rights were secured due to CPI's persistent efforts.

Reddy also expressed concern that the Constitution itself is under threat since Narendra Modi assumed office as Prime Minister.

Meanwhile, CPI National Secretary Aziz Pasha addressed the gathering, reflecting on the party's 100-year legacy, particularly its significant role in India's freedom struggle. He also criticized the Rajya Sabha Chairman and Vice Chairman, accusing them of behaving like BJP supporters. The occasion was marked by celebrations across the country, underscoring the CPI's historical importance.

BJP Should Clarify Its Stance on BC Caste Census: MLC Kavitha



TPN , Hyderabad: BRS MLC Kalvakuntla Kavitha has demanded that the BJP clarify its position on the BC caste census, questioning if the party even values the Backward Classes (BCs). Her remarks came after a meeting with leaders of the Arekatik and Shalivahana Sangam, who

raised concerns about the challenges faced by caste-based professions.

During the interaction, MLC Kavitha expressed her frustration over the Congress government's failure to address the issues of BCs. She stated that while

Chief Minister K. Chandrashekar Rao (KCR) has supported caste-based professions in every way, the Congress-led government has neglected the welfare and development of BC communities.

Kavitha also pointed out that the Congress government has failed to fulfill its promises, particularly in providing 42 percent reservation for BCs in local body elections. She criticized the BJP for remaining silent on these issues, highlighting the party's lack of response to the BC caste census. "Does the BJP not care about BCs? Do they not want BCs to become sarpanches, MPTCs, and ZPTCs?" she questioned.

The MLC emphasized that it is unacceptable for any government to ignore the BC caste census and the promises made to support the BC community. She urged the BJP to take a clear stand and address the pressing issues of BC welfare.

Minister Ponnampati Inspects Development Works in Husnabad

TPN , Husnabad: Transport and BC Welfare Minister Ponnampati Prabhakar conducted a morning walk in Husnabad town, engaging with residents and inspecting various ongoing development projects. The minister embarked on a padayatra from the MLA camp office to the town, carrying out several duties while interacting with the local people.

During his visit, Minister Prabhakar inspected the progress of main road works and canal projects in the town. Residents took the opportunity to bring their concerns to his attention, and the minister promptly communicated

with the concerned officials to address and resolve several issues on the spot. The minister also interacted with women vegetable vendors, inquiring about their businesses and offering support. Additionally, he visited the bus camp office to the town, carrying out several duties while interacting with the local people. Many passengers raised concerns about the lack of buses on new routes, to which Minister Prabhakar assured that additional buses would be provided to meet the demand.

Throughout the visit, Minister Prabhakar warmly greet-



ed the women and elderly citizens of the town, further strengthening his connection with the community.

The visit was accompanied by the town's Congress Party

chief and local officials. Minister Ponnampati Prabhakar's proactive engagement in addressing local issues reflects his commitment to improving infrastructure and public welfare in Husnabad.

Bhatti: A Year of People-Centric Rule

TPN , Telangana : Deputy Chief Minister Bhatti Vikramarka highlighted the achievements of the government during its first year in office, stating that it is truly a "people's government." Speaking at an event, he emphasized the need for collective efforts across sectors, including the film industry, to drive Telangana's growth.

Vikramarka urged the film industry to unite and adopt progressive business models in line with Telangana's rising economic success. He stressed that the industry should function without political interference, ensuring creativity and growth remain unhindered.

"Our government is committed



to the welfare of all, and we have shown this in our governance over the past year," he said. The Deputy CM's remarks underscore the administration's focus on fostering an environment of collaboration and innovation, strengthening Telangana's position as a leader in development and inclusivity.

Bandi Sanjay Slams Rahul Gandhi Over Congratulating Telangana Government



TPN , Telangana : Bandi Sanjay, the Union Minister of State for Home Affairs, criticized Rahul Gandhi for congratulating the Telangana Congress government. Taking to Twitter, Bandi Sanjay questioned the rationale behind Rahul Gandhi's praise, asking, "What are you congratulating them for? What's so commendable?"

He sarcastically pointed out various issues, including the alleged failure of the "Mahalakshmi" scheme, the chaotic situation where women are reportedly fighting each other, the delay in the "Rythu Bharosa" scheme, and the alleged mistreatment of farmers. Sanjay also raised concerns over the "Vidya Bharosa" card, claiming it has failed to provide for students, and criticized the lack of progress on the "Indiramma Houses," with some existing houses being demolished instead. He further questioned the government's handling of financial assistance, alleging delays in the disbursement of Rs. 4,000 welfare payments, which have reportedly caused distress among the beneficiaries.

Bandi Sanjay also accused the Telangana Congress government of lacking vision for development and welfare, claiming that the government has been involved in diversionary politics without achieving anything substantial. He concluded by questioning what Rahul Gandhi had to celebrate, given the failures and shortcomings of the state government.

Stop Divisive Politics: Rao to Congress MLA

TPN , Telangana : Kukatpally BRS MLA Madhavaram Krishna Rao has issued a strong warning to Nizamabad Rural Congress MLA Bhubathi Reddy, questioning his authority to comment on Hyderabad and accusing him of making statements that hurt the sentiments of the Andhra-origin people living in the city. "Who are you to come from Hyderabad?" Rao asked, criticizing Reddy's comments and questioning whether such divisive rhetoric was part of Congress's training sessions. Highlighting Hyderabad's status as a hub of harmony and opportunity, Rao reminded that the city is home to a thriving film industry that provides employment to lakhs of people. He stressed the importance of

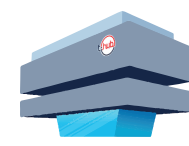


maintaining peace and avoiding discussions that could create divisions between Andhra and Telangana residents.

"Everyone is our child. Please do not bring the idea of Andhra and Telangana into this," he appealed, emphasizing unity and harmony

among the city's diverse population. Rao reiterated that Hyderabad's citizens seek peace and development, and any comments undermining these ideals would not be tolerated.

The MLA's remarks underscore the BRS's stance on promoting inclusivity and rejecting narratives that could disrupt social cohesion. He warned that any political figure attempting to hurt the sentiments of Hyderabad's residents would face strong resistance from his party. Rao's firm statement reflects the broader emphasis on unity in Hyderabad, urging leaders to prioritize development and harmony over divisive politics.



Traffic Police Deny Social Media Claims of Challan Concessions



TPN , Hyderabad: Telangana traffic authorities have refuted ongoing social media claims suggesting concessions on pending traffic challans. Hyderabad Additional Traffic Commissioner Vishwa Prasad urged citizens not to believe such false propaganda, emphasizing that no such concessions have been announced by the government.

The misleading campaign, which has been circulating on social media for the past few days, claims that the government has reintroduced concessions on pending challans. In response, the traffic police clarified that no such initiative is in place and reiterated their commitment to addressing misinformation.

"If any concessions are announced in the future, the information will be disclosed in advance through official channels," Additional CP Vishwa Prasad stated. He also warned that strict action would be taken against individuals spreading false propaganda regarding traffic policies.

The traffic police advised the public to rely only on verified information available on the official Telangana traffic police website: https://echallan.tspolice.gov.in/publicview/. They also provided helpline numbers—040-27852772 and 040-27852721—for citizens to verify any doubts or seek clarification regarding traffic challans.

Officials urged citizens to remain vigilant against unverified claims on social media and to follow official updates to avoid confusion or misinformation.

Police Issues Guidelines for Movie Promotions

TPN , Hyderabad: The Telangana Police have issued a set of instructions to movie industry bigwigs regarding promotions. In a statement, Telangana DGP Dr. Jitender emphasized that movie promotions should comply with police decisions, especially if permission is denied. He clarified that the police will evaluate all aspects before deciding on granting permission for such events.



Dr. Jitender further stressed the importance of obtaining legal approval for hiring bouncers during promotions.

He noted that improper behavior and conduct by bouncers would not be tolerated. Additionally, he urged organizers to seek prior permission for any event and assured that the police would carefully review the circumstances before making a decision.

This move aims to ensure the safety and lawfulness of public gatherings related to movie promotions in Telangana.

Heavy Rainfall Causes Traffic Disruptions in Hyderabad



TPN , Hyderabad: On Thursday evening, heavy rainfall hit various parts of Hyderabad, causing significant disruptions for city residents. Despite the holiday, traffic jams were reported across several areas as people struggled to make their way home after work. The rain affected areas like Hayat Nagar, Dilsukhnagar, LB Nagar, Nagole, Uppal, Habsiguda, Secunderabad, Tank Bund,

Khairatabad, Banjara Hills, Somajiguda, Mehdiatnam, and many more.

The day began with overcast skies, and by evening, the rain poured down, accompanied by chilly winds that made residents feel the drop in temperature. Some found comfort in the cool breeze, while others faced challenges due to the wet conditions.

The Hyderabad Meteorological Department has forecasted light to moderate rainfall to continue across the state through Friday. Additionally, it predicted the possibility of fog formation in some districts during the early morning hours in the next five days. The department also noted that minimum temperatures could be 2 to 4 degrees Celsius above normal during this period.

Second Victim Dies in Nanakramguda Hit-and-Run Incident

TPN , Hyderabad: The number of casualties in a tragic hit-and-run incident in Nanakramguda, near Gachibowli, has risen to two. The second victim, Venkat Reddy, 26, an IT employee, succumbed to his injuries on Wednesday, December 25, while receiving medical treatment. Reddy had been critically injured in a collision with a car in the early hours of Tuesday, December 24.

The first victim, Shivani, 21, a fourth-year student at Chaitanya Bharathi Institute of Technology (CBIT) from Kamareddy district, died on the spot from the impact of the crash. She was riding pillion with Reddy when the accident occurred near the Nanakramguda Rotary. After the collision, the car involved fled the scene.

Both victims were initially taken to Kondapur Area Hospital, where Shivani was declared dead on arrival. Reddy was later transferred to Gandhi Hospital, where he passed away from his injuries.

The police arrested the car driver, Sri Kalash, 19, and charged him under Section 106 of the Bharatiya Nyaya Sanhita (BNS) for death by negligence. Kalash, a BBA student in London and the son of a well-known Hyderabad doctor, was reportedly driving at a speed of 100 km/h at the time of the incident.

NIN Researcher's Menopause Cure Gets Patent

TPN , Hyderabad: Dr. Vandana Singh, a researcher from the National Institute of Nutrition (NIN), has received a patent for her innovative Non-Hormonal Therapy (NHT) developed to treat menopausal syndrome. This therapy, a safer and more effective alternative to traditional Hormonal Replacement Therapy (HRT), aims to alleviate the adverse effects associated with menopause.

Developed under the mentorship of Dr. B. Dinesh Kumar, former Scientist G and Head of the Drug Division at NIN, the patented therapy addresses the symptoms of menopause, which is expected to impact over 1.2 billion women worldwide by 2023. Unlike HRT, which carries risks such as vaginal bleeding, liver issues, and an in-

creased risk of breast cancer, heart disease, and strokes, the NHT uses indigenous grass as a key ingredient and follows Ayurvedic principles, validated through scientific research.

Dr. Vandana highlighted that the non-hormonal therapy is non-carcinogenic, even with long-term use, and offers a cost-effective, eco-friendly, and sustainable solution. With growing concerns over the long-term use of HRT, this new therapy presents a safer option for improving the quality of life for menopausal women.

Dr. Vandana's work has gained international recognition, including a nomination for the Alice and Albert Netter Prize by the European Society of Gynecology.

Zomato Worker Over Santa Costume

TPN , Hyderabad: The Telangana Gig and Platform Workers' Union (TGPWU) condemned the harassment of a Zomato delivery worker in Indore, Madhya Pradesh, by members of the Hindu Jagran Manch. The incident, which occurred on December 25, involved the worker being forced to remove his Santa Claus attire while on duty. The group allegedly criticized him for wearing the outfit and questioned why he didn't wear saffron or Lord Ram's attire during Hindu festivals.

In a press release issued on December 26, TGPWU made three key demands to ensure the safety and dignity of gig workers. They called on companies to avoid placing workers in situations where cultural or religious backlash could occur, to ensure respect for workers regardless of their attire, and to provide clear communication and grievance redressal mechanisms for addressing such incidents.

TGPWU urged Zomato CEO Deepinder Goyal to take immediate action regarding the Indore incident and to prioritize the

well-being of delivery workers. The union emphasized that while festive marketing campaigns have value, they should not come at the cost of workers' dignity or safety.



Chargesheet Filed Against Jani Master in Sexual Harassment Case



TPN , Hyderabad: The Narsingi police have filed a chargesheet against renowned choreographer Shaik Jani Basha, better known as Jani Master, in connection with allegations of sexual harassment. The case stems from a complaint lodged by a female choreographer, who accused Jani Master of engaging in inappropriate behavior during various work-related events.

According to the chargesheet, the investigation revealed that Jani Master took the victim to multiple locations under the pretext of work, where he allegedly subjected her to sexual misconduct. The female choreographer filed the complaint on September 15, prompting the police to register a zero FIR, which was later transferred to the Narsingi police station for further investigation.

Jani Master has been accused of exploiting his professional relationship with the victim, leading to serious allegations of misconduct. The chargesheet marks a significant step in the ongoing legal proceedings against the choreographer.

SCR to Launch Special Weekly Trains

Between Muzaffarpur and Secunderabad

TPN , Hyderabad: In a move to manage the holiday rush, South Central Railway (SCR) will launch special weekly trains between Muzaffarpur and Secunderabad starting January 7, 2025. These trains will operate from Tuesdays to Fridays.

Train No. 05293 will depart from Muzaffarpur at 10:40 am on Tuesdays and will reach Secunderabad on Wednesdays at 11:50 pm. This train will not operate on January 14, 28, or February 4, 11, and 25. Similarly, Train No. 05294 will depart from Secunderabad on Thursdays at 3:55 am and arrive in Muzaffarpur on Fridays at 5 pm, with no operations on January 16, 30, or

February 6, 13, and 27.

The special trains will make stops at several key stations, including Hajipur, Sonpur, Patliputra, Danapur, Ara, Buxar, Pt. DD Upadhyaya, Prayagraj Chheoki, Satna, Katni, Jabalpur, Narsinghpur, Pipariya, Itarsi, Nagpur, Balharshah, Bellampalli, Ramagundam, Peddapalli, and Kazipet.

The trains will offer a range of accommodations, including IInd AC, IIIrd AC, IIIrd AC Economy, Sleeper, and General Second-class coaches to cater to passengers during the peak travel period.





Minister Ponnam Prabhakar Fulfills Vow to Siddeshwara Swamy



TPN , Telangana : State Transport and BC Welfare Minister Ponnam Prabhakar paid a vow to Siddeshwara Swamy at the temple in Husnabad, Siddipet district. The minister, who had pledged to offer a Rudra Kavacha to the deity if he won the elections, visited the temple and fulfilled his promise.

During the visit, Minister Ponnam Prabhakar presented a Rudra Kavacha crafted from 6 kilograms of silver to Siddesh-

wara Swamy. The offering was made as a mark of gratitude and devotion. The minister participated in special rituals, including pujas, abhishekam, and homam, praying for the prosperity and well-being of the entire world.

The event saw the participation of a large number of devotees who joined in the spiritual proceedings. Many performed their own pujas, creating an atmosphere of devotion and reverence at the temple.

Minister Prabhakar's gesture reflects his deep faith and connection to the temple and its traditions. The offering was well-received by devotees, who appreciated the minister's fulfillment of his vow and his prayers for universal prosperity. This visit highlights the cultural and religious significance of Siddeshwara Swamy Temple in the region, drawing devotees from across the area and underscoring the minister's commitment to his beliefs and promises.

Neglect of Bibi Nagar Women's Army College Sparks Criticism: RS Praveen Kumar



TPN , Hyderabad: BRS leader RS Praveen Kumar has criticized the Revanth Reddy-led government, accusing it of neglecting Gurukul schools and pushing institutions like Bibi Nagar Degree College for Women into disrepair. Once celebrated as the first social welfare women's army college in the country, the college is now in a state of neglect under the Congress-led government, he alleged.

Highlighting the college's legacy, Praveen Kumar noted that it had produced bright students who excelled in prestigious exams like CDS, AFCAT, and SSB under the

guidance of officers such as Major Usha Sharma and Rakhi Chauhan. However, he lamented that poor Telangana students are now being deprived of similar opportunities due to the government's apathy.

He criticized the sudden relocation of students without proper alternative arrangements, leaving them in difficult circumstances. Additionally, he pointed out that the military personnel at the college have not received salaries for five months, and the tanks gifted by the Indian Army are rusting due to neglect.

Posting videos of the college's better days under the KCR government, Praveen Kumar sarcastically questioned the competence of MLAs, MLCs, and ministers, calling out their failure to address the situation. He condemned the Congress's celebration of their governance, labeling it as shameful.



Ganja Smuggling Cases Surge in Adilabad in 2024

TPN , Adilabad: Ganja smuggling has seen a significant rise in Adilabad in 2024, with a sharp increase in cases reported under the Narcotic Drugs and Psychotropic Substances (NDPS) Act. As of this year, 75 cases have been registered, compared to just 29 cases in 2023, marking a 159 percent rise. The authorities have seized 9.87 quintals of ganja, valued at Rs 2.31 crore.

Smugglers are employing innovative tactics to evade detection, using containers, cars, and two-wheelers, often escorted to bypass police check-posts. The smuggling operations primarily target rural youth in the district, along with neighboring areas like Hyderabad, Karimnagar, and Nizamabad.

In a major breakthrough, police arrested two individuals from Uttar Pradesh and four from Maharashtra in an inter-state smuggling operation. On September 25, they seized a container with 900 kg of ganja worth Rs 2.25 crore at Laxmipur village.

Superintendent of Police Gaush Alam emphasized the intensified patrolling and monitoring of habitual offenders. He assured that efforts to curb the growing smuggling activities would continue with focused vigilance in the district and neighboring Maharashtra.

Former MP Nama Condemns Arrest of Errolla Srinivas

TPN , Khammam: Former BRS Lok Sabha leader and ex-MP Nama Nageswara Rao strongly criticized the arrest of senior BRS leader and former SC/ST Commission chairman Errolla Srinivas. In a statement issued on Thursday, Nageswara Rao called the arrest undemocratic and inappropriate, citing the lack of prior notice to Srinivas's family members. He emphasized that Srinivas, a prominent figure in the Telangana movement, has worked tirelessly for the rights of Dalits and backward communities.

Termining the arrest as a violation of democratic values, Nageswara Rao demanded that the State government immediately drop the charges against Srinivas and release him. He highlighted the need for justice and respect for democratic principles in handling such cases. The incident has sparked concerns among supporters and party members, who view the arrest as unjust and politically motivated.



IG Recommends Cancellation of Patnam Narender Reddy's Bail



TPN , Telangana : Inspector General (IG) Satya Narayana announced that the bail of former Kodangal MLA Patnam Narender Reddy would be recommended for cancellation. The decision follows Reddy's press conference in Parigi, which the IG deemed inappropriate and obstructive to the ongoing investigation. The IG expressed frustration over Reddy holding a press meet while on conditional bail, stating it undermines the investigation. He clarified that Reddy has not been arrested in the pharma land acquisition case and dismissed claims of police surveillance failures.

Addressing the recent Lagacharla incident, the IG revealed that a security force of 230 personnel

had been deployed. He explained that a person named Suresh orchestrated the incident, including taking the collector to the village and attacking him. Suresh has been arrested, but others unrelated to the case were spared.

The IG criticized Reddy for making false claims during the press meet and noted that Suresh is uncooperative with the investigation. Additionally, Reddy has refused to provide his phone password, further hindering the inquiry. Satya Narayana asserted that no government advocates handcuffing farmers, emphasizing transparency in the investigation. The IG also revealed having a voice recording implicating Suresh, which will be released at the appropriate time.

Former MP Manda Jagannadham in Critical Condition After Heart Attack

TPN , Hyderabad: Former Nagarkurnool MP Manda Jagannadham's health condition remains critical after suffering a heart attack two days ago. He was rushed to NIMS, Hyderabad, by his family members, where doctors have stated that his condition is precarious.

Several political figures, including former minister Singireddy Niranjana Reddy, have visited the hospital to inquire about his health. Manda Jagannadham has had a long and varied political career. He first won as the Nagarkurnool MP from the Telugu Desam Party (TDP) in 1996, securing re-election in 1999 and 2004. He later joined the Congress Party and won the 2009 elections from the same constituency.

In 2014, he joined the BRS (then



TRS) but lost the election. In 2022, he was appointed as the special representative of the Telangana state government in Delhi by then-CM KCR. However, in November 2023, he left the BRS to join the Congress. After being denied a ticket from Nagarkurnool, he joined the Bahujan Samaj Party (BSP). His critical health has sparked concerns among his political colleagues and supporters.

Tiger Pug Marks Spotted in Telangana Village; Residents on High Alert



TPN , Hyderabad: Panic gripped the villages of Gontlapet and its surrounding areas on Thursday, December 26, after tiger pug marks were discovered on the riverbed of a stream in Gontlapet village. The sighting has put several neighboring villages, including Erragunta, Bombayiguda, Pothepalli, Lodpalli, Kondapalli, Jaihindpur, Darogapalli, Agarguda, and Ellur, on high alert.

According to forest officials, the tiger has been moving through the Penchikalpet forest range over the past few days in search of territory. In response, offi-

cials have launched awareness campaigns, advising villagers to avoid venturing into farms before 10 a.m. They have also recommended that villagers move in groups and refrain from entering forest areas to collect firewood or for other activities.

The recent sighting has heightened fears, particularly in light of past incidents. On November 29, a young woman named Morle Laxmi was tragically killed by a tiger while harvesting cotton in the Easgaon village of Kumram Bheem Asifabad district. Within 24 hours, a farmer in Sirpur T mandal was also attacked by the same tiger while working in his fields.

Authorities are working to track the tiger's movements and ensure the safety of residents in affected areas. Forest officials have urged villagers to remain vigilant and follow safety guidelines to minimize risks.



“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



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

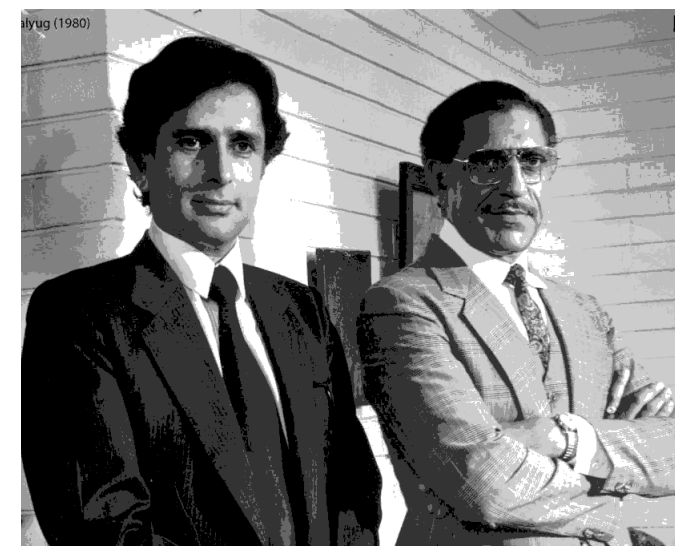
In a conversation with renowned filmmaker Shyam Benegal in 2010, I delved into the complexities of Bollywood's villains and anti-heroes while working on my book, *Pure Evil – The Bad Men of Bollywood*. Benegal, a master of nuanced storytelling, shared his insights into the evolving nature of characters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



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."

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.



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.

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.



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

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

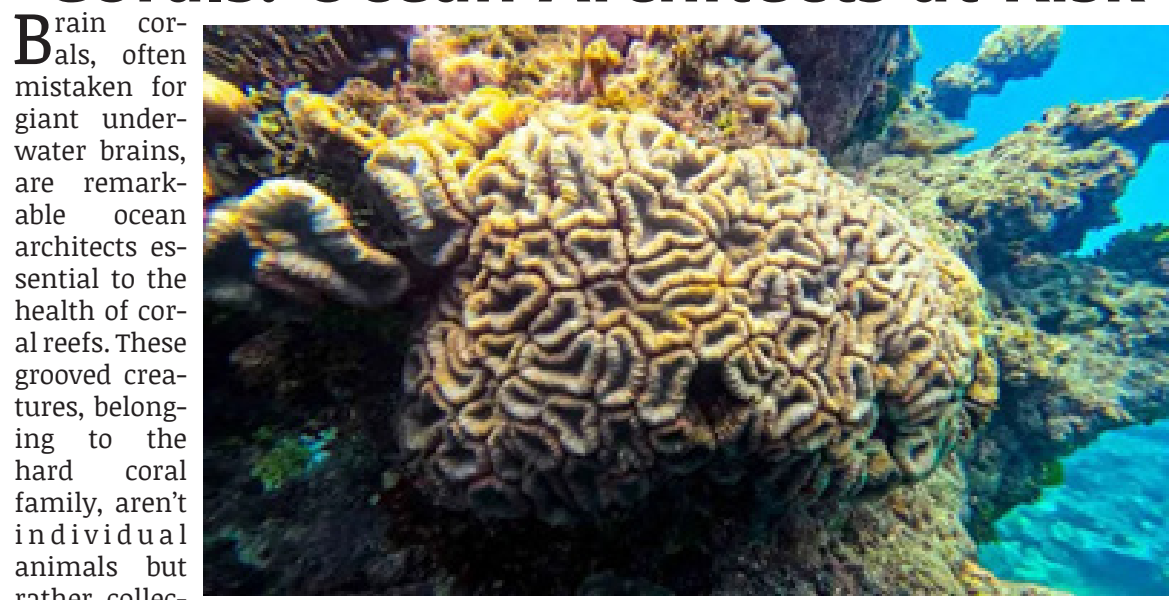
percent of the world's oil and LNG shipments. Despite these risks, the IEA suggests that easing market balances and slowing oil demand growth could help stabilize prices in the long run.

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.

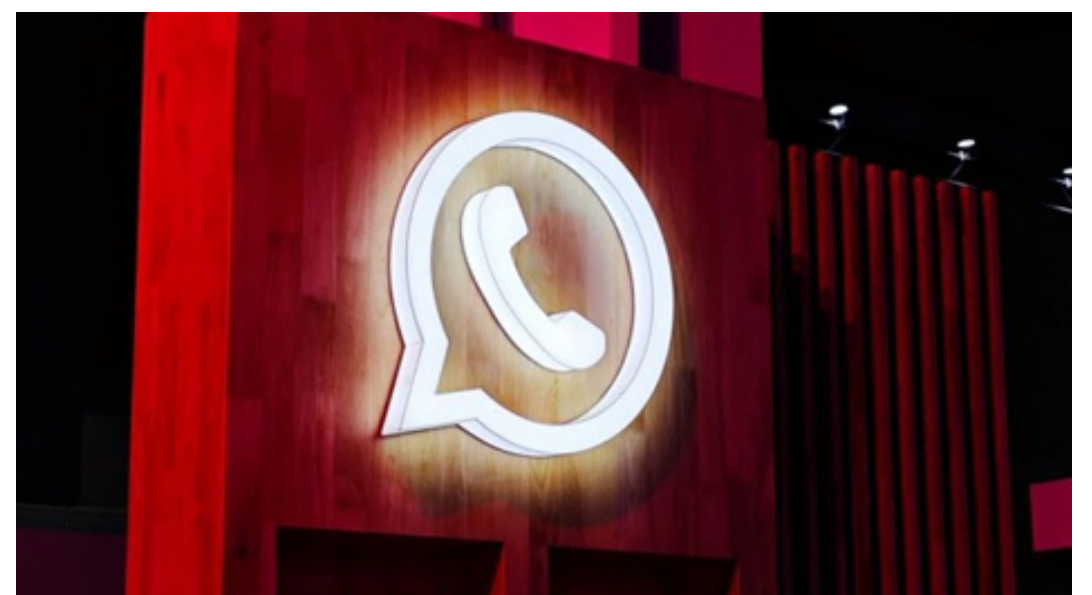
Medhansh Trivedi's creation showcases the talent and innovative spirit of young minds, highlighting the potential for future advancements in drone technology. His achievement is a testament to the power of curiosity and determination in pursuing groundbreaking ideas.

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

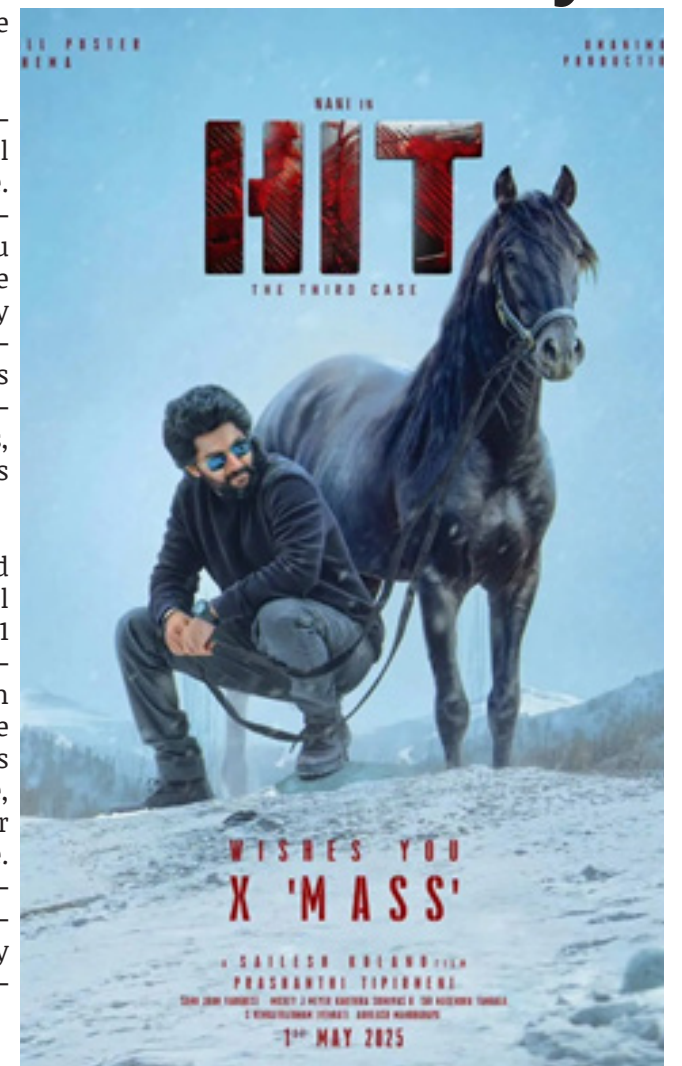
Nani's much-awaited film **Hit: The Third Case** is all set to be the third installment in the highly successful **Hit** movie franchise. Directed by Shailesh Kolanu and produced by Prashanthi Tipirneni, this crime thriller promises to elevate the gripping saga of the **Hit** universe. Nani takes on 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.