

POINT

Weather Forecast

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

Published from : Vijayawada - Hyderabad

Sunday, 29th December, 2024 | 12 Pages

Perni Nani Denies Escape Allegations, Calls Out False Propaganda



TPN Correspondent Tadepalli, Dec 29

Former minister and YSRCP leader Perni Nani refuted allegations of fleeing, asserting that he has been in Machilipatnam for three days since December 15. Speaking to the media in Tadepalli, Nani clarified that his absence from the public eye was based on legal advice from his lawyers. Expressing frustration, Nani criticized the rampant rumors on social media, which he claimed overshadowed the ongoing police investigation. "I have not escaped anywhere. False propaganda is being spread against me, and I am being portrayed as a thief even before the facts are established," he remarked.

The former minister revealed that rice bags stored in his godown had decreased, and he had already made payments in cash. However, he alleged that cases were filed against him as part of a deliberate conspiracy. Perni Nani further accused certain groups of plotting his and his son's arrest by January 2. "There is more noise on social media than clarity in the police investigation," he said, adding that he is unable to comment on all issues due to the pending verdict on his bail petition, expected on December 30. He expressed concern over being unfairly targeted, claiming that the accusations against him are more intense than those directed at his party leader, Chief Minister Jagan Mohan Reddy.

Nani's statement comes amid growing scrutiny and legal battles, adding a new dimension to the political tensions in the state. He urged the public to await the legal outcomes before drawing conclusions.

"Jagan, Control Your People... Don't Test My Patience"

DY CM Inspects Galiveedu MPDO Office

TPN Correspondent Kadapa, Dec 29

Deputy Chief Minister Pawan Kalyan took a firm stance against alleged attacks on government officials by YSR Congress Party (YSRCP) leaders, warning that such behavior would no longer be tolerated. He was addressing the media after inspecting the MPDO office in Galiveedu village, where MPDO Jawahar Babu was reportedly attacked and severely injured by YSRCP leader Sudarshan Reddy. Pawan Kalyan first visited Kadapa RIMS Hospital, where Jawahar Babu is undergoing treatment, and assured the injured official of the government's support. Later, during his visit to Galiveedu, he interacted with the staff at the MPDO office, offering them courage and affirming that the government would stand by them.

Speaking to the media, Pawan Kalyan issued a strong warning to YSRCP leaders:

"If anyone dares to oppress government officials or acts with arrogance, they will face severe consequences. I am speaking carefully because I am in power, but do not test my patience."

He criticized the YSRCP's behavior,



highlighting the broader issues of youth unemployment in Rayalaseema and the culture of violence in the region. "On one hand, Rayalaseema youth are migrating to other states for employment, and on the other hand, you continue these acts

of violence. This will not be tolerated." Pawan Kalyan also addressed Chief Minister Y.S. Jagan Mohan Reddy, urging him to control his party members:

"Jagan, tell your leaders to be restrained. This is not about delivering empty speeches or organizing protests. If necessary, I will set up a camp office in Kadapa and ensure that such behavior is corrected."

He assured the public and officials

that all those involved in the attack on MPDO Jawahar Babu would be brought to justice, emphasizing that the government would no longer tolerate any form of lawlessness or dominance. The incident and Pawan Kalyan's response have drawn significant attention, with locals and officials applauding the Deputy CM's firm stance on ensuring accountability and protecting government employees.



PK & Robbin Sharma For TDP's Revival In TG But Why?

2 PAGE

TTD Announces Key Decision on Recommendation Letters for VIP Break Darshans

TPN Correspondent Tirumala, Dec 29

The Tirumala Tirupati Devasthanams (TTD) has made an important announcement regarding Vaikuntha Dwara Darshans. TTD Executive Officer (EO) Shyamala Rao stated that no recommendation letters will be accepted for VIP break darshans for ten days, from January 10 to 19, during the Vaikuntha Dwara Darshan period. Only protocol dignitaries who attend in person will be accommodated for break darshans during this time.

This decision, according to the EO, has been taken to prioritize the access of common devotees during the Vaikuntha Dwara Darshans. Addressing devotees in the Dial Your TTD EO program, EO Shyamala Rao emphasized that arrangements for Vaikuntha Ekadashi have been carefully planned to ensure smooth operations.

He revealed that 1.40 lakh special entry darshan tickets, priced at Rs. 300 each, have been released for the Vaikuntha Dwara Darshans. These darshans will be conducted over a ten-day period, offering devotees an opportunity to experience the divine blessings during this auspicious time.



In addition, the EO announced that room allotments to donors will be suspended from January 8 to 19, to better accommodate the surge in devotees. The Koil Alwar Thirumanjanam ritual is scheduled for January 7, marking the preparations for Vaikuntha Ekadashi. Addressing concerns raised by devotees, the EO acknowledged complaints regarding staff behavior to-

wards the elderly and women. He assured devotees that appropriate measures will be taken to address these issues and ensure a more respectful and supportive environment within the temple premises. This proactive decision reflects the TTD's commitment to enhancing the experience of common devotees and maintaining the sanctity of the Vaikuntha Dwara Darshans.

Pigeon SUPER KHUSH 2025 SALE

India Chooses Pigeon 1 Product Bought Every Second 4Cr Happy Users

<p>Prize Induction Cooking + Cuis 3 Ltrs Stainless Steel Cooker</p> <p>MRP ₹ 4,650/- SALE PRICE ₹ 2,025</p>	<p>Hot 3 Burner Glass Cooking + Impact Cast Iron Tawa 280</p> <p>MRP ₹ 6,024/- SALE PRICE ₹ 2,025</p>	<p>Exella 950W 3 Jar Mixer Grinder + Conely 1600 W Iron</p> <p>MRP ₹ 4,350/- SALE PRICE ₹ 2,025</p>
<p>Favourite 3 Ltr Induction Base Pressure Cooker + Favourite 9 Ltr Induction Base Pressure Cooker + Puro Plus Tawa 280</p> <p>MRP ₹ 4,325/- SALE PRICE ₹ 2,025</p>	<p>Electric 1.8 Ltr Single Pot + Hot Kettle 1.8 Ltrs</p> <p>MRP ₹ 4,140/- SALE PRICE ₹ 2,025</p>	<p>L.SL Swift Multi-Cook Kettle + Poppr Toaster + Inex Hydra Duo Cap 900ml Bottle</p> <p>MRP ₹ 4,130/- SALE PRICE ₹ 2,025</p>
<p>Shine Map + Thermomix Shaker 1000ml Flask + Induction Emergency Lamp + Hot N' Treat Lunch Box Pack of 4</p> <p>MRP ₹ 4,024/- SALE PRICE ₹ 2,025</p>	<p>Zoon Chopper 350 ML + ISI serving Insulated Container 3000 ML + Idly Maker (4 Plates)</p> <p>MRP ₹ 4,024/- SALE PRICE ₹ 2,025</p>	

Sakti Enterprises: 9700759950, 9848432940 Sales: East & West Godavari: Sai Kumar: 9985264716 Krishna District: Eswara Rao: 9963455502 Sree Lakshmi Sai Enterprises Guntur, Prakasham, Nellore: 9963675725 Sales Guntur, Prakasham, Nellore: 9950866753 For Corporate and Bulk Enquiries: 9885733085

Pigeon Exclusive Stores: Vijayawada: Fortune MG Road: 08664066099, Guntur: Broadapeta: 08633501418, Vijayawada: Besant Road: 08664065611 Vijayawada: Sanyamapuram: 08663301233 Vijayawada: Ramavaram: 08663301233 Vijayawada: Muggalaipet: 08663301233 Vijayawada: Machavaram: 08663533996 Eluru: RR Pet: 08812350004 Gudiavada: Main Road: 8674293467 Nellore: GNT Road: 08614014897 Ongole: RTC Bus Stand Centre: 859293229

Open your own Pigeon Exclusive Store, call - 9885144246

For any service related queries, please contact: 6364914202



CM Chandrababu Approves Key Proposals to Strengthen Medical and Health Services

TPN Correspondent
Andhra Pradesh, Dec 29

In a significant move to enhance healthcare services in Andhra Pradesh, Chief Minister Chandrababu Naidu conducted a detailed review of the state's medical and health department on Saturday. During the meeting, the CM approved several key proposals aimed at improving accessibility, efficiency, and the overall quality of healthcare in the state.

Key Approvals and Initiatives:

- **108 Ambulance Services:** The CM approved the purchase of 190 new 108 ambulances, allocating Rs. 60 crore for this initiative. Additionally, he reinstated the provision of an extra Rs. 4,000 per month for 108 drivers, beyond their regular salaries.
- **Mahaprasthanam Vehicles:** Chandrababu approved the expansion of Mahaprasthanam vehicles, which provide free transportation for the bodies of the poor from hospitals.
- **NTR Insurance Scheme:** The CM discussed and approved a proposal to divide the state into two units for better implementation under the NTR Vaidya Seva Scheme. Options to transform the trust-based program into an insurance-based policy were also deliberated.



Strengthening 104 Services: Steps were approved to fortify the 104 ambulance system, ensuring better medical out-

reach in rural areas. The CM emphasized deploying lab technicians in 104 vehicles to perform medical tests directly in villages.

- **Integrated Call Center:** The proposal to manage 108, 104, and NTR insurance scheme services through a unified call center was given the green signal, aiming for streamlined communication and service delivery.
- **Health Cards and Preventive Care:** Chandrababu emphasized the need for preventive healthcare. He suggested introducing health cards for citizens by conducting comprehensive medical tests, including blood tests, through 104 ambulances as a pilot project.
- **AI in Healthcare:** The CM called for leveraging AI technology to provide remote medical assistance, enabling patients to access care without visiting hospitals.

Vision for Healthcare:

Chandrababu reiterated his commitment to delivering quality and affordable healthcare to all citizens. He emphasized that these measures, combined with technology and preventive care, would transform the state's medical sector and ensure equitable access to health services. This comprehensive approach reflects the coalition government's dedication to building a robust healthcare system for the people of Andhra Pradesh.



Minister Narayana Takes Decisive Steps for Amaravati Development

TPN Correspondent
Amaravati, Dec 29

Minister Narayana has announced significant decisions to accelerate the development of Amaravati, criticizing the previous administration's neglect of the region. Speaking at the launch of the 2025 diary under the auspices of NEREDCO, the Minister highlighted his commitment to reviving Amaravati's growth. The event was attended by MP Kesineni Shivanath Chinni, MLAs Bonda Umamaheswara Rao and Yarlagadda Venkat Rao, along with representatives from NEREDCO.

The Minister revealed that committees have been formed to address challenges in town planning and ensure timely completion of development projects. He announced that new policies addressing real estate and construction issues, including cellar regulations, would be unveiled by the end of the month. Highlighting the inefficiencies in the current approval process, he noted plans to implement a single-window clearance system and transition all departmental permissions to an online platform by February.

Narayana expressed frustration with the previous government, accusing YSRCP leader YS Jagan Mohan Reddy of disrupting Amaravati's progress with the three-capitals proposal. He criticized the abandonment of projects worth Rs. 60,000 crore initiated under the earlier administration, which caused significant setbacks to the region's growth.

The Minister outlined ambitious plans to construct official buildings, towers, and wide roads to revive Amaravati's real estate sector and boost the state's overall development. He projected substantial progress within a year and urged stakeholders to actively participate in Amaravati's transformation, expressing confidence that these efforts would ensure the capital's role as a cornerstone of Andhra Pradesh's prosperity.



Minister Nadendla Manohar Clarifies Stance on Civil Supplies Irregularities

TPN Correspondent
Rajanagaram, Dec 29

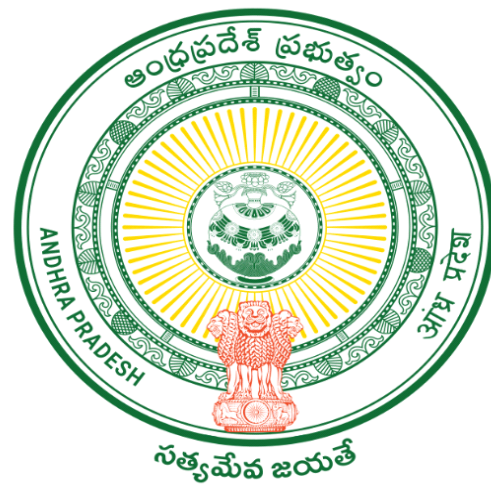
State Food and Civil Supplies Minister Shri Nadendla Manohar reaffirmed the coalition government's commitment to accountability, stating that no action will be taken to gain favor, nor will wrongdoers be spared. Addressing the media during a program to present insurance checks to families of Jana Sena Party members who lost their lives in accidents, the Minister discussed irregularities in the Civil Supplies Department during the previous YSRCP government.

He asserted that the coalition government operates without political bias and dismissed claims of conspiracies against former minister Perni Nani. "We have no personal vendetta or political bias. Institutions must not be misused for personal gain or to increase family wealth," he emphasized.

Highlighting the anarchy during YSRCP's tenure, he detailed a review of state godowns conducted in November. Discrepancies were uncovered, leading to action against individuals linked to irregularities. Referring to Mrs. Jayasudha's admission of mistakes in writing, the Minister noted that the Civil Supplies Department initiated a Rs. 72 crore penalty and criminal proceedings.

Nadendla Manohar questioned why Perni Nani leased a godown in his wife's name rather than his own, implying an intent to misuse power for financial benefit. "Cases will be registered against those whose names are on the leases. The rice that disappeared from the godowns must be accounted for. If it isn't, the responsible parties will face penalties and criminal charges," he warned.

The Minister assured that the investigation would be impartial and thorough, emphasizing that the coalition government aims to restore good governance under the leadership of Chief Minister Chandrababu Naidu and Deputy Chief Minister Pawan Kalyan. He called on Perni Nani to apologize to the public and cooperate fully with the ongoing inquiry, reiterating that no individual involved in malpractice would go unpunished.



AP Govt Announces Major Welfare Schemes for Women and Youth

TPN Correspondent
Andhra Pradesh, Dec 29

The Andhra Pradesh coalition government has unveiled ambitious initiatives aimed at development and welfare, fulfilling its election promises and addressing the needs of women and BC (Backward Classes) communities. Within six months of taking office, the government has revived industries, increased social pensions, reopened Anna canteens, and delivered on promises like three free gas cylinders annually. Now, the government is preparing to launch additional schemes to further empower women and unemployed youth. A major initiative will see 80,000 BC women across the state benefit from free tailoring training as part of a self-employment program. Women who complete 90 days of training will receive sewing machines worth Rs. 24,000 each, enabling them to start their own businesses. Preparations are underway to invite applications through the OBMS portal, with skill development agreements already finalized.

In a move to support unemployed youth, the government is facilitating the establishment of generic medicine shops across towns, cities, and mandals in the state. BC youth with qualifications in B Pharmacy or M Pharmacy will be eligible for loans up to Rs. 8 lakh, with Rs. 4 lakh provided as a subsidy. These shops will not only promote the use of affordable generic medicines but also provide self-employment opportunities to the youth.

PK & Robbin Sharma For TDP's Revival In TG But Why?

TPN Correspondent
Telangana, Dec 29

The Telugu Desam Party (TDP) currently holds a dominant position in Andhra Pradesh, having decisively triumphed over the YSR Congress in recent elections. With its victory in the state, the party's revival seems unlikely anytime soon for the opposition. However, Chandrababu Naidu is now turning his attention to rejuvenating the party's presence in Telangana. Sources reveal that Prashant Kishor and Robbin Sharma's political strategy firm, Showtime, has presented an extensive plan for this revival to Naidu and Nara Lokesh.

The first phase of this plan will be launched in Mahbubnagar, marking the initial step in re-establishing the party's foothold in Telangana. Naidu is confident that the next Telangana Assembly Elections will be a tightly contested three-way battle, where TDP's support could prove pivotal. Strengthening TDP in both Telugu states is seen as a key move, especially with the potential for a hung verdict in the upcoming General Elections. Although reviving the party in Telangana is a challenging task, even a small gain in the region could be significant. With TDP firmly in control of Andhra Pradesh, Naidu feels he can afford to experiment with his party's prospects in Telangana. The upcoming GHMC elections in 2025 are expected to serve as a crucial test for TDP's resurgence. In the previous election, TDP's traditional supporters shifted their allegiance to Congress, largely due to their admiration for Revanth Reddy.

Additionally, the "Telangana Sentiment" factor seems to have faded in 2023 following BRS's defeat. Voters in the state appear to have focused on other issues rather than the sentiment that once dominated the political landscape. This shift in priorities could provide TDP with a unique opportunity to test the waters and make a calculated entry, as Naidu sees it.

No Such Thing as Digital Arrest, Warns AP DGP Dwaraka Tirumala Rao

TPN Correspondent
Andhra Pradesh, Dec 29



Andhra Pradesh Director General of Police (DGP) Dwaraka Tirumala Rao has cautioned the public against falling prey to cyber fraudsters threatening individuals under the guise of "digital arrest." Addressing the media, he clarified that no legal framework exists for digital arrest and urged people to disregard such claims.

Highlighting the alarming rise in cyber crimes, the DGP disclosed that 916 cases of cyber fraud were registered in 2024, with fraudsters embezzling approximately Rs. 1,229 crore. To combat this surge, cyber crime police stations will be established in every district of Andhra Pradesh.

The DGP also revealed that 572 cases have been filed for posting objectionable content on social media, with "cyber sheets" to be opened against offend-

ers, modeled after traditional "rowdy sheets."

Efforts are underway to strengthen public safety, with plans to connect 1 lakh CCTV cameras to the Command Control Office by March 31. Currently, 25,000 cameras are operational. The state has also introduced the "Eagle" system to address drug-related cases, particularly focusing on encouraging tribal communities to transition from ganja cultivation to alternative crops.

In a pioneering move, Andhra Pradesh has launched "Smart Police AI," a technology aimed at enhancing efficiency in crime registration, case investigation, and traffic management. The Eluru district police are leading this initiative, with Vijayawada set to benefit from AI-driven traffic and congestion control systems. The DGP also confirmed an ongoing investigation into the infiltration of a fake IPS officer into Deputy CM Pawan Kalyan's security team.



MLA Gorantla Butchaiah Chowdary Warns to YCP Leaders

Investigation Into Land Grabbing Under Jagan's Rule

TPN Correspondent

Rajahmundry, Dec 29

MLA Gorantla Butchaiah Chowdary has issued a stern warning, alleging that widespread land grabbing occurred under YSRCP chief Jagan Mohan Reddy's rule. He announced that the coalition government would initiate a thorough investigation into these irregularities.

Speaking to the media in Rajahmundry on Saturday, Chowdary accused Jagan of weakening key systems and running the state like a dictator. "Jagan has done no significant development work in the past five years. His wrong policies have led to electricity charges skyrocketing and the closure of industries," he said.

The MLA claimed that electricity production decreased due to the purchase of substandard coal, forcing the government to buy power at exorbitant prices. He also alleged that YSRCP leaders purchased transformers at inflated rates, adding to the financial burden on the people. "It is shameful for YSRCP leaders to hold dharnas over electricity charges when their policies caused the crisis," Chowdary remarked. Highlighting the coalition government's achievements, he noted that increased pensions were provided immediately after it came to power, and job recruitment began within six months. He assured the public that electricity charges would be reduced in the coming days. Chowdary also accused Jagan of accepting bribes in solar power projects and vowed to investigate all allega-



tions of land grabbing during his tenure. "The people gave the coalition leaders a massive mandate because they were fed up with the YSRCP's irregularities," he said, emphasizing the public's trust in the new government.

This fiery address by MLA Gorantla Butchaiah Chowdary highlights the coalition government's intent to address alleged corruption and mismanagement under Jagan's rule, setting the stage for further political confrontations in Andhra Pradesh.

MLA Somireddy Chandramohan Reddy Vows to Expose Land Scams Under YSRCP Rule

TPN Correspondent

Nellore, Dec 29

Sarvepalli MLA Somireddy Chandramohan Reddy has alleged massive irregularities in land management during the YSRCP government, resulting in a loss of hundreds of crores of rupees. During his visit to Muthukur on Saturday, Somireddy addressed the media, vowing to expose the corruption in assigned lands, benami pattas, and DKT lands under Chief Minister Jagan Mohan Reddy's rule.

Somireddy accused the YSRCP government of turning Andhra Pradesh into a "hotbed of corruption" through the misuse of the Land Titling Act. "The act has facilitated large-scale irregularities, including the misuse of survey stones that even featured Jagan's image," he said.



Highlighting the actions of the previous TDP government, Somireddy stated that the Land Titling Act was repealed when Chandrababu Naidu was in power, signaling a commitment to transparency and accountability. He alleged that the land scam extended to his constituency, Sarvepalli, and was executed on a grand scale. "We will expose every irregularity committed under the guise of land policies. Those responsible will face the consequences and go to jail," he warned. The MLA's remarks reflect the intensifying scrutiny of the YSRCP's governance, particularly in land management. With promises of transparency and justice, Somireddy Chandramohan Reddy's statements add momentum to the opposition's call for ac-

countability in Andhra Pradesh.

MLA Daggubati Venkateswara Prasad Slams YSRCP Over Electricity Charges

TPN Correspondent

Anantapur, Dec 29

Anantapur Urban MLA Daggubati Venkateswara Prasad has criticized the YSRCP, accusing it of misleading the public and burdening them with skyrocketing electricity charges. Speaking to the media at his office in Anantapur city, the MLA urged the ruling party to stop its "dramas" and address the real issues.

Daggubati suggested that YSRCP leaders should stage protests at Chief Minister Jagan Mohan Reddy's residence rather than on the streets. "If the real facts come to light, people will criticize you even more," he warned.

The MLA accused Jagan of engaging in fraudulent activities and dismantling state systems since coming to power in 2019. "The root cause of the electricity charge hikes lies with Jagan's corrupt policies," he said, adding that the burden on the people of Andhra Pradesh due to his corruption amounts to ₹1.29 lakh crore.

Recalling the TDP government's achievements, Daggubati pointed out that when Chandrababu Naidu assumed office in 2014, there was a deficit of 22.5 million units of electricity. However, by the time the TDP left power in 2019, the state had a surplus of electricity. "To-



day, under Jagan's rule, the state faces a power shortage due to corruption and nepotism," he alleged.

He further revealed that electricity tariffs have been raised ten times in the past five years, directly burdening the people with ₹32,000 crore. Daggubati criticized the YSRCP for orchestrating "war dramas" and misleading the public with deceitful claims.

"People are observing everything, and no one is willing to believe the lies of YSRCP leaders anymore," he remarked, expressing confidence that the truth will prevail.

Botsa Satyanarayana Slams Film Celebrities and Criticizes Political Hypocrisy

TPN Correspondent

Visakhapatnam, Dec 29

YSRCP Opposition leader in the council and former minister Botsa Satyanarayana has made sharp remarks regarding film celebrities and political leaders, questioning their actions and motives in recent events.

Speaking on Saturday, Botsa accused film celebrities of opportunism, citing their meetings with YSRCP chief Jagan Mohan Reddy in the past and Telangana Chief Minister Revanth Reddy now. "People perceive those in the film industry as opportunists," he remarked. He clarified that he had never given any directives on benefit shows for films, leaving it to individual discretion.

Botsa criticized AP Deputy Chief Minister Pawan Kalyan, questioning why he is silent on the government's alleged wrongdoings despite previously claiming he would act against them. Referring to an incident involving a fake IPS officer during Pawan Kalyan's tour, Botsa questioned the handling of the situation and mocked the police for taking photos with the impostor.

He also accused the Telugu Desam Party (TDP) of fabricating allegations against Minister Kondapalli Srinivas. "TDP leaders create controversies where none exist. Minister Srinivas is my political opponent who won against my brother, but baseless cam-



paigns against him are unacceptable," he said.

Turning his attention to AP DGP Dwaraka Tirumala Rao, Botsa criticized his leadership, alleging that the DGP is hesitant to take firm actions and even reluctant to answer calls. "The DGP seems to have forgotten his role after assuming office," he said. On Jamili elections, Botsa clarified that Chandrababu Naidu had spoken about them in the past, but the YSRCP has never addressed the topic. He also criticized BJP AP President Purandeshwari for her inconsistent statements, accusing her of diverting attention from pressing issues.

Botsa's comments have sparked fresh debates, reflecting the ongoing tensions between political and cinematic personalities in Andhra Pradesh.

Former Minister Kakani Alleges Corruption by Sarvepalli MLA Somireddy

TPN Correspondent

Nellore, Dec 29

Former Minister Kakani Govardhan Reddy has made scathing allegations against Sarvepalli MLA Somireddy Chandramohan Reddy, challenging him to swear at the Kanipakam temple to prove his innocence regarding corruption charges.

Speaking in Nellore, Kakani expressed gratitude to leaders and in-charges who supported the agitation against the hike in electricity charges, calling the protest a success despite police restrictions and officials' resistance. "The struggle in the united Nellore district was successful, thanks to the collective efforts of all involved," he said. Kakani reiterated his challenge to Somireddy, accusing him of evading accountability. "Two weeks ago, I dared him to take an oath at Kanipakam temple to prove he has not indulged in corruption. Until now, he has not responded," Kakani stated.



He further alleged that Somireddy demanded ₹5 crores from Aurobindo, sought money from investors in ventures, and collected funds from irrigation officials under the pretext of vigilance investigations. "If his WhatsApp call records are revealed, everything will come to

light," Kakani claimed.

The former minister also urged TDP chief Chandrababu Naidu to instruct Somireddy to take the oath at Kanipakam. "Somireddy has committed several irregularities in employee transfers, soil and sand allocations, and irrigation works. A prominent individual even approached the Chief Minister offering gold for an appointment," he added.

Kakani's statements have intensified the political discourse in the region, raising questions about the alleged misconduct of public representatives. Whether Somireddy responds to the challenge remains to be seen.

BJP Demands Inquiry into Tirumala Parakamani Case

TPN Correspondent

Andhra Pradesh, Dec 29

A BJP delegation has called for an in-depth investigation into the Tirumala Parakamani case, alleging misappropriation of over ₹100 crore and accusing officials of negligence and corruption. The delegation, including BJP leaders Pathuri Nagabhushanam, Tirupati Governing Council member Bhanu Prakash Reddy, and Minority Morcha State President Sheikh Baji, met Andhra Pradesh DGP Dwaraka Tirumala Rao on Saturday to submit a petition demanding action.

Addressing the media after the meeting, Bhanu Prakash Reddy raised questions about a police officer who allegedly pressured the TTD (Tirumala Tirupati Devasthanams) during the previous government to compromise on the case. He alleged that Ravi Kumar, a clerk-level employee, was caught stealing from Parakamani but managed to amass crores of rupees in assets, raising suspicions of collusion. Reddy accused certain board members and officials of shielding Ravi Kumar instead of recovering the looted money. "Some land thieves even conspired to claim shares in the loot. There are new RRRs involved, and their names



will be exposed soon," he warned.

He criticized the YSRCP government for turning the police and administrative services into tools for their political agenda, claiming that temples are being looted under their rule. Reddy expressed anger over the negligence of the previous government in addressing this issue, demanding accountability for all involved.

The BJP leader assured that the current TTD EO Vigilance has already initiated a probe into the matter. "Those who have stolen the property of the Swami will face punishment," Reddy asserted.

The Tirumala Parakamani case continues to spark outrage, with the BJP intensifying its calls for transparency and justice in safeguarding temple funds and assets.

Mega Vikasith Job Mela in Vijayawada Attracts Thousands of Candidates



TPN Correspondent
Vijayawada, Dec 29

The Mega Vikasith Job Mela held in Vijayawada saw an overwhelming response as 60 companies participated, offering employment opportunities to job seekers. The event was inaugurated by Vijayawada MP Kesineni Chinni, along with MLAs Bonda Umamaheswara Rao, Gadde Rammohan Rao, and other TDP leaders as guest guests. The event drew a large number of candidates, with 2,000 individuals registering online and an additional 3,000 registering offline. Speaking at the event, MP Kesineni Chinni emphasized that while the state has faced challenges, having Chandrababu Naidu as Chief Minister has proven beneficial. He highlighted the credit due to Naidu for building two major cities, Hyderabad and Amaravati, and discussed the importance of setting up industries to drive job creation. He

also announced that a job fair would be organized in every constituency and emphasized that not only IT professionals but also students with a 10th-grade education should have access to job opportunities. MLA Gadde Rammohan Rao spoke about the vision of their leader, Chandrababu Naidu, who believes in youth empowerment as a means of national development. He reiterated that the job fair is part of this vision to provide employment to the youth in their parliamentary constituency. MLA Bonda Umamaheswara Rao expressed his gratitude to MP Kesineni Chinni for organizing the job fair and praised Naidu's efforts to bring IT companies to the state, including the establishment of HCL. He assured the public that more job fairs would be organized, continuing their efforts to provide employment opportunities to the youth.

NTR District Development Welfare is the Goal, Says MLA Sujana Chowdhury

TPN Correspondent
Vijayawada, Dec 29

MLA Sujana Chowdhury emphasized the commitment of the coalition government to the development and welfare of the state during the foundation stone-laying ceremony for various development works in the Western Constituency. The event took place on Saturday, marking a significant step toward improving local infrastructure.

The foundation stone for a primary health center worth Rs. 40 lakh was laid at Alla Nagayya Street in the 48th division. In the 49th division, development works included retaining walls at a cost of Rs. 45 lakh in the hill area of Veerayya Street and CC road construction at Rs. 22 lakh in Nanne Saheb Street. In his address, MLA Sujana Chowdhury stated that the coalition government was focused on the development of every division in the constituency. He added that plans for further improvements were underway, with the full support of Municipal Affairs Minister Narayana. He emphasized that the government's goal was to improve public welfare across the state. Locals have expressed their satisfaction with the development initiatives, which they believe will bring lasting improvements to their communi-



ties. The ceremony was attended by notable figures, including NTR District BJP President Adduri Sri-ram, Corporators Bulla Vijay, Atthuluri Adilakshmi Pedababu, Marupilla Rajesh, Mahadev Appaji Rao, Uttukku Venkateswara Rao, Mailavarapu Durga Rao, Arshad, Badugu Venkanna, Palle Pogu Prasad, and Jyotirmayi. The ongoing development works have been welcomed by the community, who are hopeful for a brighter future under the coalition government's leadership.

6th World Telugu Writers' Conference Begins in Vijayawada with Grand Opening

TPN Correspondent
Vijayawada, Dec 29

The 6th World Telugu Writers' Conference commenced with a grand opening in Vijayawada, aimed at preserving and promoting the Telugu language for future generations. The event began with a ceremonial lighting of the Jyoti by former Chief Justice of the Supreme Court, Justice N.V. Ramana, and Margadarshi MD, Sailaja Kiran.

Before the conference proceedings, the dignitaries paid homage to the statue of Telugu Mother. Notable personalities including MLAs Sujana Chowdhury and Mandali Buddha Prasad, Vishvahindi Parishad National President Acharya Yarlagadda Lakshmi Prasad, Eenadu AP Editor M. Nageswara Rao, Telangana Legislative Council Member Poet Gorati Venkanna, and Acharya Kolakaluri Inak were present at the event.

The guests also explored a photo exhibition showcasing the works of Telugu luminaries set up in the assembly premises. Over 1,500 poets, writers, and language enthusiasts from



across India and abroad have gathered for this two-day conference being held at the K.B.N. College premises.

The conference, organized under the joint auspices of the World Telugu Writers' Association, Krishna District Writers' Association, and K.B.N. College, has three stages in place, including the main Cherukuri Ramoji Rao stage at the Potti Sriramulu Sabha premises, for conferences, poetry recitations, and literary gatherings. The event emphasizes the significance of preserving Telugu and fostering its cultural heritage for the coming generations.

Elder Son and Daughter-in-Law Arrested for Mother's Murder Over Gold

TPN Correspondent
Vijayawada, Dec 29

In a shocking incident, the elder son and daughter-in-law of a 62-year-old woman have been arrested for her murder after they allegedly killed her for her gold ornaments. The crime, which took place in the Madhuranagar area under Gunadala Police Station, was exposed following a complaint lodged by the deceased's younger son.

On the morning of December 26, 2024, the complainant, residing in Devinagar, reported to Gunadala Police Station that his mother, Maa Lakshmi, was found dead in her home. However, upon inspection, it was discovered that the gold ornaments which she had been wearing were missing. Suspecting foul play, the complainant raised doubts, leading to the registration of a case under Crime No. 209/2024, section 194 BNSS.

The investigation was swiftly launched under the supervision of City Police Commissioner Sri S.V. Rajasekhara Babu IPS and DCP Sri Gautami Shali IPS. Gunadala Inspector Vasireddy Srinivas, with the assistance of SI Rakhib and their team, began questioning local residents. It was revealed that the elder son, Sambasivarao, along with his wife Vani, had visited his mother the night of the incident and had an argument over property. They did not attend the funeral, which further aroused suspicion. On December 27, 2024, acting on specific intelligence, the police apprehended the accused at Vijayawada Railway Station. The couple, identified as Sambasivarao (43) and Vani (35), both from Mangalagiri in Guntur district, were arrested after the stolen gold worth ap-



proximately 4 lakh rupees was recovered from them.

During the interrogation, it was revealed that Sambasivarao, who had been facing financial difficulties after a paralysis diagnosis, demanded his share of the family property and money from his mother. When she refused, he, along with his wife, decided to kill her. On the night of December 25, Sambasivarao suffocated his mother with a pillow while his wife held her legs. After confirming her death, they stole the gold ornaments and fled the scene. The police acted swiftly after receiving information from the younger son of the deceased. Fearful of being caught, the couple attempted to flee to Hyderabad, but were arrested before they could leave the city.

Police Commissioner Sri S.V. Rajasekhara Babu IPS congratulated the Gunadala Police team for solving the case in just two days and recovering the stolen property. Central ACP Sri Damodar, Gunadala Inspector Vasireddy Srinivas, SI Rakhib, and their staff were instrumental in cracking this case.

Encroachments and Illegal Dwakra Bazaar Operations at Swarajya Maidan in Vijayawada

TPN Correspondent
Vijayawada, Dec 29

Kota Devaki Devi has come under scrutiny for running a Dwakra Bazaar without government permission at Swarajya Maidan, a prominent location where a 125-foot statue of Dr. B.R. Ambedkar was installed by the previous government. Devaki Devi is reportedly operating this market illegally, allegedly exploiting Dwakra women by charging them for stalls at the event.

The Dwakra Bazaar, which is running for 55 days, has approximately 150 stalls, with 50 stalls allocated to local Dwakra women and the remaining 100 stalls set up by individuals from outside the state. According to reports, local women are charged Rs. 1,000 per stall per day, while outsiders are charged Rs. 2,000 per stall per day. It is claimed that around Rs. 85 lakh will be collected from the Dwakra women alone during the 55-day event, with an additional Rs. 15 lakh reportedly collected from canteen operators, totaling nearly Rs. 1 crore. These funds are allegedly being deposited into Devaki Devi's account.

Despite the massive sums involved, there is no official approval for this event. The Abhyudaya Dwakra State Committee, under whose banner this bazaar is being run,



has not provided any evidence of government authorization. There are also concerns about safety hazards, as the Dwakra Bazaar lacks fire safety measures or precautionary plans for accidents.

Moreover, Devaki Devi has claimed close ties with CM Chandrababu Naidu, showing photographs to suggest that the CM is a personal acquaintance, which she uses to justify the operation of the bazaar. She has reportedly been using her influence to bypass authorities, stating that she and others in her circle can force government officials, including collectors, to comply with their demands.

The Swarajya Maidan, which was handed over to the Social Welfare Department under the previous government for the installation of the Ambedkar statue, is meant to remain free of any construction. Despite this, Devaki Devi's encroachments have raised serious concerns regarding illegal activity and potential corruption associated with the operation of the Dwakra Bazaar.

As the controversy surrounding the illegal market continues, questions are being raised about the involvement of government officials and the accountability of those operating the bazaar.

Uyyuru CI Rama Rao Holds Awareness Conference at Vishwashanti School

TPN Correspondent
Uyyuru, Dec 29

In a special awareness conference held at Vishwashanti School, Uyyuru Circle Inspector (CI) Rama Rao addressed the students, urging them to stay focused on their studies and avoid falling prey to negative distractions. Speaking to the young minds, he emphasized the importance of setting clear goals and working towards them with dedication.

CI Rama Rao highlighted the various challenges that students might face during their academic journey, including the temptations of bad influences. He advised the students to resist these distractions and stay focused on their studies, stressing that the future holds great opportunities, particularly for women, who will have prominent roles in every field. "Every woman will need to be financially stable, and education will be the key to achieving that," he said.

Encouraging students to reduce mobile phone use, stay away from social media, and develop a habit of reading books, Rama Rao urged them to also take an interest in subjects like artificial intelligence, current affairs, and scientific ad-



vancements. These fields, he said, would help them stay ahead in the fast-evolving world.

The session also included a talk by Krishna District SP R Gangadhar Rao IPS, who shared valuable information about the Shakti Team, a specialized force dedicated to protecting women. SP Gangadhar assured the students that the Shakti Team is always available to help, especially in cases of eve-teasing or any other distressing situations. He encouraged the students to immediately report any such incidents, ensuring their safety and well-being.

The event aimed to inspire students to make informed decisions, stay focused, and contribute to their community's growth.

POCSO Case Filed Against Nadukuru School Principal for Misbehaving with Student



TPN Correspondent, Parvathipuram Manyam District : A POCSO (Protection of Children from Sexual Offences) case has been registered against the principal of a private school in Nadukuru village, Veeraghattam mandal, for allegedly misbehaving with a sixth-grade student.

According to reports, the principal was accused of inappropriately touching the student. Upon learning of the incident, the student's parents filed a formal complaint

with the local police. The police swiftly visited the school, interrogated the teacher, and subsequently took him into custody. A POCSO case was registered against the school principal, who now faces serious legal consequences.

The incident has raised concerns about student safety, prompting calls for swift justice and stronger measures to ensure the protection of children in educational institutions.

Home Minister Anitha Inaugurates Mega Job Fair in Payakaraopet



TPN Correspondent, Payakaraopet : Home Minister Vangalapudi Anitha emphasized the importance of youth in shaping the nation's future during the inauguration of a mega job fair at Sri Prakash College in Payakaraopet. She addressed the gathered students, highlighting the struggles of parents who work hard to provide their children with higher education, despite financial constraints.

for development. Anitha further assured the students that Payakaraopet is home to untapped potential, describing it as a place where "gems lie in the soil."

Encouraging students to stay motivated, she promised another job fair in three months for those who were unable to secure positions.

Anitha acknowledged the widespread issue of unemployment faced by on Saturday's youth and reiterated her commitment to providing job opportunities. "In the last election, I promised to provide employment to our youth, and as promised, this mega job fair is a step towards fulfilling that promise," she stated.

Reflecting on the past, Anitha pointed out that during the previous government's five years, not a single company had set up operations in Payakaraopet constituency. "Now, a significant number of companies are coming, including a steel plant in Nakkapalli, which will create ample job opportunities for the youth in our area," she said.

She expressed hope that the presence of companies at the fair would offer students a brighter future and mentioned that farmers had provided valuable land

The mega job fair is expected to offer numerous opportunities for students in the region, marking a major step towards addressing local unemployment and fostering economic growth.

Tragedy Strikes in Kadapa District as Young Farmer and Family Commit Suicide

TPN Correspondent, Kadapa Dist : A heartbreaking tragedy unfolded in Kadapa district when a young farmer, unable to repay his mounting debts, took his own life along with his wife and children. The deceased, identified as Nagendra, a farmer from Diddekunta village in Simhadripuram mandal, had taken loans to cultivate a sugarcane garden, hoping for a prosperous harvest. Unfortunately, the poor yield left him financially strained, and the mounting pressure from lenders became unbearable. Reports indicate that Nagendra, overwhelmed by the financial stress, tragically hanged his wife, Vani, and children, Gayatri and



Bhargav, before taking his own life. The family's bodies were discovered in their sugarcane garden, prompting villagers to immediately notify the police.

Upon arrival, law enforcement officials examined the scene and sent the bodies for post-mortem. A case has been registered based on a complaint from Nagendra's

relatives, and the investigation is ongoing. This tragic incident has raised concerns about the mental health of farmers under the strain of debt, poor harvests, and pressure from lenders. The loss of an entire family underscores the dire need for improved support systems for farmers facing financial distress.

Fake IPS Officer Poses as Security Personnel During Pawan Kalyan's Visit; Arrested by Police

TPN Correspondent, Vizianagaram : A major security lapse occurred during Pawan Kalyan's recent visit to Pachipenta mandal in the Saluru constituency, when an individual posing as an IPS officer was spotted among the security personnel. The person, identified as Baliwada Surya Prakash from Garividi mandal, was seen standing behind Pawan Kalyan and later posing for photos with lower-level staff. The incident raised serious concerns, prompting the Manyam



district police to launch an inquiry after the photos surfaced. The matter was taken up by higher authorities, and the Vizianagaram rural police arrested Surya Prakash last night.

Deputy Chief Minister Manyam and Home Minister Anita expressed their anger over the security lapses, given that Pawan Kalyan was accompanied by Y-category security. The Home Minister has ordered a comprehensive inquiry into the matter to ensure such incidents do not occur in the future. The police are continuing their investigation to understand how Surya Prakash managed to infiltrate the security and whether others were involved in the incident.

Chaos Erupts in Guntur Chamber of Commerce Elections Amid Allegations of Fraudulent Voting

TPN Correspondent, Guntur : The Guntur Chamber of Commerce elections have turned chaotic amid serious allegations of fraudulent voting and misconduct.

A section of businessmen has raised concerns over the voting process, claiming that votes are being cast without proper identification cards, which has sparked widespread anger. Another group of businessmen is accusing former president Atukuri Anjineyulu, who is currently serving as the election officer, of helping one particular



group during the election, further intensifying the dispute. Protests erupted as slogans were raised against Atukuri Anjineyulu, with voters expressing frustration

over what they perceive as biased and unfair practices during the election. Despite the growing tensions, voting continues in the Chamber of Commerce building.

The allegations of electoral malpractice have caused significant unrest among the business community in Guntur, casting a shadow over the legitimacy of the election process. The situation remains tense as voting progresses, with calls for transparency and accountability in the election management.

Inter-District Gang of Thieves Arrested in Adoni; Gold and Cash Seized

TPN Correspondent, Adoni : The Adoni 1 Town Police have successfully arrested members of an inter-district gang of thieves involved in a series of robberies across multiple districts. The police seized 80 grams of gold and Rs 1.76 lakh in cash from the accused, with a total value of approximately Rs 8 lakh in stolen goods.



Adoni DSP Somanna confirmed the arrests, revealing that two suspects have been remanded, while two other gang members are still on the run. The thieves are believed to have been involved in thefts across Kurnool, Nandyal, Anantapur, and Nellore districts.

The police are continuing their investigation and efforts to apprehend the remaining suspects, as the gang's theft operations have affected several regions. The authorities are expected to intensify their search and crack down on any further criminal activities linked to this gang.

The police are continuing their investigation

TDP MLC Bhumireddy Ramgopal Reddy Boycotts Pulivendula Municipality Meeting

TPN Correspondent, Pulivendula : TDP MLC Bhumireddy Ramgopal Reddy staged a dharna in front of the Pulivendula Municipal Office on Saturday after boycotting the scheduled Municipality Council meeting. Ramgopal Reddy arrived at the meeting hall as per the schedule, but by 10:30 AM, neither the municipality officials nor the councilors had attended the meeting. Frustrated with the delay and lack of at-

tendance, the MLC decided to boycott the session. He then staged a protest outside the Municipal Office to highlight the issue. The absence of officials and council members prompted Ramgopal Reddy to express his dissatisfaction with the functioning of the municipality. He criticized the lack of coordination and adherence to schedules, calling it an example of poor governance and administrative inefficiency.



Ramgopal Reddy's protest has drawn attention to the ongoing concerns regarding the functioning of the Pulivendula Municipality, with questions being raised about the commitment of local officials to carry out their duties effectively. The issue reflects growing discontent within the political circles regarding the municipal administration's operations.

Janasena Responds to YSRCP Protest Against Electricity Charges Increase in Cheepurupalli

TPN Correspondent, Cheepurupalli : Janasena Party In-charge VCini Giri Srinivasaravu has criticized the YSRCP's recent protest against the rise in electricity charges, accusing them of hypocrisy and irresponsibility.

Speaking to the media, Srinivasaravu pointed out the repeated price hikes under Chief Minister Jaganmohan Reddy's leadership and questioned the rationale behind imposing meters on farmers' fields and burdening the poor

with increased costs. He expressed concern over the government's actions, stating, "How is it reasonable to increase prices for farmers and the poor, while imposing outdated subsidies on them?" He also remarked that the YSRCP, which had benefited financially, seemed to ignore the needs of the opposition and public welfare.

Srinivasaravu further warned Jaganmohan Reddy, urging him to either cooperate with the development efforts of the coalition gov-

ernment or remain silent instead of making baseless allegations. He suggested that if Jagan continues to make false accusations, his party may lose its influence, failing to secure more than 11 seats in the next elections.

He also accused the YSRCP of trying to tarnish the image of the coalition government by focusing on irrelevant issues, and cautioned them that such actions would send a negative message to the people.





Choice Of Manmohan Singh Funeral Site An "Insult", Says Rahul Gandhi; BJP Hits Back



The controversy surrounding the site chosen for Dr. Manmohan Singh's last rites took a political turn today after Congress leader Rahul Gandhi accused the government of showing disrespect to the former prime minister. Dr. Singh, who passed away on December 26 at the age of 92, was cremated at Nigambodh Ghat in Delhi with full state honours. However, the location sparked a row, with Gandhi suggesting it was an "insult" to Singh's legacy.

Rahul Gandhi, the Leader of the Opposition in the Lok Sabha, took to social media to express his displeasure, questioning the decision to conduct Dr. Singh's funeral at Nigambodh Ghat. He claimed the site was not in keeping with the tradition of giving former prime ministers a dignified memorial. "The great son of Mother India and the first Prime Minister from the Sikh community, Dr. Manmohan Singh ji, has been insulted by this government. His last rites were performed at Nigambodh Ghat today, which is a disrespectful departure from past practices," Gandhi wrote on X.

Gandhi emphasized that previous prime ministers had been given dignified memorials where people could pay homage with ease. "Dr. Singh, who served as prime minister for a decade and helped elevate India's economic standing, deserves far more. His policies continue to benefit the poor and marginalized sections of our society, and yet he was not afforded the respect he was due," he added, calling for a memorial to honor Singh's contributions to the nation.

In response, the BJP quickly rebuked Gandhi's comments, accusing him of politicizing the issue on the day of the cremation. BJP spokesperson

Sambit Patra dismissed Gandhi's criticism, labeling it a new low in Indian politics. "Rahul Gandhi's remarks are shameful, especially considering that the cabinet, following Dr. Singh's death, decided to honor him with a memorial. A letter was sent to Congress and Dr. Singh's family proposing the creation of this memorial," Patra said during a press conference.

The BJP further accused the Congress party of hypocrisy, pointing to instances in the past where Congress had allegedly shown disrespect toward its own leaders, such as former Prime Minister PV Narasimha Rao and former President Pranab Mukherjee.

Dr. Singh's body was taken to Nigambodh Ghat in a flower-decked vehicle, accompanied by tight security and a large crowd of supporters. Rahul Gandhi walked beside the procession and later participated in carrying the casket to the pyre. The funeral ceremony was attended by several dignitaries, including President Droupadi Murmu, Vice President Jagdeep Dhankhar, and Prime Minister Narendra Modi. Congress leaders Sonia Gandhi, Mallikarjun Kharge, and Jairam Ramesh were present, alongside senior BJP leaders Amit Shah and Rajnath Singh.

Foreign dignitaries also attended the ceremony to pay their respects, including Bhutanese King Jigme Khesar Namgyel Wangchuck and Mauritius Foreign Minister Dhananjay Ramful.

The final rites saw Dr. Singh's eldest daughter, Upinder Singh, light the funeral pyre, as Sikh priests recited Gurbani hymns. The ceremony concluded with a solemn 21-gun salute from the armed forces, honoring Dr. Singh's legacy and contributions to India.



Homelessness in the U.S. Hits Alarming Record

The homelessness crisis in the United States has reached an unprecedented scale, resembling a storm growing silently over the ocean before crashing onto shore with devastating force. According to the U.S. Department of Housing and Urban Development's (HUD) latest report, a staggering 771,480 people were homeless on a single night in January 2024. This marks the highest figure ever recorded and reflects an 18.1% surge compared to the previous year.

This sharp increase sheds light on longstanding systemic issues, including stagnant wages, skyrocketing housing costs, and the lingering impacts of natural disasters. HUD's findings underscore the intersection of economic instability, housing shortages, and climate crises, which together create a perfect storm for those already teetering on the edge of financial security.

The crisis has been especially acute in states like Illinois and Hawaii. Illinois reported a jaw-dropping 116.2% rise in homelessness, primarily driven by an influx of migrants seeking shelter in cities like Chicago. Meanwhile, Hawaii faced an 87% increase in its homeless population due to devastating wildfires that displaced hundreds last year. These statistics highlight the interconnected nature of homelessness, where factors such as economic uncertainty, environmental disasters, and insufficient affordable housing exacerbate an already dire situation.

Adrienne Todman, HUD's Deputy Secretary, has emphasized that "no American should endure homelessness," yet the statistics paint a grim picture. Children and families are bearing the brunt of this crisis, with nearly 150,000 children reported homeless—a 33% increase from 2023. Family homelessness also surged by 40%, driven by mounting financial

pressures and unaffordable rent hikes. The data also reveal stark racial disparities. Black Americans, who make up just 12% of the U.S. population, account for 32% of the homeless population. This alarming disparity underscores the persistent impact of structural racism on housing insecurity, highlighting the urgent need for targeted policies to address racial inequities and promote housing stability.

The homelessness crisis extends beyond mere numbers; it is a humanitarian catastrophe that threatens to reshape the social fabric of the nation. Without significant policy interventions and increased investments in affordable housing, homelessness risks becoming a permanent feature of American life. Measures such as rent control, increased wages, and robust social safety nets could play a pivotal role in reversing the current trajectory.

The situation calls for immediate action to prevent further escalation. Policymakers must prioritize funding for affordable housing projects, expand emergency shelters, and implement programs that address the root causes of homelessness, such as income inequality and inadequate access to mental health services.

As the crisis deepens, its ripple effects could lead to greater social instability and economic strain across communities. The time to act is now. The question remains: will the U.S. rise to meet this challenge, or will homelessness continue to grow unchecked, leaving millions vulnerable to the harsh realities of life without stable shelter? The stakes have never been higher, and the nation's response will define its commitment to addressing one of the most pressing humanitarian issues of our time.

"Fewer Re-Runs Of Friends, More Books": Vivek Ramaswamy On H1B Row

Vivek Ramaswamy, the entrepreneur and former Republican presidential candidate, has weighed in on the ongoing debate over immigration and hiring trends in the U.S. tech sector. His comments, posted on X (formerly Twitter), came amid growing discussions about Indian immigrants' success in the United States and the cultural implications of the H1B visa program. Ramaswamy, who is set to lead the Department of Government Efficiency (DOGE) alongside Elon Musk in the upcoming Donald Trump administration, called for a cultural shift in the U.S. to prioritize excellence, achievement, and hard work over mediocrity.

Ramaswamy, a first-generation U.S. citizen whose parents immigrated from India, argued that the reason many top tech companies hire foreign-born and first-generation engineers is not due to an innate IQ advantage, but a cultural difference. He rejected the idea that these workers are chosen because they are inherently smarter than native-born Americans. Instead, Ramaswamy suggested that it is American culture that needs to change to ensure global competitiveness.

He highlighted a shift in American culture that began in the 1990s, which, according to him, has been more focused on social conformity and popularity than on academic and intellectual excellence. Ramaswamy claimed that American society began to value normalcy and mediocrity over achievement, a trend that is reflected in popular media and school systems. He criticized shows like *Boy Meets World*, *Saved by the Bell*, and *Family Matters* for portraying characters who prioritized social status over intellectual pursuits.

In contrast, Ramaswamy pointed out that immigrant parents, particularly those from India, often place greater emphasis on academic success, particularly in science, technology, engineering, and mathematics (STEM) fields.



He described how many immigrant parents actively discouraged their children from watching television shows that promoted what he termed "mediocrity," encouraging them instead to focus on their studies and participate in extracurricular academic activities.

To support his argument, Ramaswamy proposed a cultural shift in the U.S. that would prioritize "achievement over normalcy, excellence over mediocrity, nerdiness over conformity, and hard work over laziness." He suggested that American youth should focus more on activities like math tutoring, weekend science competitions, and reading books, and less on social activities like sleepovers, Saturday morning cartoons, and hanging out at the mall. He emphasized that

this cultural shift is necessary if the U.S. wants to remain competitive in a hyper-competitive global market for technical talent. Ramaswamy acknowledged that such an approach is often met with skepticism in American society. Many American parents view the intense focus on academics as extreme, and children who excel in STEM fields are often seen as "nerds" or outliers. However, Ramaswamy argued that this mindset is counterproductive in the global competition for top talent. He warned that if the U.S. continues to venerate mediocrity over excellence, it risks falling behind countries like China in the race for technological advancement.

He referred to the current moment as America's

"Sputnik moment," drawing a parallel to the Cold War-era launch of the Soviet Union's first satellite, which spurred the U.S. to accelerate its space program. Ramaswamy expressed hope that the election of Donald Trump could mark the beginning of a new era in America, but only if the country undergoes a cultural awakening to prioritize achievement and excellence.

Ramaswamy's call for cultural change comes amid broader discussions about the H1B visa program, which allows U.S. companies to hire foreign workers, particularly in the tech industry. Critics argue that the program displaces American workers, while supporters, including Ramaswamy, suggest that it helps bring in top talent from around the world, which is essential for maintaining U.S. global leadership in innovation.

Ramaswamy concluded by urging Americans to stop focusing on victimhood or legislating alternative hiring practices, and instead to address the cultural issues that are hindering the country's ability to compete on a global stage. He expressed confidence that the U.S. can make this cultural shift and become a global leader in innovation once again.

In a related note, Canadian musician Grimes, Elon Musk's former partner, also addressed the rising anti-India sentiment on social media. She defended Indian culture, recalling her own experiences growing up in a half-Indian household, and emphasized that Indian culture blends well with Western values.

Ramaswamy's comments have sparked a significant conversation about how U.S. culture can evolve to foster a competitive, achievement-driven society in the face of global challenges. Whether this shift will take place remains to be seen, but it underscores the ongoing debate over immigration, hiring practices, and the future of America's global standing in the tech industry.

Farewell to Manmohan Singh

Last Rites Held With State Honours, Nation Pays Tribute

TPN Correspondent
New Delhi, Dec 29

Former Prime Minister Dr. Manmohan Singh, regarded as the "architect of India's economic reforms," was laid to rest with full state honours on Saturday at Nigambodh Ghat in Delhi. Dr. Singh, who served two terms as Prime Minister from 2004 to 2014 in the Congress-led UPA government, passed away at the age of 92 due to age-related complications.

The funeral was attended by a host of political dignitaries, including President Droupadi Murmu, Vice President Jagdeep Dhankhar, Prime Minister Narendra Modi, Bhutan's Prime Minister Tshering Tobgay, Union Home Minister Amit Shah, Congress President Mallikarjun Kharge, and members of the Gandhi family, including Sonia Gandhi and Rahul Gandhi.

The Centre declared a seven-day state mourning in honour of Dr. Singh, during which the national flag will fly at half-mast across the country. The Congress party also announced the cancellation of its official programs, including its Foundation Day celebration, for the next seven days. These activities will resume on January 3.

Political Dispute Over Memorial Site

A political dispute erupted between the Centre and the Congress over the location for Dr. Singh's memorial. The Congress party expressed disappointment with the selection of Nigambodh Ghat for the last rites, arguing that it was not suitable for a memorial. Congress President Mallikarjun Kharge wrote to Prime Minister Modi, requesting that the location of the final rites be preserved for a memorial, as is customary for former leaders and Prime Ministers. In response, BJP spokesperson CR Kesavan criticized the Congress for its stance, calling it "ironic" given that the Congress-led UPA government had not built a memorial for former Prime Minister Narasimha Rao, who passed away in 2004.

The Centre, however, clarified that it would allocate a suitable space for Dr. Singh's memorial and had already communicated this to Kharge and Dr. Singh's family.

Sharmistha Mukherjee, daughter of the late former President Pranab Mukherjee, also criticized Kharge's request. In a statement on X, she pointed out that when her father passed away in 2020, the Congress leadership did not even convene a condolence meeting, let alone discuss a memorial for him.

A Legacy of Reforms and Achievements

Dr. Singh's death marks the end of an era in Indian politics. Born in 1932, he was a distinguished economist and served in various key positions before becoming Prime Minister, including as



the Finance Minister during the 1991 economic reforms. He held degrees from the University of Cambridge and Nuffield College, Oxford. Dr. Singh was awarded the Padma Vibhushan, India's second-highest civilian award, in 1987. Dr. Singh's leadership during his tenure as

Prime Minister is widely credited for liberalizing India's economy and making significant strides in sectors like infrastructure, education, and healthcare. World leaders, including French President Emmanuel Macron, former Canadian Prime Minister Stephen Harper, US Secretary

of State Antony Blinken, and Malaysian Prime Minister Anwar Ibrahim, have expressed their condolences. The nation bids farewell to a leader who played a pivotal role in shaping modern India's economic landscape.

Row Over AAP's Free Schemes After Lt Governor Orders Investigation

TPN Correspondent
New Delhi, Dec 29

Delhi Lt Governor VK Saxena has ordered investigations into allegations surrounding the Aam Aadmi Party's (AAP) welfare schemes ahead of the upcoming assembly elections. The orders follow complaints raised by Congress leader Sandeep Dikshit, prompting separate directives to the Delhi Chief Secretary and the Commissioner of Police.

The allegations include claims of fraudulent personal data collection under AAP's Mahila Samman Yojana, the presence of Punjab intelligence officers near Congress candidates' residences, and the transfer of cash from Punjab to Delhi to influence the elections.

In his complaint to the Lt Governor, Mr. Dikshit alleged that cash was being transported from Punjab to Delhi to fund election-related activities. In response, the Lt Governor's office has instructed the Delhi Police to monitor vehicles entering the city from neighboring states and has alerted police forces in Punjab, Haryana, and Rajasthan to prevent any illegal activity.



Dikshit's complaint also raised concerns about the Mahila Samman Yojana, a scheme offering Rs 2,100 per month to eligible women. The Lt Governor has tasked the Chief Secretary with conducting an inquiry into claims that private individuals were illegally collecting personal data under the pretext of enrolling beneficiaries. The Delhi Police has been directed to take legal action against those organizing unauthorized registration camps. In response, AAP chief Arvind Kejriwal dismissed the allegations as "fake." He criticized the BJP, claiming that if they win the elections, they will cancel the Mahila Samman Yojana,

Sanjeevani Yojana, free electricity, free education, and other benefits.

Earlier, the Delhi government's Women and Child Development and Health departments issued public notices clarifying that the Mahila Samman Yojana and the Sanjeevani Yojana were not government-approved schemes and warned citizens against sharing personal details with unauthorized individuals, labeling the registrations as fraudulent.

In another serious accusation, Dikshit alleged that Punjab intelligence officers were stationed near Congress candidates' homes in Delhi. The Lt Governor's office has instructed the Delhi Police Commissioner to investigate this claim and submit a report within three days.

AAP has claimed the investigations are politically motivated, accusing the BJP of using the Lt Governor's office to undermine its election campaign. The party has also alleged that the BJP's opposition to the Mahila Samman Yojana reflects its lack of respect for women. AAP further emphasized that over 22 lakh women have already registered for the scheme, showing widespread public support.



All-Woman Team To Investigate Anna University Rape Survivor To Receive Rs 25 Lakh Compensation

TPN Correspondent
Chennai, Dec 29

The Madras High Court has directed the formation of a Special Investigation Team (SIT) to probe the recent alleged sexual assault of a woman student at Anna University in Chennai. The SIT will consist of three women IPS officers, ensuring a sensitive and thorough investigation.

The court also ordered the state government to provide the victim with a compensation of Rs 25 lakh. This ruling came during the hearing of a plea seeking to transfer the investigation to the Central Bureau of Investigation (CBI).

In addition, the bench, comprising Justice S. M. Subramaniam and Justice V. Lakshminarayan, emphasized that the survivor's education should not be disrupted by the traumatic event. The court instructed Anna University not to charge any fees from her during this period.

The incident, which has sparked widespread outrage from opposition parties and civil society, led to one arrest so far. The court's intervention aims to ensure justice for the victim and uphold her rights throughout the investigation.

Manipur CM Condemns Indiscriminate Firing by Kuki Militants; Two Injured

TPN Correspondent
Imphal, Dec 29



Manipur Chief Minister N Biren Singh strongly condemned the "indiscriminate firing" by Kuki militants on two villages in Imphal East district on Friday, which resulted in the injury of a policeman and a civilian. The attack, which originated from the hills, targeted the villages of Sanasabi and Thamnepokpi, causing widespread panic in the area.

In a post on X (formerly Twitter), the

Chief Minister expressed his outrage, calling the attack a "cowardly and unprovoked assault on innocent lives." He emphasized that the attack undermined peace and harmony, and called on both central forces and state police to coordinate effectively in such situations.

"Strongly condemn the indiscriminate firing by Kuki militants at Sanasabi and Thamnepokpi in Imphal East, which injured civilians and security personnel. This cowardly and unprovoked attack on innocent lives is an assault on peace

and harmony," the Chief Minister said. He further assured that adequate security personnel had been dispatched to the affected areas and that the injured were receiving medical assistance. Singh appealed for calm and unity in the face of such challenges. The two targeted villages are located at the foothills of the region. Disturbing visuals from the area showed people from the Meitei community, including elderly women and children, fleeing the violence as automatic gunfire echoed in the background.

5,000 Tourists Rescued in Himachal's Kullu Amid Heavy Snowfall

TPN Correspondent
Kullu Dec 29

Around 5,000 tourists stranded in Solang Nala, a popular ski resort in Himachal Pradesh's Kullu, were rescued on Friday following heavy snowfall in the region. The Kullu police launched a rescue operation on December 27 after approximately 1,000 vehicles, carrying tourists and other travelers, became stuck due to the snow. "Due to fresh snowfall on December 27, about

1,000 vehicles, including those carrying around 5,000 tourists, were stranded in Solang Nala. Kullu Police successfully rescued the tourists and transported them to safe locations. The rescue operation is ongoing," the Kullu police stated in a post on X.

The ongoing snowfall has caused widespread disruptions across the state, with the India Meteorological Department (IMD) issuing an orange alert for heavy snowfall and cold waves on December 27 and 28. Himachal Pradesh has

been experiencing intense weather conditions, particularly in the districts of Lahaul-Spiti, Chamba, Kangra, Kullu, Shimla, and Kinnaur. The IMD forecasted that from December 29 onwards, a renewed cold wave will affect the plains, including Bilaspur, Hamirpur, and Una districts. Mandi, Kullu, and Chamba are also expected to face severe cold conditions until January 1. Dense fog is predicted for isolated areas on January 1, further complicating travel with reduced visibility.





Bhutan Holds Special Prayers for Manmohan Singh, King Attends Funeral in Delhi

Bhutan paid tribute to former Indian Prime Minister Manmohan Singh with special prayers and ceremonies on Saturday, following his passing. King Jigme Khesar Namgyel Wangchuck led the nation in honoring Dr. Singh, attending his funeral in Delhi, a day after offering prayers at a Buddhist monastery in Thimphu.

Separate prayer ceremonies were held across all 20 Dzongkhags (districts) of Bhutan in his memory, the Bhutan government confirmed. The royal family, along with senior government officials, participated in the ceremonies, which included lighting a thousand butter lamps at Thimphu's Kuenrey of Tashichhodzong, led by the King. Prime Minister Tshering Tobgay, Indian Ambassador Sudhakar Dalela, and members of the Bhutanese royal family were also present.

As a mark of respect, Bhutan's national flag was flown at half-mast throughout the country and at its embassies and consulates worldwide. "As a mark of respect to the late former prime minister and in solidarity with the government and people of India, all national flags across the country and at Bhutan's embassies, missions, and consulates abroad are being flown at half-mast," the Bhutanese government stated.

On Saturday, King Wangchuck attended



Dr. Singh's funeral at Nigambodh Ghat in Delhi, paying his respects in person. Dr. Singh, who served as India's prime minister from 2004 to 2014, was widely regarded as the architect of India's economic reforms. He passed away on Thursday at the age of 92 at the All India Institute of Medical Sciences (AIIMS). Under Dr. Singh's leadership, India-Bhutan relations flourished, particularly in

the areas of trade and hydro-power cooperation. The Treaty of Friendship and Cooperation, signed in 1949 and renewed in 2007 during Dr. Singh's tenure, remains the foundation of strong India-Bhutan ties. The cooperation in hydro-power development, underpinned by agreements made during his time as prime minister, continues to be a key element of the bilateral relationship.



Indian-Americans Condemn Racist Attacks on Donald Trump's AI Appointee Sriram Krishnan

Indian-American community leaders have strongly condemned the racist attacks on Sriram Krishnan, who was recently appointed by President-elect Donald Trump as Senior AI Advisor. The attacks, which targeted Krishnan's Indian origin, have been denounced by groups including Indiaspora, emphasizing that there is no place for racial discrimination in public discourse.

In a media advisory issued on Saturday, the Indian-American diaspora expressed its support for Krishnan, condemning the "reprehensible racist attacks" directed at him. "There is absolutely no place in our public discourse for spiteful, racially motivated, ad hominem epithets," the statement said. It reiterated the community's strong endorsement of Krishnan's appointment, expressing confidence in his ability to serve the country effectively. Indian-American Congressman Ro Khanna also spoke out against those attacking Krishnan over his Indian heritage. He stressed that the United States' ability to attract talent from around the world is a testament to its "exceptionalism," which sets it apart from countries like China. "It is great that talent around the world wants to come here, not to China, and that Sriram can rise to the highest levels," Khanna wrote on X, referring to the concept of "American exceptionalism."

Krishnan, who was nominated by Trump as Senior Policy Advisor for Artificial Intelligence at the White House Office of Science and Technology Policy, acknowledged the opportunity and expressed his gratitude. Trump announced the appointment on Truth Social, highlighting Krishnan's extensive background in technology and his work with companies like Microsoft, Meta, and X. Krishnan previously served as a General Partner at Andreessen Horowitz and invested in prominent firms like SpaceX and Figma. Krishnan holds a Bachelor of Technology in Information Technology from SRM Engineering College, Anna University.



What OpenAI Whistleblower Suchir Balaji's Mother Said About His Death

Suchir Balaji, a former researcher at OpenAI, was found dead in his San Francisco apartment last month. Known for his criticism of the company, Balaji had accused OpenAI of violating copyright laws, particularly in its use of internet-sourced data to train its AI models. His tragic death came just a month after he publicly shared his concerns.

In an interview with Business Insider, Balaji's mother, Poornima Ramarao, spoke about her son's growing disillusionment with OpenAI and the factors that led to his decision to leave the company. She revealed that Balaji believed OpenAI had deviated from its original mission, moving away from being a nonprofit, open-source initiative to a more commercially-driven organization. His concerns deepened as OpenAI launched ChatGPT, a product built with the data he had contributed to for GPT-4. Ramarao said her son felt that artificial intelligence posed a danger to humanity. The ideological clash between his values and OpenAI's corporate direction ultimately led him to resign in August.



Donald Trump Hints at Potential Meeting with Bill Gates in Message to Elon Musk

President-elect Donald Trump has sparked speculation with a recent post on Truth Social, suggesting that Bill Gates may soon meet him at Mar-a-Lago. The post also included a warm reference to Elon Musk's son, X Æ A-Xii, and expressed enthusiasm for an upcoming New Year's Eve celebration.

Reports indicate that Gates has indeed reached out to Trump's transition team to discuss a potential meeting, though details remain unclear. This follows a series of meetings between Trump and various tech CEOs since his November election victory.

Trump's relationships with tech leaders have garnered significant attention, particularly after naming Musk as co-leader of his government efficiency initiative. However, Musk has faced criticism from some Trump supporters due to his backing of a visa program that allows highly skilled foreign workers to immigrate to the U.S.

The meeting between Trump and Gates would not be their first. They initially met in December 2016, before Trump's first presidential term. Since his recent election win, Trump has engaged with several tech leaders and business executives, with many hoping to align their companies with the incoming administration's policies. These meetings often focus on issues such as reshoring manufacturing jobs and addressing regulatory concerns, with CEOs hoping to start their relationship with the new president on a positive note.



Issued Over 1 Million Nonimmigrant Visas To Indians For 2nd Year: US Embassy

The US mission in India announced on Friday that it issued over one million nonimmigrant visas in 2024, marking the second consecutive year of surpassing this milestone. This includes a record number of visitor visas, reflecting the growing demand among Indians for travel to the US for tourism, business, and education.

In the past four years, the number of Indian visitors to the US has increased fivefold, with over two million Indians traveling to the US in the first 11 months of 2024, a 26% rise from the previous year. The embassy also highlighted the success of a pilot program allowing Indian H-1B visa holders to renew their visas without leaving the US, with plans to formalize this process in 2025. Additionally, the mission issued tens of thousands of immigrant visas, contributing to family reunification and the migration of skilled professionals. India continues to be the top sender of international students to the US, with over 331,000 students studying there in 2024, marking the highest number since the 2008/2009 academic year.

Putin Apologizes to Azerbaijan Over Plane Crash in Russian Airspace



Russian President Vladimir Putin has issued an apology to Azerbaijani President Ilham Aliyev following the tragic crash of an Azerbaijan Airlines passenger plane in Russian airspace on Wednesday. The plane, Flight J2-8243, crashed in a fiery explosion near Aktau in Kazakhstan after diverting from southern Russia, where Ukrainian drone attacks were reported in several cities.

The incident, which resulted in the deaths of at least 38 people, occurred after the plane attempted to land at Grozny Airport in Chechnya. As the aircraft was attempting to land, Ukrainian drones were reportedly attacking cities including Grozny, Mozdok, and Vladikavkaz. Russian air defense systems successfully repelled these attacks, but the plane was forced to divert from its intended route.

In a statement released by the Kremlin on Saturday, President Putin extended his "deep and sincere condolences" to the families of the victims and wished a speedy recovery to the injured passengers. "President Vladimir Putin apologised for the tragic incident that occurred in Russian airspace," the statement read.

The plane was originally traveling on its scheduled route when it encountered difficulties, prompting multiple attempts to land at Grozny airport. Despite the efforts, the aircraft tragically crashed, sparking a ball of fire upon impact near the city of Aktau in Kazakhstan.

The Azerbaijani authorities are investigating the incident, while Putin's apology marks a significant diplomatic gesture following the tragedy. The crash has raised concerns over the safety of air travel in the region amid ongoing conflicts.



Cochin Shipyard Secures ₹450 Crore Tug Boat Order from Adani Ports

Cochin Shipyard Ltd (CSL) has secured an order from Adani Ports and Special Economic Zones (SEZ) for eight new tug boats, marking a significant expansion of the latter's maritime fleet. The deal, valued at an estimated ₹450 crore, was confirmed through a BSE filing on December 27. The order is categorized as "Significant," ranging between ₹200 to ₹500 crore.

The eight tug boats will be 70 T Bollard Pull ASD (Azimuthing Stern Drive) Tugs and will be delivered by Udupi Cochin Shipyard Limited, a wholly owned subsidiary of CSL. The first batch of deliveries is scheduled to begin in December 2026, with the entire order expected to be completed by August 2028.

This order is part of Adani Group's strategy to bolster its fleet and enhance its presence in the Indian maritime sector. With the new tugs, Adani Ports aims to increase its fleet size to 152 tug boats by the end of the project. Ashwani Gupta, Whole-time Director and CEO of Adani Ports and SEZ, expressed confidence in CSL's capabilities, stating, "This collaboration to procure from Cochin Shipyard Ltd signifies our commitment to enhancing



maritime infrastructure in India and demonstrates our confidence in our nation's PSUs. By leveraging local manufacturing capabilities, which are world-class, we aim to contribute to the 'Make in India' initiative while ensuring that our operations meet international standards of safety and efficiency."

Following the announcement, Adani Ports and SEZ's shares closed 1.06% lower at ₹1,230.75, while Cochin Shipyard shares surged by 5%, closing at ₹1,532.10.

The order follows a previous deal in which CSL is already constructing three similar tugs for Adani, further strengthening the ongoing collaboration between the two companies.

BluSmart Set to Launch EV-Cab Service in Mumbai with Exclusive Invite-Only Registrations

BluSmart, the Gurugram-based electric vehicle (EV) cab service provider, is set to expand its operations to Mumbai, marking its first entry into the city. The company announced on Saturday, December 28, that it will begin operations in Mumbai on January 1, 2025, offering a premium, invite-only experience to select users.

In a post on the social media platform X, BluSmart teased the launch, stating, "Mumbai, we're arriving soon—exclusively for a select few to experience it before everyone else." The company revealed that its services will initially be available to a limited group of users, giving them an exclusive chance to experience the new EV cab service ahead of the general rollout. BluSmart's announcement emphasized the promise of a reliable, safe, and punctual travel experience. The company added, "Starting January 1, 2025, BluSmart is here to make your journeys reliable, safer, and always on time. After months of dedication and hard work, we're excited to bring this dream to life in your city." As part of the exclusive launch, BluSmart is offering an invite-only program, allowing users to be among the first to enjoy its premium rides. To gain access to the service, potential users must fill out a form providing basic details such as their name, phone number, and email address. Those selected will then receive an invite



to join the premium rides experience before the service is widely available.

BluSmart, founded in 2019, operates a fleet of over 7,600 EV cabs and has completed more than 21 million rides across Delhi NCR and Bengaluru. The company owns all the vehicles in its fleet and employs drivers on monthly salaries, distinguishing it from competitors like Uber and Ola. Additionally, BluSmart has developed its own charging infrastructure, known as BluSmart Charge, to support its operations. With the upcoming launch in Mumbai, BluSmart is poised to make a significant impact in the city's growing EV market, providing an eco-friendly and reliable transportation option for its residents.

Vodafone Group Clears Rs 11,650 Crore Dues, Releases Pledge on Vodafone Idea Shares

Vodafone Group has cleared outstanding dues of approximately Rs 11,650 crore (about 109 million pounds) that were raised against shares of Vodafone Idea, according to a regulatory filing.

The UK-based telecom giant had previously pledged nearly its entire stake

in Vodafone Idea (VIL) to secure the debt raised by entities based in Mauritius and India. The pledge was made in favor of HSBC Corporate Trustee Company (UK).

As per the filing, on December 27, 2024, HSBC Corporate Trustee Company (UK) Limited, acting as the security trustee for the lenders, released the pledges following the repayment of the outstanding dues owed by the Vodafone Promoter Shareholders.

This move resulted in the release of the



indirect encumbrance on 15,720,826,860 equity shares of Vodafone Idea, which represent 22.56% of the company's fully diluted share capital.

The value of these shares is approximately Rs 11,649 crore, based on Vodafone Idea's stock closing at Rs 7.41 per share on Friday.

As of September 30, 2024, Vodafone Group holds a 22.56% stake in Vodafone Idea, while the Aditya Birla Group owns 14.76%, and the government holds a 23.15% stake.

India's Forex Reserves Decline by \$8.4 Billion to \$644.3 Billion: RBI

India's foreign exchange reserves have experienced a significant decline, falling by \$8.478 billion to \$644.391 billion for the week ending December 20, 2024, according to data released by the Reserve Bank of India (RBI) on Friday. This follows a decrease of \$1.988 billion in the previous week, marking a continued downtrend in the country's forex reserves.

The decline has been attributed to a combination of factors, including the revaluation of reserves and interventions in the foreign exchange market by the RBI to stabilize the rupee amidst market fluctuations. At their peak, India's forex reserves had reached a record high of \$704.885 billion at the end of September 2024.

For the week ending December 20, foreign currency assets, which form a major component of the reserves, fell by \$6.014 billion, bringing the total to \$556.562 billion. These assets reflect the effect of changes in the value of non-US currencies such as the euro, pound, and yen, which are part of India's forex holdings.

In addition to the drop in foreign currency assets, India's gold reserves decreased by \$2.33 billion to \$65.726 billion



during the same period. The country's Special Drawing Rights (SDRs) were also down by \$112 million, falling to \$17.885 billion. India's reserve position with the International Monetary Fund (IMF) saw a slight decline of \$23 million, bringing it to \$4.217 billion.

The steady reduction in forex reserves comes amid ongoing efforts by the RBI to manage the rupee's volatility and maintain economic stability.

RBI's New UPI Rule Set to Transform Digital Payments in India

In a significant move to enhance the digital payment ecosystem in India, the Reserve Bank of India (RBI) recently announced that users of prepaid payment instruments (PPIs) will now be able to use third-party applications for UPI transactions. This shift is expected to greatly improve the flexibility and convenience of digital payments across the country.

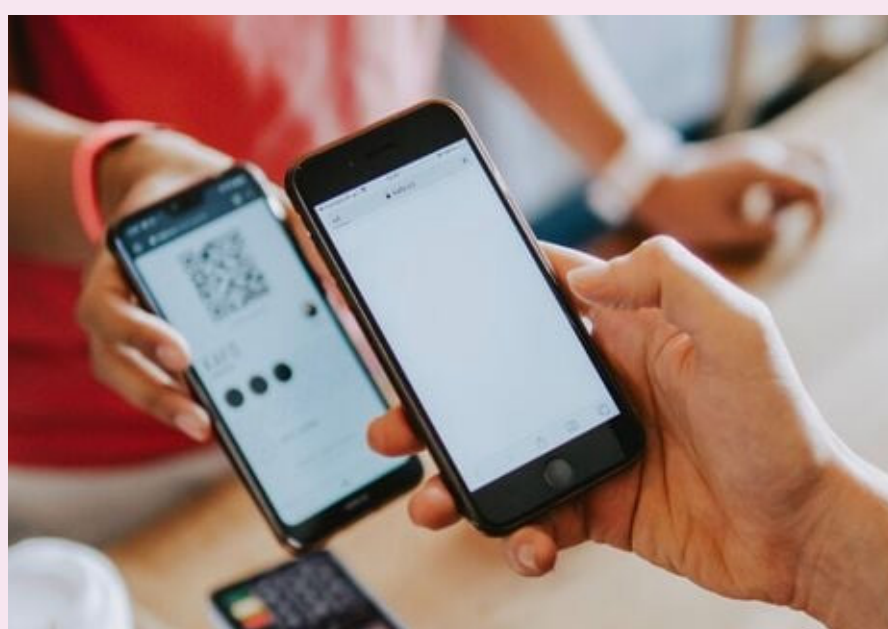
To understand the implications of this decision, it's important to first differentiate between two key digital payment systems: Unified Payments Interface (UPI) and Prepaid Payment Instruments (PPIs).

UPI vs PPIs: What's the Difference?

UPI, which stands for Unified Payments Interface, is a real-time payment system that allows users to send money directly between bank accounts. UPI apps, such as Google Pay, BHIM, and PhonePe, enable seamless bank-to-bank transfers via mobile numbers and QR codes. UPI transactions are instant and linked directly to a user's bank account.

In contrast, Prepaid Payment Instruments (PPIs) are essentially mobile wallets, like MobiKwik or Paytm, that store prepaid balances which can be used for transactions within the same app or ecosystem. PPIs are not directly linked to bank accounts, meaning users can only transfer funds within the same platform or wallet, restricting interoperability.

This is where the RBI's new rule comes into play. Until now, users of PPIs could only make UPI transactions using the UPI functionality offered by the PPI provider itself. For example, MobiKwik users could only use its own "Pocket UPI" to make transfers, while PhonePe users were restricted to using BHIM for UPI payments. The new rule, however, breaks down this limitation and allows users to link their PPI accounts with third-party UPI apps.



The Impact of the New Rule

Under the new guidelines, which were officially rolled out on December 27, 2024, users of PPIs like MobiKwik and PhonePe will be able to make UPI payments through any third-party UPI application. This means that a MobiKwik user can now make UPI payments using Google Pay or PhonePe, and vice versa. This will enhance the interoperability between various payment systems, offering users greater flexibility in making digital payments. The change follows a statement made by the RBI in April 2024, which outlined plans to enable interoperability for PPIs through third-party UPI apps. Prior to this, PPIs were limited to using only

the UPI functionality provided by the respective PPI issuers. The RBI's latest move is seen as a step toward creating a more inclusive and accessible digital payment system.

Benefits for Consumers and the Digital Economy

This development is expected to significantly streamline the digital payment process for users who rely on mobile wallets. By allowing PPIs to integrate with third-party UPI apps, users will now have access to a broader range of payment options, eliminating the need to stick to a single platform. It will also pave the way for easier transfers between different platforms, making it simpler for users to make payments or transfer funds across wallets.

Furthermore, this increased interoperability will help drive the adoption of digital payments across India, especially in semi-urban and rural areas where mobile wallets have a large user base. By providing more payment options and flexibility, the new rule is expected to further empower millions of consumers and boost digital transaction volumes in the country.

The RBI's move is part of a broader push to promote digital financial inclusion and reduce cash dependency in India. It not only benefits users but also strengthens the overall digital infrastructure, positioning India as a leader in digital payments globally. As the country moves towards greater financial digitization, such regulatory changes will continue to shape the future of the payments landscape.

With this latest update, the RBI has once again proven its commitment to improving the ease of conducting financial transactions for millions of Indians, while fostering a more interconnected and efficient digital payments ecosystem.

Nitish Reddy Brings Pushpa's "Thaggedhe Le" Spirit to Cricket

The cricket pitch often serves as a theater of human resilience and flair, and Nitish Kumar Reddy has infused it with cinematic magic. In a moment that felt straight out of a blockbuster, the young Indian cricketer brought the iconic "Thaggedhe Le" spirit from Pushpa: The Rise to the Melbourne Cricket Ground during the Boxing Day Test against Australia. Just as Allu Arjun's Pushpa Raj embodies defiance and grit, Reddy mirrored those qualities in a thrilling display of determination under pressure.

Walking in with India teetering at 191/6, Reddy faced the Australian bowling attack with nerves of steel. His innings were a masterclass in resilience, culminating in a maiden Test half-century that electrified the crowd. He reached the milestone with a crisp boundary off Mitchell Starc, and then came the moment that lit up social media—a celebratory "Thaggedhe Le" pose, bat raised, capturing the fiery spirit of Pushpa Raj. Even cricketing legend Sunil Gavaskar couldn't resist a nod to the iconic gesture, quipping with a smile, "O... Pushpa."

For fans, particularly those from Andhra Pradesh, this moment carried immense pride. Reddy, hailing from the Telugu heartland, has quickly become a symbol of regional representation on cricket's grandest stages. Currently the third-highest run-scorer for India in the Border-Gavaskar Trophy, he's shown an uncanny knack for thriving in high-pressure situations,



turning adversity into opportunity. With every stroke of his bat and every celebration, Reddy blends athletic excellence with cultural homage, crafting a narrative that resonates deeply with fans worldwide.

As his journey unfolds, it's evident that Nitish Kumar Reddy is destined for greatness. His ability to channel the fighting spirit of Pushpa Raj—unapologetically fierce, unyielding, and charismatic—is winning hearts on and off the field. If he continues this trajectory, not only will he etch his name in cricket's record books, but he will also inspire a new generation of athletes to embrace their individuality and draw strength from their roots.

The cricketing world now watches with bated breath as Reddy's story gains momentum. One thing is certain: this young star is here to stay, wielding his bat with the same confidence as Pushpa Raj and leaving an indelible mark on the game for years to come. "Thaggedhe Le" isn't just a pose; it's a statement—and Nitish Kumar Reddy has made it his own.

"Kurchi Madathapetti" Conquers Global Music Charts

The phenomenal rise of "Kurchi Madathapetti" highlights the unstoppable ascent of Indian cinema and music on the world stage.

Once in a while, a song emerges that transcends boundaries, becoming a global sensation. In 2024, that song was none other than "Kurchi Madathapetti" from the blockbuster Guntur Karam. Starring the ever-enigmatic Superstar Mahesh Babu and helmed by ace director Trivikram, the film was a wholesome family entertainer. Yet, it was this electrifying track that stole the spotlight, propelling the movie to international acclaim and lighting up global music charts with its infectious energy.

Released as a Sankranti treat, Guntur Karam received a mix of applause and critique. But amid the chatter, "Kurchi Madathapetti" stood out as a cultural phenomenon. With Thaman's pulsating beats, mesmerizing choreography, and Mahesh Babu's magnetic screen presence, the song didn't just climb YouTube's global charts—it skyrocketed, breaking records and crossing borders. No longer confined to its Telugu roots, it resonated universally, earning its place among the most celebrated songs of the year.

The track's success is a powerful testament to the expanding reach of Indian cinema and



its music. Rarely does a regional song gain this level of international recognition, but "Kurchi Madathapetti" shattered barriers, showcasing the growing curiosity and appreciation for diverse art forms worldwide. Produced by Haarika & Hassine Creations, the song's meteoric rise underscores the universal appeal of compelling music and visuals, proving yet again that great art speaks to everyone.

As digital platforms continue to erase boundaries, the stage is set for more regional creations to shine on the global stage. "Kurchi Madathapetti" serves as a shining example of Telugu cinema's boundless potential and sets the bar high for future collaborations. With the world hungry for unique stories and sounds, it's only a matter of time before another Thaman-Mahesh Babu masterpiece takes the world by storm. For now, "Kurchi Madathapetti" remains a dazzling jewel in Telugu cinema's crown, promising a golden era of global triumphs.

Man Jumps Out as Truck Skids on Icy Road in Manali, Falls into Valley



Himachal Pradesh's recent heavy snowfall has created a picturesque winter landscape but also posed significant dangers for drivers. A video circulating on social media captures a dramatic moment in Manali, where a small truck lost control on an icy road and skidded into the Solang Valley.

The footage shows the truck sliding uncontrollably on the snow-covered road as snowflakes swirl around. In a split second, the driver leaps from the moving vehicle, narrowly avoiding a catastrophic fall. Initially attempting to halt the truck, the driver slips on the ice, and within moments, the vehicle tumbles into the valley below.

This incident follows a similar one earlier in the month near the Atal Tunnel, which connects Manali to the Lahaul-Spiti Valley. In that case, a Mahindra Thar also skidded off a snow-laden road, with the driver managing to escape by jumping out just in time.

This week, fresh snowfall in Manali led to over 1,000 vehicles becoming stranded between Solang and Atal Tunnel. The Kullu police launched a large-scale rescue operation to assist approximately 5,000 tourists trapped by



the snowfall. Emergency teams were seen helping travelers navigate through the heavy snow to safety.

"Due to fresh snowfall, about 1,000 vehicles and around 5,000 tourists were stuck in Solang Nala. The Kullu Police have rescued them and taken them to safe locations. The rescue operation is ongoing," the police posted on social media.

In addition to the traffic disruptions, over 200 roads, including three national highways, have been closed across Himachal Pradesh. The areas most affected include Shimla, Lahaul-Spiti, and Kullu. The heavy snowfall has also caused significant power outages, with more than 170 transformers disrupted across the state.

Delhi Records Highest Single-Day December Rainfall in 101 Years

Delhi experienced its heaviest single-day rainfall in December in over a century, recording 41.2 mm of rain in the 24 hours leading up to 8:30 am on Saturday. This marks the highest December rainfall in 101 years, according to the India Meteorological Department (IMD). The previous record for the highest single-day rainfall in December was set on December 3, 1923, with 75.7 mm of rain.

This downpour also placed December 2024 among the top five wettest months of December in Delhi's history, making it the fifth-highest since records began in 1901. The IMD noted that the 24-hour rainfall total at Safdarjung station was the second-highest on record.

On Saturday, Delhi woke up to an overcast sky, with the IMD forecasting more light to moderate rain throughout the day and issuing a yellow alert. The rainfall is being driven by an active western disturbance interacting with easterly winds, affecting Northwest and Central India, including Delhi-NCR. The minimum temperature on Saturday was recorded at 12.7°C, six degrees above the season's average, providing some relief from the usual winter chill.

In terms of air quality, Delhi saw an improvement, with the



Air Quality Index (AQI) moving into the 'moderate' category. At 9 am on Saturday, the AQI stood at 152, according to data from the Central Pollution Control Board. AQI values between 101 and 200 are classified as 'moderate,' indicating a slight health concern for sensitive individuals.

The unusual weather patterns this December highlight the ongoing shifts in climate, with the IMD continuing to monitor conditions closely.

Bengaluru Woman Skips Long Queue at CTR by Ordering Dosas on Zomato

A Bengaluru woman recently shared a creative way to avoid the long queues at the city's popular Central Tiffin Room (CTR) by ordering dosas online through Zomato and having them delivered directly to her car parked outside the restaurant. In a post on X, user @artbyahbuna explained that she had a tight schedule but was craving CTR's famous dosas. Rather than waiting over 40 minutes for a table, she placed an order for delivery to the street right outside. Her dosas arrived in just 25 minutes, and she enjoyed her meal from the comfort of her car, making it just in time for her movie.

While the plan worked well in saving time, there were a few downsides. In a follow-up post, the woman noted that she missed the in-restaurant experience and that her order came with only one chutney instead of two. Additionally, there was no cutlery provided. The post quickly went viral, receiving over 103K views, as users praised the woman's clever solution. One user commented, "What an idea sir ji," while another wrote, "When you use 100% of your brains." Many shared their own similar



experiences of using takeaway to bypass long queues, with some mentioning they've been doing it since the COVID-19 pandemic.

This clever hack to beat the long restaurant lines has sparked a conversation about how online food delivery is transforming dining experiences.



Gus Atkinson, Saim Ayub, Shamar Joseph, Kamindu Mendis Up for ICC Men's Emerging Cricketer of the Year

The nominees for the prestigious ICC Men's Emerging Cricketer of the Year Award 2024 have been announced, with exciting young talents from around the globe in the running. Gus Atkinson (England), Kamindu Mendis (Sri Lanka), Saim Ayub (Pakistan), and Shamar Joseph (West Indies) have all earned nominations for their exceptional performances over the past year.

Gus Atkinson, the English pacer, has made an impressive mark since his debut in July, during James Anderson's final Test. The 26-year-old's stunning performance at Lord's against the West Indies, where he took a career-best 7/45 followed by a five-wicket haul in the second innings, helped him record the fourth-best debut figures in men's Test cricket history. Atkinson has since become a key figure in England's pace attack, claiming 34 wickets in home Tests and contributing to the team's historic series win in New Zealand. He also showcased his batting prowess with a brilliant 101-ball century against Sri Lanka.

Kamindu Mendis has been a revelation in Sri Lanka's batting lineup, notching up 1,049 runs in nine Tests this year, including five centuries. His remarkable consistency saw him equal Sir Don Bradman's record of reaching 1,000 Test runs in just 13 innings. Mendis's career-best knock of 182 against New Zealand played a vital role in Sri Lanka's 2-0 series win and bolstered their World Test Championship campaign. He also impressed with 267 runs in England, contributing to Sri Lanka's first Test victory in England in a decade.

Saim Ayub of Pakistan, aged just 22, has captivated the cricket world with his fearless batting at the top of the order. Ayub's contributions were pivotal in Pakistan's successful series wins against Australia, Zimbabwe, and South Africa. He scored two centuries in South Africa, earning the Player of the Series award in the process. Ayub also impressed with the ball, taking five wickets in ODIs at an economy rate of 4.63. His match-winning knock of 109 against South Africa in a tense chase exemplified his



all-round abilities.

Shamar Joseph, the 22-year-old West Indies pacer, has emerged as one of the most promising talents in world cricket. Joseph's debut in Australia saw him play a crucial role in the West Indies' first Test win in Australia since 1997. He took 13 wickets in just two Tests, including two five-wicket hauls. His brilliant 7/68 at the Gabba, delivered through pain, was key to securing a historic eight-run win for the West Indies. Joseph continued his strong form with 12 wickets in home series against Bangladesh and South Africa.

These four emerging stars have taken the cricketing world by storm, and their exceptional performances in 2024 have earned them nominations for one of the most coveted individual awards in the sport. The winner will be announced as part of the ICC Men's Awards later this year.

Gutsy Nitish Reddy's Maiden Ton Keeps India Afloat vs Australia

Nitish Reddy, a relatively unknown entity in Test cricket before the Border-Gavaskar series, emerged as India's savior on Day 3 of the Boxing Day Test in Melbourne, playing a gutsy knock that took India to 358/9. His unbeaten 105 not only gave India a fighting chance but also severely dented Australia's hopes of securing an early win. Despite being 116 runs behind Australia's first-innings total of 474, Reddy's dogged century ensured that India remained in the contest, with rain bringing an early end to play.

Reddy's stellar performance was pivotal in India's recovery, especially after the dismissal of Rishabh Pant, whose rash shot left India struggling at 191/6. The 21-year-old Andhra Pradesh cricketer's innings was a masterclass in resilience. His 127-run partnership with Washington Sundar (50 off 162 balls) helped India claw back into the game, shifting the momentum in their favor. The young batter's composure under pressure drew praise from cricket legend Sunil Gavaskar, who hailed it as one of the greatest knocks in Test history, given the circumstances. As Reddy neared his maiden Test century, the tension rose. He could have been stranded on 99 when Jasprit Bumrah was dismissed, leaving Reddy to face the Australian bowlers with last-man Mohammed Siraj at the crease. Despite the pressure, Siraj survived three deliveries, allowing Reddy to bring up his hundred in style.

A picture-perfect straight drive off Scott Boland marked the moment of triumph, and Reddy took a knee, helmet in hand, acknowledging



the Indian dug-out, which rose in appreciation. The celebration was pure drama—Reddy struck a 'Pushpa' pose after reaching fifty and later mimicked the 'Bahubali' stance to celebrate his century. Reddy's father, Muthyala, watching from the stands, was overcome with emotion as his son reached the milestone, reflecting on the family's sacrifices. A decade ago, when Reddy's father took a financial risk to support his son's cricketing dreams, many advised against it, but today, Reddy's performances are proving them right.

With 10 boundaries and a six, Reddy's attacking game was evident. His stable defense and calculated aggression underlined his maturity, making him India's most consistent batter of the series. His performance has not only kept India in the game but also provided hope that they can turn the match around at the MCG.

Shreyanka Patil Nominated for ICC Women's Emerging Cricketer of the Year 2024

India's all-rounder Shreyanka Patil has been nominated for the ICC Women's Emerging Cricketer of the Year 2024, joining Annerie Dercksen (South Africa), Saskia Horley (Scotland), and Freya Sargent (Ireland) as candidates for the prestigious award.

Patil's rise in international cricket has been impressive since her debut in December 2023. A dependable bowler, she has delivered consistently in high-pressure situations across white-ball formats. Patil's performances in the Women's T20 Asia Cup and the ICC Women's T20 World Cup have established her as a key player for India.

Her standout moment came in a must-win World Cup match against Pakistan, where she claimed figures of 2/14, helping restrict Pakistan to 105/8 and keeping India's hopes alive in the tournament. Patil's economical bowling, including a wicket-maiden, was crucial in the team's success.

Annerie Dercksen has made a remarkable transition from academia to international cricket. A teacher by profession, the 23-year-old has quickly become a vital player for South Africa. She was instrumental in South Africa's run to the ICC Women's T20 World Cup final in 2024, contributing with both bat and ball. Her match-winning innings of 44 off 23 balls against Pakistan in a T20I series decider was a highlight.

Saskia Horley has made history for Scotland,



notably scoring the country's first-ever century in Women's ODIs. She has been a consistent performer with both bat and ball, leading Scotland to victory with a 100-run knock and four-wicket haul in an ODI tri-series.

At just 18 years old, Freya Sargent has quickly established herself as a key player for Ireland. Her match-winning performances, including career-best figures of 3/29 in ODIs and 3/30 in T20Is, have made her one of the most exciting young talents in international cricket. The winner of the ICC Women's Emerging Cricketer of the Year Award will be announced later this year, celebrating the rise of these promising young stars in women's cricket.

New Zealand Stuns Sri Lanka with Thrilling 8-Run Victory in First T20I

New Zealand completed a remarkable turnaround to defeat Sri Lanka by eight runs in the first T20I in Mount Maunganui, taking a 1-0 lead in the series. Sri Lanka, chasing a target of 173, appeared to be cruising at 121 for 0, but a dramatic collapse saw them fall short, ending their innings at 164 for 8.

The pivotal moment in the match came in the 14th over when New Zealand's Jacob Duffy delivered a game-changing spell, taking three wickets in a single over. Duffy first had Kusal Mendis (46) caught behind, before dismissing Kusal Perera and Kamindu Mendis for ducks on consecutive deliveries, reducing Sri Lanka to 121 for 3.

Duffy's figures of 4-0-21-3 helped break the chase wide open, and although Sri Lanka still had seven wickets in hand with 29 runs required from the last three overs, they couldn't recover. Young pacer Zakary Foulkes struck another blow when Charith Asalanka pulled a short delivery straight into the hands of deep square leg.

Despite Bhanuka Rajapaksa surviving a DRS review for an LBW decision, he hit back-to-back boundaries in the 18th over, keeping Sri Lanka's hopes alive. However, Tim Robinson's stunning catch dismissed Nissanka (90), and Matt Henry



sent Rajapaksa packing in the penultimate over. Foulkes sealed the win by taking the final two wickets, including a run-out to dismiss Wanindu Hasaranga, as New Zealand triumphed.

Earlier, New Zealand's batting was under pressure after losing early wickets, but Daryl Mitchell (62) and Michael Bracewell (59) rescued the team with a 110-run partnership. Despite being 65 for 5 at the halfway point, the pair guided New Zealand to a competitive total of 172/8, which ultimately proved to be enough.

Brief Scores:
New Zealand 172/8 in 20 overs (Daryl Mitchell 62, Michael Bracewell 59; Binura Fernando 2-22, Maheesh Theekshana 2-29)

Sri Lanka 164/8 in 20 overs (Pathum Nissanka 90, Kusal Mendis 46; Jacob Duffy 3-21, Matt Henry 2-28)

New Zealand won by 8 runs.



Massive 256-Foot Ram Charan Cutout to Be Unveiled Today in Vijayawada

Ahead of the grand release of Global Star Ram Charan's much-anticipated film *Game Changer*, promotional activities are reaching new heights, and fans are in for a spectacular treat. Today, on December 29, the biggest-ever cutout of Ram Charan in India will be unveiled at Vajra Grounds, Brindhavan Colony, Vijayawada.

Scheduled to begin at 3 PM, the event is expected to draw a large crowd, as fans gather to witness this colossal display celebrating the star. For those interested in attending, entry passes are available, and inquiries can be directed to +91 6281-352987.

Directed by renowned filmmaker Shankar, *Game Changer* features Ram Charan in a leading role alongside actress Kiara Advani. The film has



been generating excitement ever since its announcement, with the teaser and music, composed by Thaman, already making waves among audiences.

With the film's release set for January 10, promotional efforts have intensified, and this massive cutout unveiling marks one of the many milestones in the lead-up to the grand event. Industry insiders have high expectations for *Game Changer*, given Shankar's proven track record of delivering blockbuster films.

Fans and film enthusiasts alike are eagerly anticipating what promises to be another monumental success for Ram Charan and the team behind *Game Changer*.

Sankranti Showdown: Epic Trailers to Drop Soon!



As the New Year approaches, the first week of 2024 promises to be a cinematic spectacle with the release of highly anticipated trailers for Sankranti blockbusters. The festival season is gearing up for a fierce showdown, with three major films vying for audience attention, each aiming to make a lasting impact.

The trailers, currently in the final stages of post-production, are set to be unveiled soon. With digital intermediate (DI) work and background scores nearing completion, excitement is building to a fever pitch as fans eagerly await their first glimpses of these cinematic heavyweights.

Ram Charan's *Game Changer* is expected to lead the pack with its trailer dropping on January 4. The film, already generating significant buzz, is rumored to feature a lengthy trailer exceeding three minutes. Known for its serious themes and captivating songs, *Game Changer* has piqued curiosity with Ram Charan's dual roles. Fans are keen to see how the trailer expands on the intriguing glimpses shared so far.

Nandamuri Balakrishna's *Daaku Maharaj* might surprise fans by releasing its trailer earlier, adding to the festival fervor. Shrouded in mystery, this film has revealed little about its plot or characters, making the trailer a highly anticipated revelation. Early reports suggest an emotional narrative paired with intense action, ensuring it will stand out in the Sankranti lineup.

Meanwhile, the collaboration between Venkatesh and director Anil Ravipudi in Sankranti is also generating significant excitement. With two hit songs already released, the film's trailer is expected to arrive by January 5 or 6, possibly coinciding with a grand release event in Andhra Pradesh. The trailer will focus on the hero and his dual love interests, offering a clear insight into the film's storyline and tone.

With these powerhouse trailers ready to drop, Sankranti is set to kickstart 2024 with unmatched excitement and cinematic brilliance. Fans can look forward to a thrilling festival season filled with action, drama, and entertainment.

Telugu Films Take Over Top 10 Grossers List of 2024!

As 2024 comes to a close, Indian cinema has witnessed a remarkable year with films across various languages breaking records at the box office. Leading the pack is Allu Arjun's *Pushpa 2*, which emerged as the year's biggest blockbuster, grossing an astounding ₹1,705 crore worldwide. The film's massive success solidified Allu Arjun's status as a pan-India superstar.

Following closely is *Kalki 2898 AD*, featuring Prabhas, which garnered ₹1,200 crore in lifetime collections. The futuristic epic further cemented Prabhas's reputation as a global star. *Rajkumar Rao* and *Shraddha Kapoor's* horror-comedy *Stree 2* secured the third spot with ₹874.58 crore, showcasing the continued appeal of genre-bending films.

Telugu cinema dominated the fourth spot as well, with Jr NTR's *Devara* raking in ₹521 crore. *Thalapathy Vijay's* *GOAT* claimed fifth place, earning ₹456 crore, making it a significant hit in Tamil cinema. The list also includes *Bhool Bhulaiyaa 2* (₹417.51 crore), *Singham Again* (₹389.64 crore), *Fighter* (₹344.46 crore), and *Teja Sajja's* *Hanu-Man*, which impressed with ₹350 crore to secure the 10th position. Telugu films accounted for four of the top 10 entries, sharing the spotlight with four Hindi films



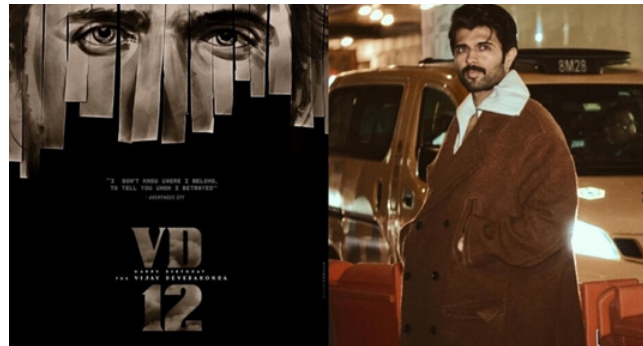
and two Tamil movies. Looking ahead to 2025, the excitement continues to build with highly anticipated releases like *Kantara*, *War 2*, *Game Changer*, *Coolie*, and *Thug Life*. Given the current trajectory of Indian films and their ability to draw audiences, it's reasonable to predict that the upcoming year will bring even more spectacular box office performances and redefine cinematic boundaries in ways we have yet to imagine. The success of these films highlights the growing appeal of pan-India storytelling, driven by high-octane action, compelling narratives, and strong performances. With 2025 just around the corner, the Indian box office promises even bigger spectacles.

Vijay Deverakonda Ventures into Two-Part Cinema

In the ever-evolving film industry, innovation often comes with high stakes, and Vijay Deverakonda is stepping into uncharted territory with his next project. Producer Naga Vamsi recently announced that the film will be released in two parts, a move that raises both expectations and challenges for the actor. While two-part films are a proven formula for top-tier stars, this marks a daring venture for a tier-2 hero like Deverakonda.

Naga Vamsi underscored the enormity of the task, noting that keeping audiences engaged across two separate releases demands an extraordinary narrative and a compelling lead performance. Deverakonda's character must not only captivate but also sustain the audience's interest through the entire cinematic journey. This dual-part experiment is an unprecedented challenge for heroes in his league, who are now being presented with opportunities that traditionally belonged to A-list actors.

The stakes are undeniably high. Can Deverakonda deliver a performance powerful enough to bridge two films and draw audiences back for the sequel? The industry is watching closely, as his suc-



cess could reshape the opportunities available for emerging stars and inspire other tier-2 heroes to take similar risks.

If this ambitious project achieves its goals, it could signal a paradigm shift in Indian cinema, opening doors for tier-2 actors to venture into big-budget, multi-part storytelling. Vijay Deverakonda's ability to rise to the occasion will not only define the film's success but may also establish a new benchmark for aspiring stars in the industry. For now, all eyes are on him as he gears up to tackle this cinematic challenge head-on.

Godari Gattu Shatters Records Ahead of Sankranti Release



The lyrical video of *Godari Gattu*, a romantic melody from the highly anticipated film *Sankranthiki Vasthunnam*, is creating waves in the world of music and cinema. Released as part of the film's musical promotions, the song has set an incredible milestone, becoming the fastest track among senior heroes to cross 50 million views—achieved in just three weeks.

Composed by Bheems Ceciroleo, the song features vocals by celebrated composer-singer Ramana Gogula and folk sensation Madhu Priya. Bhaskarabhatla's evocative lyrics, paired with the endearing chemistry of lead actors Venkatesh and Aishwarya Rajesh, have struck a chord with audiences, making the track a viral hit across social media platforms, particularly Instagram Reels.

Godari Gattu beautifully captures the bond of a married couple, blending heartwarming visuals with an enchanting melody.

Fans have expressed their admiration for its refreshing portrayal of love, and the song's success highlights its universal appeal.

The song's popularity has set high expectations for the rest of the album. The second song, *Meenu*, has also been well-received, and excitement is building for the Pongal special track, set to release on December 30th.

Godari Gattu is a part of *Sankranthiki Vasthunnam*, directed by Anil Ravipudi and produced by Shirish under Dil Raju's presentation. Slated for release on January 14th, the film promises to be a festive entertainer, combining heartwarming moments and family drama.

With *Godari Gattu* already shattering records, the film's buzz continues to grow, and audiences eagerly await its Sankranti debut.

Ranbir's Daughter Raha Wins Hearts with Flying Kisses!

Proving that charm is truly in the genes, little Raha Kapoor, daughter of Bollywood's star couple Ranbir Kapoor and Alia Bhatt, has already captured hearts with her adorable antics. Unlike most celebrity kids who shy away from the paparazzi, Raha is a natural. The young Kapoor greeted photographers at the airport with a cheerful "hi" and followed it up with flying kisses, leaving everyone smitten.

The sweet moment unfolded as the Kapoor family was spotted jetting off for a cozy New Year getaway. Dressed in stylish winter casuals, the trio radiated warmth and happiness. Alia, snug in a chic jacket, and Ranbir, effortlessly cool in his laid-back attire, complemented their daughter's joyful presence. Raha's confident and endearing personality took center stage, making it a pic-

ture-perfect family outing.

While the family enjoys their holiday, work beckons the superstar parents. Alia is gearing up for her next big project, *Alpha*, which is already being hailed as a game-changer. Meanwhile, Ranbir is busy with the much-anticipated *Ramayanam Part 1*, a project that has fans buzzing with excitement.

Raha's heartwarming interaction serves as a reminder that amidst the glitz and glamour of Bollywood, it's the simple joys that truly shine. As she grows, her lively personality and effortless charm hint at a promising future. Could she be the next big star in the Kapoor legacy? Only time will tell, but for now, Raha Kapoor is stealing the spotlight, one flying kiss at a time!

