

POINT

Weather Forecast

HYDERABAD	VIJAYAWADA	TIRUPATHI
H 33° C L 25° C	H 35° C L 26° C	H 36° C L 26° C

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AP Govt Issues Orders on Dissolving WAQF Board

- Minority Welfare Department revokes GO-47
- Government aims to protect Waqf assets
- New board will be formation says Minister NMD Farooq

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TDP, BJP Likely to Share AP's RS Seats; Janasena to Skip?



TPN, Avinash: Andhra Pradesh is gearing up for its upcoming Rajya Sabha elections, and backroom political maneuvering is in full swing. According to sources, the Telugu Desam Party (TDP) and Bharatiya Janata Party (BJP) are set to secure two of the three vacant Rajya Sabha seats. Interestingly, the third seat is also speculated to go to TDP, making it a clean sweep for the NDA alliance in the state. As per sources, TDP has nominated Beeda Mastan Rao for one of the Rajya Sabha seats, while BJP has selected R Krishnaiah. Notably, both these leaders

previously served as Rajya Sabha MPs representing YSRCP, before parting ways with the party following its defeat in the 2024 general elections. The decision to nominate them under the NDA banner reflects the ongoing political shifts in Andhra Pradesh. The third seat, as hinted, may also be allocated to TDP. However, there is no confirmation on this as yet. Meanwhile, Janasena, a key ally of the NDA in Andhra Pradesh, appears to have opted out of the race.

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Even Journalists were Not Allowed into Kakinada Port

- Smuggling of PDS rice from Kakinada port during YCP tenure.
- 25,000 tons of illegal ration rice uncovered in inspections.
- "Green channel" enabled large-scale smuggling.
- Deputy CM Pawan Kalyan's visit highlights security lapses.

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Another Prestigious Company for Visakhapatnam!!



TPN, Vizag: Visakhapatnam is set to welcome another prestigious IT company to its shores. All necessary permissions have been secured for the establishment of a major IT company in the city. The Andhra Pradesh government has given the green light for TCS to set up operations in Visakhapatnam by approving the lease agreement for the Dallas Technologies building. Officials estimate that the company will provide employment to 2,000 people in its first phase. Strategically, TCS has chosen this location next to Infosys.

APIIC had allotted 7,774.90 square meters of land on Hill-2 in 2016 to Dallas Technologies Company for its headquarters in Visakhapatnam. Construction of the ground-plus-three-storey building began two years ago, and the company is now ready to begin operations. The facility has the capacity to employ up to 1,400 people. Earlier this

month, a TCS team visited Visakhapatnam to finalize arrangements for starting their operations and was impressed by the Dallas building. They engaged in discussions and secured an agreement to lease the premises. The Andhra Pradesh government has officially issued orders permitting TCS to lease the building. The government has stipulated that jobs must be created as per the rules. A directive has been issued to grant the requested space for setback benefits and collect Rs. 10,000 per square meter. The Municipal Administration and Urban Development Department has been instructed to promptly inspect the building and issue an occupancy certificate in compliance with regulations. Furthermore, the government has instructed all relevant departments to expedite the necessary processes to ensure that the company can commence operations without delay.

Reliance Group of Life

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కస్టమర్ సేవ్ లానికి క్యాలర్ కోడు స్కాన్ చేయండి

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Cabinet Meeting Advanced to 3rd

Key Decisions on Welfare and Kakinada Port Issue

TPN, Amaravati: The Andhra Pradesh government is moving forward with significant policy decisions. The coalition government has completed six months in power, and administrative measures are now being aligned with political priorities. The cabinet meeting, originally scheduled for the 4th of this month, has been advanced to the 3rd. Key issues such as final guidelines for new ration cards, pension applications, and measures to address the rice mafia allegations raised by Deputy Chief Minister Pawan Kalyan will be discussed in this meeting.



The rescheduling of the cabinet meeting highlights its urgency. Discussions will cover administrative and political matters, including the cancellation of existing ration cards and the issuance of new ones. Applications for these cards will commence tomorrow. Since welfare schemes rely on ration cards, the cabinet is expected to finalize the guidelines for their issuance. Similarly, decisions on sanctioning new pensions are anticipated. The government plans to launch Janmabhoomi-2 on January 2, with new ration cards and pensions being

distributed during the program. The meeting will finalize the action plan for Janmabhoomi-2 and address issues related to the cancellation of ration cards and pensions for ineligible beneficiaries. The government has decided to redesign the ration cards entirely. Another important agenda item is the proposed free bus scheme for women, expected to be implemented during Sankranti. Additionally, discussions will be held on de-

positing Rs 20,000 into farmers' accounts as part of the welfare initiatives. Politically, the meeting is crucial. Allegations of increasing political interference in sand and liquor policies have been raised, and these issues are likely to be addressed. Pawan Kalyan's recent comments regarding the smuggling of rice from Kakinada have sparked widespread debate. The cabinet is expected to discuss and for-

mulate measures to curb illegal rice smuggling and ensure that public distribution rice reaches its intended beneficiaries. Other critical issues, such as the Adani power procurement bribery allegations and the purported role of former Chief Minister YS Jagan Mohan Reddy in the case, will also be on the agenda. This meeting is poised to set the tone for the government's upcoming administrative and political strategies.

Shock to Village Secretariat Staff - Govt Latest Orders!



TPN, Andhra Pradesh: The AP government is making key decisions as it prepares a new action plan for the management of ward and village secretariats, which were established during the YSRCP regime. Steps are being taken to link village secretariats with panchayats, and significant changes regarding staff management are underway. As part of these changes, the latest orders issued by the government have come as a shock to ward and village secretariat employees.

The government has issued show-cause notices to ward and village secretariat staff. The government considers the timely distribution of pensions on the first day of every month as a prestigious task. This month, as the first day fell on a Sunday, the government decided to distribute pensions on Saturday itself. Secretariat staff were tasked with continuing the pension distribution coalition, previously handled by volunteers, and were ordered to begin distributions early in the morning.

However, show-cause notices were issued to staff for failing to complete the pension distribution within the stipulated time. The staff expressed grievances, stating that technical issues had prevented them from logging in, despite meeting their targets. Additionally, the government has issued fresh guidelines regarding attendance. From now on, staff at every secretariat must record both their arrival and departure times in the attendance mobile app. Failure to log attendance both times will result in the employee being marked on leave for the day.

Previously, employees were required to log attendance only once when entering or leaving the secretariat. The new guidelines mandate attendance for every instance of entry and exit, adding pressure on the staff. The lack of volunteer recruitment has further increased the workload on secretariat employees.

Furthermore, it seems certain that village secretariats will be linked to panchayats. Officials are planning to reallocate secretariat staff based on requirements, attaching the surplus staff to various government departments. A final decision on these changes is expected to be made in the next cabinet meeting.

10 Killed in Three Separate Road Accidents in AP

TPN, Andhra Pradesh: Andhra Pradesh witnessed a series of tragic road accidents over the weekend, claiming 10 lives, including two doctors from Karnataka. The accidents, reported in three districts, highlight the perils of road travel in adverse conditions.

In Anantapur district, a car carrying four people veered off course and crashed into a roadside tree near Vidapanakal village early Sunday morning. Three individuals, including two doctors from Karnataka, lost their lives in the accident.

Police revealed that dense fog likely impaired visibility, causing the driver to lose control. The deceased were identified as Yogesh (52) and Govindaraju (54), both doctors at a government hospital in Bellary, Karnataka, along with the car's driver, Venkata Naidu (53). A fourth passenger, Dr. Amar Goud (55), was critically injured and is undergoing treatment in Bellary. The group was returning from a vacation in Hong Kong, having landed at Bengaluru airport earlier that night.

In Vizianagaram district, four people were killed late Saturday night when their car suffered a tyre burst, hit a divider, and collided with an insurance truck near Polipally in Bhogapuram Mandal. The victims included G. Kaushik (27), a jeweler traveling to Visakhapatnam Airport to receive his uncle arriving from the United States; V. Abhinav (27), his wife Manimala (24), and the driver, M. Jayesh (20). Police suspect the burst tyre caused the driver to lose control, leading to the fatal crash.

In Krishna district, a car collided with a minivan after a tyre burst on the Kankipadu flyover, claiming three lives. The car's occupants, Yesu Prabhu (29), Chintna Ravi (38), and Chili Bhanu (27), all residents of Machilipatnam, were returning from Vijayawada after attending personal errands.

Andhra Pradesh Increases Retirement Age for Judicial Officers



TPN, Andhra Pradesh: The retirement age for judicial officers in Andhra Pradesh has

officially been raised from 60 to 61 years following approval from Governor Justice Abdul Nazeer. The amended law has been published in the state gazette under the guidance of the law department, marking its formal implementation.

The decision to extend the retirement age was part of the "AP Government Employees' Retirement Age Rationalization Amendment Bill," introduced during a recent legislative session. Law Minister Payyavula Keshav presented the bill, which garnered unanimous support in both the assembly and the legislative council.

With the Governor's assent, the amendment is now in effect, providing an additional year of service for judicial officers in the state. This move aligns with the government's efforts to optimize the judiciary's experience and expertise for a longer period.

Even Journalists were Not...

TPN, Vijayawada: Andhra Pradesh Minister Nadendla Manohar alleged that rice meant for the poor through the Civil Supplies Department was smuggled and exported abroad during the previous government's tenure. He stated that these irregularities were carried out openly from Kakinada port over five years. The minister further claimed that the port was kept under strict control, barring access to journalists and the general public. Speaking to the media in Vijayawada on Sunday, he criticized the previous ycp government for allegedly misusing Rs. 12,800 crore allocated for ration rice, preventing it from reaching the poor. Minister Nadendla stated that after the formation of the coalition government, raids were conducted on illegal rice stocks. In the last week of June, inspections in 13 warehouses in Kakinada revealed 25,000 tons of ration rice. The minister emphasized that special attention was focused on Kakinada port, noting that more exports were conducted from this port in the last five years than from any other port in the state. He alleged the creation of a "green channel" for smuggling, wherein ration rice was collected from villages and exported abroad via Kakinada port.

He revealed that only 20 security personnel were stationed at the crucial port during the previous government's tenure, which he said jeopardized national security for the benefit of illegal traders. Inspections at the port are being conducted to uncover the individuals behind these irregularities and to determine the extent of illegal trading activities, he explained. He assured the public that the government has taken steps to dismantle the smuggling mafia operating at Kakinada port. The minister recalled that Deputy CM Pawan Kalyan had recently visited the port to investigate the irregularities. He also questioned why former leaders Dwarampudi and Kannababu had remained silent about the illegal activities at the port.

TDP, BJP Likely to Share...

Continued from Page 1

Speculations about Nagababu, Pawan Kalyan's brother, being proposed as a Rajya Sabha candidate were recently dismissed by Nagababu himself, who clarified that he is not interested in holding any position of power and prefers to support his leader from the sidelines. With this development, Janasena's decision to refrain from contesting the Rajya Sabha elections aligns with the party's strategy of consolidating its influence for the future. Analysts believe that the party might aim for stronger representation in upcoming elections as more Rajya Sabha seats become available when the terms of current YSRCP MPs end. The unexpected turn of events—two former YSRCP leaders being poised to secure Rajya Sabha seats under the NDA banner—has raised eyebrows. This political realignment signals a shift in power dynamics within the state, setting the stage for TDP and BJP to strengthen their foothold in Andhra Pradesh's political landscape.

AP Govt Issues Orders on...

TPN, Andhra Pradesh: The Andhra Pradesh government has taken a significant decision regarding the AP Waqf Board. The Waqf Board, appointed by the previous YSRCP government, has been dissolved. Orders to this effect were issued on Saturday. State Law and Minority Welfare Minister NMD Farooq stated that the current coalition government has withdrawn the controversial GO-47 issued during the previous government's tenure.

The Minority Welfare Department has now issued GO-75, revoking the earlier GO. Minister Farooq recalled that on October 21 last year, the then government faced legal challenges in the state High Court over the manner in which members of the Waqf Board were nominated. The High Court had issued an interim order staying the selection process of the Waqf Board Chairman.

Minister Farooq explained that due to various legal issues, the Waqf Board experienced an administrative vacuum. To address this, the coalition government issued a new GO-75, which annuls the previous controversial GO.

Alert for AP - Heavy Rains and Flash Floods Expected in Several Districts!



TPN, Andhra Pradesh: The impact of the cyclone is being felt in Andhra Pradesh, with heavy rains lashing three districts. Torrential rains are also continuing in Tirumala, and reservoirs are nearing full capacity. The Meteorological Department has issued a fresh warning that heavy rains will persist in several districts of AP for the next two days, even after the cyclone has crossed the coast. An alert has been issued for the possibility of flash floods in three districts. The state government is closely monitoring the situation and issuing necessary instructions to officials.

The cyclone crossed the coast near Puducherry on Saturday night, as announced by the Disaster Management Agency. However, its impact is being felt in Andhra Pradesh. Heavy rains are forecast for today and tomorrow in parts of the south coast and Rayalaseema regions. Officials have warned of heavy rainfall in Nellore, Annamayya, Tirupati, Chittoor, and Sri Sathya Sai districts over the next two days. An alert for flash floods has also been issued for Prakasam, Nellore, Chittoor, and YSR districts.

Fishermen have been advised not to venture into the sea due to the heavy rains, and farmers are urged to take necessary precautions. Intense rainfall continues to affect Nellore and Chittoor districts, while Tirupati and Tirumala are experiencing torrential downpours. In Tirumala, devotees are facing challenges due to landslides on the walking path. However, thanks to the measures taken by TTD, the movement of devotees has been managed without any accidents.

In Tirumala, areas around the Srivari temple, Mada Streets, Akhilandam, Annaprasada Bhavan, Vaikuntam Queue Complex, roads, cottages, bus stand, and parks are soaked and muddy due to the relentless rains. A large number of devotees have been forced to remain confined to their accommodations due to the adverse weather conditions. The government and local authorities continue to monitor the situation and ensure the safety of all affected residents and devotees.



Six Months In: AP Moves Ahead Without Volunteers

TPN, Avinash: It's been half a year since the new government assumed power in Andhra Pradesh, following a resounding electoral mandate. The decisive rejection of the previous YSR Congress governance has placed the responsibility squarely on Chief Minister Chandrababu Naidu to reform systems and eliminate inefficiencies, one of which appears to be the controversial volunteer network introduced under YS Jagan Mohan Reddy's tenure. The volunteer system, initially designed to facilitate welfare program deliveries, was widely criticized as a political tool benefiting the ruling party. Despite its prevalence during Jagan's regime, Naidu has refrained from explicitly addressing its continuation or dismissal. Instead, he has allowed public services, like pension distribution, to function without their involvement. This subtle move seems aimed at demonstrating that the system can operate efficiently without volunteers, saving public funds. In the past six months, six rounds of pension distributions have taken place without volunteer participation. Door-

door delivery, the key responsibility of volunteers, has proceeded seamlessly without their involvement. As of November 30th, pensions were distributed a day early, with 91.63% disbursed by 2 PM. This success raises questions about the necessity of retaining the volunteer network.

Critics argue that the volunteer system is a misuse of resources, offering low salaries for largely unproductive roles. The numbers tell the story—out of the original 2,63,000 volunteers, 1,07,000 resigned ahead of the elections to campaign for the YSR Congress. Currently, only 1,10,000 remain, many of whom are reportedly seeking or securing better employment opportunities elsewhere.

As the new government prioritizes efficient governance and cost-effective measures, the future of the volunteer system remains uncertain. With its apparent redundancy and diminishing workforce, many are questioning whether this chapter of governance in Andhra Pradesh should be permanently closed.

Fearing Arrest, Varma evading investigation: Buddha Venkanna

TPN, Andhra Pradesh: Film director Ram Gopal Varma has found himself in legal trouble as multiple cases have been registered against him across Andhra Pradesh. Despite receiving police notices, Varma has failed to appear for investigation, prompting authorities to launch a search for him. In this context, TDP leader Buddha Venkanna has made sharp comments about the director.



Buddha Venkanna alleged that Varma spoke recklessly during the previous government's tenure, taking undue advantage of its support. He accused Varma of now hiding without revealing his whereabouts due to fear of legal consequences. The TDP leader also criticized Chief Minister YS Jagan Mohan Reddy, claiming that Varma had previously made derogatory films to malign Chandrababu Naidu under Jagan's influence.

Buddha Venkanna further alleged that Jagan is shielding Varma, who he described as "shouting like a monkey." He accused Jagan of using Varma to post

vile content on social media, which he claims originates from Tadepalli Palace. The TDP leader did not hold back, stating that Jagan has a history of tarnishing Andhra Pradesh's image internationally and labeled him a "brand ambassador for corruption."

The ongoing controversy has drawn sharp reactions, highlighting the political undertones surrounding Varma's actions and the accusations leveled by Buddha Venkanna against the Chief Minister.

RGV Declares His Admiration for Jagan Despite Controversies

TPN, Andhra Pradesh: Controversial filmmaker Ram Gopal Varma, under scrutiny for his inflammatory social media posts against Chandrababu Naidu, Pawan Kalyan, and Nara Lokesh during YS Jagan Mohan Reddy's tenure, continues to make headlines. While evading police investigations, Varma has been vocal in sporadic interviews and social media posts, offering his characteristic mix of defiance and candor.



When questioned about his earlier Twitter tirades targeting prominent TDP leaders, Varma claimed he had no recollection of the posts, appearing to sidestep accountability with vague responses.

The conversation then shifted to his perceived loyalty to YS Jagan Mohan Reddy, with Varma being directly asked about his affinity for the YCP leader. In a candid and somewhat unexpected response, Varma stated, "I have always liked Jagan Mohan Reddy. 'Naku Jagan ante ishtam.' I don't know much about his governance, but I admire his character. I stand by my word."

This declaration comes as no surprise to those who remember Varma's politi-

cally charged films like Lakshmi's NTR and Kamma Rajyamlo Kadapa Reddlu, which were viewed as propaganda against the TDP. His open admiration for Jagan, despite facing legal trouble, has raised eyebrows and sparked intrigue about his motivations.

Critics are amused by Varma's unabashed affection for Jagan while he navigates legal challenges stemming from his controversial past. Whether this is an act of genuine respect or a calculated move to deflect scrutiny remains a topic of public debate.

As Varma's saga with the AP police unfolds, the entertainment surrounding his actions and statements continues to fuel curiosity about how this narrative will develop in the days to come.

Dwarampudi responds to Pawan's 'Seize the Ship'

TPN, Andhra Pradesh: Deputy Chief Minister Pawan Kalyan has sparked intense political debate following his recent visit to Kakinada Port, where he demanded the immediate seizure of a ship allegedly carrying smuggled ration rice. His firm declaration—"Seize the ship!"—has taken social media by storm, trending across platforms and drawing widespread attention to the ongoing smuggling controversy.

This issue has been brewing for years. During his pre-election campaign in Kakinada, Pawan vowed to dismantle the alleged smuggling nexus reportedly controlled by YCP MLA Dwarampudi Chandrasekhara Reddy. Now, with the power and authority of his Deputy Chief Minister position, Pawan appears determined to deliver on his promise.

In a recent statement, Dwarampudi Chandrasekhara Reddy, who has been accused of orchestrating the smuggling operation, broke his silence, dismissing the allegations outright.

"Pawan Kalyan is the Deputy CM and has access to the entire Intelligence Department. Instead of making baseless allegations, let him use his authority to uncover the truth and catch the real smugglers. I will not tolerate being accused without evidence," Dwarampudi asserted.

The issue has now escalated, with Pawan Kalyan pledging to uncover the full extent of the smuggling network and hold the perpetrators accountable. The



Deputy CM has also hinted at the involvement of other influential figures, including former MLA Dwarampudi and ex-Civil Supplies Minister Kodali Nani, in the alleged illegal activities.

Pawan's insistence on resolving the smuggling issue has heightened tensions in political circles, with the opposition questioning whether more prominent names may emerge in connection to the scandal. As the investigation unfolds, all eyes are on Kakinada Port, with Pawan Kalyan seemingly undeterred in his quest to bring the truth to light and deliver justice.

Byreddy Shabari Takes a Dig at Allu Arjun??

TPN, Andhra Pradesh: Nandyal MP Byreddy Shabari, known for her sharp political commentary, recently stirred the pot with a sarcastic post targeting Tollywood superstar Allu Arjun. The unexpected jab, shared on her social media, has left fans and political observers speculating about the motive behind her comments. Allu Arjun's visit to Nandyal, where he campaigned for his friend and YSR Congress MLA Silpa Ravi Reddy during the last election, had already sparked controversy. While the star has generally steered clear of active politics, his involvement in the Nandyal election campaign seemed to have left a lasting impression—and not all of it positive. The trip continues to be a topic of discussion, especially among political opponents.



Byreddy's recent post dripped with sarcasm:

"Allu Arjun Garu, your election campaign in Nandyal remains unforgettable for the people here! We were hoping you'd grace us with a 'pre-release' event just like your 'pre-election' event in Nandyal. Your sentiment worked wonders for us then, and now it's ours too. Wishing your 'Pushpa-2' massive success at the Pan-India level, @alluarjun garu."

The pointed remark, couched as a congratulatory message, has sparked speculation about whether there's more to this than meets the eye. Fans of the actor are left puzzled, wondering if there's an under-

lying tension or if this was simply a sarcastic callback to his political involvement.

Meanwhile, a section of mega fans has expressed displeasure, with some even threatening to boycott Allu Arjun's upcoming film, Pushpa-2, alleging that his actions during the election campaign didn't align with their expectations.

As social media buzzes with reactions, questions linger: What prompted Byreddy Shabari to reignite this debate? Is it just a strategic political move, or is there an untold story brewing behind the scenes? For now, both the star and the politician remain silent, leaving the public to connect the dots.

Chandrababu Reprimands JC Asmith Reddy Over RTPP Ash Transport Dispute

TPN, Andhra Pradesh: Chief Minister Nara Chandrababu Naidu, during his tour of Anantapur district, reportedly reprimanded Tadipatri MLA Asmith Reddy at the airport. Chandrababu is said to have expressed his displeasure over the ongoing dispute between Jammalamadugu MLA Adinarayana Reddy and Tadipatri Municipal Chairman JC Prabhakar Reddy regarding the transport of RTPP ash in the YSR district.

It is reported that Chandrababu questioned why such conflicts were escalating openly and advised that if there were issues, they should sit down and resolve them amicably. However, when Asmith Reddy explained that his actions were aimed at delegating work to party activists, Chandrababu is said to have firmly responded that he would handle those matters and emphasized that the disputes should come to a complete halt.



AP Chambers Business Expo 2024 Concludes on a Grand Note

TPN, Vijayawada: The AP Chambers Business Expo 2024 concluded successfully today after an eventful three days, drawing over 20,000 visitors. With 150 exhibitors representing diverse sectors such as Infrastructure, Food Processing, Real Estate & Construction, Automobiles, Tourism & Hospitality, and Handicrafts, the Expo became a hub for showcasing innovations and fostering business collaborations. Companies from across the country participated, contributing to the Expo's success.

On the final day, sessions on Real Estate and Construction and Renewable Energy were key highlights. The Real Estate and Construction session was chaired by Mr. A.V.R. Chowdary, Founder & Chairman of GNC Global Consortium, with notable participation from Mr. Y.V. Ramana Rao, President of CREDAI AP, and Mr. Y. Venkatesh, CEO of KMV Spaces. In the Renewable Energy session, Mr. B. Phani Chandra, CEO of Eshaan Energy, led discussions alongside experts like Mr. D. Venkateswarlu from Tata Power Solar and Mr. Koduru Srinivas from NREDCAP, emphasizing advancements in sustainable energy.

Bondada Engineering Pvt. Ltd. Steals the Spotlight

Among the exhibitors, Bondada Engineering Pvt. Ltd. impressed visitors with their innovative products, including Smart Brix, truePLAST, and smartPLAST, which garnered significant attention in the Real



Estate & Construction sector. Their cutting-edge solutions demonstrated their leadership in providing smart and efficient construction materials.

The valedictory event featured Mr. P.M. Prasad, Chairman and MD of Coal India Ltd., as the Chief Guest. He congratulated the AP Chambers team on the Expo's grand success and emphasized the importance of adapting to evolving business models. He lauded AP Chambers for playing a critical role in fostering innovation and collaboration.

Sri Dhulipala Narendra Kumar attended the Expo and appreciated the organizers for their meticulous planning and execu-

tion. He presented awards to the best exhibitors and certificates of appreciation to college students who volunteered during the event.

AP Chambers President Mr. Potluri Bhakara Rao and General Secretary Mr. B. Raja Sekhar expressed their gratitude to the sponsors, exhibitors, and attendees. They commended the organizing committee for successfully executing a large-scale event that has set a benchmark for future expos. The AP Chambers Business Expo 2024 provided a significant platform for businesses to showcase their innovations and connect with industry leaders.



Actress Jethwani Case

CID Files Affidavit Opposing Bail to IPS Officers



- IPS officers file anticipatory bail petitions
- CID submits affidavit in AP High Court

TPN, Vijayawada: The Andhra Pradesh High Court held a hearing regarding the case of Mumbai actress Kadambari Jethwani. The CID submitted an affidavit opposing the grant of bail to the IPS officers facing charges in the case. The CID appealed to the court not to grant bail to Kantirana Tata and Vishal Gunni. Along with these officers, several policemen and a lawyer have also filed petitions seeking anticipatory bail.

In this context, the CID filed an affidavit stating that individuals responsible for upholding the law were instead involved in abuse of power. The affidavit alleged that actress Kadambari Jethwani was illegally arrested under orders from the then Intelligence Chief. It further claimed that the former Commissioner of Police, Kantirana Tata, had arranged flight tickets to Mumbai as part of the alleged operation.

The CID emphasized that granting bail could hinder the investigation and potentially derail its progress. Meanwhile, the High Court has scheduled the hearing for the anticipatory bail petitions on Monday.

International Coin Exhibition Concludes with Grand Success

TPN, Guntur: The International Currency and Coin Exhibition 2024, organized by Sridhar CCE, concluded on a high note, drawing immense appreciation and interest from the public. The three-day event witnessed a total footfall of approximately 37,000 visitors, with 15,000 attending on the final day alone. The exhibition showcased a remarkable collection of coins and currencies that vividly depicted the history and culture of various eras and regions.

NTR District Collector Lakshmi Sha, Guntur Municipal Commissioner Puli Srinivasulu, CID SP K. Chakravarthy, and several other dignitaries graced the event on the closing day. Speaking on the occasion, Collector Lakshmi Shah remarked, "The history and culture of our country are intricately reflected in every coin and currency note. The enthusiasm shown by the youth in preserving this heritage is truly commendable." She stressed the importance of passing this legacy on to future generations.

Guntur Municipal Commissioner Srinivasulu highlighted the educational value of coin collecting, stating, "It's more than just a hobby; it's a source of knowledge that raises awareness about our rich history." CID SP Chakravarthy emphasized the collective responsibility of preserving this wealth for posterity. Former TANA President Niranjan Sringavara-pu lauded the exhibition as a unique and miraculous event, pledging support to organize similar exhibitions across the state and in the national capital. TANA members Jillelu Moodi Venkat, Kolla Ashok, and renowned architectural theorist Goturi Pamulu also visited the event and expressed their admiration.



Highlights of the Exhibition:

The exhibition showcased an array of rare and historical coins and currencies, including:

- Antigua and Barbuda Special Notes: Gold and silver notes from the 1990s with intricate cultural designs.
- Presidency Coins: Money printed by the British East India Company and Telugu-scripted Varahas.
- Mughal Era Coins: Silver coins from the reigns of Akbar, Jahangir, Shah Jahan, and Aurangzeb.
- Hyderabad Nizam's Currency: Silver coins and paper currency from the Nizam's rule.
- Japanese-Printed Rupee Notes: Pre-independence notes circulated in Burma by Japan.
- Indore and Kochi Coins: Unique designs that attracted significant attention.

Enthusiastic Response from Visitors:

The event received overwhelming admiration, with guests appreciating the effort to preserve and display such a rare collection. Visitors marveled at the unique artifacts, including Varahas, golden and silver coins, and historically significant paper currencies. Organizers honored the dignitaries, including Collector Lakshmi Shah and Commissioner Srinivasulu, for their participation. As the event concluded, it left an indelible mark on attendees, inspiring a deeper appreciation for history and culture.



Meda Sindhushree

A Creative Prodigy Balancing Art and Aspiration

TPN, Vijayawada: In Vijayawada's Ayyappa Nagar, Meda Sindhushree has become a beacon of creativity and inspiration. Daughter of Meda Rajani, renowned as the "Queen of Crafts," and Meda Satish, Sindhushree's journey in art and craft began early, inspired by her mother's artistic prowess. With the guidance of her parents and mentor Srinivas, Sindhushree has blossomed into an award-winning artist, receiving accolades at national and state levels.

Her talents span painting, quilling, and creative crafts, and she often transforms discarded materials into stunning art pieces. Sindhushree finds that her artistic pursuits enhance her studies, particularly in creating scientific models and projects. A Higher Grade Examination topper in arts and a holder of a Technical Teachers Certificate, she exemplifies how passion can fuel academic success.

Sindhushree's achievements include:

- Mahanandi National Level Award: Conferred by Telugu Velugu Sahitya Vedika in 2024 for her exceptional work in painting and creative crafts.
- Save Sparrow Art Contest: Secured third prize and a gold medal.
- Girls Vision for Future Contest: Won first prize and a cash award of ₹5,000 at a state-level art contest organized by JKC College's Women Empowerment Cell.
- District Youth Festival: First prize in a district-level art contest showcasing Vijayawada's artistic heritage.
- Kalanjali Beauty Contest: Bagged "Best Hair & Best Smile" awards, highlighting her grace and confidence.

A consistent participant in events like World Women's Day, Uga-di Celebrations, and Art Paradise, she collaborates with organizations such as Sphoorthi Creative



Art School, Forum for Artists, and Joshua Cultural Center. Recently, she announced plans for the upcoming Art Beat painting exhibition featuring socially-themed artworks.

Beyond art, Sindhushree is a trailblazer. By taking art and craft orders under her brand "Arts," she funds her own education, embodying self-reliance. Her creative repertoire includes mandala art, fabric painting, glass painting, and realistic portraits, which she describes as both relaxing and energizing.

While pursuing her dream of becoming a doctor, Sindhushree aims to preserve Telugu culture through modeling and art. With her talent, determination, and values, she stands as a role model for her peers. Here's wishing Meda Sindhushree continued success in all her endeavors. All the best to this inspiring young artist!

World AIDS Day

Minister Kandula Durgesh Advocates Support and Awareness

TPN, Nidadavolu: On the occasion of World AIDS Day, Andhra Pradesh State Tourism, Culture, and Cinematography Minister Shri Kandula Durgesh participated in an awareness conference for AIDS patients at the Lines Old Age Home in Thimmara-jupalem village, Nidadavolu constituency. The event was organized by the Indian Red Cross Society and aimed to dispel myths surrounding HIV/AIDS and uplift the morale of patients.

Speaking at the event, Minister Kandula Durgesh emphasized the importance of treating AIDS patients with dignity and support. "Society should not look down on AIDS patients. Instead, we must help them build self-confidence," he said. The Minister clarified that HIV infection does not necessarily lead to AIDS and that, with proper medical care and precautions, patients can lead healthy lives for many years.

He urged patients to avoid losing hope, as mental stress often exacerbates health conditions. "Life does not end with an HIV diagnosis. Proper medicines and a positive mindset can lead to recovery. No one should fear HIV, and the government will always stand by those in need," he assured.

Following the awareness session, Minister Durgesh participated in an Annadanam program organized for the elderly at the old age home. The Minister's compassionate interaction with the patients and elderly residents left a lasting impact, reinforcing the government's commitment to public health and social welfare.

The event highlighted the importance of awareness, empathy, and support in addressing the challenges faced by those living with HIV/AIDS.



Bolisetty Srinivas Seva Samiti Launched in Tadepalligudem



TPN, Tadepalligudem: Taking inspiration from Jana Sena leader Pawan Kalyan, MLA and Government Whip Sri Bolisetty Srinivas, known for his service-oriented leadership, has inspired 13 of his dedicated followers to form the Bolisetty Srinivas Seva Samiti. This initiative aims to unite the people of Tadepalligudem Constituency to support the underprivileged and carry forward the service values that Pawan Kalyan has instilled in the party's ideology.

The launch of this service organization was marked by its first program—distributing food to the elderly at Padala Old Age Home, a noble act to seek their blessings for the success of the initiative. Speaking on the occasion, the members emphasized

that the Seva Samiti will strive to uphold the values of empathy, service, and commitment, drawing inspiration from both Pawan Kalyan and Sri Bolisetty Srinivas's leadership.

The event was graced by Vasavi Engineering College Chairman Sri Grandhi Satyanarayana and Sri Anil as chief guests. Prominent community members including Honorary Presidents Mathi Babji, Lingam Srinivas, Vice Presidents Maddala Narasimha, Pappupula Trinath, Ravuri Ramesh, General Secretary Routhu Somaraju, and West Godavari District Jana Sena Secretary Kesavabhatla Vijaya, actively participated in the program.

Sri Bolisetty Srinivas highlighted the influence of Pawan Kalyan's message of social responsibility and community service, urging everyone in the constituency to join hands with the Seva Samiti in creating a better future for the needy.

With this launch, the Bolisetty Srinivas Seva Samiti sets out on a journey to make a tangible impact in the lives of the people, guided by the principles of Jana Sena's philosophy of empowering society through collective action.



Nara Lokesh Expresses Deep Grief Over Party Activist's Suicide



TPN, Andhra Pradesh: TDP National General Secretary Nara Lokesh expressed profound sorrow over the tragic suicide of a dedicated party activist, Srinu. In an emotionally charged message, Lokesh conveyed his deep regret, recounting Srinu's loyalty and highlighting the devastating impact of the loss on the party and his personal life.

"Srinu, you always called me 'Anna... Anna...' and sent messages asking me to help those in need. You celebrated my birthdays and anniversaries like your own festivals. But when you were in trouble, you didn't feel like reaching out to this 'Anna'? You've made an irreversible mistake, my brother. I miss you deeply," Lokesh shared with visible anguish.

Lokesh lamented that he was unaware of Srinu's struggles and emphasized that no problem should lead anyone to take such drastic measures. He pledged unwavering support to Srinu's family, vowing to take care of their needs and responsibilities as their "Anna." In a heartfelt appeal, Lokesh urged TDP activists and supporters to share their troubles with trusted individuals, friends, or party members, especially when dealing with financial challenges, health issues, or family disputes. "Every problem has a solution, and no hardship is worth ending a precious life over. Let us live and help others live. Please, don't make such wrong decisions," he implored.

Lokesh's compassionate message serves as a reminder of the importance of seeking support during difficult times and underscores the party's commitment to standing by its members through their struggles.

Visakha Railway Zone Faces New Challenges!!

TPN, Vizag: The establishment of the South Coast Railway Zone, with its headquarters in Visakhapatnam, continues to face numerous obstacles even years after its announcement. While tenders for constructing the Zonal Headquarters have been recently floated, with a two-year validity period, there are mounting demands to expedite the zone's operational commencement.

However, the fate of the Waltair Division remains a contentious issue. The division, integral to the local economy and identity, faces the possibility of being split between the East Coast Railway Zone and the new South Coast Railway Zone. This proposal has met with significant resistance from locals, who view the move as detrimental to administrative efficiency and regional unity. Vizag MP Bharat has appealed to Union Railway



Minister Ashwini Vaishnaw to reconsider, emphasizing the deep emotional and practical ties that locals have with the Waltair Division.

Adding to the controversy, the iconic Kothavalasa-Kirandul (KK) railway line is now at risk of being transferred to the East Coast Railway Zone. Stretching over 445 kilometers across Andhra Pradesh, Odisha, and Chhattisgarh, this line is vital for mineral transport, particularly

coal and iron ore, and also serves as a key tourist route through the picturesque Araku Valley. Its potential reassignment has sparked fresh outrage among residents of Uttarandhra, who feel betrayed by the splitting of assets despite being granted a railway zone.

Protestors argue that granting Visakhapatnam a new railway zone while removing significant resources like the Waltair Division and KK line undermines the purpose of the zone. They demand that both the division and the railway line remain under the South Coast Railway Zone to ensure the region's growth and honor local sentiments.

As tensions rise, the future of the Visakha Railway Zone hangs in the balance, with the government yet to address these critical concerns decisively.

Special Request from Srivari Devotees to Railways!



TPN, Tirupati: Lakhs of devotees visit the Tirumala Srivari temple daily to have darshan of Sri Venkateswara Swamy. Along with TTD, the Andhra Pradesh State Road Transport Corporation (APSRTC) and the Railways make extensive arrangements to provide necessary facilities to the devotees. These arrangements are based on

understanding the needs of the passengers and making decisions accordingly. However, recently, devotees visiting the Srivari temple have made a key request to the Railways. Many devotees have appealed to the South Central Railway regarding the condition of Renigunta railway station. They report that even a

small amount of rain results in water stagnation, turning the area into a puddle. Devotees traveling to Tirumala complain about having to walk through rainwater at Renigunta railway station. This major junction, which connects travelers in all directions, lacks proper facilities for rainwater and wastewater drainage. Devotees highlight that sewage from the canals mixes with rainwater, making the station premises resemble a sewage pit. This situation causes significant inconvenience to those traveling to Tirumala.

Passengers are requesting the South Central Railway authorities to take immediate steps to address this issue and prevent water stagnation in the vicinity of Renigunta railway station. They hope that the railway authorities will respond to these pleas and take action to improve the conditions for the devotees of Tirumala Srivari. It remains to be seen how the railways will address this persistent problem.

Police Crack Transgender Hasini Murder Case in Nellore

TPN, Nellore: Nellore district police have successfully solved the murder case of transgender woman Hasini, revealing a shocking rivalry within the transgender community as the motive behind the crime. District SP Krishna Kanth, addressing the media, disclosed that fellow hijras Alekhya and Sheila orchestrated the murder by hiring assailants. The tragic incident took place on November 26, when Hasini was brutally attacked and killed with knives.

The case, while three others remain at large. Police teams are conducting active searches to apprehend the fugitives. SP Krishna Kanth emphasized the commitment of the Nellore police to resolving such cases swiftly and ensuring justice.

The case has shed light on underlying tensions within the transgender community, sparking broader discussions about addressing conflicts and ensuring safety.

So far, 12 suspects have been arrested in connection with





Busting Myths About Women in the Military: The Need for Inclusivity and Equal Leadership

The recent concerns raised by Lt Gen Rajeev Puri, outgoing Corps Commander of 17 Corps, regarding women Commanding Officers (COs) reflect a broader issue within the military: the resistance to women assuming leadership roles in traditionally male-dominated spaces. In his five-page letter to the Army Headquarters, Gen Puri criticized what he called the “exaggerated tendency to complain” and “misplaced sense of entitlement” of women COs, attributing their behavior to an over-ambitious desire to prove themselves in roles historically dominated by men. Such generalizations not only undermine the competence and potential of women leaders but also ignore the changing dynamics of modern warfare and the military’s increasing focus on intelligence, surveillance, and reconnaissance (ISR) rather than brute physical strength.

In this context, the research of Orna Sassoon-Levy and Sarit Amram-Katz in 2007 provides critical insights into the integration of women in military units. Their study of mixed-gender training in Israel’s military showed that men and women exhibited similar operational suitability in high-tech warfare. Yet, the masculine ideal of the soldier, particularly in combat roles, continues to dominate military culture. This adherence

to outdated gender norms in the Indian military’s conception of a soldier leads to unnecessary discrimination against women, despite the evolving nature of modern conflict, which relies increasingly on technology, intelligence, and strategy rather than sheer physical prowess.

The notion that mixed-gender units are less effective due to a lack of “male bonding” has been dismantled by numerous studies, including one conducted by the U.S. Army Research Institute in 1995. This study concluded that military performance is more closely tied to a unit’s commitment to common goals rather than interpersonal relationships. Further research by scholars such as Robert MacCoun and Aaron Belkin supports this argument, emphasizing that cohesion is built on shared objectives, not on gender-based bonds. Moreover, Leora Rosen’s research suggests that the inclusion of women can have a positive impact on a unit’s overall effectiveness, highlighting the necessity of accepting women in military roles for the sake of enhanced operational efficiency.

Research from the Norwegian Defense Department, which conducted a study on the reasons women leave the military, found that a male-dominated, ex-

clusionary military culture was a significant factor driving women away. Such a culture is not only detrimental to women’s participation but also harms the military’s ability to retain talent and reduce attrition rates. The Indian military, lacking similar studies on gender inclusion, can still draw valuable lessons from global research to foster a more inclusive environment that supports the leadership potential of women.

In operational terms, including more women in leadership positions could also improve security outcomes in conflict zones. For example, the relative calm periods in Kashmir are often attributed to successful peacebuilding measures, such as reducing local recruitment into insurgent groups through intelligence gathering and community engagement. The presence of women in conflict zones, as seen in UN peacekeeping operations, can enhance intelligence networks due to the increased access they have to local populations, particularly women, who are often sidelined in highly militarized areas. Lt Gen Kirsten Lund, the first female Force Commander in a UN peacekeeping mission, emphasized that women soldiers have access to 100% of the population, a crucial advantage in conflict zones.

PM Modi’s Vision: Empowering India’s Youth for a Viksit Bharat



India, with one of the youngest populations in the world, holds a unique advantage in the form of its demographic dividend, where over 65% of the population is under the age of 35. Recognizing this immense potential, Prime Minister Narendra Modi’s government is launching transformative initiatives to empower the nation’s youth and prepare them for leadership roles in the coming decades. These initiatives focus on education, research, and skill development, underscoring the government’s commitment to shaping India’s future.

One of the most groundbreaking initiatives is the *One Nation, One Subscription* program. This scheme democratizes access to high-quality educational resources, offering students and researchers from 6,300 institutions access to global academic content. With over 1.8 crore beneficiaries, this initiative aims to bridge the knowledge gap, providing Indian youth the tools to compete internationally. By fostering critical thinking and innovation, *One Nation, One Subscription* paves the way for discoveries that could change the future.

Another key initiative, the *PM Internship Scheme*, is designed to connect young professionals with top companies. The scheme’s goal is to offer 1 crore internships across 500 leading companies over five years, giving youth hands-on experience in their chosen fields. By aligning theoretical knowledge with practical application, it equips students with the skills necessary for the evolving job market. As of November 2024, over 6.5 lakh applications had been received for 1.27 lakh opportunities, demonstrating the high demand for such programs.

Additionally, the *PM Vidyalaxmi Scheme* addresses the financial barriers to higher education by offering collateral-free loans to students enrolled in top institutions. This scheme supports 22 lakh students annually, ensuring that financial constraints do not limit academic aspirations. This focus on accessibility empowers students from all backgrounds to pursue their dreams and contribute to India’s growth.

The *Anusandhan National Research Foundation* (ANRF) is another significant step in fostering a culture of research and innovation. With a funding commitment of Rs 50,000 crore over five years, the foundation aims to position India as a global hub for research in emerging fields like artificial intelligence, renewable energy, and biotechnology. This initiative promotes collaboration between Indian universities and global institutions, further advancing India’s self-reliance and technological leadership. Through these initiatives, PM Modi’s government is investing in India’s youth to unlock their potential. By focusing on education, skill development, and research, India is preparing its young generation to take on leadership roles, both at home and on the global stage. The vision of a *Viksit Bharat* (Developed India) hinges on the success of these youth-driven initiatives, ensuring that India’s future is shaped by its most valuable resource—its youth.

How Media Played Mani Shankar Aiyar in Maharashtra Elections

In the recent Maharashtra Assembly elections, the media played a crucial role in shaping perceptions around the political dynamics, especially when it came to the voting behavior of Muslims. Journalists, often accused of masquerading as neutral while being aligned with left-wing ideologies, vehemently criticized the Bharatiya Janata Party (BJP) for their provocative slogans, including Yogi Adityanath’s “Batenge to Katenge” and Prime Minister Narendra Modi’s “Ek Hain to Safe Hain.” However, these same media outlets overlooked the shift in Muslim voting patterns, which were evident in the polls.

For the first time in many years, Muslim voters did not vote uniformly for one anti-BJP party. A significant number of Muslim women, according to the Election Commission’s data, chose to vote for the BJP, undermining the traditional narrative of a monolithic Muslim voting bloc against the saffron party. This shift could be interpreted as a reflection of broader changes in the political landscape, where Hindus, too, voted in ways similar to the bloc-voting behavior traditionally associated with Muslims.

A critical look at the results of certain constituencies demonstrates how this fragmentation of the Muslim vote impacted election outcomes. In Aurangabad East, where Muslims form more than 37 percent of the electorate, the vote was split between multiple Muslim candidates, leading to the defeat of the All India Majlis-e-Ittehad-ul-Musli-



meen (AIMIM) state president Imtiaz Jaleel, a former MP. Jaleel lost by a narrow margin of 2,161 votes to the BJP’s Atul Save. Jaleel secured 91,113 votes, while Save garnered 93,274. The division of Muslim votes further deepened with Afsar Khan from the Vanchit Bahujan Aghadi (VBA) and Samajwadi Party’s Abdul Ghaffar Syed, who earned 6,507 and 5,943 votes respectively. This fragmentation proved detrimental to Jaleel’s chances, and Save’s victory became a symbol of how split votes can affect electoral outcomes.

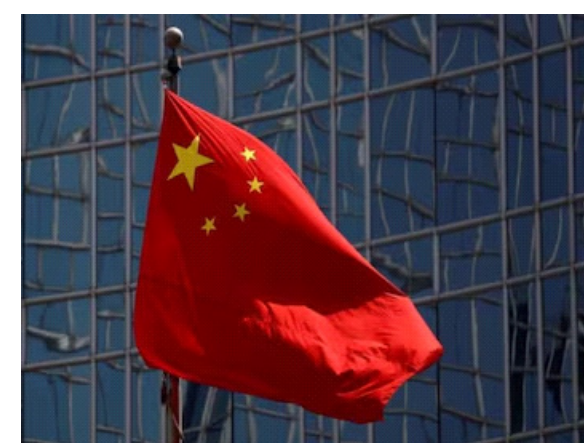
Similarly, in constituencies like Aurangabad Central, where the Muslim electorate is significant, the splintering of votes among multiple Muslim candidates affected the overall political landscape. This trend of divided voting was not an isolated occurrence but was evident in several constituencies where Muslim candidates from different parties drew votes away from each other, allowing BJP candidates to clinch unexpected victories.

China's New Strategy: Poaching Talent to Bypass IPR Violations and Boost Tech Capabilities

In an attempt to acquire cutting-edge technology and expertise, China has adopted a strategy of poaching key talent from Western companies, bypassing the usual methods of intellectual property rights (IPR) violations such as hacking and espionage. This shift in approach is exemplified by Chinese technology giant Huawei’s recent efforts to recruit employees from top semiconductor firms like Zeiss SMT, which produces vital components for the semiconductor industry.

Historically, Chinese hackers have been known for their brute-force tactics, breaking through complex software codes and stealing intellectual property. However, Huawei and other Chinese companies have recently realized that they can achieve their goals more discreetly by using time-tested tactics: headhunting. By offering enormous salaries—sometimes three times the current pay—Huawei has successfully lured disgruntled or ambitious employees from key players in the semiconductor industry. These employees are often tempted by the promise of a huge financial windfall, despite the risks of violating confidentiality agreements and corporate loyalty. Once enticed by such lucrative offers, employees may unintentionally or knowingly reveal trade secrets, contributing to China’s technology advancement without direct violations of intellectual property laws.

The strategy of poaching has been particularly effective in the semiconductor sector, where



high-level expertise is essential for the development of advanced technology. The global semiconductor industry, which includes companies based in the U.S., Europe, and Taiwan, has faced increasing pressure from China’s attempts to secure top talent. In fact, the Chinese approach has reached such an extent that even Taiwan, the world’s largest producer of semiconductors, has experienced Huawei’s overtures to recruit its employees. To avoid detection, China often uses intermediaries—seemingly innocuous local companies—to approach potential targets, keeping their activities under the radar of Western authorities.

This new approach has sparked alarm among Western governments and corporations. For instance, German intelligence agencies have investigated attempts by Huawei to lure employees of Zeiss SMT, a leading producer of semiconductor components.

PM Modi Calls for Police Modernization at DG-IG Conference

Prime Minister Narendra Modi has called for significant modernization in India's police forces and urged them to realign with the vision of a "Viksit Bharat" (Developed India) during his address at the 59th All India Conference of Director Generals/Inspector Generals of Police. The conference took place in Bhubaneswar, Odisha, on November 30 and December 1, with senior police officials from across the country in attendance.

During his speech, PM Modi emphasized the importance of technological integration in law enforcement to reduce the burden on police personnel. He highlighted the potential of advanced technology in enhancing efficiency and improving the overall functioning of police forces. "The police force must adapt to modern-day challenges and leverage technology to ease the workload of constables and officers," he said, underscoring that the modernization of police infrastructure is critical to achieving a developed nation.

Additionally, the Prime Minister expanded on the concept of SMART policing, which stands for "Strategic, Modern, Alert, Reliable, and Technologically Equipped" forces. He urged police officials to adopt these principles, with an emphasis on adaptability, transparen-



cy, and strategic thinking. PM Modi also called on the police to enhance their communication and coordination, ensuring a well-aligned and effective law enforcement system.

As part of his vision for a "Viksit Bharat," PM Modi also emphasized the need for police forces to be proactive in tackling emerging challenges, particularly in the areas of cybercrime, terrorism, and in-

ternal security. He stressed that police modernization is crucial to keep pace with the rapidly changing technological landscape and to ensure the safety and security of the nation.

In conclusion, the Prime Minister urged the police leadership to embrace innovation and stay ahead of emerging threats, while continuing to uphold law and order with integrity and dedication.



Devendra Fadnavis Set to Succeed Eknath Shinde as Maharashtra CM

Amid ongoing uncertainty over the successor to Eknath Shinde as Chief Minister of Maharashtra, a senior BJP leader confirmed on Sunday that Devendra Fadnavis has been finalised as the new CM. The leader, speaking anonymously to news agency PTI, added that a BJP legislature party meeting will be held on either December 2 or 3 to formalize the decision.

Fadnavis, who served as the deputy CM in the outgoing Shinde-led government, has held the position of CM twice before, with his second stint lasting only a few days. His name had been circulating for the top position for some time, and this announcement is expected to bring clarity to the ongoing leadership suspense.

BJP leader Sudhir Mungantiwar also confirmed the upcoming meeting, stating that it would be held to select the parliamentary leader. "The representatives from the centre will bring the names forward. Once selected, the announcement will be made ahead of the oath ceremony," Mungantiwar said.

Meanwhile, caretaker Deputy CM Ajit Pawar had also remarked that during a Mahayuti leaders' meeting in Delhi, it was decided that the next CM would be from the BJP. Eknath Shinde, in a separate statement, reassured that unity remained strong among the Mahayuti allies. He added that the decision on the CM candidate would be made soon, emphasizing that he had already extended his "unconditional support" to the choice of Prime Minister Narendra Modi, Union Home Minister Amit Shah, and BJP President JP Nadda.

As tensions mount over the leadership transition, all eyes are now on the official announcement, which is expected in the coming days, ahead of the new CM's swearing-in ceremony.



Cleared my stance last week, will support BJP in whatever decision they take: Shinde

Maharashtra's caretaker Chief Minister, Eknath Shinde, on Sunday reaffirmed his unwavering support for Prime Minister Narendra Modi and Union Home Minister Amit Shah, stating that the BJP leadership would decide on his successor. He emphasized that whosoever is chosen for the top post would have his full backing, showcasing his loyalty to the BJP's leadership in the ongoing political discussions.

Despite this support, the Shiv Sena, led by Shinde, is still pushing for the crucial Home portfolio, a key element in the ongoing negotiations for cabinet positions. Shinde's son, Dr. Shrikant Shinde, a three-time Member of Parliament from Kalyan, has emerged as the Shiv Sena's preferred candidate for the Deputy Chief Minister (CM) position. This move is part of the party's strategy to secure a greater influence within the state government, particularly as it seeks to hold onto significant ministerial portfolios.

On the other side, the Bharatiya Janata Party (BJP) is facing internal discussions regarding the distribution of key positions. Devendra Fadnavis, the BJP leader and former CM, is the frontrunner for the CM's position. However, Fadnavis is reportedly reluctant to relinquish the Home ministry, a powerful and strategic portfolio he has previously held. The Home ministry's control is crucial to the state's political landscape, and Fadnavis's hesitance to give it up adds a layer of complexity to the ongoing negotiations.

In the previous government, Eknath Shinde served as the Chief Minister, while Devendra Fadnavis and Nationalist Congress Party (NCP) leader Sharad Pawar held the positions of Deputy CMs. Fadnavis was responsible for the Home ministry, while Pawar oversaw Finance, marking a unique power-sharing arrangement that balanced the interests of the Shiv Sena, BJP, and NCP.



India's Economy Faces Challenges: Rahul Gandhi Calls for New Thinking

As India's GDP slumped to a near two-year low of 5.4% in the July-September quarter, Leader of Opposition in the Lok Sabha, Rahul Gandhi, called for a shift in economic strategies. The downturn, attributed to poor performance in the manufacturing and mining sectors, as well as weak consumption, has prompted Gandhi to emphasize the need for a fresh approach to boost the nation's economy.

Official data revealed that the economy is facing substantial challenges, with growth figures marking a slowdown not seen in two years. The decline has raised concerns about the long-term stability of key industries and the welfare of the general population. In light of these figures, Gandhi argued that India's economic policies need to be rethought, with a focus on creating an equitable and sustainable growth model. Speaking on the issue, Gandhi pointed out the growing disparity in the distribution of economic benefits. He argued that the current economic framework is failing to uplift the vast majority of the population, including farmers, laborers, and the middle class, while a small group of billionaires continue to accumulate wealth. Gandhi stressed that economic growth should not be limited to a few individuals but should benefit all sections of society. He further added that for India to progress, it needs to devise policies that address the struggles of the poor and working classes.

The downturn in the economy, according to Gandhi, highlights the urgent need for a "new deal" for businesses, where the focus is on sustainable growth that benefits a wider cross-section of the population. He pointed out that only by prioritizing the welfare of the many over the interests of the few can India truly realize its economic potential and move towards inclusive development.



Kejriwal Accuses BJP of Inaction on Law and Order, Claims Attack Orchestrated

AAP national convenor and Delhi Chief Minister Arvind Kejriwal on Sunday criticized the BJP-led central government for its alleged inaction on law and order issues in Delhi. He claimed that instead of addressing the growing security concerns in the city, the central government orchestrated an attack on him during his November visit to Gujarat.

Speaking at a press conference, Kejriwal addressed the incident in which a liquid was thrown at him, describing it as "harmless" but potentially dangerous. He pointed out that this was the third attack on him within a span of just 35 days, expressing concern over his personal safety and the overall security situation in Delhi. Despite the attack, Kejriwal emphasized that his focus remained on the deteriorating law and order in the capital, rather than engaging in political gamesmanship.

Kejriwal's remarks came amidst mounting tensions between the Aam Aadmi Party (AAP) and the BJP. The Delhi CM accused the central government, led by Home Minister Amit Shah and the BJP, of targeting him personally instead of addressing the root causes of crime and lawlessness in the city. He also claimed that instead of acting against criminals, the BJP had arrested one of his party's legislators, further intensifying the political standoff between the two parties.

While Kejriwal has consistently raised alarms about the deteriorating security conditions in Delhi, his criticism now extends to the alleged political motivations behind the attacks on him. He argued that the BJP's focus on silencing him, rather than addressing the city's security challenges, reflects the central government's inability to effectively manage law and order.



Will you now demolish Red Fort, Taj Mahal, Gol Gumbaz: Kharge to Hindutva outfits

Congress President Mallikarjun Kharge on Sunday raised concerns over RSS Chief Mohan Bhagwat's recent statement urging people not to look for a 'Shivling' in every mosque. Kharge questioned whether Bhagwat's remarks were a case of double-speak and suggested that Hindutva outfits might now target iconic landmarks such as the Red Fort, Taj Mahal, Qutub Minar, and Charminar.

Kharge made the comments during the 'Save Constitution Rally' where he voiced his skepticism over the growing influence of Hindutva groups in the country. He also pointed to a potential link between an oral observation by the then Chief Justice of India and the rise in demands from these groups for surveying mosques in search of temple remnants. Kharge implied that the judicial statement, which led to the surveys of mosque premises in Sambhal (Uttar Pradesh) and Ajmer (Rajasthan) in recent weeks, had fueled controversy and created a tense law-and-order situation in various parts of the country.

The surveys sparked widespread debates and protests, with critics arguing that such actions were attempts to stoke communal tensions by revisiting sensitive historical issues. Kharge's remarks underscored the ongoing friction surrounding religious symbols and heritage sites, which have become a focal point for Hindutva groups advocating for the reassertion of Hindu identity.

Kharge's statements also came at a time when Congress reaffirmed its "firm commitment" to protecting the Constitution and safeguarding India's pluralistic fabric. The party has been vocal in opposing the BJP's policies, particularly those linked to religious polarization and the role of Hindutva in national politics. By raising these concerns, Kharge has once again underscored the Congress' stance against efforts that may challenge India's secular principles.

As tensions escalate over the ongoing surveys and their potential consequences, Kharge's remarks reflect broader anxieties about the direction of political discourse and the preservation of India's constitutional values amidst increasing religious divisiveness.



Taiwan President Lai Ching-te Receives Warm Welcome in Hawaii

Taiwan President Lai Ching-te was greeted with a red carpet, flower garlands, and warm "alohas" as he arrived in Hawaii on Saturday for a two-day stopover, part of a broader Pacific tour. This visit marks the first time a Taiwanese president has been accorded such a welcome in Hawaii, according to his office. The reception in Honolulu stands in stark contrast to the fiery rhetoric from Beijing, which strongly condemns any recognition of Taiwan as a sovereign state.

China claims Taiwan as part of its territory, and Lai's overseas trip, which includes stops in the Pacific island nations that recognize Taiwan, has triggered threats from Beijing. China's foreign ministry issued a statement condemning the United States for facilitating Lai's visit, asserting that the US has "seriously violated" China's sovereignty and territorial integrity. Beijing warned it would take "resolute



and strong measures" to defend its claims.

During his time in Hawaii, Lai, dressed

casually in a Hawaiian shirt, visited several significant sites, including a Pacific island history museum, an emergency management center, and the USS Arizona Memorial in Pearl Harbor. He was met by Hawaii Governor Josh Green and Ingrid Larson, managing director of the American Institute in Taiwan, among other dignitaries. Throughout his visit, he was presented with traditional Hawaiian leis and other local gifts, symbolizing the warm ties between Taiwan and the US.

Lai's trip continues Taiwan's push to expand its global partnerships, particularly with its diplomatic allies in the Pacific region. Following his stop in Hawaii, he is scheduled to visit the Marshall Islands, Tuvalu, and Palau, the only Pacific island nations that officially recognize Taiwan's sovereignty. His itinerary also includes a brief stop in Guam.

In a statement before departure, Lai emphasized Taiwan's commitment to democracy, peace, and prosperity, stating that his trip aimed to strengthen international cooperation based on shared values. "We are all Team Taiwan," he said, reaffirming the island's collaborative approach to expanding its global presence.

Lai's visit comes at a time of heightened military tension, with China regularly conducting military drills near Taiwan. Despite Beijing's warnings, the Taiwanese government remains steadfast in its pursuit of international recognition and continues to strengthen ties with the US, its most important ally. Taiwan's security is bolstered by US military support, and Lai's visit coincided with the approval of a \$385 million US arms deal for Taiwan, which includes spare parts for F-16s and radar systems.



Indian-American Kash Patel Nominated As FBI Director By Donald Trump

US President-elect Donald Trump has nominated Indian-American Pentagon official Kashyap "Kash" Patel as the new FBI Director, a move that signals his intent to radically reshape the nation's top law enforcement agency. Patel, a staunch Trump ally, has been a vocal critic of the FBI's operations, especially its investigations into Trump and his associates. His nomination highlights Trump's dissatisfaction with the current FBI leadership under Christopher Wray, whom he appointed in 2017.

In a post on his social media platform, Truth Social, Trump praised Patel, calling him a "brilliant lawyer, investigator, and 'America First' fighter" who has dedicated his career to exposing corruption and defending justice. Trump also highlighted Patel's pivotal role in challenging the so-called "Russia Hoax," referring to the FBI's investigation into alleged Russian interference in the 2016 presidential election.

Patel, 44, has been outspoken about his desire to overhaul the FBI. In a recent interview with conservative podcaster Shawn Ryan, Patel outlined plans to dismantle what he perceives as the FBI's "deep state" elements, particularly its intelligence operations. "I'd break that component out of it. I'd shut down the FBI Hoover building on day one and reopen it the next day as a museum of the deep state," Patel said. He proposed sending thousands of FBI agents out across America to focus purely on law enforcement duties, rather than intelligence gathering.

This radical proposal aligns with Trump's ongoing criticisms of the FBI, particularly its handling of the investigation into classified documents found at Trump's Mar-a-Lago estate. The search, conducted under Wray's leadership, enraged Trump and his supporters, further fueling his calls for changes at the FBI.

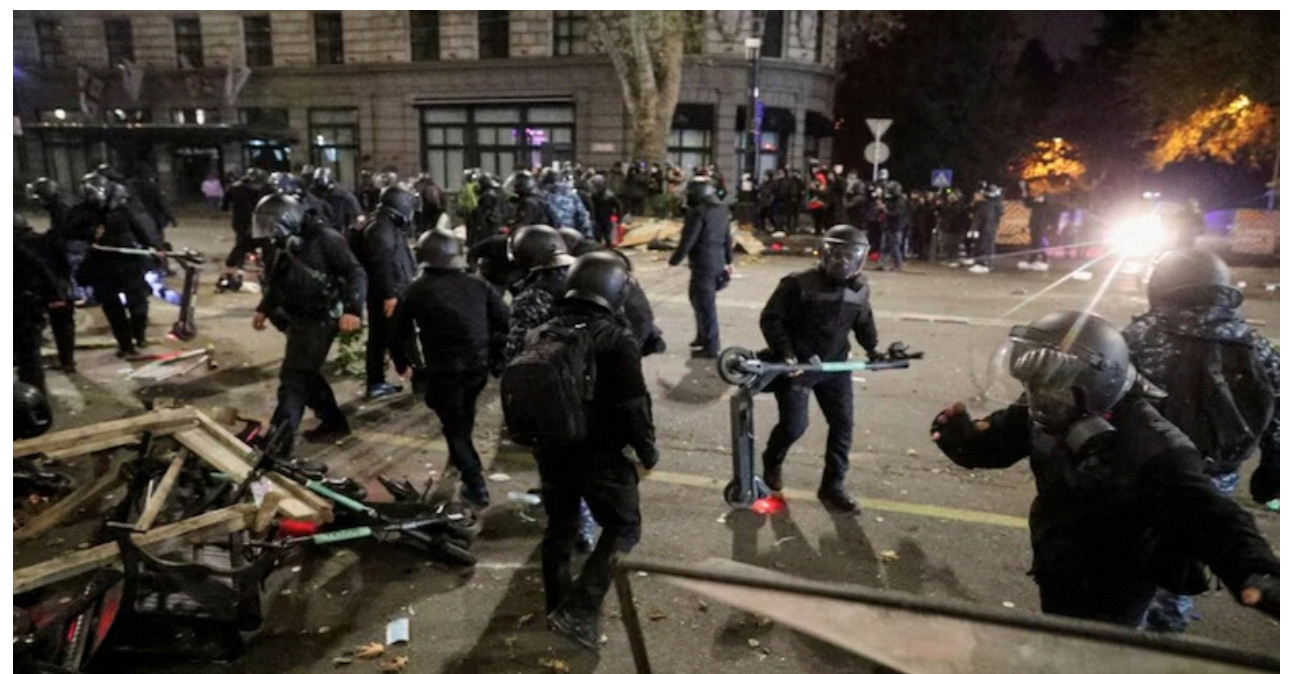
Patel's rise to prominence began during Trump's first term when he became involved in the investigation into the FBI's handling of the Russia probe. He played a key role in drafting the "Kash Memo," which accused the FBI of bias in its investigation of Trump's 2016 campaign.

Georgian PM Praises Police for Crackdown on Protests Amid EU Accession Crisis

Georgian Prime Minister Irakli Kobakhidze has praised the country's police forces for their response to ongoing anti-government protests, which erupted after the ruling Georgian Dream party announced it would halt European Union accession talks for the next four years. The decision has plunged the nation into a political crisis, with widespread protests in the capital, Tbilisi, and other cities.

The protests began after the Georgian government's announcement on Thursday that it would pause its EU accession negotiations, a move that has alarmed both the United States and the European Union. Many see it as a shift away from Georgia's pro-Western stance and a move closer to Russia. The protests, which have continued for three consecutive nights, have been met with heavy police force, including the use of water cannons and tear gas.

Prime Minister Kobakhidze, in a press conference on Sunday, dismissed international criticism of Georgia's response to the protests, particularly from the United States, which condemned the use of "excessive force" against demonstrators. He alleged that the protesters were being manipulated by "foreign instructors" intent on destabilizing the country. However, he did not provide evidence to substantiate these claims. Kobakhidze defended the police's actions, stating that they had acted with greater professionalism than American and



European forces would have in a similar situation.

The situation has drawn significant attention from Russia as well. Dmitry Medvedev, a former Russian president and now a leading security official, warned that Georgia was veering towards a "revolution," claiming the country was "moving rapidly along the Ukrainian path." While Moscow has not issued an official statement on the events,

it has long accused the West of inciting unrest in former Soviet states, which it considers part of its sphere of influence.

The crisis deepened with outgoing President Salome Zourabichvili's refusal to step down at the end of her term. Zourabichvili, a staunch supporter of EU membership, stated that she would not vacate office due to what she described as a "illegitimate" new parliament.

Putin approves military focused 2025-2027 Budget

Russian President Vladimir Putin has approved a new state budget for the years 2025-2027, which prioritizes military spending amid the ongoing conflict in Ukraine. According to a document published on Russia's official legal acts website on Sunday, the budget will feature a 25 percent increase in military expenditure, reflecting the country's heightened defense needs. However, the new budget will also be one of the most secretive in post-Soviet history, with nearly a third of the total spending concealed from public view.

The government has emphasized that military needs, particularly those related to the ongoing "special military operation" in Ukraine, will remain the main priority for national spending. Moscow continues to allocate significant resources to support its military efforts, and the latest budget shows a clear commitment to maintaining and even expanding defense capabilities in the face of continued international pressure and sanctions. The Russian leadership has justified these increases as necessary for national security and the defense of Russian sovereignty.



In addition to military funding, the budget also includes provisions for social needs and technological development. These areas have been earmarked as critical for maintaining internal stability and securing Russia's long-term economic future. However, the substantial increase in defense spending has raised concerns among critics who argue that it could come at the expense of other vital sectors such as healthcare, education, and infrastructure.

The budget's secrecy is also notable. Nearly a third of the total budget has been classified, with details about the allocation of funds for specific military projects and operations kept hidden from the public. This level of opacity raises questions about the government's priorities and how it intends to manage public funds during a period of economic hardship exacerbated by international sanctions. Despite these concerns, the Kremlin remains firm in its stance that the budget reflects Russia's strategic priorities. The government has emphasized the importance of technological advancement and modernization, with a focus on boosting domestic industries and reducing reliance on foreign imports in key sectors. As Russia continues to navigate the geopolitical fallout from its actions in Ukraine, this new budget will play a crucial role in shaping the country's future military and economic trajectory.

Bangladesh Court Acquits All In 2004 Attack On Sheikh Hasina's Rally Case

In a significant ruling on Sunday, the Bangladesh High Court overturned the verdict of a lower court, acquitting all 49 individuals convicted in connection with the 2004 grenade attack on a rally led by Sheikh Hasina, the current Prime Minister of Bangladesh. Among those acquitted were Tarique Rahman, son of former Prime Minister Khaleda Zia, and Lutfozzaman Babar, a former state minister.

The grenade attack, which took place on August 21, 2004, targeted an Awami League rally in Dhaka's Bangabandhu Avenue, leaving 24 people dead and nearly 300 others injured. The attack occurred while Hasina, then an opposition leader, was addressing the crowd at a rally against terrorism. Despite narrowly escaping the assassination attempt, Hasina and her party faced a profound political crisis.



The High Court's bench, consisting of Justice AKM Asaduzzaman and Justice Syed Enayet Hossain, ruled that the trial court's judgment was "illegal" and annulled the verdicts. The judgment comes after reviewing death references and appeals related to the attack. The case had initially relied heavily on a confessional statement from Mufti Abdul Hannan, the leader of the banned militant group Harkat-ul-Jihad al-Islami (HuJI). However, the High Court deemed the confession inadmissible, ruling it was extracted under duress and lacked proper legal examination.

In the original 2018 trial court decision, 19 individuals, including Babar, were sentenced to death, while Tarique Rahman and 19 others received life sentences. However, the defense team for the accused argued that no specific allegations had been made against their clients, leading to their request for the High Court to overturn the lower court's verdict. On the other hand, prosecutors urged the High Court to uphold the convictions, stating that the evidence against the accused was overwhelming.

Domestic Markets Poised for Mixed Performance

Amid Global Uncertainty and Slower GDP Growth

Domestic stock market indices are likely to move mixed this week. For now, the impact of the US District Court dispute on Adani has decreased. Tensions in West Asia and the Russia-Ukraine war are likely to subside. There is no major change in crude oil prices. If there are positive signals from international markets, the markets will rise. There may be fluctuations as India's GDP growth rate slows down in the current fiscal year. Last week, there was buying in the defense, public sector banks, oil and gas, and media sectors.



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Stock Recommendations

Bharti Airtel: These shares, which have undergone a 15% correction from their lifetime high, are being sold off as investors are eager to invest in them as rating agencies say that these shares will rise by 20%. Another advantage is that the fluctuations are low and they are showing strength compared to the Nifty. Investors should take positions in this counter, which gained 4.28% on significant volume last Friday, with a target price of Rs. 1680/1710. Stop loss should be placed at Rs. 1575.



LIC: Demand for these shares increased due to news that Manipal is going to buy 50% stake in Cigna Health Insurance and the government is planning to allow it to provide all types of insurance services. After fall-



ing from a lifetime high, key support was found at Rs. 900. Investors should buy in this counter, which closed at Rs. 985 with a 5% gain last Friday, with a target price of Rs. 1050/1100 at Rs. 960. Stop loss at Rs. 940 is mandatory.

Divis Lab: These shares have been in an uptrend since April this year. Momentum has increased further after breaking the four-year high in September. The stock is moving sideways after reaching a lifetime high. Accumulation is underway. These shares closed at Rs.6172 with a gain of 3.71% last Friday after brokerage houses gave top ratings. Investors should take positions in the Rs.6100 range with a target price of Rs.6250/6300. Keep a stop loss at Rs.6050.



Torrent Pharma: These shares, which fell by 15% after the latest quarterly results, found support at



the Rs.3100 level. They have risen by 8% in the last two weeks. It is noteworthy that they are performing better compared to the Nifty. Investors should take a position at Rs. 3300 with a target price of Rs. 3450/3500 in this counter, which closed with a gain of 3.79% last Friday. Stop loss at Rs. 3225 is mandatory.

Rashtriya Chemicals and Fertilizers: These shares, which reached a lifetime high after a multi-year breakout, have been in a downtrend since July. They found a key support at Rs. 150 and formed a double bottom. These shares have shown strength in the last two weeks. Investors should take a position in the Rs. 175 range with a target price of Rs. 190/215 in this counter, which closed with a gain of 3.38% last Friday. Investors should take a position in the Rs. 175 range with a target price of Rs. 175. Stop loss should be placed at Rs. 168.



India's Coal Production Sees 7.2% Growth in November



India's coal production grew by 7.2% in November, reaching 90.62 million tonnes (MT) compared to 84.52 MT in the same month last year, according to a statement from the Ministry of Coal released on Sunday.

The country's coal output from April to November this fiscal year also showed a positive trend, rising by 6.21% to 628.03 MT from 591.32 MT during the same period in 2023, based on provisional figures. This increase in production reflects the government's ongoing efforts to ensure a steady supply of coal for energy generation and other sectors.

In November 2024, coal production from captive and other entities saw a significant rise, reaching 17.13 MT, up from 12.44 MT in November 2023. This surge highlights the growth in coal output from both public and private sector players, contributing to the overall increase in national coal production.

Coal dispatches also showed steady improvement, with 85.22 MT dispatched in November, compared to 82.07 MT in the same month last year, reflecting a growth of 3.85%. This increase in coal dispatches is crucial for meeting the energy demand, especially with the ongoing energy transition and the need to secure adequate fuel supplies for power plants and industries across the country.

The rise in coal production and dispatches comes as part of India's broader strategy to meet its growing energy needs, particularly in the wake of increasing electricity demand during the winter season. The government has been focusing on ramping up domestic coal production to reduce reliance on imports and enhance energy security.

As India continues to pursue its energy goals, the coal sector's performance remains key to supporting the country's industrial activities and electricity generation capacity.

India's GDP Growth Slows to 5.4% in Q2; Crisil Revises 2024-25 Forecast to 6.8%

India's economic growth has shown signs of slowing, with the country's GDP expanding by just 5.4% in the July-September quarter of the financial year 2024-25. This marks a significant decline from the 8.1% growth seen during the same period last year and falls short of the Reserve Bank of India's (RBI) forecast of 7%. Following this weaker-than-expected performance, credit rating agency Crisil has revised its full-year GDP growth forecast to 6.8%, down from an earlier estimate of 7.2%.



The slowdown is attributed to a combination of factors, including high interest rates and a lack of fiscal stimulus. Crisil noted that risks remain tilted toward the downside due to the disappointing second-quarter performance. However, some high-frequency indicators from October, such as robust automobile sales and export growth, suggest a potential revival in the third quarter, raising hopes that the current slowdown may be temporary.

Agriculture, however, offers a silver lining. The sector's growth has improved, with expectations of a strong kharif harvest, driven by favorable monsoon conditions and higher reservoir levels. Crisil anticipates that agricultural growth will continue to boost rural incomes and consumption. Additionally, as kharif crops begin to enter

the market, food inflation pressures are expected to ease, which could help alleviate the cost of living for both rural and urban households.

On the inflation front, retail inflation stood at 6.21% in October, exceeding the RBI's upper tolerance limit of 6%. This rise in inflation was primarily driven by higher food prices, particularly for vegetables, fruits, and oils. Despite these inflationary pressures, Crisil suggests that easing food prices, combined with the festive and wedding season, may provide a boost to consumption in the second half of the fiscal year.

The RBI has maintained an elevated repo rate of 6.5% to curb inflation, with policymakers hoping to bring it down to a more sustainable 4% target in the long term.

GST Collections Hit ₹1.82 Trillion in November, Driven by Festive Demand

India's Goods and Services Tax (GST) collections reached ₹1.82 trillion in November, marking an 8.5% year-on-year growth, according to official data released on Sunday. The figures highlight a strong boost in tax receipts driven by increased consumption during the festive season.



However, the November collections were slightly lower than the ₹1.87 trillion reported in October, which was the second-highest GST collection since the introduction of the new indirect tax regime in 2017. The highest-ever GST collection of ₹2.1 trillion was recorded in April.

The uptick in GST collections was anticipated by policymakers, reflecting a surge in goods purchases during the festive period, which provided a welcome boost to industries. The tax collected in November corresponds to transactions carried out in October, a month marked by major festivals such as Diwali.

Policymakers are optimistic about sustained growth in both rural and urban consumption. In its latest monthly economic review, the Ministry of Finance noted that India's economic momentum showed signs of revival in October, supported by indicators like the Purchasing Managers' Index (PMI) and increased e-way bill generation. These signals suggest a recovery in demand across both ru-

ral and urban sectors.

The government's budget for FY 2025 projects an 11.6% growth in total GST collections to ₹10.6 trillion for the fiscal year. MS Mani, a partner at Deloitte India, commented that domestic GST revenue growth of over 10% in FY25 supports a forecasted GDP growth of 7%. He added that collections in the first eight months of FY 25 had already exceeded ₹1 trillion more than the same period in FY 2024, surpassing budget estimates for the fiscal year.

In November, the government issued ₹19,259 crore in tax refunds, a decrease of 8.9% compared to the same month last year. After refunds, the central government collected ₹34,141 crore, while states collected ₹43,047 crore. GST revenue from interstate sales stood at ₹91,828 crore, with cess revenue contributing ₹13,253 crore.

WhatsApp Testing New QR Code Feature for Easy Channel Discovery

WhatsApp is reportedly testing a new feature that allows users to easily view and join channels on the platform. Currently under development, this functionality is designed to simplify the process of discovering and following new channels, enhancing the overall user experience.

According to a recent report from WABetaInfo, the feature is currently available to users who are testing the latest WhatsApp beta versions for both Android and iOS. This new feature works by allowing users to scan a QR code with their phone's camera. Once the code is scanned, users will be redirected to the associated channel, where they can browse its content and join if it aligns with their interests.

The introduction of this feature could be a game-changer for WhatsApp's channel system, which allows users to follow public updates from different sources, including businesses, news outlets, and influencers. By integrating QR codes, WhatsApp aims to



make it easier for users to find and access these channels, enhancing the platform's social and informational aspects.

The QR code scanning feature offers a more efficient way to connect with channels compared to manually searching for them, which can sometimes be time-consuming. This could be particularly beneficial for users who come across a channel in

real life, on promotional material, or through social media, as they can simply scan the code to instantly access and follow it on WhatsApp.

While the feature is still in the testing phase and may undergo further changes before its official release, it has already generated significant interest among beta testers. As WhatsApp continues to roll out and refine the feature, users can expect a smoother and more intuitive way to explore and join channels, helping the platform compete with other social media and messaging apps that already offer similar functionalities.



China's First Gene-Edited Pig Kidney Survives Over Six Months in Monkey

In a groundbreaking achievement in the field of organ transplantation, scientists in China have successfully transplanted a gene-edited pig kidney into a monkey, where it survived for over half a year. This achievement marks a significant milestone in the field of xenotransplantation, where organs from one species are used to replace damaged or failing organs in another species. According to a report by the *South China Morning Post*, this success paves the way for future advancements in the use of gene-edited pig organs for human transplants.

Earlier this year, China made headlines with the first-ever transplant of a gene-edited pig liver into a human cancer patient, though the procedure's outcome was limited. However, the long survival of the gene-edited pig kidney in the monkey offers promising prospects, addressing one of the major hurdles faced by xenotransplantation: the lack of successful long-term animal testing.

The significance of this new development is twofold. First, it advances the scientific understanding of gene editing in pigs, a species often chosen for organ harvesting due to its similarities to human anatomy. Secondly, it highlights the potential of creating more viable organs for human transplantation, a process that could help alleviate the global organ shortage crisis. Gene editing allows researchers to modify the pig genome to prevent rejection of the transplanted organs by the recipient's immune system, improving the chances of long-term survival.

While this achievement is a step forward, further testing and refinement are necessary before moving to human trials. Ethical concerns surrounding xenotransplantation, particularly regarding the use of animals, continue to be a subject of debate. Nevertheless, this latest success marks an exciting leap toward potentially saving countless lives by expanding the pool of available organs for transplant.

Naples to New York: How pizza became a fan favourite across the world

Few fast-food dishes have as rich and literary a history as pizza. Mentioned in texts ranging from Virgil's *Aeneid* to Alexandre Dumas' *Le Corricolo*, and Pellegrino Artusi's influential 1890 cookbook *La Scienza in Cucina e l'Arte di Mangiar Bene* (Science in the Kitchen and the Art of Eating Well), pizza has made its mark in literature across centuries.



Today, pizza is one of the most beloved foods globally, available in a multitude of forms and variations across different cultures. However, the earliest pizzas were simple flatbreads, topped with mushrooms and herbs, lacking the tomato sauce and cheese we associate with modern pizza. These flatbreads were often sold to people who couldn't afford plates, serving as both the meal and the dishware. In Virgil's *Aeneid*, after Aeneas and his companions arrive in Latium, they sit under a tree and eat "thin wheaten cakes" as platters for their meal, topping them with mushrooms and herbs. The scene ends with Aeneas' son, Ascanius, exclaiming: "Look! We've even eaten our plates!"

The pizza we recognize today — specifically the thin-crust Neapolitan version, not the

unusual momos-topped variants from some fast-food chains — was born in Naples during the late 18th century. Under Bourbon rule, Naples became one of Europe's largest cities, home to a large population of impoverished peasants known as the *lazzaroni* due to their ragged appearance, likened to Lazarus. These laborers, porters, and messengers needed inexpensive, portable food. This demand led to the creation of pizza, with its simple toppings suited for quick, affordable meals on the go.

Thus, pizza evolved from humble beginnings as a flatbread snack into the iconic dish enjoyed worldwide today, with a legacy deeply embedded in both literature and culture.

Harvard Researchers Create Robots Powered by Vodka, Inspired by Cheerios in Milk

Researchers at Harvard University have unveiled a groundbreaking innovation in robotics—robots powered by vodka. Drawing inspiration from the way Cheerios stick together in milk, these robots utilize the Marangoni effect, a physical phenomenon where liquids with varying surface tensions create motion, to move across water without the need for motors or batteries.

The Marangoni effect occurs when two liquids with different surface tensions interact, creating a flow of liquid from areas of high tension to low tension. In this case, the researchers used vodka, which has a lower surface tension compared to water. When vodka is introduced to water, it creates a dynamic force that propels these robots across the water's surface. By carefully controlling the amount and placement of vodka, the robots move in a precise and controlled manner.

This unique method of movement opens up exciting possibilities for future applications. One major potential benefit lies in environmental cleanup. These robots could be deployed to clean up oil spills or other contaminants in water, where their ability to move autonomously without the need for power sources like motors or batteries makes them ideal for delicate and hard-to-reach environments.

In addition to environmental applications, the technology could have significant implications in medical delivery systems. Robots that move using



the Marangoni effect could be used to transport medicine or other small materials within the human body, providing a non-invasive, controlled way to deliver treatment.

The precision and eco-friendliness of this approach also make it promising for future advancements in robotics, where motors and batteries could be replaced with a more sustainable, liquid-based propulsion system. As researchers continue to refine the technology, the potential for these vodka-powered robots to revolutionize industries ranging from medical to environmental sectors seems limitless.

Chinese Man Scams 63 Hotels Using Dead Cockroaches and Used Condoms

A 21-year-old man from Taizhou, Zhejiang province, China, defrauded 63 hotels by using a series of deceitful tactics to get free accommodation and monetary compensation. The man, identified only by his surname Jiang, allegedly spent his college tuition fees on travel and resorted to unethical means to fund his journey once he ran out of money.

According to a report by the *South China Morning Post*, Jiang's scam began in September 2023 when he chose to travel instead of enrolling in university. As he exhausted his funds, he de-

vised a plan to extort money from various hotels by fabricating complaints about the condition of the rooms.

Jiang's method was disturbingly creative: he would plant dead cockroaches and used condoms in hotel rooms to create the impression that the accommodations were unhygienic and unsanitary. After making these claims, he would demand compensation for the supposed poor conditions or



request a free stay. His actions ultimately earned him the opportunity to stay in several hotels without paying, with some even offering monetary compensation to avoid negative publicity.

Over the course of his scheme, Jiang targeted numerous hotels, traveling from one to another and leaving a trail of complaints in his wake. His plan worked for several months until he was eventually caught. The

incident has raised concerns about the vulnerability of businesses in the hospitality sector and the lengths to which some individuals will go to exploit such systems.

Authorities are investigating the case, and Jiang's actions have sparked widespread discussion about fraudulent practices in the tourism and hotel industries. His deceptive journey highlights the risks faced by businesses in ensuring the quality and credibility of their services, as well as the potential consequences of unethical behavior.

Melbourne Renegades Win Maiden WBBL 2024 Title with Thrilling 7-Run Victory

The Melbourne Renegades were crowned champions of the 2024 Women's Big Bash League (WBBL) after a thrilling 7-run victory over Brisbane Heat at the iconic Melbourne Cricket Ground on Sunday. Hayley Matthews was the star of the match, delivering an all-round performance that helped the Renegades clinch their first-ever WBBL title.



After winning the toss, Brisbane Heat opted to field first. Opening the batting, Matthews played a scintillating knock of 69 runs from 61 balls, including 8 boundaries, while Courtney Webb contributed 9 runs from 8 balls. Despite Webb's early departure, Matthews' explosive innings propelled the Renegades to a competitive total of 141/9 in their allotted 20 overs. Georgia Wareham (21 runs from 21 balls) and Naomi Stalenberg (16 runs from 12 balls) also provided valuable support, adding crucial runs towards the end of the innings.

Matthews' innings came to an end in the final over, with Charli Knott claiming the key wicket, but by then, the damage had already been done. Knott led the Brisbane Heat's bowling attack with a three-wicket haul, supported by Grace Parsons, who picked up two wickets. Nicola Hancock, Lucy Hamilton, and Jess Jonassen each took one wicket.

Rain interruptions during the innings break delayed play, reducing the second innings to just 12 overs. According to the DLS method, Brisbane's target was revised to 98 runs from 12 overs.

In their chase, Brisbane Heat's top and middle order faltered, but Jess Jonassen's captaincy-inspired knock of 44 runs from 28 balls kept them in the hunt. Jonassen's innings, which included 5 fours and a six, was the highlight of the chase, but despite her efforts, Brisbane fell short by 7 runs.

Matthews also shone with the ball, taking 3 wickets in her three-over spell. Charis Bekker, Milly Illingworth, Sophie Molineux, and Deandra Dottin each claimed one wicket. Matthews was named Player of the Match for her outstanding all-round performance.

Hardik Singh Appointed Captain of UP Rudras for Upcoming Hockey India League



Star India midfielder Hardik Singh has been named the captain of the UP Rudras for the upcoming season of the Hockey India League (HIL). The announcement was made on Sunday, and Singh's leadership will be crucial for the Lucknow-based franchise, owned by Yadu Sports, as they prepare for a highly competitive season.

The UP Rudras have assembled a strong squad for the upcoming season, which includes rising star Priyobarta Talem, Gurjot Singh, and several prominent players from Indian and international hockey, such as Lalit Kumar Upadhyay, Simranjeet Singh, Lars Balk, and Kane Russel. The team is brimming with talent and promises exciting performances.

Mr. Madhavkrishna Singhanian, Co-Founder of Yadu Sports, expressed his confidence in Hardik Singh's leadership abilities. He praised Singh as a "true leader on and off the pitch" and congratulated him on being appointed as the team captain. He also emphasized the strength of the team, noting that the players have the potential to not only

perform at their best but also win the hearts of the fans.

UP Rudras' head coach, Paul Van Ass, echoed this sentiment, highlighting Singh's consistent performance for India, including being part of the Indian team that won two consecutive Olympic bronze medals. Van Ass stated that Hardik's deep understanding of the game and his leadership skills would bring out the best in his teammates.

Hardik Singh expressed his excitement and gratitude for the opportunity to lead the team. He acknowledged the honor of representing and captaining a team from the hometown of the legendary Dhyanchand Ji. Singh expressed confidence in the strength of the squad, stating that they possess talent across all departments and are ready to make a strong impact in the league.

As the UP Rudras prepare for the season ahead, fans are eagerly anticipating the leadership and performance of Hardik Singh in what promises to be an exciting edition of the Hockey India League.

PV Sindhu and Lakshya Sen Win Singles Titles at Syed Modi International 2024



Top-seeded Indian shuttlers P.V. Sindhu and Lakshya Sen delivered impressive performances to win the women's and men's singles titles, respectively, at the Syed Modi International badminton tournament in Lucknow on Sunday.

Sindhu, a two-time Olympic medallist, ended a long dry spell by clinching her third Syed Modi International title. The 29-year-old outclassed China's World No. 119, Wu Luo Yu, with a dominant 21-14, 21-16 victory in the women's singles final. Sindhu had previously triumphed at the tournament in 2017 and 2022, and this win marked a significant return to form for the Indian star.

In the men's singles final, Lakshya Sen, the 2021 World Championship bronze medallist, put on a dominant display, defeating Singapore's Jia Heng Jason Teh 21-6, 21-7. Sen's performance was a testament to his exceptional skills, as he completely controlled the match, showcasing his strength and precision throughout.

Both Sindhu and Sen's victories at the prestigious tournament reaffirmed their place at the top of Indian badminton and marked a successful end to their campaigns at the Syed Modi International. Their commanding victories are set to provide a boost to their confidence as they prepare for future international competitions.

Joe Root Surpasses Sachin Tendulkar in 4th Innings Test Runs, Leads England to Victory

England's Joe Root etched his name into the history books during the first Test against New Zealand by surpassing the legendary Sachin Tendulkar for the most runs in the 4th innings of Test cricket. Root's achievement came as England triumphed by 8 wickets in a convincing win. Though Root was dismissed for a duck in his first innings, he made amends in the second, scoring 23 runs off 15 balls and finishing unbeaten.

Before this match, Tendulkar held the record with 1625 runs in the 4th innings of Tests. However, Root now sits at the top of the list with 1630 runs. The updated list of the highest run-scorers in the 4th innings of Test cricket.

England's captain, Ben Stokes, expressed



his satisfaction with his team's performance in the series opener. "Very good, very happy with the way we fought the

entire week," said Stokes. Despite being under pressure on day two, with England at 40 for 3, the team's recovery and eventual lead were commendable. Stokes also praised Harry Brook for making the most of his opportunities, highlighting the importance of capitalizing on dropped catches.

Brydon Carse was named Player of the Match after his remarkable 10-wicket haul across both innings. Stokes, who has known Carse since his days at Durham, was thrilled with his performance, calling it "amazing." He further praised Carse's consistency and effort with the ball, as well as England's bold approach in chasing down targets.

With an all-round strong performance, England dominated the match, with key contributions from players like Root, Carse, and Brook.

An unbeaten fifth-wicket partnership of 65 runs between Tayyab Tahir and Irfan Khan powered Pakistan to a 57-run victory over Zimbabwe in the first of three Twenty20 internationals on Sunday. The victory came as part of Pakistan's ongoing white-ball tour of Zimbabwe, where they had already secured a 2-1 series win in the One-Day International format. Winning the toss at Queens Sports Club in Bulawayo, Pakistan posted 165/4 in their allotted 20 overs. Zimbabwe, in reply, were bowled out for just 108 in 15.3 overs.

Pakistan's innings had been struggling at 100/4 with 34 balls remaining when Tahir and Khan came together to turn the game around. The pair launched a blistering assault, scoring 65 runs off the final overs, exploiting poor bowling and careless fielding by Zimbabwe. Tahir top-scored for Pakistan with 39 runs, including one six and four fours, while Usman Khan, who had also made 39, contributed with four boundaries, two of them sixes. Irfan Khan added 27 off 15 balls, including three fours.

"We just decided to run hard and hit every ball. If we couldn't hit a six, we'd settle for running," said Tahir, who was named Player of the Match.

Tayyab Tahir and Irfan Khan Lead Pakistan to 57-Run Victory Over Zimbabwe in T20I



Zimbabwe's response was hindered by Pakistan's disciplined bowling attack, with Tadiwanashe Marumani and captain Sikandar Raza putting on a fighting 59-run partnership for the third wicket. Raza top-scored for Zimbabwe with 39, but after Marumani was run out for 33 and Raza was caught at backward point, Zimbabwe's batting crumbled. The last four wickets fell for just 13 runs.

Jahandad Khan claimed the crucial wicket of Raza, while Sufiyan Muqem was the standout bowler for Pakistan, picking up three wickets to destroy Zimbabwe's tail.

Pakistan will look to extend their dominance in the remaining T20I matches, set to take place on Tuesday and Thursday.

Mohanlal's 'L2: Empuraan' Completes Shoot, Set for March Release

A month ago, the makers of the highly anticipated film *L2: Empuraan* (L2E), starring Mohanlal and directed by Prithviraj Sukumaran, announced its theatrical release date of March 27, 2025. Now, the film is once again making waves with an exciting new update.

The team has officially wrapped up the shoot, marking a significant milestone in the production process. This wraps up the filming phase, and now the focus shifts to an intensive post-production period where the final touches will be added to create the cinematic masterpiece fans have been eagerly awaiting. With the shooting now complete, the team is ready to kick off full-scale promotional activities to build excitement for the film's upcoming release.



L2: Empuraan is the highly anticipated sequel to the 2019 blockbuster *Lucifer*, which saw Mohanlal deliver an iconic performance as the powerful Stephen Nedumpally. The sequel is set to expand on the gripping story that captivated audiences across India and beyond. Produced by Lyca Productions and Aashirvad Cinemas, *L2: Empuraan* promises to be a pan-Indian epic, and fans are eagerly waiting to see how the saga unfolds.

no Thomas, Indrajith Sukumaran, Shakti Kapoor, and Saikumar. With such a stellar ensemble, *L2: Empuraan* is set to offer an unforgettable cinematic experience. The music, composed by Deepak Dev, is expected to complement the grand scale of the film, further elevating the anticipation.

As the post-production phase begins and promotional efforts ramp up, excitement continues to build for *L2: Empuraan*. Fans of the *Lucifer* franchise can look forward to the film's release in March 2025, promising an epic continuation of the story.

The film boasts an exceptional cast alongside Mohanlal, including Manju Warrier, Prithviraj Sukumaran, Tovi-

Dhruva Sarja's New Film 'Kora' Creates Buzz with First Look

Dhruva Sarja, one of the most popular and talented actors in Kannada cinema, is all set to make waves once again with his upcoming project *Kora*. Following his recent success in the Telugu film *Martin*, Sarja is now venturing into the world of production, adding another feather to his cap. The highly anticipated movie has already generated significant excitement, especially with the release of its first look.



Kora is an action-packed entertainer, and Dhruva Sarja is taking on the role of a producer this time, stepping away from the hero's journey. The film has caught the attention of audiences with its intriguing first look, where Sarja is seen in a serious avatar, with scars on his face, leaving fans eager to know more about the character and storyline. The rugged look has created a buzz, heightening the curiosity surrounding the movie.

Directed by Oratashree, *Kora* is set to feature a talented ensemble cast, with Tsunami Kitty, Charisma, and P. Murthy in lead roles. The film is produced by Dr. AB Nandini, AN Balaji, and P. Murthy under the banners of Sri Lakshmi Jyoti Creations and Ratnamma Movies. The film also features MK Mata, Muniraju, and Neenasam Aswat in significant roles.

With music composed by BR Hemant Kumar, *Kora* promises to offer an immersive cinematic experience. The film is set to be released in multiple languages, including Kannada, Telugu, Tamil, Hindi, and Malayalam, making it a pan-Indian release. As fans eagerly await further updates, the excitement surrounding Dhruva Sarja's *Kora* continues to grow, and it is expected to capture the attention of audiences across the country.



Peelings.. A Massy Meals From Pushpa 2

As the release of *Pushpa 2: The Rule* approaches, excitement continues to build, especially with the release of a new song from the film. At a recent event in Kochi, Allu Arjun revealed that the first few lines of the song would be in Malayalam, a special gesture for the Kerala audience, which has only heightened the anticipation for the movie.

The song, written by Chandrabose, explores the emotional complexity of love, highlighting the twists and turns of a relationship. Fans have been eagerly speculating about the song's impact, with many believing that the "peelings" (or key moments) in the track will transcend expectations. The lyrics delve into the emo-

tional ups and downs of a love-filled journey, resonating deeply with listeners.

Unlike typical lyric videos that feature just stills, this song is accompanied by a two-minute original video, showcasing the film's confidence. The video features Allu Arjun and Rashmika Mandanna performing a visually captivating dance sequence, where Allu Arjun lifts Rashmika, adding an extra flair to the performance. Choreographed by Shekhar Master, the dance steps offer a refreshing departure from the norm, designed to deeply connect with the audience. While the song may not seem extraordinary on the first listen, its appeal grows gradually, making it a

track that lingers.

Though most of the *Pushpa 2* soundtrack has been released, the much-anticipated "Jathara" song remains a mystery, expected to surprise audiences when they watch the film. Whether the songs from *Pushpa 2* will match the overwhelming popularity of those from *Pushpa 1: The Rise* remains to be seen, but the full theatrical experience will reveal all.

With advance bookings already setting new records, *Pushpa 2* is set to premiere on December 4 with second-show screenings. The film promises to deliver an unforgettable spectacle as Pushpa Raj returns to take theaters by storm once again.

Pushpa 2 goes wild – Hits \$2 million at NA box office

Allu Arjun's highly anticipated film *Pushpa 2: The Rule* is all set to hit theaters this Thursday, and expectations are soaring high. Directed by Sukumar, this action-packed sequel to the blockbuster *Pushpa: The Rise* is poised to make a massive impact at the box office. With well-executed promotions and an eager fanbase, the film is expected to break records and set new milestones in Indian cinema.

The makers have left no stone unturned in ensuring a grand opening for *Pushpa 2*. Ticket price hikes have been implemented across the Telugu states to maximize the film's debut. In North America, the film has already made waves, crossing an impressive \$2 million in pre-release sales—a groundbreaking achievement for a Telugu film. With the film's release just around the corner, more records are expected to be shattered as the movie takes the box office by storm.

Fans across the nation are eagerly awaiting the release, with *Pushpa 2* set to dominate cinemas. Both Allu Arjun and director Sukumar are confident in the film's success, and they are supported by a strong cast. Rashmika Mandanna reprises her role as Allu Arjun's love interest, adding more charm to the film's narrative. In addition, the film features the talented Fahadh Faasil as



the antagonist, bringing intensity to the story with his portrayal of a ruthless villain.

The ensemble cast also includes Sunil, Jagapathi Babu, Anasuya Bharadwaj, Jagadish, Brahmaji, and Rao Ramesh, all of whom add depth to this pan-Indian drama. Produced by Mythri Movie Makers, *Pushpa 2: The Rule* features music by Devi Sri Prasad, further enhancing the film's appeal with his signature compositions.

As the release date approaches, the excitement surrounding *Pushpa 2* continues to build. Fans and movie enthusiasts can expect a thrilling cinematic experience as the sequel promises to exceed all expectations.

Prabhas Prepares for *Kalki 2898 AD* Release in Japan

Prabhas, the pan-India superstar, has already established a strong fanbase in Japan, thanks to the massive success of the *Baahubali* franchise and *Salaar*. His immense popularity in the country has made him one of the most successful Indian movie stars in Japan. Now, the actor is set to make his return to the Japanese audience with his upcoming sci-fi mythological epic, *Kalki 2898 AD*.

Scheduled for release on January 3, 2025, coinciding with Shogatsu, Japan's New Year festival, *Kalki 2898 AD* promises to be a grand spectacle. The film's Japanese version will be distributed by Twin, one of the leading distribution houses in Japan. The film has already generated a significant buzz among fans, and Prabhas is expected to engage with the audience through promotional activities in the country.



Directed by Nag Ashwin, *Kalki 2898 AD* is a high-budget, visually stunning entertainer that features an ensemble cast. Prabhas plays the lead role, while Bollywood legends Amitabh Bachchan and Deepika Padukone also take on key roles. The film further enhances its appeal with Kamal Haasan, who portrays the antagonist. This ambitious project, produced by Ashwini Dutt, has already made waves globally, grossing over Rs 1,100 crore at the worldwide box office during its initial release.

Prabhas and the *Kalki* team are set to fly to Japan in the coming weeks for promotional activities, adding further excitement to the movie's release. With the combination of star power, groundbreaking visuals, and a compelling storyline, *Kalki 2898 AD* is poised to create a major impact on the Japanese box office.