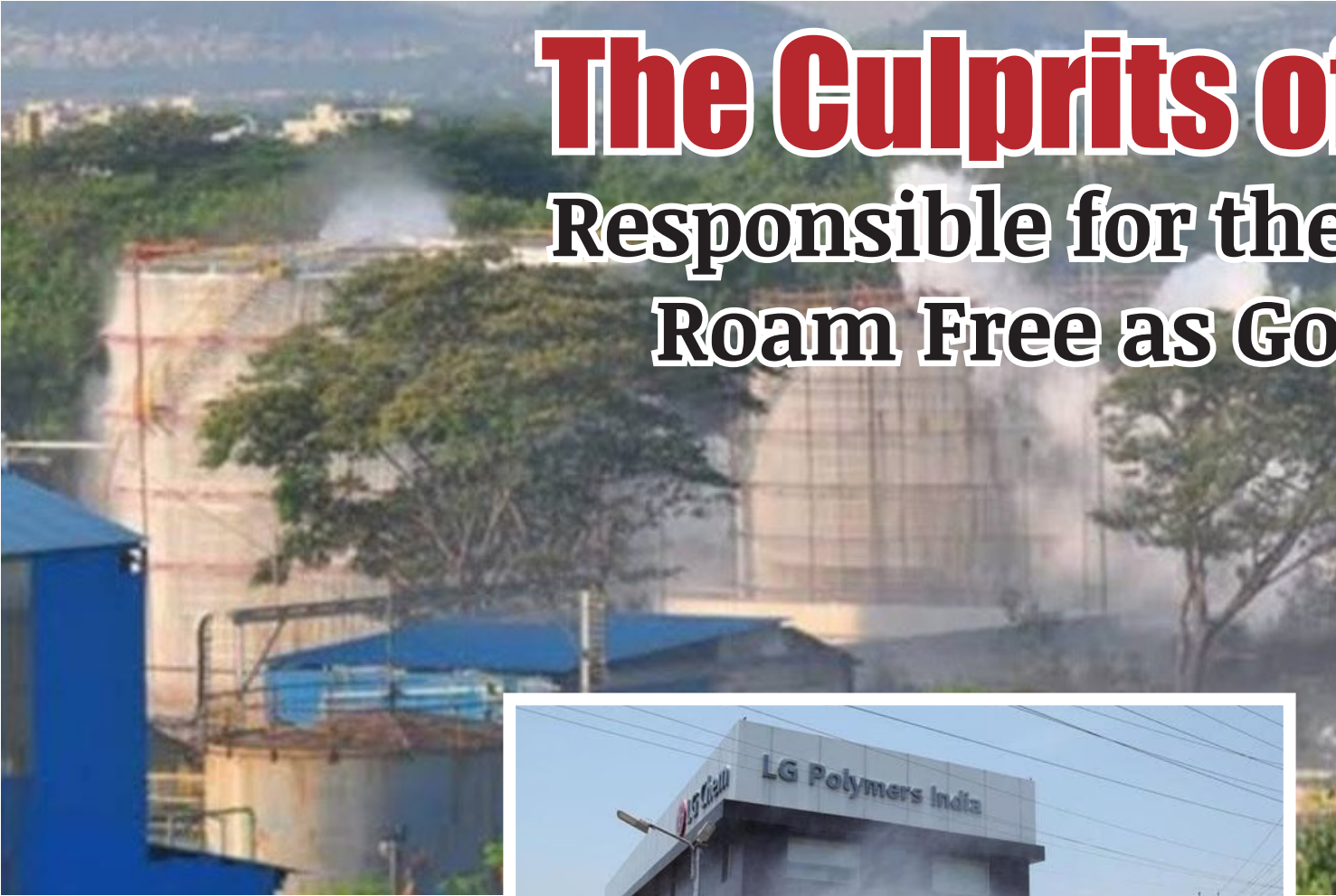




Weather Forecast

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

The Culprits of Many Mishaps, Responsible for the Deaths of Hundreds, Roam Free as Government Officials



TPN Correspondent Andhra Pradesh, Dec 30



We have witnessed several tragic mishaps in factories across Andhra Pradesh, each time followed by discussions about whether these companies are adhering to safety norms. When a disaster occurs, the same questions arise: Are the safety regulations being followed? If not, what are the authorities doing about it? Unfortunately, the response is often that the authorities have issued warnings, but the situation remains unresolved.

However, a deeper investigation reveals that the very authorities responsible for ensuring safety in these factories may also be contributing to the mishaps. These officials, who should be safeguarding the lives of workers, are alleged to be the real culprits behind many of these tragedies.

Notably, the tragic gas leak at LG Polymers in Visakhapatnam resulted in 13 deaths, with many others still suffering. In recent times, a blast at Escientia Pharma claimed 15 lives. Similar incidents have occurred at Aravind Pharma in Nakkapalli and Ultra Tech Cement Factory near Vijayawada. Such mishaps have become all too frequent in the pharma, chemical, and other sectors, where the authorities' inaction has cost both money and innocent lives.

One of the prime accused is Mr. D. Chandra Sekhar Varma, the Director of Facto-

ries, who allegedly rose to this position through manipulation, corruption, and political lobbying. Known for his widespread corrupt practices, he is believed to have orchestrated large-scale corruption in the factories department, compromising safety at the cost of workers' lives. Mr. Varma is allegedly responsible for creating a network of corrupt officials within the department, who work together to bypass regulations for financial gain.

Mr. Varma allegedly had the backing of Mr. Vijaya Sai Reddy, a powerful political figure in the previous government, which allowed him to wield significant influence. During his tenure as the Joint Chief Inspector of Factories in Visakhapatnam, Mr. Varma was notorious for blackmailing factory managements under the guise of safety audits, amassing disproportionate wealth in the process.

His associates, including Mr. J. Siva Sanakar Reddy, the former Joint Chief Inspector in Vizag, were allegedly involved in collecting large sums of money and sending them to influential political fig-

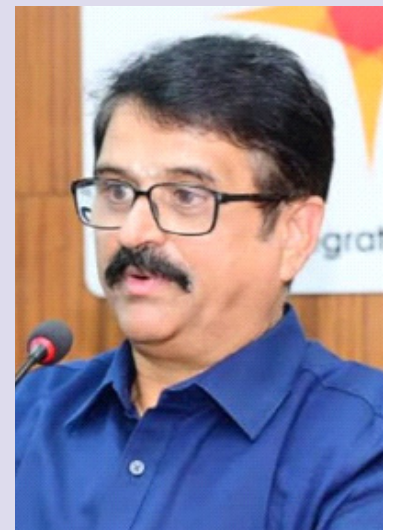
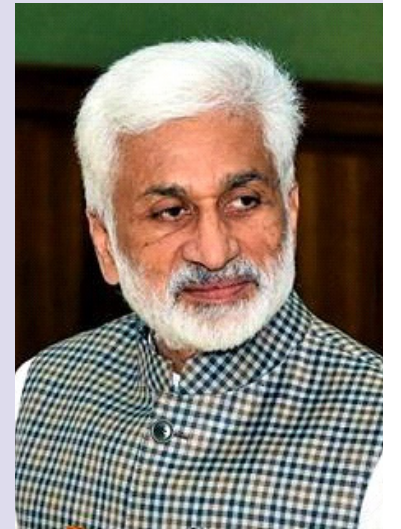
ures. Mr. Reddy's swift transfer back to Vizag from Vijayawada is said to have been orchestrated by Mr. Varma to ensure his control over the Vizag office, which was considered a gold mine for corruption.

Mr. P. Chinna Rao, an Inspector of Factories in Vizag, who was suspended on corruption charges, is believed to be a proxy for Mr. Varma, further cementing the web of corruption.

The third-party safety audits, which were supposed to ensure compliance with safety standards, became a farce under Mr. Varma's influence. Key safety auditors, like Mr. Narasimharaju, were allegedly appointed by Mr. Varma and failed to properly conduct safety audits, contributing to fatal accidents at multiple factories. In Vijayawada, a group of officials, including S. Ushasree (Joint Chief Inspector), K. Srinivasa Rao (Dy. Chief Inspector), and Tenali Raju (Inspector), are allegedly part of this corrupt network. They are said to be collecting bribes and manipulating administrative decisions, including transfers, in ex-

- A Gang has caused many mishaps in factories
- Those mishaps have taken lives of hundreds of people

- Gang leader is Mr. Chandra Sekhar Varma, Director of Factories
- Political Guru for Varma is Mr. Vijayasai Reddy?
- Gang Members are Mr. J. Sivasankar Reddy, P. Chinna Rao
- S. Ushasree, K. Srinivasa Rao, Tenali Raju
- Overlooking violations and extracting money of out of it
- In the of inspections, made cash in huge manner
- The Gang is liable for mishaps happened at ...
- Escientia, LG Polymers, Aravind Pharma, Ultra Tech Cement & others



change for financial kickbacks. Currently, Mr. Varma is rumored to be in New Delhi, lobbying with influential figures to prevent any action against him

by the new government. Many believe that with his extensive political connections and lobbying skills, he may manage to evade justice.

Dil Raju Visits Vijayawada to Wasn't Just for the Cutout Unveiling But Also to Meet Dy CM Pawan Kalyan

P:2

Dy CM Pawan Kalyan to Begin Monthly District Tours in the New Year

TPN Correspondent Andhra Pradesh, Dec 30

In a significant move towards people-centric governance, Deputy Chief Minister Pawan Kalyan is set to embark on monthly tours across various districts to directly address the concerns of the people at the grassroots level. As part of the coalition government's initiative to enhance governance, Pawan Kalyan will visit a different district each month, beginning in the new year.

The purpose of these tours is to better understand the challenges faced by citizens, particularly in rural and backward areas. Pawan Kalyan has instructed his office officials to organize the tours in such a way that he can stay in these districts for extended periods. During these visits, he will assess local issues, review the condition of the people, and evaluate the effectiveness of development and welfare programs being implemented.

The Deputy Chief Minister will engage directly with residents, holding interactive sessions throughout the day to gather feedback, address grievances, and take immedi-



ate action on any pressing issues. This initiative reflects the government's commitment to ensuring that development reaches all corners of the state and that the voices of the people are heard and acted upon.

Little Brains BEST BRAINS

THANKS-A-THON
THE SEASON OF GRATITUDE
DEC 27TH - 31ST

KIDDOOS Giving Gala
LOVE TO LEARN
HAPPY TO SHARE

30th Dec 2024
Monday 10.00

Siddhartha Nagar, 6th Lane, Vijayawada-10
0866 2491525, 9515 111 525



Police Arrested Manasa Teja in Ration Rice Case



TPN Correspondent
Machilipatnam, Dec 30

In a significant development, Manasa Teja (A2) has been taken into police custody in connection with the ongoing ration rice theft case linked to Perni Nani's godown. Teja had been absconding for the past 20 days, but police sources confirm her arrest, although it has not been officially announced.

Perni Nani's wife, Jayasudha, is the primary accused (A1) in this case. Authorities have made substantial progress in the investigation, and Manasa Teja is currently being interrogated in secret, with more details expected soon.

Teja had filed a quash petition in the High Court on the 21st of this month in an attempt to dismiss the case. However, police have continued their efforts to locate and arrest her. An intensive search operation was launched, leading to her eventual arrest, and further investigations are ongoing.

The case centers around the illegal diversion of ration rice, meant for the poor, from Perni Nani's godown, causing a public uproar. Police are working on gathering more information to build a case against all involved.



Minister Kollu Ravindra Warns of Legal Action Against Perni Nani in Ration Rice Case

Minister Kollu Ravindra has strongly warned former minister and YSRCP leader Perni Nani, stating that legal action will be taken against him in the ongoing ration rice theft case. Ravindra accused Nani of being involved in corruption and obstructing investigations by using his wife to cover up the wrongdoings.

The Minister also criticized Perni Nani for holding a press conference that, according to him, was meant to threaten the police and disrupt the legal process. Ravindra emphasized that even if a crime is committed by someone foolish, it remains a crime, and legal action will be pursued against anyone involved.

He further stated that Perni Nani is the mastermind behind the theft of ration rice, meant for the poor, and warned that both Nani and his associates, including those acting as benamis, will face the consequences of their actions. Minister Kollu Ravindra expressed confidence that justice will prevail and that no one will escape the legal repercussions for their wrongdoings.

Dy CM Pawan Kalyan Issues Key Orders on Environmental Issues in Kakinada



TPN Correspondent
Andhra Pradesh, Dec 30

Andhra Pradesh Deputy Chief Minister Pawan Kalyan has issued several important directives concerning environmental concerns in Kakinada. He has ordered investigations into two critical issues: the death of Olive Ridley turtles and pollution from a local biofuels company.

Olive Ridley Turtle Deaths:

- Pawan Kalyan has instructed the top officials of the Forest Department to conduct a detailed investigation into the alarming number of Olive Ridley turtles found dead along the Kakinada coast. These turtles, which are rare and protected, have been dying in large numbers near Kakinada Beach Road, APIIC, and Vakalapudi areas. The Deputy Chief Minister has directed that an inquiry be carried out to

determine the cause of these deaths, and immediate action should be taken against those responsible. He has asked Chiranjeevi Chaudhary, Principal Chief Conservator of Forests and Head of the Forest Force, to lead a comprehensive study on conservation measures for wildlife in the region.

Pollution from Universal Biofuels:

- Pawan Kalyan has also issued orders to the Pollution Control Board (PCB) officials to investigate the foul odor emanating from Universal Biofuels Private Limited, a company located in the Vakalapudi Industrial Area. The Deputy Chief Minister received complaints from local villagers who have been suffering due to the pungent smell and harmful gases being released from the factory. In response, Pawan Kalyan spoke to Krish-

naiah, PCB Chairman, and Shankara Rao, PCB Kakinada Regional Officer, to ensure immediate inspections were carried out.

Upon inspection on December 21, PCB officials found that Universal Biofuels was using raw materials that violated pollution control norms, leading to the emission of toxic gases. As a result of these violations, the factory was shut down on December 24. PCB officials confirmed that adulterated chemicals, including palm fatty acid, were being used due to the rise in raw material prices. A more in-depth investigation will be conducted to assess the full extent of the violations and ensure stricter compliance moving forward. Through these actions, Pawan Kalyan aims to safeguard both the environment and public health in the Kakinada region, signaling the government's commitment to addressing critical environmental issues.



Dil Raju Visits Vijayawada to Wasn't Just for the Cutout Unveiling But Also to Meet Dy CM Pawan Kalyan

- Dil Raju arrives as the chief guest at the unveiling ceremony
- The Game Changer pre-release event is being planned on a grand scale
- It was explained that a date will be fixed with Dy CM Pawan

TPN Correspondent
Vijayawada, Dec 30

A massive 256-foot tall cutout of global star Ram Charan was unveiled in Vijayawada, creating a buzz among fans and onlookers. The unveiling ceremony was attended by renowned producer Dil Raju, who was the chief guest at the event. The towering cutout, which earned a place in the International Wonder Book of World Records, left everyone in awe, especially when a helicopter showered flowers on it. Dil Raju congratulated Ram Charan's fans for creating such a remarkable tribute and received a certificate from the representatives of the Wonder Book organization acknowledging the achievement.

During his speech, Dil Raju shared an interesting update about another major project. He revealed that his visit to Vijayawada wasn't just for the cutout unveiling but also to meet Andhra Pradesh Deputy Chief Minister Pawan Kalyan. Dil Raju hinted at a grand pre-release event for the much-anticipated film Game Changer, mentioning the success of its pre-release event in America. He emphasized the importance of planning a monumental event in Vijayawada, depending on the availability of Pawan Kalyan, with a goal to create history with the occasion. Dil Raju made it clear that the event would be far from ordinary, ensuring that it would be an unforgettable experience for everyone involved.

Salvation for Stella Ship in Kakinada, Ship Set to Depart for West Africa After Ration Rice Seizure

TPN Correspondent
Kakinada, Dec 30

The Stella L Panama ship, which has been stuck at the Kakinada Anchorage Port for 48 days due to allegations of carrying illegal ration rice, has finally found salvation. The ship is now set to leave for West Africa on January 4 after unloading the illegal rice and loading 19,785 metric tons of rice ready for export.

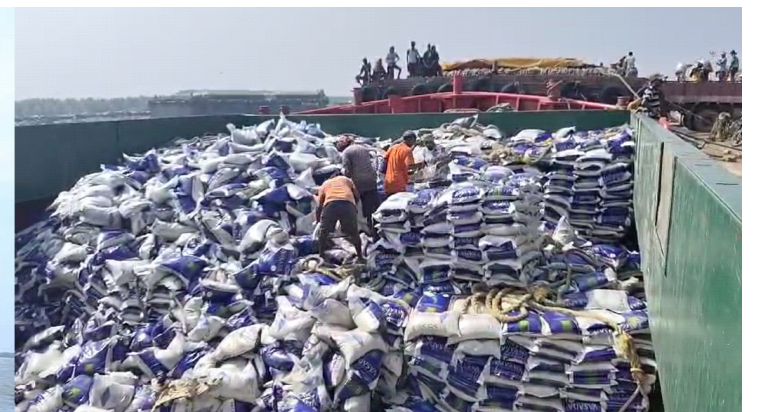
The ship's prolonged stay in Kakinada was triggered by concerns over ration rice found aboard. The authorities seized 1,320 metric tons of illegal ration rice, which was then unloaded into two barges. One barge carried 700 tonnes, and the other transported 620 tonnes to the anchorage port. Civil Supplies, Revenue, Port, and Customs officials oversaw the opera-



tion, and the rice was seized by Civil Supplies officials and taken to the H godown at the port for safekeeping. The delay in unloading the rice was worsened by adverse weather conditions, including strong winds and a cyclone that impacted the region. On December 26, the cyclone further de-

layed the transfer of rice to the shore. Despite the challenges, the unloading process was completed, and loading of the permitted 19,785 metric tons of rice began on Sunday.

AP Deputy Chief Minister Pawan Kalyan had earlier called for the seizure of the ship once the ration rice was dis-



covered. The authorities had delayed the ship's departure for a month to assess how much ration rice was on board. After the final loading, the Stella L Panama ship will set sail for Cotonou Port in West Africa, with an expected arrival by the end of January after a 26-day journey.

Payyavula Keshav Accuses Jagan Govt of Mismanagement, Promises Key Reforms for AP

ArcelorMittal Plans ₹1 Lakh Crore Investment in AP



TPN Correspondent
Kurnool, Dec 30

Andhra Pradesh Finance Minister Payyavula Keshav has made a significant statement regarding the state's financial health and governance under the current YSRCP government. He accused the Jagan government of mismanaging the state's finances, particularly pointing out the ongoing debt crisis, which has now reached a staggering ten lakh crores. He expressed concerns over the state's financial situation, stressing that salaries are being paid through loans, specifically seven percent loans. Keshav criticized the YSRCP government for canceling 93 central government schemes and claimed that after the coalition government came to power, 74 of these schemes were revived, with more expected to be restored soon. He also highlighted that the ArcelorMittal Company is ready to invest one lakh crore rupees in the

state, demonstrating investor confidence in Chief Minister Chandrababu Naidu's leadership.

Addressing concerns about payments to contractors, Keshav countered claims that the Finance Department only prioritizes big companies, stating that all companies, regardless of size, would have their bills paid according to priority. He also mentioned that some contractors had received payments ahead of the Diwali festival.

Keshav further criticized the YSRCP government for diverting central government funds, particularly those allocated for panchayats, and for exploiting contractors. He pledged that under the coalition government, contractors would be treated as partners in the state's development, not as exploiters. Minister Keshav concluded by asserting that the coalition government is committed to ensuring that funds from the central government are properly directed to the panchayats for development.

Minister Kondapalli Srinivas Denounces Claims of Touching Botsa Satyanarayana's Feet

TPN Correspondent
Mangalagiri, Dec 30

State MSME and SERP Minister Kondapalli Srinivas has strongly condemned the campaign alleging that he touched the feet of former minister and senior YCP leader Botsa Satyanarayana. Speaking to the media at the TDP central office in Mangalagiri on Saturday, Minister Srinivas clarified the events that unfolded on November 11 in the Assembly lobby. According to the minister, while sitting in the lobby with other MLAs, Botsa Satyanarayana approached them. As a matter of courtesy, he stood up and greeted him politely, just as others did. Minister Srinivas questioned why a respectful greeting was being distorted into baseless propaganda. "If I greet someone respectfully, will they spread misinformation?" he asked. The minister highlighted his family's 40-year political legacy in Vizianagaram district and their longstanding



rivalry with the Botsa family. He asserted that there was no reason for him to touch Botsa's feet, emphasizing the groundless nature of these claims. "My family has been fighting against the Botsa family for years. Why would I hold his feet?" he said. Minister Srinivas also accused the Botsa family of failing to develop Vizianagaram district and causing injustice to many people. He added that those affected by the Botsa family's actions are coming forward with details, and appropriate action will be taken.

Furthermore, he criticized the Botsa family for spreading false information and attempting to mislead the public. He urged people to disregard the viral videos on social media that falsely claimed he made calls to Botsa Satyanarayana. Minister Srinivas reaffirmed his commitment to addressing the district's issues and condemned the spread of misinformation aimed at tarnishing his reputation.

"My Mother Tongue is Marathi, But My Heart Speaks Telugu" - Minister Satyakumar

TPN Correspondent
Vijayawada, Dec 30

Andhra Pradesh Medical and Health Minister Satyakumar shared a heartfelt connection with the Telugu language during his speech at the World Telugu Writers' Conference held in Vijayawada. Reflecting on his family's history and his personal journey with languages, his address captivated the audience. Minister Satyakumar revealed that his family originally hailed from Maharashtra and migrated to Thanjavur 400 years ago as part of the Sambhaji dynasty's expansion. "Although my mother tongue is Marathi, I grew up immersed in Telugu, and it became a part of who I am," he said. Discussing the impact of language on creativity and intelligence, he remarked, "Children learn a language effortlessly by imitating and observing those around them. Creativity flourishes through the mother tongue, and it also strengthens one's intellect." Sharing his personal experience, Minister Satyakumar said, "Even though my mother tongue is Marathi and I can speak it, I feel hesitant because my thoughts and expressions are in Telugu. I also speak Kannada, Tamil, Hindi, and English, but Telugu is the language in which I think and express myself naturally. When I try to speak other languages, I feel like I have to make an



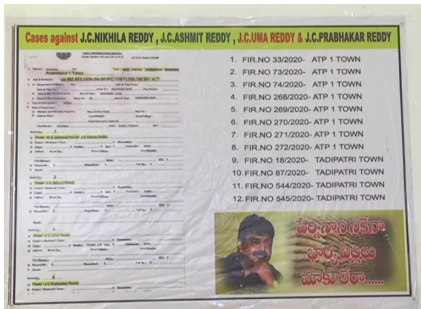
extra effort." The minister's candid acknowledgment of his deep emotional connection to Telugu resonated with the audience. "This connection is a testament to the cultural richness and inclusivity of our Telugu heritage," he concluded. The World Telugu Writers' Conference celebrates the richness of Telugu literature and culture, and Minister Satyakumar's speech highlighted the profound bond between language and identity, making a lasting impression on attendees.

What Are You Doing When Cases Are Filed Against Our Family?

JC Prabhakar Reddy Questions Perni Nani

TPN Correspondent
Anantapur, Dec 30

Tadipatri Municipal Chairman JP Prabhakar Reddy has strongly reacted to the comments made by YSRCP leader and former minister Perni Nani, who had criticized the coalition government in Andhra Pradesh. Reddy denied Nani's allegations that the TDP government was harassing him and his family with fabricated cases. He raised questions about Nani's decency, suggesting that Nani, during his tenure as minister, never showed respect for women in his household.



Prabhakar Reddy also expressed his anger over Nani's press meet, where he allegedly attempted to malign the reputation of TDP leaders. "You are crying like a thief now, after your house has been broken. If you speak again in the media, I will make you fly a plane," Reddy warned Nani. He further accused YSRCP leaders of attacking TDP when Chief Minister Chandrababu Naidu was arrested, but now pretending to respect decency and women. Reddy advised CM Naidu not to tolerate such behavior and to take strong action against people like Nani, whom he claimed have no respect for women. He recalled how TDP leaders were treated under YSRCP's rule, with many being jailed or falsely accused. Meanwhile, Perni Nani defended his family's actions regarding the missing rice scam, asserting that his wife had taken moral responsibility for the rice shortage and had paid the money demanded by the officials. Nani alleged that false cases were hatched to discredit him. He accused the TDP of spreading false propaganda and insisted that his family had not eloped as claimed.

Buddha Venkanna Warns Perni Nani, "Admit Your Mistake and Apologize"

TPN Correspondent
Vijayawada, Dec 30

Senior Telugu Desam Party (TDP) leader Buddha Venkanna issued a strong warning to former minister and YSR Congress Party (YSRCP) leader Perni Nani over his recent comments. Addressing the media, Buddha Venkanna raised serious allegations against Perni Nani, questioning his involvement in controversial activities and criticizing his past actions. Buddha Venkanna alleged that when Perni Nani served as Cinematography Minister, he conspired with controversial director Ram Gopal Varma to produce an obscene film targeting Chandrababu Naidu and Pawan Kalyan. He questioned whether Nani provided financial support for such projects, claiming it was part of a larger political conspiracy.



The TDP leader also slammed Perni Nani for his silence when indecent comments were made about Chandrababu's wife, Bhuvaneshwari, and daughter-in-law, Brahmani, in the assembly. He criticized Nani for failing to defend women when his own government leaders made derogatory remarks. Accusing Nani of corruption, Buddha Venkanna alleged that he implicated his wife, Jayasudha, in a case involving missing rice bags from a government godown. "If you truly cared for your wife, why did you involve her in illegal activities? Admit your mistake and confess to the police instead of letting her face the consequences," he demanded. Buddha Venkanna further condemned Perni Nani's history of making personal attacks against Chandrababu Naidu, Nara Lokesh, and Pawan Kalyan. He accused Nani of double standards, acting boldly when in power but remaining silent when questioned about his actions now. The TDP leader advised Perni Nani to publicly apologize and take responsibility for his actions. "Your sarcastic comments and conspiracies won't erase your sins. Own up to your mistakes and stop misleading people," Buddha Venkanna concluded. The heated exchange highlights the ongoing political friction between TDP and YSRCP leaders, intensifying the discourse in Andhra Pradesh politics.

Somireddy Chandramohan Reddy Slams YCP Over Electricity Policies

TPN Correspondent
Nellore, Dec 30

Survepalli MLA Somireddy Chandramohan Reddy criticized Former Chief Minister Y.S. Jagan Mohan Reddy and the YSR Congress Party (YCP) government for their alleged failures and irregularities in the electricity sector. Speaking to the media, Somireddy made sharp remarks on the state's growing power crisis and alleged corruption. He accused Jagan of increasing electricity charges tenfold over the past five years, burdening the people of Andhra Pradesh. "Despite being in power for this long, YCP has incurred a power deficit of 22.5 million units. Jagan has exploited the state through bribery and corruption," Somireddy alleged.



Highlighting the introduction of agricultural smart meters, the former minister said, "While the rest of the country opposes these meters, YCP has forcefully implemented them in Andhra Pradesh. It is shameful to commit so many wrongdoings in the

electricity sector and then initiate an electricity movement."

Somireddy also alleged that Jagan made key decisions regarding electricity without seeking cabinet approval, further raising questions about the transparency of the government. Praising former Chief Minister Chandrababu Naidu, Somireddy said, "Chandrababu is working diligently to reduce the future electricity burden on the people. Unlike the current regime, he believes in planning and foresight."

The MLA demanded a Central Bureau of Investigation (CBI) inquiry into the Aurobindo coal supply issue, alleging irregularities and corruption. He emphasized the need for accountability in managing the state's resources and policies. Somireddy's comments come at a time when the opposition is stepping up its criticism of the YCP government over its handling of key sectors, including power. His remarks are likely to intensify the political discourse in the state.

Buggana Rajendranath Reddy Slams Coalition Government

TPN Correspondent
Hyderabad, Dec 30

Former Finance Minister Buggana Rajendranath Reddy strongly criticized the TDP-led coalition government during a media conference at the Hyderabad Press Club. He accused the coalition of failing to deliver on its election promises and misleading the public with false narratives. Buggana ridiculed the TDP's election manifesto, "Babu Surety... Future Guarantee," which promised financial support and signed bonds during their campaign. "They went door to door, calculating Rs. 15,000 for some and Rs. 18,000 for others, and gave signed bonds in return. Even after six months of being in power, has a single promise been fulfilled?" he asked. He accused the TDP of spreading false propaganda against the previous YSRCP government, claiming the state was drowning in debt and drawing



comparisons to Sri Lanka. "Chandrababu, what are you doing after coming to power? Haven't you borrowed Rs. 1,12,750 crore in just six months? Where is the accountability?" Buggana further criticized Chandrababu Naidu's claims of creating wealth. "He says he will create wealth every morning when he wakes up. Let's look at the

record—during his tenure, government revenue from taxes increased by only 6 percent. Under our administration, we increased it by 16.7 percent. Now tell me, who actually created wealth?" The former minister's sharp comments have intensified the ongoing debate over the state's economic policies and governance. His remarks reflect the YSRCP's growing criticism of the Coalition, highlighting their perceived failures and raising questions about the current government's financial management.

Central Minister Pemmasani Chandrasekhar Calls for Support in MLC Elections

TPN Correspondent
Guntur, Dec 30

Central Minister Pemmasani Chandrasekhar, along with prominent leaders and MLAs, attended an intimate meeting with retired employees and graduates, rallying support for Alapati Raja in the upcoming MLC elections. The meeting, held in the presence of MLAs Nakka Ananda Babu, Naseer Ahmed, and Galla Madhavi, emphasized the importance of electing a dedicated and selfless leader like Raja. Addressing the gathering, Chandrasekhar said, "It is everyone's responsibility to send the tolerant and selfless Alapati Raja to the legislative assembly. His leadership will bring constructive change and ensure the welfare of all." The event saw enthusiastic participation from retired employees and graduates, who pledged their support to Raja. The leaders urged voters to recognize Raja's contributions and vi-



sion for the state, emphasizing that his victory would strengthen governance and amplify the voices of the people in the legislative process. The call for Raja's victory resonated strongly among the attendees, marking the meeting as a significant step in the campaign for the MLC elections.

Ram Charan's 256 Feet Cutout Unveiled in Vijayawada to Celebrate Game Changer Movie

TPN Correspondent
Vijayawada, Dec 30

In a grand display of admiration, fans of global star Ram Charan have unveiled a colossal 256-foot-tall cutout of the actor in Vijayawada. The cutout, inspired by a still from his upcoming movie Game Changer, was set up at Vajra Grounds under the guidance of Ram Charan Yuva Shakti. This monumental cutout is the tallest of its kind in the country.

The Game Changer movie team, including producer Dil Raju and music director Thaman, will officially unveil the cutout at 3 PM on Sunday. Fans have gathered in large numbers, making Vajra Grounds a buzzing hub of excitement. The celebration includes the unique feature of flowers being showered on the giant cutout from a helicopter.

Ram Charan's fans expressed their joy and enthusiasm with slogans like "Global Star Ram Charan" and displayed large "Babai" and "Abbayi" flexes. The event is a part of the film's promotion, with fans reportedly spending Rs. 40 lakhs to organize it.

With Game Changer slated for re-



lease on January 10, expectations for the movie are soaring. Directed by Shankar, the film features Ram Charan in a dual role, and is anticipated to break records with its gripping political storyline. Fans are eagerly waiting for the film, which has already captured attention with its vibrant songs and dances.

The 256 Feet cutout is expected to enter the Guinness Book of Records, marking another milestone in the fervent celebrations of Ram Charan's legacy.

Master Plan for Vijayawada City to be Ready Soon - MP Kesineni Sivanath

TPN Correspondent
Vijayawada, Dec 30

Vijayawada MP Kesineni Sivanath (Chinni) announced that a comprehensive master plan for the city's expansion will be ready in the near future. The MP made this statement during a general body meeting organized by the Subbarao Colony Welfare Association in the 4th division of the East constituency on Sunday, where he attended as the chief guest. During the meeting, residents of Subbarao Colony raised issues concerning deteriorating roads and other local problems. MP Kesineni Sivanath addressed these concerns, emphasizing that stormwater drainage has contributed to the damage to roads in the city. He assured that the focus would be on improving sewage treatment plants (STPs) and repairing roads. The MP promised pothole-free roads in the city within the next six months and committed to resolving



drainage and stormwater issues within a year.

Sivanath also assured the residents that their colonies would be developed according to their needs and suggestions. He highlighted the importance of economic benefits for the community in the construction projects undertaken in the colony, citing Chief Minister Chandrababu Naidu's vision for the development of Vijayawada into a "Greater Vijayawada." Additionally, he mentioned efforts to establish food courts for small

traders in the East constituency. The meeting concluded with a felicitation ceremony for MP Kesineni Sivanath by the association members. The event was attended by local corporators Jasti Sambasiva Rao and Devineni Aparna, along with colony leaders including President Parvathaneeni Ramachandra, Secretary Raja Rao, Treasurer Velagapudi Subbarao, and other TDP leaders and residents.

Kuchipudi Flag Golden Jubilee Closing Ceremony Celebrated in Krishna Dist

TPN Correspondent
Pamarru, Dec 30

The closing ceremony of the Kuchipudi Flag Golden Jubilee was held at the Kuchipudi Kalakshetra in Muvva Mandal, drawing significant participation from dignitaries and renowned Kuchipudi artists. The event was attended by Ministers Kandula Durgesh, Kollu Ravindra, Deputy Speaker Raghuramakrishnam Raju, Pamarru MLA Varla Kumar Raja, along with Kuchipudi dance gurus and artists from across the globe. Ministers Kandula Durgesh and Raghuramakrishnam Raju, along with other officials, visited the Kuchipudi Kalakshetra to witness the celebrations. The ceremony featured mesmerizing Kuchipudi dance performances by artists from various parts of the world, which left the audience in awe.



to the art form, noting that whenever Chief Minister Chandrababu Naidu talks about arts, Kuchipudi comes to mind. He assured the audience that the government will create opportunities for Kuchipudi artists, including providing avenues for government jobs. He also announced plans to establish Kuchipudi Kshetras and allocate dedicated spaces for promoting the art across the state.

Deputy Speaker

Raghuramakrishnam Raju's

Raghuramakrishnam Raju praised the history and global reach of Kuchipudi, which originated three decades ago from the Suddendra Yogi Kshetra. He expressed his disappointment over the neglect of language, culture, and tradition under the current government. While acknowledging that Kuchipudi is well-regarded globally, he noted that its recognition within Andhra Pradesh needs to be strengthened. He expressed hope that the current government will protect and elevate this traditional dance form, honoring the legacy of those who have dedicated their lives to its preservation.

The event celebrated the rich cultural heritage of Kuchipudi and reaffirmed the commitment of leaders to protect and promote the traditional dance form for future generations.

Minister Kandula Durgesh's

Minister Durgesh spoke about the significance of the event, highlighting the presentation of the Kuchipudi Flag to the world with Kuchipudi dance poses on a 50-foot monolith. He expressed regret over the fact that the world-renowned Kuchipudi dance is not as well-received within the state, stressing that it is the responsibility of the coalition government to ensure that the dance form flourishes without hindrance. He emphasized the need to protect and promote cultural and traditional arts.

Minister Kollu Ravindra's

Minister Kollu Ravindra, a proud resident of the district, took personal responsibility for advancing Kuchipudi dance. He spoke about the Chief Minister's deep connection

6th World Telugu Writers' Conference Concludes on a Grand Note

TPN Correspondent
Vijayawada, Dec 30

The 6th World Telugu Writers' Conference, aimed at preserving the Telugu language for future generations, concluded successfully on Sunday. The event was held under the auspices of the Sujana Foundation, with Western MLA Yelamanchili Satyanarayana (Sujana Chowdhury) leading the initiative. MLA Office Secretary Prathipati Sridhar, along with the Sujana Foundation team, organized food arrangements for the guests and invitees.

More than 1,500 writers, representatives, and students participated in the conference, making it a significant gathering for the Telugu literary community. Health Minister Y Satya Kumar Yadav and Tourism and Cinematography Minister Kandula Durgesh were among the key dignitaries who attended. The event organizers expressed their gratitude to MLA Sujana Chowdhury for her support and cooperation. Among the highlights of the conference



was the felicitation of distinguished individuals, including Padma Bhushan awardee Yarlagadda Lakshmi Prasad, former Deputy Speaker Mandali Buddha Prasad, and Dr. Vangala Narayana Rao, Administrative Officer of SKP VV Hindu High School Committee. MLA Office Secretary Prathipati Sridhar was also honored for his contributions.

The event was further marked by the poetry of renowned lyricist Bommina Venkataramana, who translated and praised the efforts of MLA Sujana Chowdhury, highlighting her achievements and leadership. The conference concluded with an expression of admiration for her wonderful administration, which has earned her widespread respect.

APPTD (RTC) Outsourcing Employees Association: Demands for Equal Pay and Rights Protection

TPN Correspondent
Vijayawada, Dec 30

The APPTD (RTC) Outsourcing Employees Association, affiliated with the AP JAC Amaravati, has raised concerns regarding the exploitation of outsourcing employees in the Andhra Pradesh State Road Transport Corporation (APSRTC). The association has issued several demands to improve the conditions and rights of these workers. The association is calling for the abolition of the third-party contract system in APSRTC, which they argue has led to the exploitation of workers over the years. They are seeking direct salary payments to outsourcing employees by the management of APSRTC, rather than through third-party contractors. Further, the association is pushing for the inclusion of outsourcing employees in the Andhra Pradesh Civil Services (APCS), which would ensure better job security and benefits for these workers. They also demand that skilled, semi-skilled, and unskilled outsourcing employees in RTC should be paid the same salaries as those in other departments.



Another key demand is the implementation of equal pay for equal work. The association emphasizes that many outsourcing employees in RTC are already receiving the lowest salaries, and it is time for them to be compensated fairly for the work they perform. In addition, the association calls for incentive increments based on seniority for the outsourcing employees of APSRTC, to ensure their contributions are acknowledged and rewarded accordingly. Bopparaju and Palisetty Damodar Rao, key members of the association, have been vocal in their efforts to bring attention to these issues and advocate for better treatment of outsourcing employees in the RTC sector.

Visit Sanja Utsav SHG Mela 2024, Urges Vijayawada Municipal Corporation



TPN Correspondent
Vijayawada, Dec 30

The Sanja Utsav SHG Mela 2024, being held at Mary's Stella Indoor Stadium from December 26, 2024, is offering a unique opportunity for the public to explore products made by over 100 self-help groups in Vijayawada. Dr. D. Chandrasekhar, Additional Commissioner (Projects) of the Vijayawada Municipal Corporation, participated in the event on Sunday evening and encouraged people to visit and make the most of this occasion. Speaking at the event, Dr. Chandrasekhar highlighted that the fair provides an excellent platform to



purchase quality goods at affordable prices, benefiting both the customers and the self-help groups. He emphasized that by supporting the products of these groups, visitors contribute to strengthening their financial stability. The fair, which will conclude on December 30, 2024, features a wide array of products and also offers cultural programs and kids' activities, making it an event for people of all ages. Dr. Chandrasekhar urged everyone to take advantage of the shopping opportunities, enjoy the entertainment, and support local self-help groups during this festive period.

Successful Inauguration of New TDP Office in Tadepalligudem Constituency



TPN Correspondent, Tadepalligudem : The inauguration of the new Telugu Desam Party (TDP) office in the Tadepalligudem constituency was a resounding success. The office, built at my res-

idence, is dedicated to providing a convenient space for party workers and the general public. I am truly pleased to make this facility available to all.

The event saw the participation of several prominent leaders, including Water Resources Development Minister Nimmala Ramanaidu, APIIC Chairman and West Godavari TDP Presi-

dent Mantena Ramaraju, Eluru Parliament TDP President Ganni Veeranjanyulu, Achanta MLA Pithani Satyanarayana, Government Whip and Tadepalligudem MLA Bolisetty Srinivas, Tanuku MLA Arimilli Radhakrishna, Gopalapuram MLA Maddipati Venkataraju, and State Minority Affairs Advisor M.D. Sharif, along with Narsapuram TDP in-charge Potthuri Ramaraju and Tadepalligudem BJP in-charge Ethakota Tataji.

I extend my heartfelt thanks to all the party leaders, activists, and well-wishers who took part in this event. With the continued support of everyone, I am confident that this new office will serve as a hub of development for TDP workers in the constituency, further strengthening our efforts in the region.

Fake IPS Officer Arrested in Parvathipuram Manyam District



TPN Correspondent, Parvathipuram Manyam : Police have cracked a case involving a fake IPS officer who attempted to pose as a trainee SP during Deputy Chief Minister Pawan Kalyan's visit to Bagujolu village in Makkuva mandal on December 20. The accused, Baliwada Surya Prakash (41), was arrested following a complaint filed by suspicious acquaintances.

Additional SP Dilip Kiran revealed that the accused arrived at the event in a police uniform, claiming to be a trainee SP. Although initially stopped at the parking area, he walked closer to the event site, took photos near the foundation stone location, and later uploaded them to his WhatsApp status. The uploaded photos raised doubts among his contacts, leading to a

complaint. Following his arrest, police registered an FIR under crime number 165/24 and began their investigation.

Surya Prakash holds a B.Tech degree and an MBA via distance learning. He served as a sepoy in the 26th Regiment of Punjab from 2003 to 2005 but left due to job dissatisfaction. Subsequently, he worked as a labor contractor and later developed connections in the weighing machine licensing department, using these to collect money from traders. During the COVID-19 pandemic, he moved to Ambati in Vizianagaram following his father's death. With an eye on nine acres of unregistered land his father had purchased in Dattarajaru village, Surya Prakash concocted a plan to impersonate an IPS officer to claim the land.

In January 2024, he falsely claimed to have become an IPS officer and sewed fake uniforms. Three months ago, he returned to Vizianagaram, planning to use a public event to bolster his false narrative. Pawan Kalyan's program provided the opportunity, where he took photos to mislead his contacts.

Police seized two ID cards, a cell phone, a laptop, a car, two uniforms, a name plate, a belt, and a jungle uniform. While Surya Prakash did not approach Pawan Kalyan directly, he managed to stay unnoticed due to the rain and the program's hectic schedule. Authorities are now investigating if others were involved in his scheme. Surya Prakash has been remanded in custody, and further inquiries are underway.

Master B YUVA TEJA Shines at West Godavari District Cross Country Race



TPN Correspondent, Hindupur : Master B YUVA TEJA, a talented student of International Delhi Public School, Tadepalligudem, has brought pride to the institution by securing the 3rd position in the West Godavari District Cross Country Running Race.

The prestigious event, the Sri Kommisetty Veeranna and Subbayamma Memorial Cross Country Competition, showcased

the exceptional athletic talent of this young student. This remarkable achievement highlights Master Yuva Teja's dedication and determination, and the school extends heartfelt congratulations for his success.

N. Uma Srinivas
Principal
International Delhi Public School, Tadepalligudem

Forest Officials Crack Down on Timber Smuggling in Chittoor

TPN Correspondent, Chittoor : Forest officials in Chittoor district have successfully cracked down on timber smuggling operations following a surprise raid. Acting on specific intelligence, officials intercepted illegal transportation of timber in tractors.

During the operation, eight tractors loaded with timber were seized, and the accused smugglers were arrested on the spot.

The forest department has initiated an interrogation of the arrested individuals to uncover further details about the smuggling network. Officials remain vigilant in their efforts to protect forest resources



and are committed to taking strict action against those involved in illegal activities. This operation underscores the department's resolve to combat environmental crimes and preserve the district's natural heritage.

AP Mark Fed Chairman Karrothu Bangarraju Criticizes Previous Government



TPN Correspondent, Vijayanagaram : AP Mark Fed Chairman Karrothu Bangarraju has sharply criticized the actions of the previous government, holding it accountable for its stance on electricity charges.

Speaking to the media, Bangarraju stated that it was the Jagan-led government that significantly increased electricity charges multiple times during its tenure. He questioned the fairness of the same party now organizing dharnas against the coalition government, accusing them of hypocrisy.

"Throwing mud at the coalition government is akin to what devils and the Vedas have described," remarked Bangarraju, emphasizing the double standards being displayed. He further alleged that Jagan's administration betrayed the public trust and drained thousands of crores through mismanagement and corruption.

Bangarraju's comments come amid rising tensions over electricity reforms, with both sides trading accusations over the issue of price hikes and governance failures.

Hindupur DSP Mahesh Warns Against Illegal Activities During New Year Celebrations

TPN Correspondent, Hindupur : Hindupur DSP Mahesh has urged the public to celebrate the New Year within the framework of the law. Speaking at a media conference at the Hindupur DSP office, he emphasized that celebrations should be conducted responsibly and without violating any regulations. In light of the upcoming New Year, an official order has been issued for Hindupur, within Sri Sathya Sai District, mandating that shops remain closed by 10 PM on December 31. DSP Mahesh warned that strict action will be taken against individuals involved in illegal activities, such as selling fireworks, liquor, or engaging in reckless behavior like driving two-wheelers with loud silencers after the prescribed time.

The DSP's warning highlights the district's commitment to maintaining order and safety during the festive period, ensuring that the celebrations remain joyful and law-abiding.



Suspicious Death of Young Man in Pendurthi

TPN Correspondent Anakapalle Dist : A young man was found dead under mysterious circumstances in an under-construction apartment in Sujathanagar City Zone, Pendurthi. The shocking discovery was made by a watchman while showing plots to potential customers. The deceased has been identified as Feivi Srikanth, a 34-year-old resident of Hyderabad.

The watchman, while guiding customers through the newly constructed apartment, stumbled upon Srikanth's lifeless body in a bathroom. Both the watchman and the customers were taken aback by the grim scene.

Upon being informed, Pendurthi police, along with a clues team, arrived at the scene to investigate. The circumstances surrounding Srikanth's death remain un-



clear, and authorities are working to determine the cause of death. Further investigations are underway to uncover the events leading to this tragic incident.

Security Personnel Protest at Visakhapatnam Central Jail Over Humiliation Claims



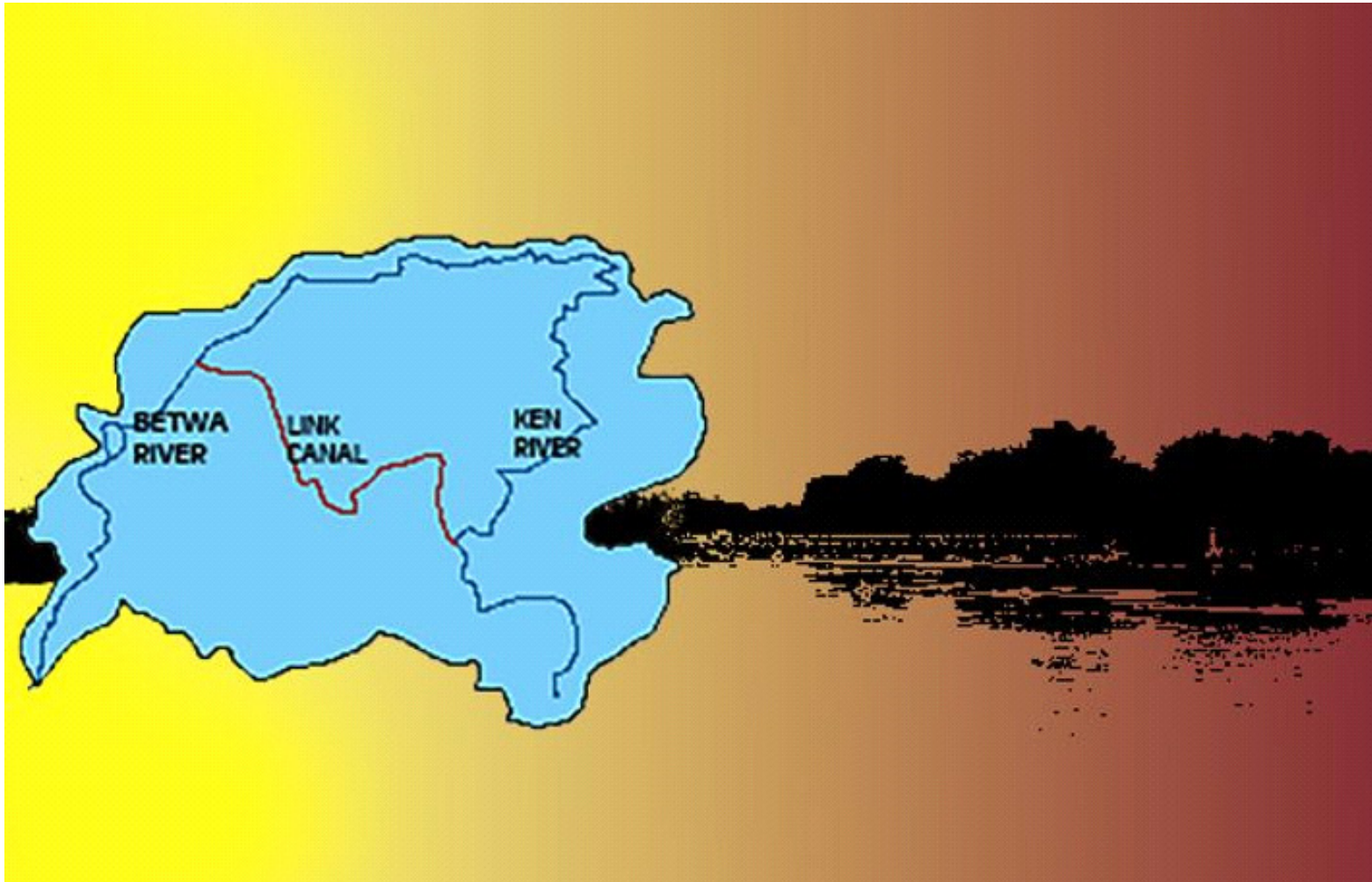
TPN Correspondent, Visakhapatnam : Security personnel at Visakhapatnam Central Jail staged a protest along with their families, alleging that two staff members were humiliated during a security check. The protest was sparked by claims that the two security personnel were stripped and searched in front of the prisoners, which

they deemed degrading. Superintendent Mahesh Babu responded to the allegations, clarifying that, according to jail protocol, suspects can be searched. He stated that searches are typically conducted in private rooms to maintain dignity, but in this instance, the security personnel were checked in a manner that some found inappro-

appropriate. In response to the incident, Home Minister Anita has ordered higher officials to immediately investigate the matter and submit a detailed report on the situation. The controversy has raised concerns about the treatment of staff within the prison system, prompting further scrutiny of jail procedures.



A Pragmatic Approach to River Interlinking Projects



The ambitious concept of river interlinking was introduced in India during the 1980s as a potential solution to the country's growing water scarcity. After decades of planning and deliberation, the first project, the Ken-Betwa river link, is finally under construction. Prime Minister Narendra Modi, at the event to lay the foundation stone, emphasized that water security is one of the biggest challenges of the 21st century, highlighting the urgency of such initiatives. The intent behind river interlinking is clear: transferring water from surplus river basins to regions suffering from water shortages, through a network of reservoirs and canals. This will aim to improve the water availability in drought-prone areas, ensuring water security and stability for future generations.

The National Water Development Agency has already identified 30 potential river-linking projects, both Himalayan and peninsular, with a proposed budget of \$168 billion. These projects are being seen as a way to combat issues like water scarcity, floods, and droughts, while also generating hydroelectric power. While these objectives are compelling and could have a significant impact on

the nation's water management, concerns regarding the environmental implications of such large-scale interventions remain. Experts have pointed out that river-linking projects could disrupt the delicate balance of India's natural ecosystems, potentially altering monsoon patterns and upsetting hydro-meteorological systems.

The environmental risks tied to river interlinking projects cannot be dismissed. Studies have indicated that such ambitious schemes might lead to ecological damage, including disruption of local biodiversity, loss of aquatic species, and degradation of wetlands. The possible consequences of altering the natural flow of rivers are still not fully understood. This raises the question of whether the long-term benefits of river interlinking can truly outweigh the potential ecological risks.

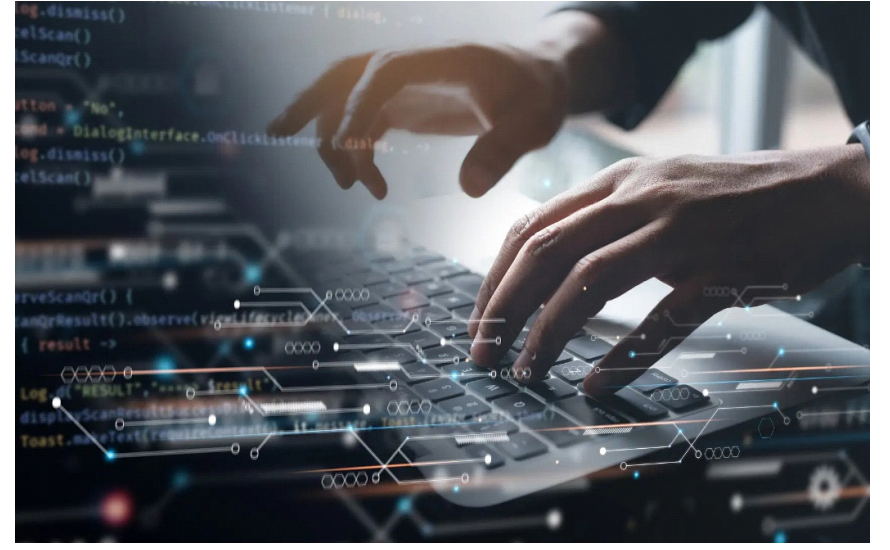
The Ken-Betwa project serves as a crucial test case for the future of river-linking in India. It is vital for the government and experts to adopt a pragmatic approach, carefully assessing the environmental and social impacts as the project unfolds. It will be essential to remain open to scientific feedback, re-

calibrating plans based on new findings and ensuring that decisions are made with long-term sustainability in mind. Incorporating environmental safeguards and conducting thorough impact assessments will be critical to minimizing harm.

However, relying solely on large-scale infrastructural projects to address water scarcity is not enough. A collective effort to conserve water and manage resources efficiently is equally crucial. The government must prioritize funding research into technologies for water-efficient irrigation, wastewater recycling, and the purification of polluted water sources. These measures will complement the interlinking projects and help ensure a holistic approach to water management in the country.

Ultimately, the future of India's water security lies in a balanced strategy that integrates large-scale infrastructure projects like river interlinking with grassroots efforts focused on sustainability and conservation. Only by taking a comprehensive approach can India hope to meet its growing water demands while preserving its natural ecosystems.

The Future of Technology and Healthcare in 2025: An Evolving Landscape



The pace of change in recent years has been nothing short of remarkable. From global conflicts and political shifts to unprecedented advancements in artificial intelligence (AI), the world is evolving at an accelerating rate. This trend is expected to continue into 2025, particularly in the realm of technology, where AI advancements are set to make a significant impact.

Artificial intelligence, including artificial general intelligence (AGI), is on the brink of monumental developments. By the end of 2025, it is highly likely that AI models will surpass human experts in a wide range of intellectual tests. While these advancements may not revolutionize every aspect of our lives immediately, they will have profound implications. AI will be able to outperform experts, including in areas like economics and decision-making, showcasing its growing potential to reshape industries and professions.

However, the real-world impact of AGI remains uncertain. Despite the rapid advancements, we may find that AI doesn't immediately transform our daily lives in the way some enthusiasts hope. The transition to integrating AI into institutions, businesses, and society at large will be a slow, decades-long process. While AI will continue to be used in roles such as therapists and conversation companions, the true operational effectiveness of AI in critical sectors will take time to realize.

By the close of 2025, many observers may voice frustration over the apparent lack of substantial progress in AI deployment. The absence of immediate, widespread AI transformation will lead to disappointment among those who expect more rapid results. However, these growing pains are to be expected in any groundbreaking technological shift.

On the other hand, one area where tangible progress could be made is healthcare. The US healthcare system has long been criticized for its high costs relative to other nations, but by 2025, the conversation may shift. Instead of focusing on the issue of overspending, there may be growing concerns about why the country isn't investing more in healthcare to ensure its continued rise in performance. As countries like Canada and the UK face worsening wait times and investment shortages, the shortcomings of universal single-payer systems may become more apparent.

The US, with its mix of private and public healthcare options, may continue to outperform these nations in terms of quality and efficiency. While public resentment towards rising healthcare costs will persist, the overall improvement in the performance of the US healthcare system relative to others will become increasingly evident. This could lead to a renewed focus on finding ways to allocate more resources to healthcare, ensuring better outcomes for all. In conclusion, while technology, particularly AI, may not transform the world as quickly as some expect by 2025, its long-term potential remains enormous. At the same time, healthcare is likely to remain a crucial issue, with the US system continuing to evolve and improve despite ongoing challenges. The next few years promise significant developments in both fields, reshaping the world in ways we may only begin to understand.

The Challenges of an Unpredictable US President on the Global Stage

A maverick US president, known for their unpredictability, poses a significant challenge to the international community. While the US might be viewed as one among many global players, the reality is far different. As the world's foremost economic and military power, the US's influence is far-reaching. Its positions on key global issues carry weight, whether through its economic dominance, military presence, or political influence. With a military footprint across the globe, numerous overseas military bases, and its ability to intervene in conflicts abroad, the US wields a vast amount of power. Additionally, its control over the global financial system and its strategic use of sanctions as a tool to impose pressure on countries amplify its global dominance. In such a context, an unpredictable and erratic US president can disrupt not only regional but also global stability.

Donald Trump's first presidency serves as a stark example of how a maverick leader can upend long-established international norms. One of the most significant shifts during his tenure was his skepticism regarding long-standing alliances. The Transatlantic Alliance, which had been central to the West's geopolitical strength since World War II, became a point of contention. Historically, the alliance had been seen as a pillar supporting the global hegemony of Western powers, even after many European countries lost their colonial possessions. Trump, however, questioned the relevance of NATO, challenging its value to the US. He accused European nations of exploiting the US by not shouldering a fair share of defense costs, a notion that had been growing since the end of the Cold War.

Trump's stance was not only rhetor-

ical but was backed by actions that further strained transatlantic relations. His demand that European NATO members increase their defense budgets put pressure on their governments, forcing them to reconsider their defense policies and expenditure. While some European nations responded positively to this demand, the underlying tension it created highlighted the fragility of traditional alliances in the face of unpredictable leadership.

The ripple effects of Trump's approach were felt globally, as his administration upended numerous international agreements, questioned multilateral cooperation, and embraced a more isolationist stance. His actions left other nations, both allies and adversaries, scrambling to recalibrate their foreign policies in response to an erratic US presidency.



In conclusion, the conduct of a maverick US president is not a mere domestic concern—it can have far-reaching consequences for international relations. As a global superpower, the US's unpredictability on the world stage creates uncertainty, challenges

existing alliances, and forces other nations to adapt to a new reality. The international community faces the task of navigating this volatile landscape while ensuring stability and cooperation in an increasingly interconnected world.

India to Host First-Ever 'World Audio Visual Entertainment Summit :PM

TPN CORRESPONDENT NEW DELHI
DECEMBER.30

India will host the World Audio Visual Entertainment Summit (WAVES) for the first time in February 2025, offering a global platform to showcase the country's creative talents and foster international collaborations in content creation. The summit, set to take place in New Delhi from February 5-9, will bring together leaders from the media and entertainment industry, as well as creative minds from around the world.

Prime Minister Narendra Modi discussed the upcoming WAVES summit in his monthly 'Mann Ki Baat' radio address, drawing parallels to prestigious global events such as the World Economic Forum in Davos. He emphasized that this summit would be an important step towards establishing India as a hub for global content creation.

Highlighting the role of India's youth, PM Modi expressed pride in their enthusiasm and contributions to the booming creator economy. He noted that both young creators and established professionals from various fields—whether in Bollywood, regional cinema, television, animation, gaming, or entertainment technology—would play a crucial role in the summit's success.



The summit is expected to foster collaborations and highlight India's advancements in animation, gaming, entertainment technology, and both regional and mainstream cinema. PM Modi called on all stakeholders in the entertainment and creative sectors to actively participate and contribute to this global platform.

In addition to promoting the summit, PM Modi paid tribute to iconic figures in Indian cinema—director Raj Kapoor and singer Mohammed Rafi—on

their 100th birth anniversaries. He also honored the contributions of Akkineni Nageswara Rao to Telugu cinema and filmmaker Tapan Sinha's socially conscious works. These legends, PM Modi said, helped define the golden era of Indian cinema and strengthened the country's cultural heritage.

As India moves toward its goal of becoming a five trillion-dollar economy, the WAVES Summit is poised to further elevate the country's standing on the global stage in the entertainment and creative industries.



Cut Excise Duty on Fuel, Boost Consumption: Industry Body To N Sitharaman

TPN CORRESPONDENT NEW DELHI
DECEMBER.30

With the Union Budget for 2025-26 set to be presented on February 1, the Confederation of Indian Industry (CII) has outlined a series of proposals aimed at boosting consumption, supporting rural recovery, and enhancing disposable incomes. The industry body has called for strategic interventions from the Finance Ministry to sustain India's economic growth, particularly in the face of rising inflation.

One of the key proposals from CII is a reduction in excise duty on fuel. Given that fuel prices are a significant driver of inflation and account for a large share of household expenditure, particularly among lower-income groups, the CII believes that lowering excise duty would alleviate inflationary pressures, boost disposable income, and stimulate consumption. Since May 2022, global crude prices have decreased by approximately 40%, but the excise duties have remained unchanged, making this a timely recommendation.

CII has also stressed the importance of increasing the daily minimum wage under the Mahatma Gandhi National Rural Employment Guarantee Scheme (MGNREGS). They propose an increase from Rs 267 to Rs 375, as suggested by the 'Expert Committee on Fixing National Minimum Wage' in 2017. This adjustment would require an additional Rs 42,000 crore, but would play a crucial role in improving rural incomes and furthering economic recovery in these areas.

The body also recommends raising the annual payout under the PM-KISAN scheme from Rs 6,000 to Rs 8,000, which would provide much-needed support to farmers and rural households. Additionally, CII advocates for the introduction of consumption vouchers targeted at low-income groups. These vouchers would be valid for a limited time and could be redeemed for specific goods and services, thus encouraging demand and consumption.

Furthermore, the CII has called for reducing the marginal tax rates for personal incomes up to Rs 20 lakh per annum, as well as revising the unit costs for the Pradhan Mantri Awas Yojana (PMAY) schemes, which have not seen updates since their inception.

These measures, according to CII, would help stimulate demand, enhance rural recovery, and ultimately drive economic growth, helping India advance toward its goal of becoming a \$5 trillion economy.



Shivling under UP Chief Minister's residence, should be excavated: Akhilesh Yadav

TPN CORRESPONDENT LUCKNOW
DECEMBER.30

Samajwadi Party chief Akhilesh Yadav made a controversial statement on Sunday, claiming that there is a 'Shivling' beneath the official residence of the Uttar Pradesh Chief Minister in Lucknow, and it should be excavated. Yadav's remarks have added fuel to the growing political tensions in the state, especially in light of recent archaeological surveys conducted by the government.

Speaking to reporters in Lucknow, Yadav said, "There is a Shivling under the Chief Minister's residence in Lucknow. It should also be excavated." His statement came just days after a 250-foot-deep stepwell, dating back to the 1857 revolt, was discovered during an archaeological survey in the Sambhal district. The excavation at Laxman Ganj uncovered the stepwell with the help of bulldozers, sparking further political debate. Earlier, the ruins of an ancient Banke Bihari temple were also found in the same area.

Yadav, who has been critical of the Bharatiya Janata Party (BJP) government, accused them of using these archaeological surveys to divert public attention from pressing issues such as unemployment and the agrarian crisis in the state. "Digging everywhere will not get us to any solution. There is a Places of Worship Act in our country, which prohibits such things," he said, referring to the law that protects the religious character of places of worship in India.

In addition to criticizing the archaeological surveys, Yadav took a dig at the BJP's governance in Uttar Pradesh, stating, "They have been in power in Delhi for 10 years and for seven years in Uttar Pradesh, and unemployment has reached a record level."

AAP Accuses BJP of Attempting to Manipulate Votes in Kejriwal's Constituency



TPN CORRESPONDENT DHARMASALA
DECEMBER.30

applications to delete 5,000 votes and add 7,500 new ones.

Ahead of the Delhi Assembly elections, Aam Aadmi Party (AAP) has leveled serious accusations against the Bharatiya Janata Party (BJP), claiming that the latter is attempting to alter a significant 12% of the vote in New Delhi, the constituency currently represented by Chief Minister Arvind Kejriwal. Kejriwal, addressing a press conference on Sunday, alleged that BJP's "Operation Lotus" began on December 15 and has since filed

The AAP leader further accused the BJP of resorting to "unfair means" to influence the outcome of the election, due to the absence of strong candidates or issues to campaign on. The total number of voters in the New Delhi constituency stands at 106,873, according to the voter list published on October 29 after a comprehensive revision process.

Kejriwal also alleged that the BJP had

submitted 11,000 voter deletion applications in a single constituency, but that this move was halted following intervention by the Chief Election Commissioner. "We exposed this, and thankfully, it was stopped," Kejriwal remarked, emphasizing the importance of ensuring the integrity of the electoral rolls.

The former CM of Delhi has written to the District Election Officer requesting that no further voter deletions be made unless they are due to migration or death, with proper documentation. He raised concerns about the timing of the applications, pointing out that they came after the completion of the Special Summary Revision, a process aimed at verifying and updating the electoral rolls.

The New Delhi constituency is highly significant in Delhi politics, being the seat from which the Chief Minister is traditionally elected. Kejriwal has held this seat since 2013, defeating Sheila Dikshit and maintaining his position in both 2015 and 2020 elections, largely due to AAP's popular governance model. As the election approaches, these allegations add to the growing tension between the AAP and BJP.

Indian Army Unveils Statue of Chhatrapati Shivaji at Pangong Lake to Honor His Legacy

TPN CORRESPONDENT DELHI
DECEMBER.30

The Indian Army has installed a statue of the revered Maratha warrior Chhatrapati Shivaji at Pangong Lake, located at an altitude of 14,300 feet, near the Line of Actual Control (LAC) in the eastern Ladakh sector. This significant installation, inaugurated on Thursday, aims to celebrate the "unwavering spirit" of the legendary Indian ruler whose legacy continues to inspire generations.



The statue was unveiled by Lt Gen Hitesh Bhalla, the General Officer Commanding (GOC) of the Leh-based 14 Corps, commonly known as the Fire and Fury Corps. The event marks a tribute to Shivaji's indomitable vision, valor, and commitment to justice, qualities that have made him an enduring symbol of strength and leadership in Indian history.

In a statement shared on X (formerly Twitter), the 14 Corps described the stat-

ue as a towering symbol of courage and vision, emphasizing that the inauguration was a testament to Shivaji's enduring influence. "The event celebrates the unwavering spirit of the Indian ruler, whose legacy remains a source of inspiration for generations," the statement said.

Pangong Lake, known for its strategic

significance and breathtaking beauty, lies in close proximity to the LAC, which has been a point of tension between India and China in recent years. The installation of the statue in this region is seen as a powerful gesture, reflecting the spirit of resilience and national pride, particularly in light of ongoing geopolitical challenges.



PM Modi's Historic Visit to Kyiv Amid Ukraine Conflict

KYIV: Indian Prime Minister Narendra Modi is set to make a historic visit to Kyiv on Friday, marking the first time an Indian leader has visited Ukraine since its independence from the Soviet Union in 1991. The visit comes at a critical time in the ongoing war, with Ukrainian forces still in Russia's western Kursk region following their August 6 incursion, while Russian troops continue their gradual advance in Ukraine's eastern regions.

Modi's visit follows his trip to Moscow in July, underscoring India's delicate diplomatic balancing act. For Kyiv, Modi's visit holds significant importance as it seeks to strengthen ties with the Global South in its quest for a fair resolution to the conflict. As Western-backed Ukraine continues to face challenges on the battlefield, strengthening international support is a priority.

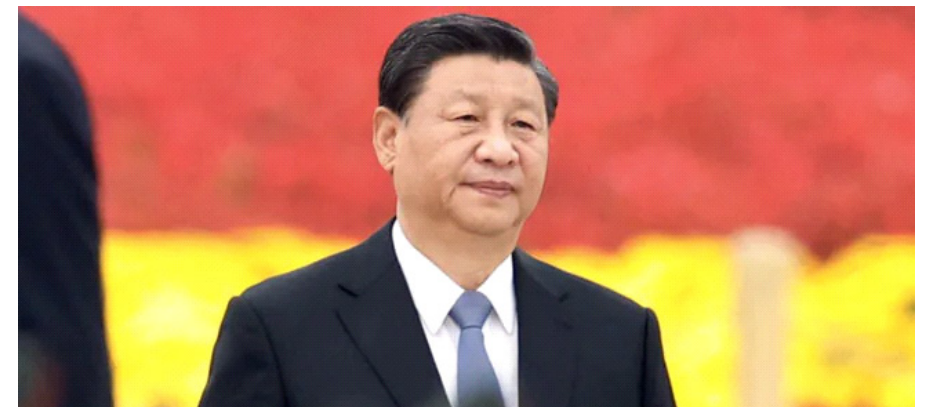
Ahead of his visit, Modi expressed his hopes for a peaceful resolution to the war, stating, "I look forward to the opportunity to share perspectives on peaceful resolution of the ongoing Ukraine conflict. As a friend and partner, we hope for an early return of peace and stability in the region." Modi's diplomatic approach emphasizes India's longstanding position of neutrality, advocating for peace while fostering relations with both Russia and



Ukraine.

The timing of Modi's visit is notable, coming just weeks after a Russian missile strike on Ukraine, which targeted a children's hospital. This attack led to a strong emotional response from Modi during his July visit to Moscow, where he subtly criticized President Vladimir Putin for the assault on civilians, signaling India's concern for humanitarian impacts.

As the war in Ukraine continues with no clear resolution in sight, Modi's visit signals India's commitment to fostering diplomatic dialogue and exploring avenues for peace in the region. The meeting between Modi and Ukrainian President Volodymyr Zelenskyy is expected to focus on diplomatic solutions, with an emphasis on India's role as a global advocate for peace and stability.



China Builds Over 200 New Prisons As Xi Jinping Ups Anti-Corruption Drive

CHINA: China has significantly expanded its network of specialized detention facilities, with over 200 "liuzhi" centres built or upgraded to support President Xi Jinping's extensive anti-corruption campaign, according to CNN. These centres are designed to detain suspects for up to six months without legal counsel or family visits.

Since taking power in 2012, President Xi has made anti-corruption efforts a cornerstone of his leadership, aiming to consolidate control over both the Communist Party and the military. His anti-corruption drive now spans not just party officials but also public institutions, impacting civil servants, managers, and even businesspeople suspected of bribery. High-profile cases, such as the detention of billionaire Bao Fan and former soccer star Li Tie, have drawn attention to the widespread scope of the campaign.

The liuzhi system, formalized in 2018, replaced the controversial "shuang-gui" system, which had faced criticism for abuse and torture. The facilities feature padded walls, constant surveillance, and round-the-clock guards to monitor detainees. Although they are designed to prevent detainees from harming themselves, critics argue the system is ripe for abuse. Detainees often face extreme psychological pressure, sleep deprivation, and forced confessions under duress.

One such case involved Chen Jianjun, a former official, who claimed to have been subjected to 18-hour daily sitting sessions and sleep deprivation during his six-month detention. His account, shared by his daughter, included drawings illustrating the harsh conditions. Since 2017, the number of liuzhi centres has grown steadily, with construction efforts ramping up post-pandemic. Local anti-graft agencies are under scrutiny, with accusations of using these centres to detain businesspeople on false charges and extract bribes.

Economists, like Zhou Tianyong, have raised alarms about the potential harm these practices could cause to China's economy.

A proposed amendment to China's national supervision law aims to establish more standardized interrogation practices. However, critics argue that it fails to address the lack of access to legal counsel during liuzhi detention, further complicating the country's human rights record.



US-India ties would not have been possible without Manmohan: Biden

WASHINGTON: King Jigme Khesar Namgyel Wangchuck of Bhutan and Mauritius Foreign Minister Dhananjay Ramful paid their respects to former Indian Prime Minister Manmohan Singh during his funeral on Saturday. Wangchuck laid a wreath on Singh's mortal remains at Nigambodh Ghat in New Delhi, honoring the late leader's legacy.

Earlier, on Friday, Wangchuck had led Bhutan in offering prayers for Singh at a Buddhist monastery in Thimphu. The Bhutan government organized separate prayer ceremonies across the country in all 20 Dzongkhags, or districts, to mourn Singh's passing. Bhutan's heartfelt tribute reflects the close ties shared between the two nations during Singh's tenure.

In the United States, President Joe Biden also mourned the loss of Manmohan Singh, describing him as "a true statesman." Biden praised Singh's strategic vision and political courage, which he credited for the significant strengthening of US-India relations. "The unprecedented level of cooperation between the United States and India today would not have been possible without the Prime Minister's strategic vision and political courage," Biden stated.

The US President highlighted key achievements during Singh's tenure, including the historic US-India Civil Nuclear Agreement and the launch of the first Quad initiative among Indo-Pacific partners. "He charted path-breaking progress that will continue to strengthen our nations — and the world — for generations to come," Biden said, emphasizing Singh's lasting impact on global diplomacy.

Biden also reflected on personal memories, recalling his meetings with Singh during his time as Chairman of the Senate Foreign Relations Committee in 2008 and later as Vice President during an official visit to the United States in 2009. "He was a true statesman, a dedicated public servant, and above all, he was a kind and humble person," Biden concluded.

Manmohan Singh, a revered figure in Indian politics, is remembered for his leadership and contributions to India's growth and its international stature.



Putin Apologizes for 'Tragic' Azerbaijan Airliner Crash

MOSCOW: Russian President Vladimir Putin issued an apology to Azerbaijani President Ilham Aliyev on Saturday, expressing sorrow for the "tragic incident" involving an Azerbaijani airliner that crashed in Kazakhstan, resulting in 38 fatalities. However, Putin stopped short of accepting responsibility, as speculation mounts that the plane may have been shot down by Russian air defenses.

The plane, traveling from Azerbaijan's capital, Baku, to Grozny in Russia, deviated from its flight path and headed toward Kazakhstan, eventually crashing while attempting to land near the city of Aktau. While there were 29 survivors, the incident has raised serious concerns over potential Russian involvement.

The Kremlin confirmed in a statement that Russian air defense systems were activated near Grozny on Wednesday to intercept a Ukrainian drone strike. The statement noted that the airliner repeatedly attempted to land at Grozny airport, but did not explicitly say whether the defense systems caused the crash. Despite this, Putin expressed regret to Aliyev for the incident occurring in Russian airspace.

In response to the crash, Russia has launched a criminal investigation, with Azerbaijani state prosecutors joining the efforts in Grozny. A joint investigation is underway involving officials from Russia, Azerbaijan, and Kazakhstan to determine the cause of the crash. Aliyev, in his conversation with Putin, acknowledged that the plane had been subjected to "external physical and technical interference," though he refrained from directly blaming Russian air defenses. He pointed out that the aircraft had multiple holes in its fuselage and that the passengers had been injured by foreign particles penetrating the cabin mid-flight, raising further questions about the plane's destruction.



Uncertainties Rise Over Cause of South Korean Plane Crash: Bird Strike or Something Else?

SOUTH KOREA: Experts are raising questions about the deadly crash of Jeju Air Flight 7C2216 at Muan International Airport, with several uncertainties surrounding the incident. While South Korean officials initially suggested a bird strike as a possible cause, other factors have raised doubts about this explanation.

The crash, which occurred on Sunday, claimed the lives of 179 of the 181 people on board. The twin-engine Boeing 737-800 was seen in shocking footage skidding down the runway without visible landing gear before crashing into a brick wall, erupting in a blaze of flames and debris.

Several aspects of the incident have left experts puzzled, especially the apparent absence of the plane's landing gear. The fact that the aircraft touched down so far down the runway and struck a brick wall at the end has led to further concerns. Additionally, the absence of foam from fire tenders and the delayed response of emergency teams has raised questions. "Why weren't fire tenders on the scene when the plane landed? And why did it touch down so far down the runway?" questioned an Airline News editor. These issues, coupled with the initial reports of a possible bird strike, are fueling uncertainty about the cause of the crash.

While South Korean authorities are investigating the incident, Jeju Air has declined to comment on the specifics of the cause, saying that an investigation is ongoing. Local officials have confirmed that the crash is being examined in relation to a possible bird strike, but no definitive cause has been established yet.

The investigation is expected to focus on various factors, including the flight's final moments, the condition of the landing gear, and the emergency response. The crash has prompted calls for a thorough and transparent inquiry, as experts and the public alike seek to understand the events leading to the deadliest aviation accident in South Korea's history.



Stock Market Outlook: Sectoral Shifts and Stock Recommendations for the Week

Domestic stock markets are likely to see mixed movements this week, with consolidation expected to continue in the benchmark indices. While the market may not show significant gains, any decisive movements will hinge on positive signals from international markets. Key negative factors affecting the market include foreign institutional investor (FII) outflows and the weakening of the Indian rupee. Last week, sectors such as Pharma, Healthcare, FMCG, Auto, and Tourism saw gains, while Media, Realty, MNCs, Metals, IT, and Banking suffered.



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Stock Recommendations:

Campus Activewear

After a two-year downtrend, Campus Activewear shares are now in the value zone, showing signs of recovery. The company's performance has been improving, with relative strength increasing. Investors are advised to enter at Rs. 310-300, targeting a price of Rs. 345-375. The stock gained 4.17% in the previous session and a stop loss should be placed at Rs. 290 to manage risks.



Laurus Labs

Laurus Labs has been in an uptrend since April



and is now at a critical resistance level. The stock has demonstrated resilience even in a negative market, gaining in the last four sessions. Investors can buy in the range of Rs. 580, with a target price of Rs. 655. The stock closed at Rs. 586, up 2.82%. A stop loss should be set at Rs. 560 to protect the investment.



Lumax Auto

Lumax Auto is currently trading at lifetime

highs, with increasing demand and better quarterly results. Despite market corrections, the stock continues to show upward potential. Investors should look to buy in the range of Rs. 630-610, targeting Rs. 670-690. The stock gained 2.73% last session, and a stop loss at Rs. 575 is recommended for risk management.



Lupin

Lupin's stock has been consistently reaching new highs and recently broke its 2016 resistance level, showing strength in the market. The stock is expected to continue its upward trajectory, with limited supply. Investors can buy at Rs. 2200-2180, with a target price of Rs. 2350. The stock closed at Rs. 2227 with a 2.09% gain, and a stop loss should be set at Rs. 2140 to protect from adverse movements.



Aurobindo Pharma

Aurobindo Pharma shares saw a correction of about 30% after reaching a lifetime high in August. However, the stock is now forming a base and is gaining strength against the Nifty. It presents a good accumulation opportunity for long-term investors. A buying opportunity is seen at Rs. 1250, with a target price of Rs. 1360-1380. The stock closed at Rs. 1269 in the previous session, and a stop loss should be placed at Rs. 1220.



In summary, while the broader market may continue to consolidate, these specific stocks offer potential growth opportunities in the near term. Investors are advised to manage risks carefully through strategic stop-loss levels while considering the fundamental strength of these stocks.

Indian Stock Market Outlook: Auto Sales, FII Flows, and Union Budget in Focus

As the calendar year draws to a close, Indian stock market participants are preparing to closely monitor a variety of factors that could shape market trends in the coming week. Among the key points of focus will be auto sales data, foreign institutional investments (FII) flows, currency movement, and the upcoming earnings season. Additionally, attention will be directed toward the Union Budget and the inauguration of President-elect Donald Trump, market experts suggest.



Market analysts are particularly keen on tracking the movement of the Indian Rupee, as fluctuations in the currency could significantly impact market sentiment. The movement of the currency, alongside global economic cues, is expected to play a crucial role in the direction of the market.

Ajit Mishra, Senior Vice President of Research at Religare Broking Ltd, highlights that while mixed signals are coming from the stock indices, certain sectors are continuing to offer

opportunities. In particular, pharma and healthcare sectors are expected to remain outperformers. At the same time, selective recoveries in FMCG, banking, and realty stocks may present potential buying opportunities. However, Mishra advises caution when dealing with PSU and metal sectors, which could face further downside risks.

Manish Goel, Founder and Director of Equentis Wealth Advisory Services, observes that investors are likely to face heightened uncertainty as they transition into a new macroeconomic regime in 2025. With inflation concerns and a slower-than-expected economic growth rate globally, particularly in the U.S., the prospect of prolonged elevated interest rates is likely to influence market movements.

The markets will also be anticipating data from auto sales as well as FII flows, which are crucial for gauging investor sentiment and market liquidity. With these factors in mind, market participants will need to stay informed and be prepared for potential volatility as the year begins.

India-Australia Trade Flourishes with 14% Growth in Exports Since ECTA Signing

India's exports to Australia have surged by 14% since the signing of the India-Australia Economic Cooperation and Trade Agreement (ECTA), according to a government statement on Sunday. The agreement, which came into effect to enhance bilateral trade relations, has facilitated notable growth in key sectors such as textiles, chemicals, and agriculture. Additionally, the agreement has paved the way for new product lines like gold studded with diamonds and turbojets, showcasing the diversification of Indian exports.



The trade deal, which was signed with the aim of strengthening economic ties between the two nations, has already yielded impressive results. Bilateral merchandise trade between India and Australia reached \$26 billion in FY23, more than double compared to previous years, reflecting the growing momentum in trade.

The substantial growth in exports has been driven by the increased demand for textiles, chemicals, and agricultural products, which

have gained better access to the Australian market. The agreement has also opened new avenues for Indian businesses, with products like high-end jewelry and advanced machinery adding to the diversity of India's export portfolio.

Moreover, the ECTA has provided Indian exporters with expanded market

access, allowing them to reach a broader audience and contribute to the growth of various sectors. With the added benefit of reduced tariffs on a wide range of products, Indian businesses are capitalizing on the opportunities available through the agreement.

The positive momentum observed in India's exports to Australia reflects the potential of trade agreements to bolster economic growth and expand market opportunities. The ECTA continues to play a vital role in fostering deeper economic integration between India and Australia, benefiting both countries through enhanced trade relations and diversified export offerings.

Indian Economy Set for 6.5-6.8% Growth in FY25, Driven by Domestic Consumption

India's economy is projected to grow at a rate of 6.5-6.8% in the fiscal year 2025, with a potential increase to 6.7-7.3% in FY2026, driven by robust domestic consumption, according to a report by Deloitte released on Sunday.

Deloitte India's economist, Rumki Majumdar, noted that while the first half of FY2025 experienced slower-than-expected growth, factors such as election-related uncertainties, disruptions caused by heavy rainfall, and geopolitical events weighed heavily on both domestic demand and exports. Despite these challenges, India continues to show resilience in key sectors, including consumption, services growth, and manufacturing exports.

In particular, high-value manufacturing exports, including sectors like semiconductors, have been a key driver. These advancements reflect India's growing integration into global value chains, marking its strengthening position in the global economy. The expansion in such segments is indicative of India's evolving manufacturing capabilities, which contribute to its economic growth.

Majumdar emphasized that the government's continued focus on infrastructure development, digitization, and attracting foreign direct investment (FDI) will play a crucial role in driving future growth. These initiatives will enhance



overall economic efficiency and provide a solid foundation for long-term economic stability.

The report suggests that India's economy remains resilient in the face of external challenges and is poised to continue its upward trajectory with strong growth in key sectors. The combination of favorable domestic consumption trends, services expansion, and the growing contribution of high-value manufacturing exports is expected to fuel economic progress, positioning India as a key player in the global economy.

Overall, Deloitte maintains a cautiously optimistic outlook for India's economy, forecasting a steady growth rate for the current fiscal year and a potential rise in FY2026 as the country continues to adapt to evolving global dynamics.

*India Set for Record Foodgrain Production in 2025

India's agricultural sector is poised for a remarkable recovery in 2025, with foodgrain production projected to hit new heights, driven largely by favorable monsoon conditions. The Agriculture Ministry's initial estimates predict a record 164.7 million tonnes of kharif (summer) foodgrains for the 2024-25 crop year, which ends in June 2025.



This surge in foodgrain production highlights the positive impact of a favorable monsoon season, which has bolstered crop yields across the country. The robust recovery is expected to contribute significantly to India's agricultural growth, enhancing food security and supporting rural economies.

However, challenges remain, particularly in the production of pulses and oilseeds. Despite the overall growth in foodgrain output, these two sectors continue to face difficulties in meeting domestic demand. To address these challenges, the government has ramped up efforts under the National Mission on Edible Oils - Oilseeds, which aims to improve self-sufficiency in oilseed production and reduce reliance on imports.

The government has also introduced several new schemes to further boost agricultural output, such as promoting the use of technology in farming, increasing irrigation coverage, and offering financial support to farmers. These initiatives are expected to play a crucial role in enhancing productivity and supporting sustainable farming practices.

While these efforts show promise, issues such as farmer unrest, high input costs, and logistical challenges continue to affect the agricultural sector. Farmers remain concerned about the rising cost of fertilizers, seeds, and labor, which have put pressure on their profit margins. Additionally, ongoing protests and calls for policy changes reflect the need for further reforms to address the concerns of the agricultural community.

Despite these hurdles, India's agricultural sector is showing signs of resilience, with the potential to achieve record production levels in 2025. Continued government support and targeted reforms will be crucial to sustaining this growth and addressing the challenges that remain.



YouTube Tests New “Play Something” Floating Action Button for Easy Video Discovery

YouTube, one of the leading video streaming platforms, has always been a go-to destination for entertainment and information. However, with an overwhelming number of videos available, users often find it challenging to quickly discover something interesting to watch. To address this issue, YouTube is reportedly testing a new feature called the “Play Something” floating action button, designed to eliminate endless scrolling.

As per a recent report from 9to5Google, the “Play Something” button is displayed with a black background and white text, positioned just above the bottom bar of the screen. When users tap on this button, it initiates the playback of a random video in the Shorts player. Interestingly, the feature isn’t limited to Shorts alone—it can also play regular long-form content in portrait mode.

In portrait mode, the usual video controls, including the like, dislike, comment, and share buttons, appear on the right side of the screen. Additionally, a timeline scrubber is visible at the bottom of the player, offering users an option to skip ahead or go back in the video.

This new feature is part of YouTube’s ongoing efforts to improve user experience by helping users discover new content effortlessly. The “Play



Something” button could potentially serve as a fun and engaging way for users to explore videos without having to make the decision themselves, especially when they are unsure of what to watch next.

At the moment, YouTube is reportedly testing this feature, so it may not be available to all users yet. However, if successful, it could roll out more widely in the future, providing users with a more seamless and spontaneous way to enjoy content on the platform.

Stay tuned for more updates on this exciting feature as YouTube continues to enhance its user interface.

Generation Beta: The New Era Begins in 2025

Starting on January 1, 2025, a new generation is set to emerge—Generation Beta. This cohort, composed of children born between 2025 and 2039, is expected to make up 16% of the global population by 2035. Many members of Generation Beta may even live to see the dawn of the 22nd century. The term “Generation Beta” follows the naming convention established by social researcher Mark McCrindle, who is known for defining generational labels.

Generation Beta succeeds Generation Alpha (born between 2010 and 2024), Generation Z (born 1996-2010), and millennials (born 1981-1996). The use of the Greek alphabet to define generations marks a new chapter in human history, with Beta representing the next wave of children who will shape the future.

Unlike previous generations, Generation Beta will grow up in a world where technological advancements are fully integrated into daily life. They will be the first to experience autonomous transportation on a large scale, wearable health technologies, and immersive virtual environments as standard elements of their routines. Mark McCrindle points out that while Generation Alpha has witnessed the rise of smart technology and artificial intelligence (AI), Beta will live in a world where AI and automation are seamlessly embedded in everything from education and workplaces



to healthcare and entertainment.

However, Generation Beta will face challenges that come with unprecedented technological integration. They will inherit a world grappling with issues such as climate change, urbanization, and shifts in global population dynamics. These challenges will likely make adaptability, collaboration, and sustainability central to their values and priorities.

While previous generations have become more eco-conscious, Generation Beta will be tasked with ensuring that sustainability is more than just a trend—it will be a fundamental expectation. Understanding their unique needs and preferences will be crucial in predicting how they will influence society in the years to come.

“Ultra-Processed Garbage”: Doctor Criticises Swiggy, Zomato Quick Meals

As quick-commerce giants like Zepto Cafe, Zomato’s Bis-Atro, and Swiggy Bolt vie for dominance in the fast-paced world of ultra-fast food delivery, delivering meals in just 10 minutes, growing concerns are being raised about the potential health risks of this trend. Critics argue that the promise of convenience may come at the cost of public health, as the meals offered are often ultra-processed and lack essential nutritional value.

Orthopaedic surgeon and co-founder of NutriByte Wellness, Manan Vora, has joined the growing chorus of voices cautioning against the rise of these rapid delivery services. In a recent LinkedIn post, Vora explained, “For the food to be delivered in 10 minutes, it needs to be cooked in 3 minutes or less,” which, he says, can only be achieved by relying on ultra-processed, ready-to-eat meals that are pre-cooked, frozen, and microwaved before delivery.

Supporting his argument with research, Vora highlighted the risks associated with ultra-processed foods, which include:

- An increased cancer risk by 12% and a 10% higher likelihood of cardiovascular disease.
- A growing obesity problem, which currently affects 27.8% of Indian adults.
- The potential to cause sugar spikes, raising the risk of diabetes.
- High levels of trans fats, which contribute to heart disease.

Vora urges consumers to be more mindful of what they or-



der, advising, “If you don’t have home-cooked food and need to order in, do so. But wait a little longer for fresh food. Don’t compromise your health.” He also delivered a strong message to the industry, saying, “Dear Zomato, Swiggy, and Zepto: We don’t want ultra-processed garbage delivered in 10 minutes!”

This growing debate sheds light on the trade-off between convenience and health, urging consumers and food delivery services alike to reconsider the long-term implications of fast-food culture. While these services offer speed and ease, they may not be the healthiest choice for those concerned about their well-being.

Bengaluru Foodie Splurges Over Rs 5 Lakh on a Single Meal, Shocks Foodies Nationwide

Zomato’s year-end report for 2024 has revealed intriguing insights into India’s evolving food habits, with one standout highlight coming from Bengaluru. The report shared details about a foodie who made headlines for splurging a staggering Rs 5,13,733 on a single meal. While the exact details of the meal are still under wraps, the eye-popping bill certainly caught the attention of food enthusiasts across the country.

As part of its annual review, Zomato also shed light on the nation’s most popular dishes, with biryani continuing its dominance as the top choice. The food delivery giant revealed that it had delivered over 9 crore biryanis in 2024 alone—equating to more than three biryanis ordered every second. This love for biryani has remained unmatched, cementing its place as India’s go-to comfort food.

Back to the Bengaluru foodie’s extravagant dining experience, Zomato highlighted the massive bill in their report,

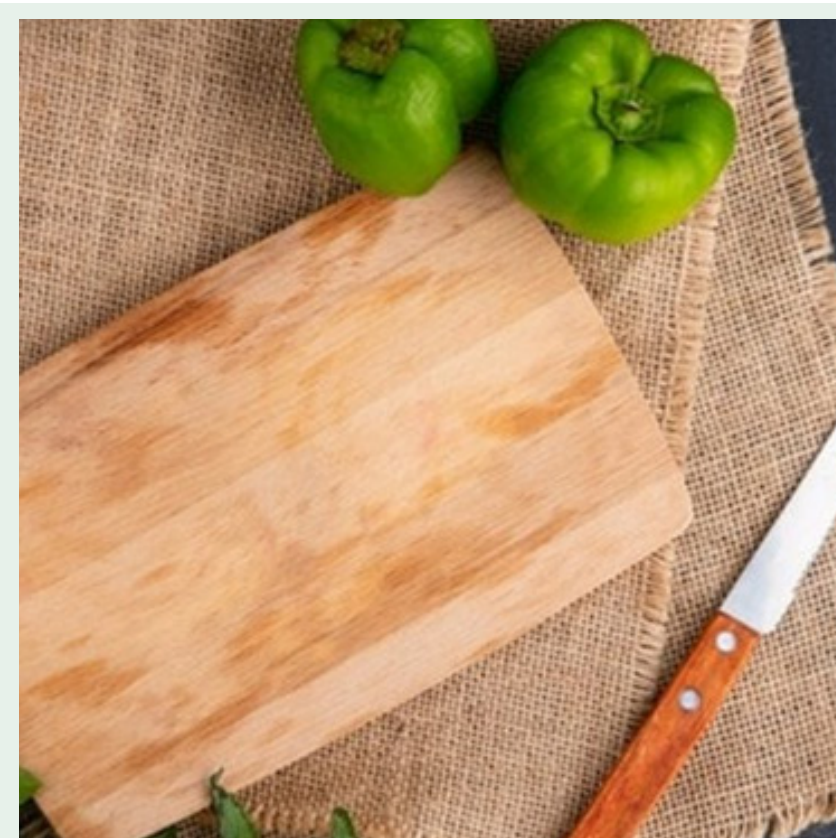


underscoring how high-end dining and indulgent food experiences are becoming increasingly popular. Whether it was a lavish multi-course meal, exclusive ingredients, or a premium restaurant experience, this meal has certainly set a new benchmark for food spending in the country.

Zomato also made a point of acknowledging the immense variety of food trends emerging, from the growing popularity of high-end dining to more budget-friendly yet delicious options available across India. With del-

ivery services evolving and becoming more diverse, it’s clear that food culture in India is experiencing a shift toward more personalized and unique experiences.

For now, the Bengaluru foodie’s monumental splurge serves as a reminder of how food, when combined with luxury and indulgence, can become an unforgettable experience—one that comes with a jaw-dropping price tag.



The Hidden Health Risks of Wooden Chopping Boards

Wooden chopping boards are a staple in many kitchens due to their timeless appeal and durability. However, while they are a popular choice for food preparation, they come with some hidden risks that could impact your family’s health if not used and maintained correctly.

According to Varsha Gorey, Senior Clinical Dietitian at Apollo Hospitals Navi Mumbai, the porous nature of wood is the key concern. Wooden boards easily absorb moisture from the food we prepare on them—whether it’s the juices from fresh vegetables like tomatoes, the residue from raw meats such as chicken, or the oils from aromatic ingredients like ginger and garlic. In a tropical country like India, where high humidity levels are prevalent throughout much of the year, this moisture absorption becomes an even greater risk.

The moisture trapped in wooden boards provides a perfect breeding ground for bacteria, mold, and fungi. These harmful microorganisms can easily thrive in the cracks and crevices of the

board, which, if not cleaned and dried thoroughly, could lead to contamination of the food prepared on it. Cross-contamination is especially concerning when raw meat or seafood is involved, as pathogens like Salmonella or E. coli can pose serious health risks.

To reduce the risks associated with wooden chopping boards, it is crucial to practice proper cleaning and maintenance. After each use, the board should be washed immediately with hot water and soap, followed by thorough drying with a clean cloth. It is also important to regularly oil the surface of the board with food-safe mineral oil to maintain its integrity and prevent excessive moisture absorption. Additionally, consider using separate boards for raw meats and vegetables to minimize the risk of cross-contamination.

By taking these simple precautions, you can continue enjoying the beauty and functionality of wooden chopping boards without compromising your family’s health.



Arsenal Climb to 2nd Place with 1-0 Win Over Ipswich

Arsenal secured a 1-0 victory over struggling Ipswich Town on a chilly Friday night in north London, climbing to second place in the Premier League and narrowing the gap to six points behind leaders Liverpool. The win, though relatively straightforward, was not without its flaws, as the Gunners failed to fully capitalize on their dominance against a team sitting near the bottom of the table.

The only goal of the match came in the 23rd minute, with Kai Havertz finishing off a well-placed pull-back from Leandro Trossard. The strike was Havertz's sixth goal of the season across all competitions, and it was enough to secure the three points. Despite the lead, Arsenal struggled to build on their advantage, failing to generate the usual attacking fireworks fans are accustomed to. The absence of the creative Bukayo Saka, who was sidelined with injury, was felt as the Gunners lacked their usual spark in the final third.

It took Arsenal 19 minutes to register their first shot of the match, but once they took the lead, they had more opportunities to increase their advantage. However, the performance remained rather pedes-



trian, with a few missed chances that could have put the game beyond Ipswich. The visitors did have a brief spell of pressure early in the second half, but it proved short-lived, and Arsenal comfortably saw out the match.

The win took Arsenal to 36 points, just six behind Liverpool, who have 42 points but still have a game in hand. With this result, Arsenal also moved above Chelsea and Nottingham Forest in the table, further solidifying their place near the top of the Premier League as they head into the new year. Despite the lack of flair in their performance, the three points were crucial as the Gunners continue their pursuit of a top finish.

South Africa Book WTC Final Berth With Thrilling Win Over Pakistan In 1st Test

Kagiso Rabada played a pivotal role with the bat as South Africa pulled off a thrilling two-wicket win over Pakistan in the first Test on December 29, 2024, at SuperSport Park. With the victory, South Africa booked their place in the World Test Championship (WTC) final in England next year.

Chasing 148 for victory, South Africa found themselves in a precarious position at 99 for 8, facing superb bowling from Mohammad Abbas, who claimed a career-best six wickets for 54. Abbas bowled relentlessly, with a 19.3-over spell of unerring accuracy, including four overs on the previous day. His efforts left Pakistan on the verge of securing their first win in South Africa in 18 years.

Despite the pressure, Rabada, usually known for his bowling exploits, stepped up with the bat, scoring a crucial unbeaten 31 off 26 balls. He was supported by Marco Jansen, who made a steady 16 not out, as the pair guided South Africa to victory in just 5.3 overs after the lunch break. The home crowd erupted in celebration as Rabada and Jansen sealed the win.

Earlier in the day, Aiden Markram and



Temba Bavuma had provided solid resistance after South Africa resumed at 27 for 3. The pair added 43 runs for the fourth wicket, but Abbas' brilliance proved decisive. Markram was bowled for 37 by a delivery that kept low and seamed back, while Bavuma was dismissed for 40 in an unfortunate caught-behind decision after a review showed a spike from his trouser pocket.

Despite a late flurry of wickets that saw South Africa lose four wickets for just three runs, Rabada's resilience at the crease ensured that his team crossed the line. The win not only clinched the Test series but also guaranteed South Africa's place in the WTC final, where they will face the best of world cricket.

Atalanta Hold Serie A Lead with Late Draw at Lazio, Inter Milan Close Behind

Atalanta managed to retain their top spot in Serie A after battling to a 1-1 draw against Lazio at the Stadio Olimpico on Saturday. The result kept Inter Milan at bay, but it ended Atalanta's club-record 11-match winning streak in the league. Marco Brescianini scored a dramatic late equalizer in the 88th minute to salvage a point for the visitors, sending their supporters into raptures and denying Lazio what would have been a crucial victory.

The match saw a lively start, with Lazio taking the lead in the 27th minute through Fisayo Dele-Bashiru's goal. Atalanta were under intense pressure early on, with goalkeeper Marco Carnesecchi making two vital saves, and Matteo Guendouzi striking the post in the 11th minute. Despite the early onslaught, Atalanta slowly gained composure, and in the second half, they began to assert themselves more on the pitch.

Brescianini's goal came thanks to some brilliant teamwork. Ademola Lookman, who had earlier missed a clear opportunity, was instrumental in setting up the equalizer by beating the offside trap and laying the ball across to Brescianini for a simple tap-in. The goal marked Brescianini's third of the season and ensured that Atalanta would finish the year one point ahead of Inter Milan, who had earlier won 3-0 at Cagliari.

Atalanta's coach Gian Piero Gasperini expressed pride in his team's resilience, stating, "We struggled for long periods in the first half, but we were much better in the second. This year has been the best in Atalanta's history,



and we hope to continue into 2025."

The draw meant that Atalanta remain at the top of the table with 41 points, just ahead of Inter Milan, who have a game in hand. Atalanta's next challenge will be the Italian Super Cup, where they face Inter in Saudi Arabia on Thursday.

In other Serie A action, Lautaro Martínez ended an eight-match goal drought by scoring in Inter's 3-0 win over Cagliari, helping the champions maintain their strong form.

Jasprit Bumrah Becomes First to Reach 200 Test Wickets with Average Under 20

Jasprit Bumrah, one of India's finest pace bowlers, achieved a historic milestone in Test cricket on December 29, 2024, by becoming the first player in history to reach 200 wickets with an average under 20. This remarkable feat came during the fourth Test against Australia at the Melbourne Cricket Ground when Bumrah dismissed Travis Head on Day 4.

Bumrah's achievement is nothing short of extraordinary. In the process, he surpassed legendary bowlers like Malcolm Marshall, Joel Garner, and Curtly Ambrose to join the elite 200-wicket club in Test cricket. What sets Bumrah apart is not just the number of wickets but the incredible consistency he has maintained throughout his career. With an impressive average of 19.5, Bumrah now holds the best average among all bowlers with 200 or more Test wickets, surpassing some of the game's greatest fast bowlers, including Marshall (20.9), Garner (21.0), and Am-

brose (21.0).

The milestone was achieved after Bumrah claimed his 200th wicket by removing Head, followed by quick dismissals to take his tally to 202. His relentless pace and ability to strike at crucial moments have made him a cornerstone of India's bowling attack, and his record is a testament to his skill and perseverance on the field.

Bumrah's achievement has added another feather to his already impressive cap and has solidified his place among the greats of fast bowling. His ability to consistently bowl with both speed and accuracy, combined with his knack for taking wickets in critical situations, makes him one of the most dangerous bowlers in the world.

As Bumrah continues to excel in Test cricket, his 200-wicket milestone will undoubtedly be remembered as a landmark achievement in the history of the game.

Lakshya Sen Falls to Hu Zhe'an in King Cup Semifinals

India's Lakshya Sen was eliminated in the semifinals of the inaugural King Cup International Badminton Open on Saturday, losing in straight games to China's reigning world junior champion, Hu Zhe'an. The 23-year-old from Almore fought valiantly but was ultimately outclassed by the 18-year-old Hu, who secured a 21-19, 21-19 victory in a thrilling contest.

Both players were engaged in a tense battle throughout the match, with only a few points separating them at any given time. The first game saw Hu take a slim one-point advantage at the break after Lakshya's backhand shot went into the net. Despite a hard-fought rally, Lakshya could not recover from that deficit, and Hu clinched the opening game when Lakshya's return went wide.

The second game followed a similar pattern, with both players staying neck and neck until the score was tied at



6-6. Hu then surged ahead, moving to a 12-10 lead. Lakshya fought back and gained a three-point advantage at 19-16, but Hu's attacking skills proved decisive. With a mix of powerful smashes and delicate drops, Hu showcased his superior play to seal the victory and secure his place in the final.

This loss came after Lakshya's impressive performance in the quarterfinals, where he defeated Hong Kong's Angus Ng Ka Long. Earlier this month, Lakshya had won the Syed Modi International Super 300 title, further solidifying his status as one of India's top badminton players.

The King Cup, which offers a prize purse of approximately USD 152,000, was launched by China's two-time Olympic champion Lin Dan. Although Lakshya Sen fell short in the semifinals, his strong showing throughout the tournament highlighted his potential on the international stage.

Vishwaksen's Fun and Catchy Lyrics Shine in 'Sonu Model' from Laila

Vishwaksen's upcoming film *Laila* is generating significant buzz with the release of its first single, "Sonu Model," offering fans a fun glimpse of his unique character. Directed by Ram Narayan and produced by Sahu Garapati under Shine Screens, the film promises a fresh experience, especially with Vishwaksen's portrayal of a female character, something he has never done before in his career.



His character, Sonu Model, appears both as a man and a woman, making it an intriguing part of the film's narrative.

The video for "Sonu Model" is filled with energy and joy, perfectly complementing Vishwaksen's lively performance. As Sonu, Vishwaksen exudes charm and confidence, effortlessly capturing the attention of the girls around him with his skills and magnetic personality. The catchy lyrics, penned by Vishwaksen himself, highlight the character's charismatic nature and add to the playful tone of the track.

The song's music is composed by Leon James, whose peppy beats elevate the overall vibe, ensuring it stays stuck in your head. The track's rhythm

makes it impossible to sit still, and Vishwaksen's dance moves add a dynamic layer, reflecting his vibrant presence on screen. The energetic vocals by Narayan Ravishankar and Reshma Shyam further enhance the infectious energy of the song, making it a perfect anthem for a fun, upbeat atmosphere.

Akanksha Sharma stars as the lead actress in *Laila*, set to be a romantic action entertainer that will hit theaters on Valentine's Day, February 14, 2025. As the first single sets the tone, it's clear that *Laila* is shaping up to be a highly anticipated release, with Vishwaksen's multifaceted performance and the catchy tracks leading the way. Fans can look forward to more vibrant moments like "Sonu Model" as the film nears its release.

Unni Mukundan's Marco Trailer Unveils High-Intensity Action and Suspense

Unni Mukundan's *Marco*, a recent Malayalam blockbuster, is all set to make its Telugu debut with a dubbed version releasing on New Year's Day, January 1st, 2025, through NVR Cinema. Directed by Haneeb Adeni and produced by Shareef Muhammed under the Cubes Entertainment banner, the film has already created significant anticipation in the Telugu-speaking audience, thanks to its gripping trailer that promises a high-octane action-packed journey.



where the stakes are high and the characters are constantly battling both external and internal conflicts.

The trailer gives audiences a glimpse into the dark and brutal world that Marco, played by Mukundan, must navigate. His character, marked by a tragic and violent past, is thrust into a survival battle amidst betrayal and powerful enemies. Mukundan's intense performance elevates the emotional depth of Marco, a man grappling with his demons while seeking justice in a ruthless world. The powerful portrayal adds layers of complexity to the character, ensuring the audience remains invested in his journey.

Cinematographer Chandru Selvaraj gives the film a stylish edge, capturing the action sequences with flair and precision. The high-intensity action scenes are elevated by Ravi Basur's powerful background score, which heightens the suspense and drama. The music perfectly complements the tense tone of the film, ensuring the audience is drawn into Marco's chaotic and perilous world.

Marco boasts a strong supporting cast, with Yukti Tareja, Siddique, and Kabir Dhan Singh playing pivotal roles, all contributing to the film's tense atmosphere. The trailer hints at a gripping narrative,

With the trailer setting high expectations, *Marco* is shaping up to be a must-watch for fans of intense action and gripping drama. Mukundan's performance, combined with the stylish direction and immersive music, promises an exciting cinematic experience when it hits theaters on January 1st, 2025.

Ram Charan's Game Changer Trailer to Release on January 1st

The much-awaited moment for Mega fans has finally arrived! Producer Dil Raju has officially announced that the trailer for the highly anticipated film *Game Changer*, starring Ram Charan, will be released on January 1st, 2025, as a special New Year's gift. This update has sent waves of excitement through the fanbase, as they eagerly await a glimpse into what is set to be one of the biggest cinematic events of the year.



As part of the film's promotional campaign, fans have gone all out in showing their love for the movie and its lead star. In Vrindavan Colony, a massive 256-foot cutout of Ram Charan has been erected at Vajra Maidan, marking a significant celebration for the film's upcoming release. The cutout launch ceremony saw Dil Raju as the chief guest, further fueling the excitement among the fans. This grand gesture is a testament to the immense popularity of Ram Charan and the buzz surrounding *Game Changer*.

Dil Raju, who has been actively involved in the production of the film, shared the good news with the audience during the event, ensuring that the trailer release on January 1st would be the perfect way to kick off the New Year. This announcement has sparked even more anticipation for *Game Changer*, with fans now eagerly awaiting to see Ram Charan in action.

As the trailer release draws closer, expectations are sky-high, and the buzz surrounding *Game Changer* continues to build. With its star-studded cast, high-octane action, and gripping storyline, the film promises to be a game-changer in every sense of the word. Fans can mark their calendars and get ready to witness Ram Charan in a role that will surely captivate audiences when the trailer drops on January 1st, 2025.

Kiran Abbavaram's Dilruba Teaser Release Date Announced

Tollywood's rising star, Kiran Abbavaram, is gearing up for his next big release, *Dilruba*, which has already started creating a buzz among fans. After the success of his recent hit, *Ka*, Kiran is focused on bringing fresh and engaging stories to the audience. *Dilruba*, a romantic entertainer, promises to captivate moviegoers with its charm and emotional depth.



The teaser for *Dilruba* will be released on January 3, 2025, giving fans a sneak peek into the romantic journey of the lead characters. The film is expected to hit the big screens on February 14, 2025, offering a perfect treat for Valentine's Day. Fans are eagerly awaiting further details and promotions, which will be revealed in the coming weeks.

Rukshar Dhillon stars opposite Kiran Abbavaram as the leading lady, adding her own spark to the film. Together, they bring a fresh dynamic to the love story, making it even more exciting for the audience. Directed by the talented Viswa Karun, *Dilruba* promises a unique storytelling experience, blending romance and emotions in a way that resonates with viewers.

Saregama in collaboration with Sivam Celluloids, *Dilruba* has all the elements in place to become a successful venture.

With its talented cast, exciting premise, and a much-anticipated teaser release, *Dilruba* is one of the most talked-about films in Tollywood. As the teaser approaches its release date, the excitement around Kiran Abbavaram's latest project continues to grow, and fans can't wait to witness this romantic entertainer when it arrives in theaters on February 14, 2025.

The film's music, composed by the renowned Sam CS, is also a highlight, as the soundtrack is expected to complement the film's romantic narrative and enhance the overall viewing experience. Backed by

Daaku Maharaaj's Third Single to Drop at USA Pre-Release Event



Anticipation is building for *Daaku Maharaaj*, one of the most eagerly awaited films set to release this Sankranti. Directed by Bobby Kolli, the movie stars Balakrishna in the lead role, with Shraddha Srinath playing the female lead. The film also features Urvashi Rautela and Chandini Chowdary in pivotal roles.

To further ignite excitement, the team behind *Daaku Maharaaj* has unveiled a new mass poster featuring Balakrishna and Urvashi Rautela. While the full details of the song, including the singer, lyricist, and title, are yet to be disclosed, fans can expect more information to be shared soon as the release date approaches.

The makers have officially revealed that the third single from the film, a high-energy mass track composed by the renowned Thaman, will be released on January 4, 2025. The exciting announcement came along with details about the USA pre-release event, scheduled for January 5, 2025, according to Indian Standard Time. The track's release at this event is expected to create a huge buzz among fans.

Produced by Naga Vamsi and Sai Soujanya, *Daaku Maharaaj* promises to deliver a gripping cinematic experience filled with action, drama, and high-octane music. Fans are eagerly awaiting the film's release this Sankranti, and with the third single set to drop soon, the excitement is only expected to grow.