

Weather Forecast

HYDERABAD

TEMPE RATURE

t°

H 28° C

L 22° C

VIJAYAWADA

TEMPE RATURE

t°

H 29° C

L 24° C

TIRUPATHI

TEMPE RATURE

t°

H 26° C

L 24° C

Govt Reaffirms Commitment to Farmers' Welfare

TPN , Telangana: ₹72,659 Crores for Agriculture in Budget Loan Waivers Benefit Thousands of Farmers Modernizing Farmer Forums with Rythu Nestham Crop Insurance and Incentives for Security The Telangana government has reiterated its commitment to ensuring comprehensive support for farmers, despite financial challenges. Deputy Chief Minister Bharti Vikramarka Malu, Chairman of the Farmer Assurance Sub-Committee, announced on Sunday that the state would continue to fulfill its promises to farmers, with a substantial allocation of ₹72,659 crores for agriculture and allied sectors in the state budget.

During a meeting at the Dr. B.R. Ambedkar Secretariat, the Farmer Assurance Sub-Committee, chaired by Bharti Vikramarka and attended by ministers Tummala Nageswara Rao, Dudilla Sridhar Babu, and Ponguleti Srinivas Reddy, reviewed procedures for implementing farmer assurance measures

for the upcoming Yasangi crop season. The discussions were informed by insights gathered during the Cabinet Sub-Committee's statewide tour and consultations with farmers.

Bhatti highlighted the government's achievements, including the disbursement of ₹21,000 crores within two months under the farmer loan waiver scheme for loans up to ₹2 lakhs. He noted the establishment of an Agriculture Commission aimed at ensuring agricultural profitability and modernizing farmer forums through the Rythu Nestham program, which integrates video conferencing units across 110 forums.

As part of its commitment to disaster resilience, the government pledged to pay premiums for crop insurance under the Rythu Bima Scheme, ensuring both crop and family security for farmers. Additionally, the state targets oil palm cultivation on one lakh acres in 2024-25, supported by ₹133.5 crores,

including central and state contributions.

To incentivize farmers, the government will provide a bonus of ₹500 per quintal for fine grains procured. Senior IAS officers have been appointed to oversee the smooth procurement process across districts. Bhatti also emphasized that the Rythu Bharosa initiative had provided investment assistance of ₹7,625 crores to farmers, covering 1.57 crore acres in the state.

The Deputy CM underscored the government's proactive approach in safeguarding farmers from natural disasters and reaffirmed its vision of making Telangana's agriculture sector a national model.

The meeting included key officials like Agriculture Department Principal Secretary Raghu and Special Secretary Krishna Bhaskar.

Kavitha's Fiery Speech in Nizamabad

**BJP Accused of Fabricating Cases
Congress Government's Broken Promises
Kavitha Highlights Public Issues
BRS Confident of Electoral Victory**

TPN , Telangana : BRS MLC Kalvakuntla Kavitha delivered a powerful speech in Nizamabad, addressing the challenges faced by her party and criticizing the Congress-led state government and the BJP at the Center. She affirmed her resilience, stating, "I am a child of Nizamabad, unafraid and ready to fight."

Kavitha accused the BJP of misusing power, claiming that cases were filed against her and KTR for questioning the central government. She remarked, "Those who stand against the BJP face fabricated cases. We are not afraid; our blood is meant to in-

spire fear, not succumb to it."

Turning her focus to the Congress government in Telangana, she lambasted Chief Minister Revanth Reddy for failing to fulfill promises, including distributing scooters to degree-educated girls, providing ₹2,500 monthly allowances for women, and delivering gold under the Kalyana Lakshmi scheme. Kavitha also criticized the government for not increasing pensions or addressing farmers' concerns.

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South Korean Plane Crash Claims 177 Lives

**Tragic Plane Crash at Muan International Airport
Malfunctioning Landing Gear Suspected as Cause
Two Survivors Amid Devastating Crash Death Toll**

TPN , Muan, South Korea – A tragic plane crash at Muan International Airport has resulted in the death of 177 people, with only two survivors. The Boeing 737-800, Jeju Air flight 7C2216, was carrying 175 passengers and six crew members when it crashed on landing. The flight had departed from Bangkok, Thailand, and was attempting to land at Muan International Airport when it lost control.

The plane struck the airport's security wall after failing to control its speed on approach. The impact ignited the fuel, causing the aircraft to burn to the ground. Eyewitnesses reported that the plane's landing gear and tires malfunctioned during the landing, possibly due to a bird strike that compromised their function.

South Korean authorities suspect a problem with the aircraft's landing gear as the cause of the crash. The plane had attempted to land previously but was unable to complete the procedure, leading to the catastrophic accident.

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Crime Report : 2,34,158 Cases Registered- DGP

Crime Surge in 2024: Key Statistics

Progress in High-Profile Phone Tapping Case

TPN , Telangana: The Telangana Police Department has reported a significant increase in crime cases for 2024, with a total of 2,34,158 cases registered. According to DGP Jitender, this marks a 9.87% rise compared to last year. Among these, 1,942 cases were related to drugs, with contraband worth ₹142.50 crore seized during operations.

Releasing the annual crime report, the DGP stated that law and order remained largely under control except for a few isolated incidents. Notable among these were clashes in Adilabad following the rape of a tribal woman and tensions in Secunderabad after the desecration of a goddess idol at the Mutyalamma temple.

Sensational Developments in the Allu Arjun Case

DGP Jitender provided updates on the ongoing

Updates on Allu Arjun Case Investigation

investigation into the Sandhya Theater incident involving actor Allu Arjun. He assured the public that cases have been registered against all the accused and that the investigation will proceed strictly as per the law.

Progress in Phone Tapping Case

The DGP also addressed the high-profile phone tapping case, revealing that delays occurred due to the need for collaboration with external investigation agencies. To expedite the case, Telangana police have sought assistance from the CBI and Interpol. Efforts are underway to extradite former SIB chief Prabhakar Rao and channel head Shraavan Rao from the United States. Notices have been issued to political leaders as required, and some have already been questioned.

Four key arrests have been made so far, including former DCP Radhakishan Rao, ACPs

Bhujanga Rao and Tirupatanna, and DSP Praneeth Rao. The case remains a priority for the Telangana police as they work to bring the remaining accused to justice.

CM Revanth Praises Minister Komatireddy

Chief Minister Lauds RRR Tender Progress

Union Minister Nitin Gadkari's Support Acknowledged

TPN , Hyderabad: Chief Minister Enumula Revanth Reddy extended his congratulations to Minister Komatireddy Venkat Reddy on the successful commencement of the tender process for the northern section of the Regional Ring Road (RRR) project.

In a phone call, the Chief Minister lauded the minister for his dedicated efforts toward the long-pending project. In response, Minister Komatireddy expressed gratitude to the Chief Minister, crediting his unwavering support, cooperation, and strategic guidance

for reviving the stalled initiative.

"The RRR project, which was halted in 2017, has been made possible again this year due to your invaluable assistance and leadership," Minister Komatireddy said.

Both the Chief Minister and Minister Komatireddy extended their thanks to Union Minister Nitin Gadkari for approving the RRR project, acknowledging his vital role in its progress.

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Speech in Nizamabad

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She accused Congress of abandoning good initiatives introduced by former CM KCR, such as Indiramma houses and Gurukuls, and misleading youth with false job promises. “Congress promised 2 lakh jobs per year but has only acted on notifications issued by KCR,” she asserted.

Kavitha condemned what she described as “Congress-friendly policing” and alleged police atrocities in the state. She urged citizens to question the government’s inaction and highlighted issues faced by auto workers and reduced bus services for women.

Declaring confidence in her party, Kavitha proclaimed, “The coming era belongs to the pink flag. The BRS will return in the next local elections.”

She concluded by challenging the Congress government to fulfill its promises and warned of the strength and resolve of the people of Nizamabad.

Minister Komatireddy

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The Regional Ring Road is a crucial infrastructure initiative aimed at improving connectivity and fostering economic growth in Telangana. The tender process marks a significant milestone in the project, which is expected to benefit millions across the state. This development reflects the Telangana government’s commitment to infrastructure advancement and inter-agency collaboration for the betterment of the state.

177 Lives

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Following the crash, Muan Airport was closed, and emergency protocols were enacted. Acting President Choi Sang-mok expressed his condolences and directed relevant departments to take immediate action. Investigations are underway to determine the exact cause of the crash, and officials are focusing on safety measures to prevent similar incidents in the future. The crash marks one of the deadliest air accidents in recent years.

Sandhya Theater Responds to Police's Notice

TPN , Hyderabad: Sandhya Theater has formally responded to the show cause notices issued by the Chikkadapalli Police regarding the recent incident during the *Pushpa 2* premiere show. In a six-page letter submitted through their lawyers, the theater management emphasized that it holds all necessary permissions and has been operating legally for the past 45 years without any prior incidents.

The letter highlights that the theater had 80 staff members on duty during the *Pushpa 2* premiere show to ensure safety and order. Additionally, the theater clarified that Mythri Movies had engaged them for screenings on the 4th and 5th, and that the venue has hosted numerous high-profile events in the past, including visits from film heroes during previous movie releases.

Regarding parking arrangements, the theater management reassured the authorities that it provides dedicated parking spaces for both four-wheelers and two-wheelers, ensuring smooth operations and minimal disruption.

The response from Sandhya Theater seeks to clarify any misunderstandings and reaffirm its commitment to maintaining a safe and well-regulated environment for moviegoers. The management has requested the authorities to consider these facts while reviewing the situation.



Harish Rao: Gurukuls in Crisis, Govt Must Act

Students Beg to Leave Amid Poor Conditions
Food Poisoning Incidents Raise Alarms
Harish Rao Blames Govt for Gurukul Crisis

TPN , Telangana : Former Minister Harish Rao has raised serious concerns about the deteriorating conditions at Basara Gurukuls in the joint Adilabad district, criticizing the state government for neglecting the welfare of students. Rao expressed his dismay, stating that the condition of the Gurukuls has become so bad that students are begging their parents to take them away. He highlighted a disturbing incident at Dilawarpur KGBV School in Nirmal district, where students were reportedly asking to leave, saying, “We can’t eat this, take us away.” Additionally, ten students at Anantapet KGBV School were hospitalized after consuming poisoned food, fur-

ther emphasizing the critical state of affairs.

Rao pointed out that this was not the first such incident, recalling the death of a student at Wankidi Gurukul who succumbed to food poisoning. “Once, people would line up to secure a place in these Gurukuls. Now, students are queuing to escape from them,” he said. The former minister questioned the Congress-led government’s claims of progress, stating that parents now see their children’s survival as the only goal, rather than a proper education.

He lamented the dire situation in which parents are being forced to



withdraw their children from Gurukuls due to the intolerable conditions. “This is clear evidence of your government’s failure,” Rao asserted. He also accused Chief Minister Revanth Reddy of neglecting the future of students, warning that his administration

has become a curse for the Gurukul students.

Rao demanded that the government take immediate action to ensure the safety and well-being of the students, urging a swift response to address the crisis.

ORR Inquiry, RRR Push: Venkat Reddy’s Vision

Commitment to Reddy Hostel Development

Welfare Initiatives and Transparency Promised

TPN , Hyderabad : Minister Komatireddy Venkat Reddy, speaking after the first alumni meeting of the Reddy Hostel, assured his commitment to fulfilling the responsibilities entrusted to him as the chairman of the hostel alumni.

“No matter how busy I am as a minister, I will address the needs of the hostel,” he promised, emphasizing the requirement of one acre of land for the hostel. He announced plans to discuss the construction of a new hostel building with the government and secure the necessary budget.

Addressing the media, he also made significant political remarks. Highlighting an inquiry ordered against the sale of the Outer Ring Road (ORR), he criticized the previous government for selling it for ₹7,300 crore, claiming its actual worth is much higher. “It is outrageous that the ORR, built for ₹6,500 crore under Rajasekhara Reddy’s leadership, was sold so cheaply,” he remarked.

The minister lauded the Regional Ring Road (RRR) project, calling it a transformative initiative to urbanize 50% of Telangana. Approved in principle in 2017, its implementation was delayed under the previous administration. “Within a year of assuming office, we secured



the RRR. Tenders will be called soon, and construction will begin in March, with completion planned in three years,” he said.

Reddy highlighted several welfare measures introduced by the government, including ₹500 gas cylinders, free electricity for 50 lakh families, free bus travel for 100 crore passengers, and a 40% increase in hostel mess charges.

“We have achieved unprecedented development despite a debt of ₹7 lakh crore,” he stated confidently.

The minister reiterated his commitment to transparency, noting the SIT inquiry into the RRR tenders. “The law will take its course,” he assured, promising continued progress for Telangana.

Pranavi’s Dreams Backed by Komatireddy



TPN , Telangana: Minister Komatireddy Venkat Reddy has come to the aid of a deserving student, Pranavi, who secured admission for a Master’s in Architecture at the prestigious Politecnico di Torino in Italy. Despite her academic achievements, Pranavi’s family was unable to afford the expenses for her studies abroad.

Upon learning of her situation, Minister Komatireddy extended his support by providing financial assistance of Rs. 1 lakh to help Pranavi pursue her dreams. The Minister assured that he would continue to provide full support for her education, recognizing the

importance of empowering students to reach their full potential.

Pranavi expressed her heartfelt gratitude to Minister Komatireddy for his timely intervention, which has made it possible for her to continue her studies without financial constraints. She thanked him for his generosity and support during this crucial time.

This gesture of assistance from Minister Komatireddy highlights his commitment to supporting education and helping talented students overcome financial barriers.

Tragic Loss: Two Constables Commit Suicide in Telangana

TPN , Telangana : A heartbreaking tragedy has unfolded in Telangana, with two police constables reportedly taking their own lives on the same day in the joint Medak district. The incidents have raised serious concerns and are currently under investigation.

Head Constable Sai Kumar was found dead at the Kolcharam police station, having reportedly hanged himself. Preliminary investigations suggest that the suicide may have been linked to an extramarital affair, though the exact cause remains under scrutiny.

In a separate incident, Constable Balakrishna tragically took his own life after a devastating sequence of events. Balakrishna attempted to commit suicide alongside his family in Siddipet. He reportedly poisoned his wife by mixing rat poison in her water and contaminated his children’s milk with insecticide before hanging himself. Authorities suspect that financial difficulties may have contributed to his actions.

Both incidents have sparked shock and concern within the police department and the community. A case has been registered, and police are conducting further investigations to uncover the full circumstances surrounding these tragic deaths. The incidents serve as a stark reminder of the pressures faced by individuals, even within law enforcement, and the need for greater attention to mental health and well-being.



Bandi Sanjay's Ultimatum to Congress

Pay Fee Reimbursement or Face Protests

TPN , Karimnagar : Union Minister of State for Home Affairs, Bandi Sanjay, has issued an ultimatum to the Congress-led Telangana government, demanding the clearance of fee reimbursement arrears before Sankranti. Addressing a press conference in Karimnagar on Sunday, Bandi Sanjay announced plans for a large-scale movement under the leadership of Union Minister and BJP State President Kishan Reddy if the government fails to comply.

Bandi Sanjay expressed concern over the plight of lakhs of students who are struggling due to delayed fee reimbursements. He highlighted how college managements, facing finan-

cial difficulties, are pressuring students to pay fees, putting them in a difficult position. He warned that failure to address these issues would lead to intense protests forcing the government to act. The Union Minister also criticized the Congress government for failing to fulfill its promise of creating 2 lakh jobs. "While they assured job notifications for 2 lakh vacancies, only 25,000 have been announced, and merely 50,000 positions have been filled," he said. He condemned the government for neglecting unemployed youth, resulting in dire consequences, including suicides.

Bandi Sanjay accused the Congress of

backtracking on its promises made in the Youth Declaration, including the promised unemployment allowance of ₹4,000 per month. "The government owes ₹48,000 to each unemployed person, and it must be paid immediately," he demanded, reiterating the need to fill 2 lakh jobs.

He also lashed out at Congress for its alleged political maneuvering over former Prime Minister Manmohan Singh's funeral arrangements. Sanjay criticized Sonia Gandhi for sidelining Singh during his tenure and accused Rahul Gandhi of disrespecting him by tearing up an ordinance brought by his government. Referring to Congress's treatment of for-



mer PM PV Narasimha Rao, Sanjay said the party lacked the moral right to criticize the BJP.

Bandi Sanjay emphasized that the

BJP stands committed to holding the Congress government accountable and ensuring the welfare of students and unemployed youth in Telangana.

Harish Rao Slams Government Over Rising Police Suicides



TPN , Hyderabad : Former minister and BRS leader Harish Rao has expressed deep concern over the recent spate of suicides among police personnel in the state. Rao highlighted a series of tragic incidents, including the suicides of an SI in Mulugu district, a constable's family in Siddipet, an SI and a constable in Kamareddy, a constable's family in Sircilla, and a head constable in Medak Kulcharam. He stressed that these deaths among officers, who are responsible for protecting citizens, are a worrying trend. Rao questioned whether the state government cared about the well-being of the police force, emphasizing the toll that unmet promises and work-related pressures were having on the officers. He called for an investigation by the Telangana State DGP to uncover the reasons behind the suicides.

The former minister also urged the state government to arrange psychological counseling for police officers to help prevent suicidal thoughts. He stressed that police personnel, who face immense pressure, should be given the necessary support to cope with their responsibilities.

Rao appealed to the police officers, advising them not to resort to suicide as a solution. "You've worked hard to earn your job in the police force. Don't betray the trust of your family and society. Suicide is never the answer," he said. He reminded them that the safety of society depends on police officers who can carry out their duties with confidence. In conclusion, Harish Rao's remarks drew attention to the urgent need for the government to address the welfare of its police force and ensure that their mental health is adequately supported.

Samagra Shiksha Staff Accuse CM of Broken Promises



TPN , Hyderabad : Employees of Samagra Shiksha Abhiyan have expressed their frustration and disappointment with Chief Minister Revanth Reddy, accusing him of failing to fulfill promises made during the election campaign. The

employees recalled that CM Revanth had assured them that their issues would be resolved "before drinking tea" once the Congress government came to power. However, they claim that despite their continued struggles, no

progress has been made in addressing their concerns.

The employees, who are part of the Samagra Shiksha Abhiyan program, stated that their working conditions have worsened and that their demands, including the permanent employment of 20,000 workers, have been ignored. They pointed out that students in KGBVs (Kasturba Gandhi Balika Vidyalayas) are suffering due to the ongoing disruptions caused by the lack of teaching and non-teaching staff.

The workers also recounted a specific incident during their protest when CM Revanth Reddy promised to meet them but failed to do so. "While we

were protesting, he said he would take us to the CM, but instead, he got into his car and left without addressing our concerns," they lamented. The employees pleaded with CM Revanth Reddy to fulfill his promises, emphasizing the adverse impact the lack of support has on both staff and students, particularly those without parental care in KGBVs.

The situation has escalated to the point where employees have been on strike for 20 days, demanding immediate action. They expressed their fear that the children in these institutions are suffering from the lack of proper care, education, and nourishment.

Centre to Allocate Land for Manmohan Singh's Memorial

TPN , Telangana: Union Minister Kishan Reddy has revealed that the Centre will allocate land for a memorial to former Prime Minister Manmohan Singh, following the standard procedure for all former prime ministers. Reddy criticized the Congress party for politicizing the death of Singh and claimed that the party was attempting to gain political advantage from the situation, which he described as disappointing.

The Congress had earlier accused the BJP government of insulting Manmohan Singh by conducting his last rites at Nigambodh Ghat, rather than the official crematorium. In response, Reddy clarified that Union Home Minister Amit Shah had informed Con-



gress President Mallikarjun Kharge and Singh's family members about the Centre's decision to allocate land for the memorial. He emphasized that the memorial would be built as per the established norms, and the Congress should not use the issue for political leverage.

Reddy also took aim at the Congress for allegedly dishonoring non-dynastic leaders like PV Narasimha Rao, Manmohan Singh, and Pranab Mukherjee. He pointed out that while the Congress expressed condolences for Singh's passing, the party had a history of belittling these leaders, who were not part of the Nehru-Gandhi family. Reddy's comments have added fuel to the ongoing political controversy surrounding Singh's legacy and the Congress party's treatment of non-dynastic leaders.

Telangana Takes Over Nagarjuna Sagar Dam Security

CRPF Security Withdrawn as Telangana Assumes Control
Dispute Between Telangana and AP Over Nagarjuna Sagar Project
Jal Shakti Department Reviews Management of Nagarjuna Sagar
Central Forces' Exit Eases Tensions Between States

TPN , Telangana: The security of Nagarjuna Sagar Dam has been transferred from the CRPF to the Telangana Special Force (SPF), signaling a shift in control following ongoing disputes between Telangana and Andhra Pradesh regarding the management of the project. This development comes after tensions flared up during the Telangana Assembly elections, leading to the involvement of central forces to ensure peace at the dam.

Officials from both states and the Jal Shakti Department had previously held a review meeting, where discussions centered on the management of the dam and its related power projects. A key point of contention has been the operation of the

gates and outlets of the dam, with Andhra Pradesh announcing its intention to operate gates on its side, despite the project being under Telangana's jurisdiction as per the AP Reorganization Act.

The dispute intensified when Telangana accused Andhra Pradesh of forcibly occupying sections of the dam. In response, Telangana sought intervention from the Center, requesting the project be handed over in accordance with the state's rightful jurisdiction. This led to a series of letters being sent by Telangana to the Union government, urging immediate action.

To address the escalating tensions, the Union Home Ministry and Water Resourc-

es Ministry organized consultations with both states. Additionally, two officials from the Krishna Board conducted a field inspection of the dam. As a result of these discussions, the central forces, which were initially stationed at the dam for security, have now been replaced by the Telangana Special Force. The resolution of security measures is expected to pave the way for further talks on the technical and jurisdictional issues surrounding the dam's management. The government has indicated that more discussions will take place to ensure a smooth resolution of these matters. Meanwhile, the focus remains on maintaining peace and order at Nagarjuna Sagar Dam amid ongoing disputes between the states.



Imposes Restrictions on New Year Celebrations

Police Enforce Restrictions on New Year Celebrations in Hyderabad
Liquor Sales Set to Soar as Hyderabad Pubs Stay Open Till 1 AM
Permission Denied for Four Pubs in Jubilee Hills for New Year Events
Excise Department Targets Rs. 1000 Crore in Liquor Sales This Season
Hyderabad's Liquor Sales Soared in 2023, with Rs. 750 Crore in Three Days

TPN , Hyderabad: Hyderabad is gearing up for New Year celebrations, with pubs and event organizers offering a range of packages to attract young revelers. However, the police have imposed several restrictions to ensure public safety during the festivities.

Authorities have issued orders to end celebrations by 1 a.m. on December 31, and permission has been denied to four pubs in Jubilee Hills, out of 34, including Hot-cup, Amnesia, Broadway, and Baby Land. Bars will be allowed to remain open until 1 a.m. only, as per the new guidelines.

Liquor sales are expected to peak during this period, with large quantities already moved to clubs and pubs. The government has authorized events until 1 a.m., and with the significant sales allowed, the excise department is anticipating substantial revenue. Last year, liquor sales surged, contributing to state revenue. In the last three days of 2023, over Rs 750 crore worth of liquor was sold, a significant increase from the previous years. For the upcoming New Year celebration, the excise department has set a target of earning Rs 1,000 crore from liquor sales over the two days of December 31 and January 1. Sepa-



rate sales targets have been allocated to districts and divisions, with an expectation of at least Rs 800 crore in revenue. In comparison, Rs 1,300 crore was generated during Dussehra in 2023, reflecting the state's reliance on alcohol sales for revenue generation during major holidays.

OU JAC Threatens to Besiege Allu Arjun's House Over Threatening Calls



TPN , Hyderabad: Leaders of the Osmania University Joint Action Committee (OU JAC) have warned that they will besiege actor Allu Arjun's house with 30,000 people if they continue receiving threatening calls. This follows recent threats made against the OU JAC after they reportedly attacked Allu Arjun's residence.

The student leaders filed a complaint at the Osmania University Police Station, expressing their anger over the persistent threats. They claimed to have received numerous phone calls from individuals demanding an apology from Allu Arjun for the incident. Some of these callers allegedly threatened violence, saying they would harm the student leaders.

OU JAC representatives stated that Allu Arjun's fans, known as the "Allu Army," have been harassing them by making hundreds of threatening calls. The students emphasized that their phone numbers were being shared on social media, making them vulnerable to harassment. They requested that Allu Arjun take responsibility for ensuring that his supporters cease this behavior.

The OU JAC leaders warned that if the threats continue, they would take legal action and proceed with their plans to besiege Allu Arjun's house with thousands of students. They urged for immediate intervention to stop the harassment.

Hyderabad's Annual Exhibition Set to Begin at Nampally Ground



TPN , Hyderabad: The highly anticipated industrial exhibition at Nampally Exhibition Ground in Hyderabad is set to kick off on January 1st and will run for 46 days, concluding on February 15th. The event, which draws about 25 lakh visitors annually, has become a major attraction, with participants from both national and international markets.

Organizers have received applications for the construction of approximately 2,500 stalls, and the allocation process is now in its final stages. Minister Sridhar Babu, who serves as the President of the Exhibition Society, along with Vice President Niranjana, Secretary Surender Reddy, Joint Secretary Mohan, and Treasurer Dr. Prabhashankar, is overseeing the event's preparations. The exhibition will feature a wide range of industrial products, alongside stalls from both government and private sector organizations. Visitors can also look forward to food courts and an amusement park designed to entertain the crowd. This year's exhibition is expected to continue its tradition of providing a platform for innovation, trade, and entertainment, showcasing the diverse offerings from across the country and around the world.

Cannabis Chocolates Seized Before New Year

Drugs Worth Rs. 2 Crore Burned

TPN , Hyderabad: Ahead of the New Year celebrations, Hyderabad police have made a significant drug seizure, intercepting a bus transporting cannabis-infused chocolates from Orissa. Acting on a tip-off, excise police stopped a Cauvery travel bus at Kodada Ram-pur X Road on Sunday. The bus was carrying 1,000 chocolates laced with cannabis, which were reportedly brought to the city by Anil Kumar, a resident of Bhubaneswar. The accused was planning to sell these chocolates at Rs. 30 each, targeting areas where workers from Orissa are employed. Anil Kumar has been arrested, and a case has been registered against him.

In a separate crackdown, excise authorities have also destroyed a significant quantity of drugs seized from various locations across Hyderabad. Following orders from Hyderabad Deputy Commissioner KAB Shastri, excise officials disposed of 240 kg of ganja, 496 kg of MDMA, and other drugs, including Ashish oil and papista, in a burning operation. The destruction of these substances took place across excise stations in Narayanguda, Secunderabad, Ameerpet, and Charminar. The estimated value of the drugs destroyed is approximately Rs. 2 crore.



Excise Enforcement Director VV Kamalasan Reddy commended the team for their effective actions in curbing the drug trade. This action is part of the Hyderabad Police's ongoing efforts to ensure a safe and peaceful festive season, with authorities intensifying operations to prevent illegal drug activities during this period.

YouTubers Booked for Derogatory Remarks on Christian Community

TPN , Hyderabad: Two YouTubers, Karunakar Sugguna and Praveen Kumar, were booked on December 28 for making derogatory remarks against the Christian community and the police. The accused were charged under Section 352 of the Indian Penal Code (IPC) for intentional insult with the intent to provoke a breach of peace.

The Panjagutta police began their investiga-

tion by visiting the YouTube office in Ameerpet, where CCTV footage was reviewed. During the investigation, it was revealed that Karunakar had uploaded a video on his YouTube channel with similar derogatory comments aimed at provoking the Christian community.

Additionally, Lalith Kumar was found to have endorsed Karunakar's remarks, mak-

ing insensitive comments that encouraged the public to gather in large numbers at the Panjagutta police station in protest against the police.

The police have issued a stern warning, stating that strict action will be taken against anyone uploading content on social media that defames, insults, or hurts the sentiments of any community.



Hyderabad's Amberpet Flyover Set to Open After Prolonged Delay

TPN , Hyderabad: After years of delays, the 1.5-km long Amberpet flyover in Hyderabad is finally set for inauguration. The Greater Hyderabad Municipal Corporation (GHMC) has expedited the completion of minor works in preparation for the launch, which will be officiated by Chief Minister A. Revanth Reddy.

The four-lane flyover is expected to significantly improve traffic flow, particularly for commuters traveling from Warangal Highway, reducing travel time. The

project, which began in 2018, faced several delays, with construction only commencing in 2021. Originally slated for completion in 2023, the flyover is now expected to open in 2024.

A total of Rs 450 crore has been spent on the project, including Rs 300 crore for land acquisition. The flyover, which starts near Golnaka and ends at Purnodaya Colony, is seen as a crucial development in easing congestion and improving connectivity in the city.

Parents Protest Over Poor Food Quality at KGBV School in Nirmal



TPN , Nirmal: Parents of students at the Kasturba Gandhi Balika Vidyalaya (KGBV) in Dilawarpur mandal, Nirmal district, have expressed strong dissatisfaction with the food provided to their children,

leading to a protest on Sunday. The parents, who received distressing calls from their children, arrived at the school only to be denied access by the management. The students had reportedly complained

about improper food preparation, prompting the parents to take matters into their own hands.

The parents, upset by the situation, gathered outside the KGBV, stating that it was not the government's responsibility to provide inadequate meals for their children. After a brief confrontation with the school management, the parents took their children home, citing concerns over the food quality and the welfare of the students.

This incident follows a series of food-related issues in educational institutions across the state, including recent food poisoning cases in Gurukuls. The parents' protest highlights growing concerns over the management of residential schools in the region, particularly in terms of students' nutrition and overall care.

Four Injured in Khammam Accident

TPN , Khammam: Four people were injured, one of them seriously, in a road accident on Sunday. The incident occurred on the Khammam-Suryapet National Highway 365, near Jeella Cheruvu village in Kusumanchi mandal. According to reports, a speeding car lost control after hitting the median and collided with another vehicle, causing both cars to overturn. The car was traveling towards Khammam from Hyderabad when the accident took place. Kusumanchi police arrived at the scene promptly and took the injured individuals from both cars to the Government General Hospital for medical treatment. The injured are currently receiving care, and further details on their condition are awaited.



Crime Rate in Nizamabad Increases Marginally in 2024

TPN , Nizamabad: The crime rate in Nizamabad has witnessed a marginal increase during the current year, according to the annual crime report presented by in-charge Commissioner of Police, Sindhu Sharma, on Sunday.

A total of 1,185 cases were reported in the Nizamabad police commissionerate in 2024, up from 980 cases in 2023 and 918 in 2022. The commissionerate registered 8,745 FIRs across various police stations

during the year. Sharma noted a slight rise in serious crimes, including 42 cases of murder, 77 cases of rape, and 57 cases of kidnapping. Additionally, incidents of culpable homicide and hurt also showed an upward trend.

The report also highlighted a significant increase in suicide cases, with 442 cases registered compared to 356 in 2023. Vehicle thefts saw 431 cases, but only 138 were detected. Similarly, 37 chain-snatching

cases were reported, with just 7 detections.

In terms of crimes against women, the commissionerate recorded 326 cases of dowry harassment, 214 cases of molestation, and 115 cases under the POCSO Act. Cybercrime was another growing concern, with 376 cases reported. In total, 722 cases of cheating were also registered. Road accidents claimed 335 lives and left 758 people injured in the district throughout the year.

Tiger Roams Across Warangal Crops

TPN , Warangal: A large tiger has once again been spotted roaming from the crop fields of Jangalapalli Thanda in Narsampet mandal to Khanapuram mandal, causing panic among local farmers and villagers.

Footprints of the tiger were discovered in the crop fields, alarming the community. Over the past three days, tigers have been seen roaming in Nallabelli and Narsampet mandals, heightening concerns among residents.

In response, forest and police officials have launched a coordinated search operation to track the tiger. To assist in locating the animal, forest officials are utilizing drone cameras to enhance the search, with a specific focus on tiger cubs in the area.

Local authorities have urged villagers to remain cautious and avoid venturing into the fields while the search continues.



Tragic Day for Telangana Police: Three Lives Lost in One Day

TPN , Telangana: A tragic incident unfolded in Telangana, as three police personnel lost their lives in a single day, leaving the state in mourning. Head Constable Dosapati Balaraju, aged 35, from Bhuvanagiri, who was serving in the First Battalion in Yousafguda, Hyderabad, died of a heart attack on Saturday evening. Balaraju experienced difficul-

ty breathing and succumbed to the attack on his way to the hospital, casting a shadow of grief over his battalion and family.

Adding to the sorrow, two police constables, Sai Kumar and Balakrishna, committed suicide on the same day in Medak district. Sai Kumar, stationed at Kolcha-

ram police station, took his life by hanging. The reasons behind the suicides remain unclear, but these incidents have sparked concern and discussions about the well-being of police personnel in the state. The loss of three officers in one day has sent shockwaves through the Telangana Police Department.

Boy's Head Stuck in Grill at Yadagirigutta, Devotees Save Him from Accident



TPN , Yadadri Bhuvanagiri: A major accident was averted at Yadagirigutta when fellow devotees came to the rescue of a boy whose head got stuck in a grill while standing in the special darshan queue. The incident occurred on Sunday morning when a family from Boduppal, Hyderabad, visited Yadagirigutta to see Lakshminarayan Swamy.

The family, along with their son Dayakar, was waiting in the queue when Dayakar's head became trapped in the metal grill. Despite the family's frantic efforts to free him, they were unable to remove his head from the grill. At this critical moment, other devotees intervened, carefully removing the grill rods and safely rescuing the boy.

Thanks to the timely help of fellow devotees, a potential accident was avoided, and the boy was unharmed. The family expressed their gratitude to the compassionate devotees who acted quickly to prevent a disaster.

Attacks on Police in Jagtial

MLA Sanjay Kumar Escapes Amidst Chaos

TPN , Jagtial: In a troubling escalation of lawlessness in Jagtial district, attacks on police officers continue, with recent events highlighting the increasing agitation of local hooligans. Despite the ongoing disruptions to public order, authorities have struggled to take effective action against the perpetrators, who are reportedly receiving support from the local MLA.

The latest incident occurred at a petrol station, where an argument between a customer and the station staff escalated into violence. The bank management alerted the police, and when officers arrived to investigate, they were met with resistance from a group of hooligans. The situation quickly deteriorated, and the attackers attempted to vandalize the station. Town SI Geetha has filed a case against Bodukani Shekhar and his brother Ganga-



ram for obstructing police duties during the incident.

In a surprising twist, it is reported that local MLA Sanjay Kumar, allegedly under pressure, managed to escape the scene as tensions mounted. The ongoing unrest in Jagtial has raised serious concerns about the safety of law enforcement personnel and the influence of local political figures in maintaining public order.

Srinivas Goud Demands Equal Treatment for Telangana Devotees at Tirumala



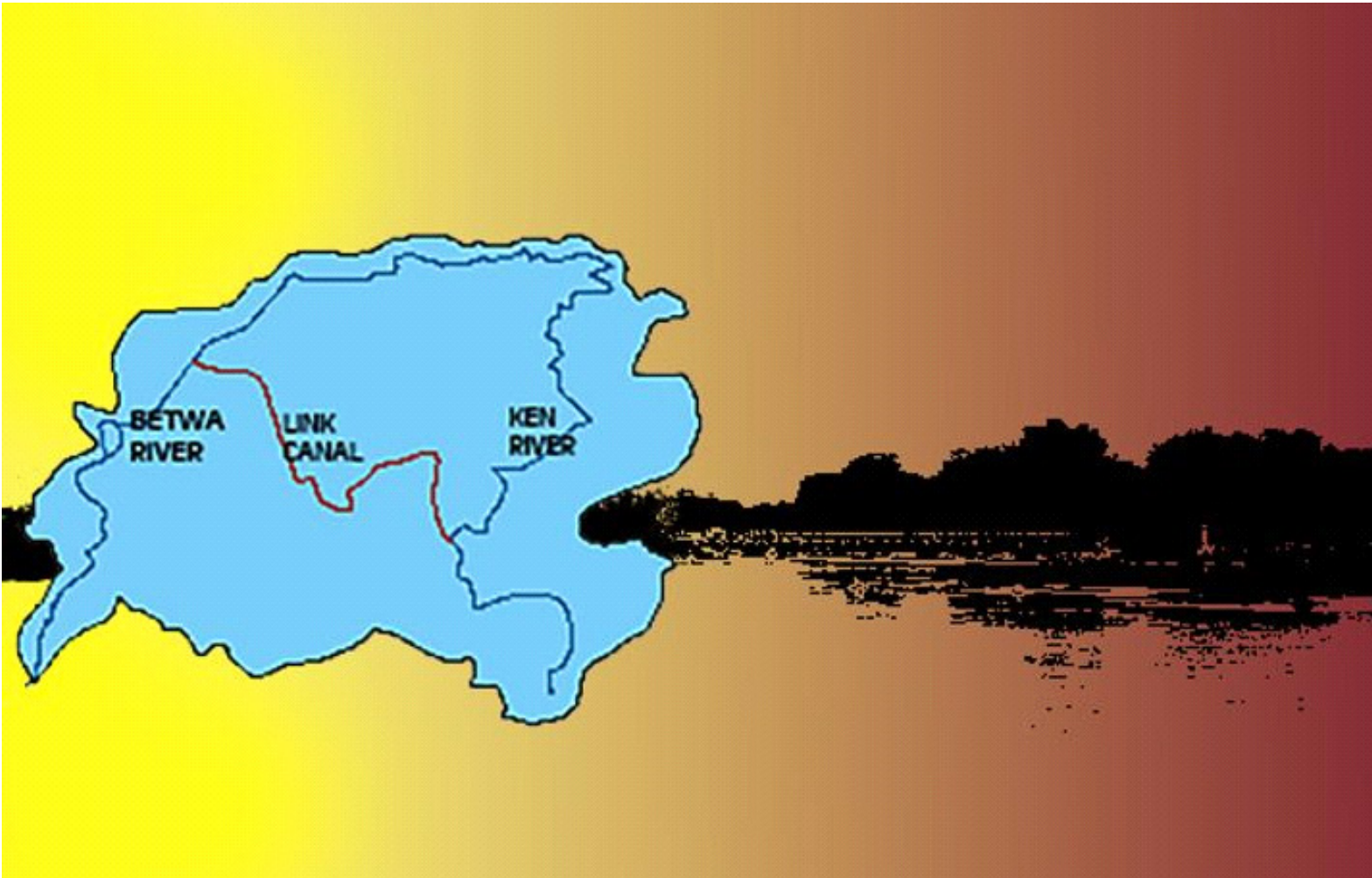
TPN , Telangana: Former Minister Srinivas Goud expressed his frustration over the non-acceptance of recommendation letters from Telangana public representatives for darshan at the Tirumala temple. Speaking at a media conference in Gadwal, Goud emphasized that everyone should be treated equally, both in Telangana temples and at Tirumala.

Goud highlighted the strong connection between the people of Telangana and the Tirupati region, stating that every child in Telangana aspires to visit Lord Shiva in Tirumala. He also reminded the

audience of the tradition of offering Gadwal silk sarees during the Tirumala Brahmotsavam.

He criticized the sudden halt of accepting recommendation letters, which he believes has led to discrimination against Telangana devotees and politicians. Goud appealed to the Tirumala Tirupati Devasthanams (TTD) to resume accepting these letters from Telangana representatives, stressing that there should be no distinctions when it comes to religious practices. He concluded that the matter was purely about equality and not a political issue.

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.

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



TPN CORRESPONDENT DHARMASALA
DECEMBER.30

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

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

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.



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."

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.



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.



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.



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.



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.



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.

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

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.



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 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

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.



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.

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.

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 de-

livery 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.

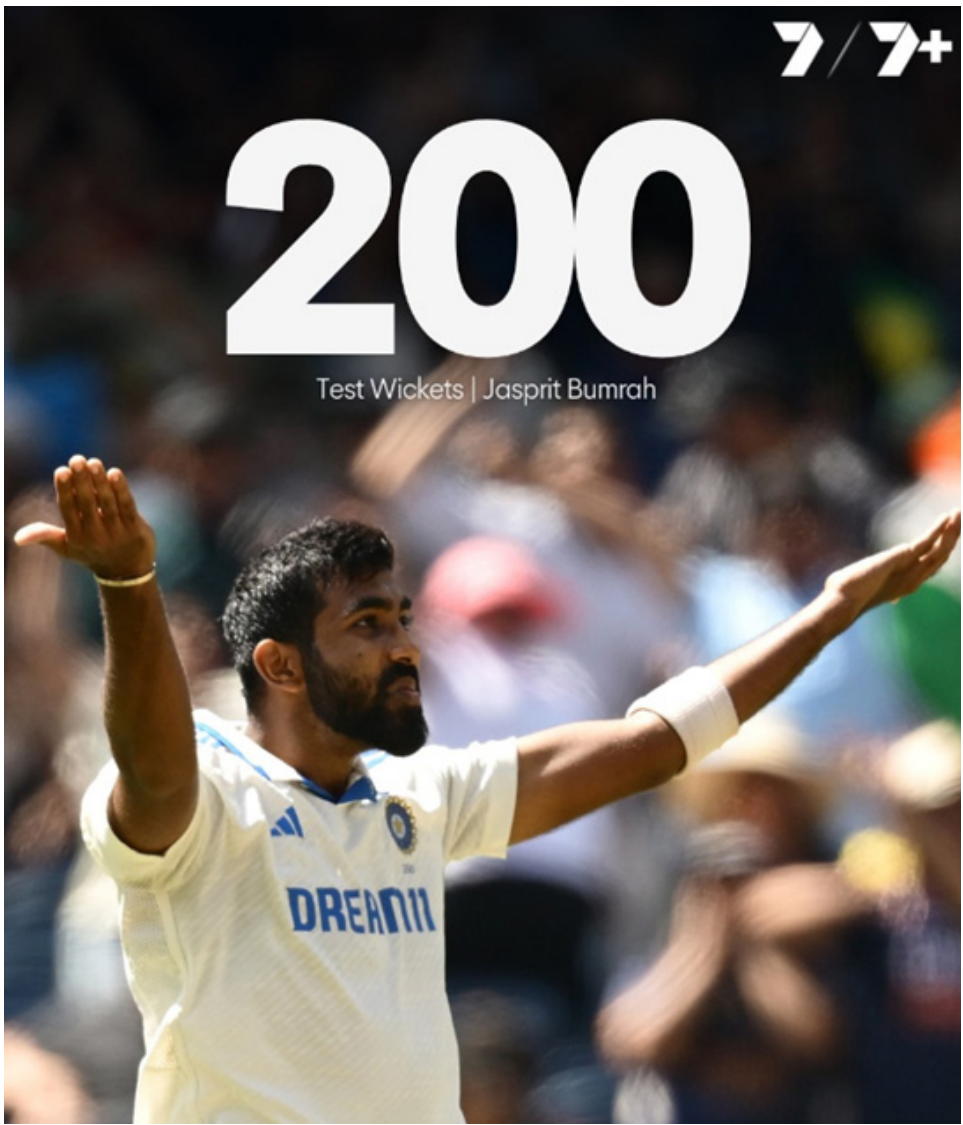
Despite the pressure, Rabada, usually known for his bowling exploits, stepped up with the bat, scoring a crucial unbeaten 31 off 26 balls. He was supported by Marco Jansen, who made a steady 16 not out, as the pair guided South Africa to victory in just 5.3 overs after the lunch break. The home crowd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



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.

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.

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 Almora 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 Haneef Adeni and produced by Shareef Muhammed under the Cubes Entertainments 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.



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.

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,

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

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 Basrur’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.

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.

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



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.

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 Sankranthi. 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.

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.

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.

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 Sankranthi, and with the third single set to drop soon, the excitement is only expected to grow.