



Weather Forecast

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

YS Jagan Announces Statewide Protests from Dec 11th



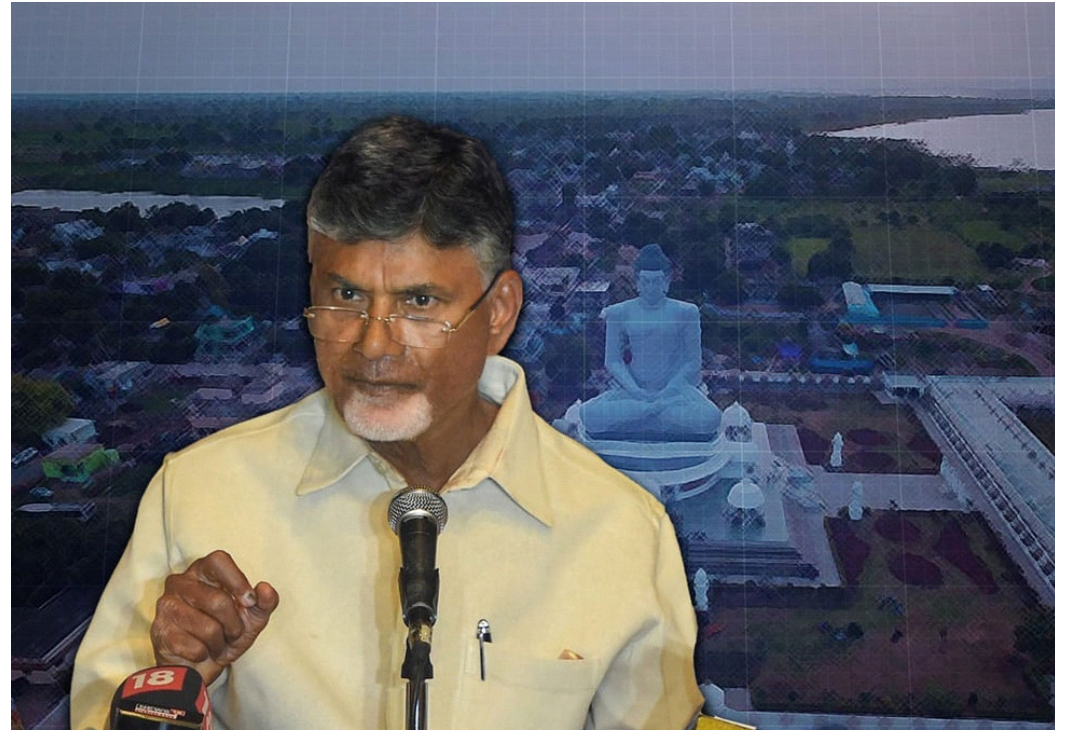
TPN CORRESPONDENT Amaravati, DEC-5

YSR Congress Party (YSRCP) chief and Andhra Pradesh Leader of the Opposition, YS Jagan Mohan Reddy, has announced a series of statewide protests targeting the NDA government. The protests are scheduled to take place on three different dates between December 11 and January 3, focusing on key issues affecting the state. In a detailed media briefing today, Jagan unveiled his plan of action, declaring that the protests would address pressing concerns such as farmers' welfare, increasing electricity charges, and delays in the reimbursement of educational fees. He emphasized his commitment to fighting for justice on these three issues and urged public participation in the demonstrations. The first protest will center on demanding justice for the farming community, highlighting their ongoing struggles. The second protest will address the recent hike in electricity tariffs, which Jagan described as a burden on the people. The final agenda will focus on the delays in the fee reimbursement scheme, which has been a cause of concern for students and their families across the state. Jagan had previously announced plans to hold party cadre-level meetings starting at the end of January. While many expected this to be his first major political activity post-elections, he has now shifted focus to these public protests. This strategic move is seen as an effort to increase pressure on the NDA government while rallying public support for the YSRCP's causes. With Jagan preparing to take his protests to the streets, political observers are keen to see how Chief Minister Chandrababu Naidu and the ruling TDP government will respond to this challenge. The protests are expected to amplify the political discourse in Andhra Pradesh in the coming weeks.

CM Naidu Buys 5 Acres in Velagapudi

TPN CORRESPONDENT AMARAVATI, DEC-5

Andhra Pradesh Chief Minister Chandrababu Naidu has purchased a house in the Amaravati capital region. Chandrababu, who has often stated that he would build his own house after the completion of Amaravati's construction, has now acquired approximately 5 acres of land within the Velagapudi revenue limits. This plot, covering about 25,000 square meters, is located adjacent to the E-6 road. The plot is well-connected, with roads on all four sides. Additionally, it is in proximity to several key landmarks, including judges' bungalows, the temporary High Court, VIT, and NGO residences. The Seed Access Road, a critical route to the capital, also runs next to this plot. The land is a returnable plot registered in the names of three farmers from the same family. Reports suggest that payment has already been made to these farmers. Part of the plot will be used for constructing the house, while the rest will be allocated for vehicle parking, staff quarters, and a lawn. For the past ten years, Chandrababu Naidu has been staying at a guesthouse owned by Lingamaneni Estates on the Undavalli Karakatta road, located on the banks of the Krishna River.



Multi-Disciplinary Team Inspects Stella Ship



TPN CORRESPONDENT Kakinada, DEC-5

A multi-disciplinary team comprising officials from the Revenue, Police, Customs, Port, and Civil Supplies departments conducted a detailed inspection of the Stella ship at Kakinada port. The ship, allegedly involved in smuggling ration rice intended for the poor, has been under scrutiny since it was stopped by Deputy Chief Minister Pawan Kalyan's intervention at the port. The team, formed by the Andhra Pradesh government to investigate ration rice smuggling, collected samples of the rice and began ascertaining facts about its origin and intended destination. The Kakinada District Collector had earlier announced on November 27 that the ship contained 640 tons of ration rice, meant for distribution to low-income families. The case took a political turn when Deputy Chief Minister Pawan Kalyan visited the Kakinada port on November 29 and made sensational comments regarding the smuggling racket. He immediately ordered the seizure of the ship, emphasizing the need for strict action against those involved. In light of these developments, today's inspection by the team is a critical step in the ongoing investigation to determine the extent of the alleged smuggling operation. Further action will be based on the findings of the multi-disciplinary committee.

Kodali Nani's Followers Arrested

- Key follower Kali on the run
- 9 followers of Kodali Nani arrested
- Transferred to Pedaparupudi Police Station



TPN CORRESPONDENT Gudivada, DEC-5

YCP leader and former minister Kodali Nani is facing a series of setbacks as the police take action against his followers. On December 25, 2022, Kodali Nani's followers allegedly attacked the textile shop of former TDP MLA Ravi Venkateswara Rao with petrol packets, causing chaos. Nearly a year after the incident, the police have now taken action. The Gudivada One Town police arrested nine followers of Kodali Nani and transferred them to the Pedaparupudi Police Station. A case has been registered against them under IPC Sections 143, 144, 145, 188, 427, and 506 read with Section 149. Meanwhile, Kodali Nani's key follower, Kali, remains absconding. Police have traced his location to Assam, and a special team has been formed to apprehend him.

Who else was the CM in 2021 other than Jagan?

Sharmila Questions Jagan Over ₹1,750 Crore Bribes in Adani Deals

TPN CORRESPONDENT Hyderabad, DEC-5

Andhra Pradesh Congress President YS Sharmila has raised serious allegations against Chief Minister YS Jagan Mohan Reddy, questioning his role in alleged bribes worth ₹1,750 crore linked to power deals with Adani. Speaking on the issue, Sharmila questioned Jagan's evasive stance, asking, "Who else was the Chief Minister in 2021 other than Jagan?" Sharmila pointed out that an American investigative agency has alleged that Jagan received the bribes during these power deals. She recalled that when the TDP was in the opposition,



its leader Payyavula Keshav had also accused the Adani deal of being a massive scam involving large-scale bribery. She added that the TDP had even

approached the courts over this issue but criticized the party for not taking any action now that it is in power. **Questions for Chandrababu**

Sharmila also directed her questions at current Chief Minister Chandrababu Naidu, asking if he was afraid of Adani. "Why is there no action to cancel the agreements made by Jagan with Adani? Has Chandrababu also received any money?" she asked. She criticized Naidu for not cancelling Jagan's agreements while highlighting that Jagan had swiftly annulled agreements made during Naidu's tenure. She further accused the government of burdening the people with higher elec-

tricity tariffs from this month onward and questioned Naidu's silence despite being aware of alleged irregularities in the deals. Sharmila demanded the immediate cancellation of agreements between the Andhra Pradesh government and Adani. She called for intervention from the Central Government and announced that a letter would be sent to the Central Electricity Regulatory Commission (CERC) requesting a review and cancellation of the agreements. Her remarks come amid growing controversy over the alleged misuse of power and resources in the state's energy sector, with both Jagan and Chandrababu coming under scrutiny.

Dr. Buragadda Srinadh Leads Shankaravam 2025

A Unified Voice for Hindu Rights in Krishna District

TPN CORRESPONDENT
GANNAVRAM, DEC-5

In a significant move aimed at strengthening right-wing organizations in Andhra Pradesh, Dr. Buragadda Srinadh, President of the Krishna District Vishwa Hindu Parishad (VHP), has been appointed as the Krishna District Convenor for the Shankaravam Committee. This pivotal committee, which includes prominent right-wing organizations such as the Rashtriya Swayamsevak Sangh (RSS) and Bharatiya Janata Party (BJP), will spearhead the Shankaravam event scheduled for January 5, 2025, in Kesarapalli village, Gannavaram Mandalam, Krishna District.

Dr. Srinadh, known for his unwavering commitment to Hindu causes, has been a dedicated member of the RSS since his college years. His leadership credentials were established early when he became the first General Secretary of the National Medicos Organization in Jammu and Kashmir, a role that highlighted his organizational acumen and passion for service.

The Shankaravam Committee's focus this year is to amplify public discontent over government control of Hindu temple properties and to unite Hindu organizations under a single platform. Dr. Srinadh's selection as convenor underscores his reputation as a unifier and a leader with deep roots in the ideological framework of the RSS and the VHP.

Dr. Srinadh also carries a rich political legacy. His late father, Niranjan Rao, was a prominent political figure who



opposed the Congress party, winning an independent legislative assembly seat in 1967 and later contesting as a Janata Party candidate for the Machilipatnam parliamentary constituency. This lineage, combined with Dr. Srinadh's own contributions, makes him a key figure in Krishna District's socio-political landscape.

The upcoming Shankaravam event is being seen as a major opportunity for right-wing organizations to consolidate their base and rally public support for their causes. Under Dr. Srinadh's leadership, the VHP and its allied organizations are expected to mobilize significant participation, setting the stage for a unified voice on issues affecting Hindu society.

Former AP CID Chief N. Sanjay Suspended

TPN CORRESPONDENT
AMARVATI, DEC-5

The Andhra Pradesh government has suspended N. Sanjay, former Chief of the Andhra Pradesh Crime Investigation Department (CID) and a senior IPS officer, following allegations of financial irregularities. The suspension follows an inquiry by the Vigilance and Enforcement Department, which uncovered significant misconduct during his tenure as Director General of the Fire Services Department.

According to the Vigilance report, Sanjay allegedly facilitated payments of ₹1 crore to Sautrika Technologies and Infra Pvt. Ltd. despite no visible progress in the assigned work. The report also accused him of bid rigging and favoritism in

awarding tenders, thereby undermining the tendering process and violating ethical norms.

The Vigilance Department recommended stringent actions against Sanjay and the involved company, citing violations of the Central Civil Services Conduct Rules. The report called for criminal proceedings against the firm and appropriate legal measures against Sanjay to uphold accountability and transparency. In response to these findings, the state government issued suspension orders, barring Sanjay from leaving the headquarters during the suspension period. This development has raised questions about the transparency and accountability within government departments, with many calling for swift legal action to address the matter.



Do not Sell Grain to Middlemen at Lower Prices

- Every grain will be procured, with payments in 24 hours.
- Minister Manohar inspected grain procurement in Krishna district.

TPN CORRESPONDENT
Krishna, DEC-5

State Civil Supplies Minister Nandendra Manohar has assured farmers that the government will purchase every grain they harvest and deposit the payment in their accounts within 24 hours of procurement. The minister urged farmers not to sell their grain to middlemen at lower prices and reiterated the government's commitment to fair grain procurement practices. On Wednesday, Shri Nandendra Manohar, accompanied by local legislator Mandali Buddha Prasad, conducted a field inspection in Challapalli and Ghantasala mandals under the Avani Gadda constitu-



ency in Krishna district. During the visit, they inspected grain dried along roadsides and interacted

with farmers to understand challenges in the procurement process. The minister instructed officials to ensure the procurement of grain, even if the moisture content varies due to weather conditions, and emphasized completing the purchase of all prepared paddy by evening. Field inspections were conducted in several villages, including Pata Majeru, Mangalapuram, Challapalli, Kasanagaram, Pedaprolu, and Lankapalli, to monitor the process and address farmers' concerns. This proactive approach by the government is aimed at ensuring timely and transparent grain procurement, offering much-needed relief to farmers during the ongoing harvest season.

Free Electricity for All Eligible SC and ST Families in AP

TPN CORRESPONDENT
Amaravati, DEC-5

The social media war in Andhra Pradesh over the free electricity scheme for Scheduled Caste (SC) and Scheduled Tribe (ST) families continues to escalate. Amidst claims and counterclaims, Andhra Pradesh Power Minister Gottipati Ravikumar made a key announcement, addressing the misinformation surrounding the scheme.

The minister stated that the coalition government is providing free electricity of up to 200 units to all eligible SC and ST families. He emphasized that allegations about the scheme being discontinued are baseless and urged people not to believe such false propaganda. Minister Gottipati Ravikumar clarified that the free electricity scheme benefits 15,17,298 SC families and 4,75,557 ST families, totaling 19,92,885 families across the state.



He highlighted that the government is spending ₹477.30 crores per month to support this initiative. The minister reassured that the scheme continues to benefit low-income families from weaker sections and urged the public to ignore misinformation intended to create obstacles to the program's implementation. Minister Ravikumar accused the opposition YSRCP of spreading deliberate lies about the scheme to

undermine the coalition government. He stated that the current government has been providing free electricity to SCs and STs for a long time, and this was a pioneering initiative by the TDP government for Dalit tribals. He further alleged that the opposition is unable to tolerate the success of the government's schemes, including the Super Six schemes, and is resorting to spreading false propaganda.

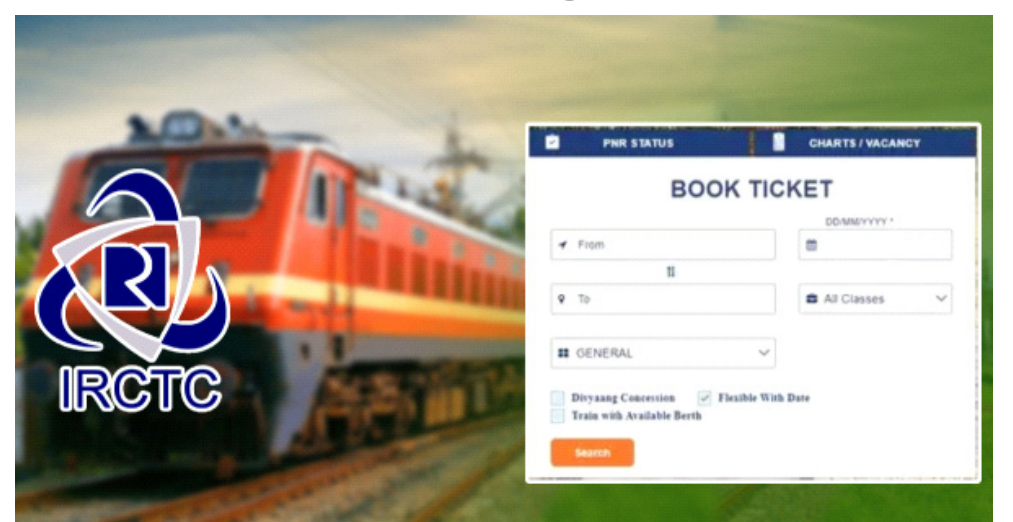
Indian Railways Extends Ticket Booking Hours

TPN CORRESPONDENT
AP, DEC-5

In a move to enhance passenger convenience, Indian Railways, which boasts the world's fourth-largest rail network, has announced changes to its ticket booking rules effective from December 1. The key change is the extension of the ticket booking window by two hours daily, making it more accessible for travelers. Passengers can now book tickets from 8 AM to 8 PM through the official IRCTC app, website, and private ticket booking platforms. Previously, ticket booking was allowed only be-

tween 10 AM and 8 PM. However, the rules for tatkal ticket bookings and cancellation charges remain unchanged. Booking tickets through the IRCTC app or website is significantly cheaper than using private ticket booking apps. The IRCTC platform does not charge convenience fees, agent service charges, or payment gateway charges, making it a cost-effective option. In contrast, private apps levy these additional charges, leading to a price difference of up to ₹150 per ticket. Despite the cost savings, many passengers prefer private apps due to their user-friendly interface and faster booking

process, especially when dealing with captcha challenges on the IRCTC app. To counter this trend, the Railway Board aims to create awareness about the financial benefits of using IRCTC for ticket bookings. The Railway Board is actively encouraging passengers to transition to the IRCTC platform to save money. Efforts are underway to simplify the IRCTC booking process and educate passengers on its advantages. Indian Railways continues to innovate and adapt its rules, ensuring a smoother and more cost-effective experience for its vast passenger base.



Who's Blocking Nagababu's Path to the Rajya Sabha?

G. AVINASH | TPN : The political scene in Andhra Pradesh is heating up as efforts are underway to fill three vacant Rajya Sabha seats following the resignations of YSRCP leaders Beda Mastana Rao, Mopidevi Venkata Ramana, and R Krishnaiah. With the numerical advantage in the state assembly, the three parties in the alliance—TDP, BJP, and Jana Sena—are expected to secure these seats. However, the initial buzz around Nagababu from Jana Sena being a front-runner for one of these seats seems to have diminished, raising questions about who will ultimately be selected. The Election Commission has announced by-elections for the three



vacant Rajya Sabha seats, sparking intense negotiations within the alliance. Mopidevi and Beda Mastana Rao, who have joined TDP, are set to benefit from this development, with Beda Mastana Rao reportedly guaranteed a Rajya Sabha seat as part of the alliance agreement. Meanwhile, R Krishnaiah, after discussions with BJP leaders, resigned from his MP post and is expected to return to Rajya Sabha under BJP's nomination. This leaves one remaining seat, sparking competition among aspirants from TDP and Jana Sena.

Initially, a proposal was made to allocate the three seats to each of the al-

liance partners, with Nagababu being promised a Rajya Sabha berth on behalf of Jana Sena. This was reportedly a compensation for his inability to contest from Anakapalle in the recent elections, as that seat was given to BJP under the alliance's electoral arrangements. Pawan Kalyan himself had earlier expressed clarity on this arrangement during his visit to Delhi. However, political dynamics seem to have shifted. The TDP, under Chandrababu Naidu's leadership, is said to have finalized Sana Satish for one of the two seats allotted to them. Satish, who had previously sought to contest as an MP from Kakinada, appears to have been rewarded with a Rajya

Sabha seat due to her close ties with the Jana Sena-TDP alliance. Meanwhile, senior TDP leaders like Devineni Uma, Galla Jayadev, and Kam-bhampati Rammohan Rao continue to lobby for the other seat.

The tenure of the vacant seats adds another layer to the intrigue. Mopidevi's seat is valid until January 2026, while the terms for Mastana Rao and Krishnaiah extend to June 2026. Reports suggest that Nagababu has been assured a full-term Rajya Sabha seat when new vacancies arise in 2026. Until then, the political maneuvers within the alliance will likely continue to be closely watched as parties finalize their strategies.

Devineni Avinash's Followers Appointed as Special Officers

Devineni Avinash's followers accused of attacking TDP are now special officers. Galla Seshu Kumar given a ₹120,000 salary post with ₹50,000 allowance. TDP activists claim favoritism toward ex-YSRCP-linked individuals.



TPN CORRESPONDENT VIJAYAWADA : The coalition government is facing criticism over alleged favoritism in key appointments, with claims that individuals linked to the previous YSRCP government are being given high-ranking positions. Party activists and local leaders have expressed their disappointment, alleging that those who worked hard for the party are being sidelined in favor of individuals who once opposed the TDP.

One of the main points of contention involves the appointment of Galla Seshu Kumar, son of former Kamma Corporation Director Galla Padmavati, as a special officer in the I&PR department. Activists allege that despite Padmavati's resignation, her son was given the post just 20 days later, with a monthly salary of ₹120,000 and an additional allowance of ₹50,000. Critics highlight that this appointment mirrors practices during the previous YSRCP government, where a social media analyst earning ₹30,000 per month and known for posting controversial content against TDP leaders was similarly promoted.

Further allegations point to Devineni Avinash's followers, ac-



cus of attacking the TDP party office, being appointed as special officers. MLA Gadde Rammohan Rao is said to have supported these appointments, ignoring the contributions of dedicated TDP activists in the Vijayawada East constituency, where over 20,000 young men and women work for the party. Activists claim that more than 50% of these workers have been overlooked in favor of individuals previously aligned with the YSRCP.

Adding to the controversy, every minister in the coalition government has been provided a 30-member social media team, with each member earning ₹30,000 per month. However, re-



ports suggest that these appointees have not been paid for two months, sparking further dissatisfaction.

Party workers have voiced concerns that the coalition government is replicating the alleged practices of the previous YSRCP regime, sidelining loyal activists and favoring individuals with prior links to opposition factions. They demand a more transparent and merit-based approach to appointments, ensuring that those who worked hard for the party are given due recognition.

Summons to Relatives of YS Jagan in Viveka Murder Case

TPN CORRESPONDENT Kadapa : The investigation into the high-profile murder case of YS Vivekananda Reddy has gained momentum following the change of government in Andhra Pradesh. In a significant development, Pulivendula DSP Murali Nayak has issued summons to several individuals, including close relatives of YSR Congress Party (YSRCP) chief YS Jagan Mohan Reddy.



was recorded.

Those summoned include Jagan's brother-in-law EC Surendranath Reddy, Kadapa MP Avinash Reddy's father-in-law Manohar Reddy, younger brother Abhishek Reddy, YSR Trust member Janardhan Reddy, and lawyer Obul Reddy. Notices were also sent to five additional witnesses, bringing the total to ten individuals who have been asked to appear for questioning on December 5.

This action stems from a private complaint filed on December 15 last year by Krishna Reddy, the former personal assistant (PA) of Vivekananda Reddy. The complaint also named Viveka's daughter Sunitha, her husband Rajasekhhar Reddy, and CBI officer Ram Singh. Krishna Reddy was questioned by the police about ten days ago, during which his statement

YS Vivekananda Reddy, a former minister and uncle of Jagan Mohan Reddy, was allegedly murdered just before the 2019 elections. However, progress in the investigation stalled during YSRCP's tenure in power. With the party losing the general elections earlier this year, the case has seen renewed activity under the new government.

The latest summons mark a critical step in the ongoing probe, as the authorities intensify efforts to uncover the truth behind Viveka's death. The questioning on December 5 is expected to shed new light on the case, which has remained unresolved for over four years.

YCP Social Media Activists Booked in Illegal Cases



TPN CORRESPONDENT , Rajahmundry : Former MP and YCP leader Margani Bharath has expressed anger over alleged illegal cases filed against YCP social media activists. He claimed that activists were being arrested under false charges

and subjected to torture in police stations. "Shouldn't they be allowed to question why the roads in Rajahmundry were submerged due to rains?" he asked. Bharath also accused the authorities of targeting Dalit youth, citing a specific incident involving a Dalit youth who was allegedly tortured by a Circle Inspector (CI) named Bajilal. According to Bharath, the youth was stripped of his clothes and made to sit in front of a woman constable, an act that deeply humiliated him. The victim reportedly contemplated suicide due to the humiliation.

Bharath stated that he plans to file a complaint with the Human Rights Commission regarding the incident. He further alleged that the torture of the Dalit youth was carried out at the instigation of TDP MLA Adireddy Vasu. Bharath lamented the lack of protection for Dalits in the state and called for action against the perpetrators.

YCP Looted Through Land, Sand, and Liquor Mafia

TPN CORRESPONDENT , Mangalagiri : Minister Satya Prasad criticized the previous YCP government, accusing them of looting the public through land, sand, and liquor mafias. He alleged that Jagan Mohan Reddy and YCP leaders had exacerbated land-related issues during their tenure. The remarks were made during a video conference with district collectors and joint collectors at the CCLA office in Mangalagiri.

The minister announced that revenue conferences would be held starting tomorrow with the aim of addressing village-level issues. He directed the collectors to accept complaints related to all types of land disputes during these conferences. Special at-

tention, he said, should be given to land encroachments and violations of 22A lands. Satya Prasad emphasized that Chief Minister Chandrababu Naidu is committed to rebuilding the state and delivering a problem-free administration. He highlighted that the Chief Minister is already conducting monthly reviews to resolve ongoing issues. The minister also acknowledged that recent heavy rains had caused floods, leading to the postponement of previously scheduled conferences. He confirmed that revenue conferences are now being conducted across 17,564 villages, from the 6th of this month to the 8th of the next. Additionally, discussions on issuing new ration cards will take place during these conferences.





Ramdas Chandaka

A True Champion of Service Inspired by Megastar Chiranjeevi

TPN CORRESPONDENT, Vijayawada : Ramdas Chandaka, a die-hard fan of Megastar Chiranjeevi and President of the Chiru Mega Youth Force (CMYF), has emerged as an extraordinary beacon of service and philanthropy in the Arab world. For over two decades, he has tirelessly worked to carry forward the ideals of his idol, Chiranjeevi, and has inspired countless others to join him in his mission of humanitarian service.

It all began humbly in 2003, when Ramdas, with just 20 blood donors, participated in a blood donation camp. From this modest start, he has built a movement that now sees hundreds of donors stepping forward three to four times a year, making a remarkable impact on countless lives. His relentless dedication to the cause recently earned CMYF a Certificate of Appreciation from the Central Blood Bank, a testament to the organization's life-saving contributions.

Ramdas attributes his journey to the values and inspiration of Chiranjeevi, whose ideals of service and humanity have deeply influenced him. Despite being in a foreign land, Ramdas has

carried the Telugu community's spirit of compassion and giving, uniting fans and well-wishers under the CMYF banner. "In a country that is not my own, I have worked for over 20 years to bring pride to every Mega fan across the globe through this service," he said.

While acknowledging challenges, including skepticism from some quarters about associating the initiative with Chiranjeevi's name, Ramdas remains steadfast. "Why be jealous of Chiranjeevi? Good deeds should be celebrated regardless of the name," he asserts.

Ramdas extended heartfelt gratitude to Sri Ravanamu Swaminaidu, leader of the Chiru Army, for his unwavering support, and Sri Chillagattu Srikanth, who introduced him to blood donation efforts in Hyderabad. He also credited the countless blood donors and sympathizers who have supported CMYF's programs over the years.

As Ramdas continues his inspiring journey, his work stands as a shining example of how dedication, combined with the ideals of a revered leader like Chiranjeevi, can create a legacy of kindness and service that transcends borders.



RTC Driver Lovaraju Meets Nara Lokesh



TPN, CORRESPONDENT, VIJAYAWADA : Lovaraju, an outsourced RTC driver from the Tuni depot in Kakinada district, met Minister Nara Lokesh after being reinstated following a suspension for dancing to a song from the movie Devara while on duty. Lokesh and his family thanked Lovaraju for his dedication and initiative and assured him of their continued support.

The incident occurred on October 24, when a bus driven by Lovaraju was traveling from Rautulapudi to the Tuni depot. A tractor loaded with sticks blocked the narrow road, forcing the bus to stop. During the wait, Lovaraju entertained the passengers by dancing to a song from Devara. A young passenger recorded the performance, and the video quickly went viral on social media. Lokesh himself appreciated Lovaraju's dance and shared his admiration online.

However, the authorities suspended Lovaraju for violating service rules. When Lokesh became aware of the situation, he assured Lovaraju that the suspension would be revoked and promised to meet him upon his return from the United States. True to his word, Lokesh met Lovaraju and his family, inquired about his well-being, and reiterated his support.

This gesture from Lokesh has been widely appreciated, with many lauding his timely intervention to address the issue and ensure justice for the driver.

9.91 Lakh Metric Tons of Grain Already Procured

TPN CORRESPONDENT, Avaniigadda : State Civil Supplies Minister Nadendla Manohar highlighted the coalition government's efficient and transparent approach to grain procurement, assuring farmers of timely payments and strong support during challenging times. The Minister chaired a constituency-level review meeting on grain purchase at the Revenue Conference Hall in Avaniigadda on Wednesday.



Speaking at the meeting, Minister Manohar announced that 9.91 lakh metric tons of grain have already been procured across the state, with ₹2,283 crore disbursed to farmers, including ₹2,067 crore paid within 24 hours of procurement. He emphasized that issues caused by the 40-day grain purchase disruption due to the cyclone were resolved efficiently within just three days.

The Minister criticized the previous YSRCP government for leaving behind a debt of ₹11 lakh crore and arrears of ₹1,674

will be taken against millers and middlemen reducing grain prices unfairly.

- Farmers can use WhatsApp by sending a "Hi" to 73373 59375 for officials to facilitate grain collection at their location.

Minister Manohar also directed millers to purchase all 1,262 varieties of paddy and ordered paddy procurement center staff to assist farmers at the field level daily.

Avaniigadda MLA Mandali Buddhadasa commended Chief Minister Chandrababu Naidu, Deputy CM Pawan Kalyan, and Minister Manohar for their ambitious efforts in paddy procurement. He stated that 12,272 metric tons of paddy had been procured in the Avaniigadda constituency, and ₹25.89 crore paid to 1,441 farmers.

The meeting was attended by youth leaders Mandali Venkatram, State Civil Supplies Corporation Director Bodapati Sivadattu, APIIC Director Mandali Rajesh, and other officials and coalition leaders.

Key Initiatives Announced:

- Farmers can now sell grain to a mill of their choice without GPS restrictions.
- Immediate grain purchase even in cyclone-affected areas, allowing 25% moisture levels.
- ₹9 per quintal will be provided through FCI to mills equipped with dryer facilities.
- Strict action, including criminal cases,

Mangalagiri AIIMS to Get Clean Water Supply Soon

TPN CORRESPONDENT, Mangalagiri : The Mangalagiri AIIMS, which has been grappling with water shortages, is set to receive a steady supply of clean water as the government takes swift action to address the issue. Until now, drinking water has been supplied to the AIIMS staff and patients through tankers. However, with new infrastructure developments, the problem is expected to be resolved soon.

The government has completed the construction of 5 km pipelines from Guntur Channel and Atmakur Lake, alongside the establishment of purification plants within the AIIMS premises to treat and supply water from the pipelines. These efforts are part of the coalition government's initiative to expedite long-delayed projects, which had been stalled by the previous administration.

Municipal Administration and Urban Development Minister Ponguru Narayana recently inspected the ongoing works, which include the construction of filter beds and other infrastructure valued at ₹8 crore. Once completed, these facilities will provide 25 lakh liters of clean water daily to AIIMS.

Minister Narayana also reviewed the water purification process at the site and instructed officials to ensure timely completion of the project. Guntur Public Health Executive Engineer Dasari Srinivas has been directed to complete the works by the 15th of this month, ensuring uninterrupted clean water supply to the AIIMS campus. The expedited efforts underline the government's commitment to improving essential services for health-care institutions, providing much-needed relief to the staff and patients at Mangalagiri AIIMS.

Let's Revive Kondapalli Bomma Art with Collective Efforts

TPN CORRESPONDENT, Kondapalli : Kondapalli Bomma, a symbol of the rich traditional art of Telugu land, can be revived with collective efforts, assured District Collector Dr. G. Lakshmi Sha. She emphasized that the government would provide full support to ensure the sustainability of this unique art form.



On Wednesday, Collector Lakshmi Sha, along with officials from DRDA, DWAMA, Forest, and Revenue departments, held a meeting with members of the Kondapalli Doll Artists' Cooperative Society. During the visit, they inspected the white wood used as the raw material for making Kondapalli dolls and observed how the skilled artisans transform the wood into beautiful creations.

Speaking to the media later, the Collector

highlighted that despite the high demand for Kondapalli dolls, both in India and abroad, and their good market potential, the shortage of white wood poses a significant challenge. In response, she stated that the government has issued orders to develop a white pine nursery under the Mahatma Gandhi National Rural Employment Guarantee Scheme (MGNREGS).

She assured that coordinated efforts between the Forest, DRDA, DWAMA, and oth-

er departments would address the issue of white pine availability. A special joint committee will be formed with officials from various departments to resolve this problem. The Collector explained that while adhering to forest regulations, steps would be taken to create a sustainable supply of white pine for the artisans.

Collector Lakshmi Sha reaffirmed the state government's commitment to promoting traditional arts and preserving them for future generations. The initiative aims to secure both the legacy and livelihood of Kondapalli artisans.

Officials present at the program included DRDA PD K. Srinivasa Rao, DWAMA PD A. Ramu, DFO G. Satish, and Kondapalli Municipal Commissioner Srinivas.

AP CPS Employees Demand Abolition of CPS Policy

TPN, CORRESPONDENT, VIJAYAWADA : Employees of the Vijayawada Transport Department, under the banner of the AP CPS Employees Association, staged a protest during their lunch break, calling for the abolition of the Contributory Pension Scheme (CPS). The employees displayed posters supporting the Chalo Vijayawada protest scheduled for December 10, urging the government to address their demands.

Speaking at the event, AP Transport Employees Association Zonal President M. Rajubabu highlighted the financial hardships faced by employees under the CPS policy. He pointed out that employees are left without a full pension after retirement, making it difficult to support their families. "The CPS policy should be abolished immediately, and employees must be provided with a full pension to ensure their financial security," he demanded.

AP CPS Employees Association State General Secretary CM Dasu reiterated the association's commitment to fighting for the abolition of CPS. He noted that several protests have been held in the past and assured that the movement would continue until the policy is revoked. Dasu expressed optimism that the current coalition government would act in favor of CPS employees and urged teachers and government employees to actively participate in the upcoming protest to make it a success.

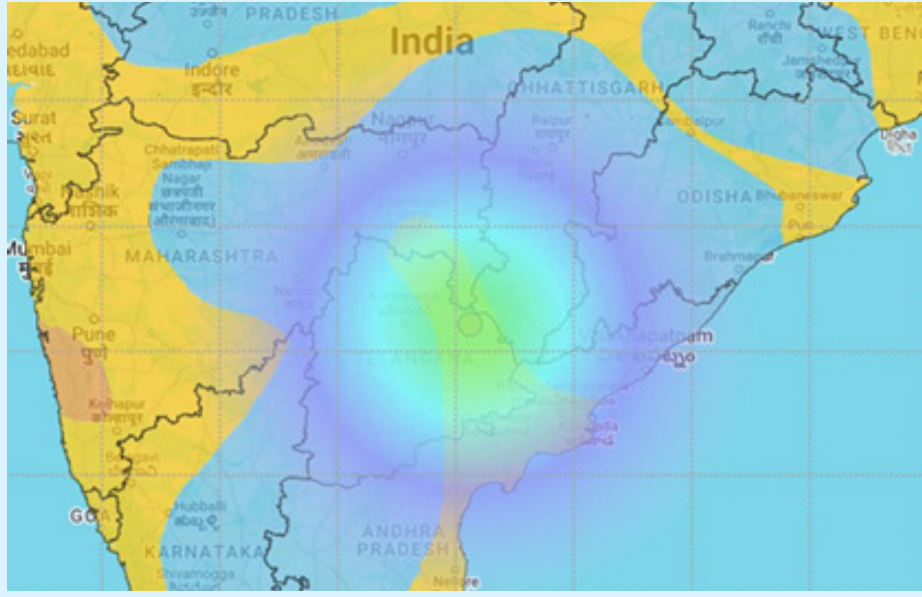
The protest also saw the participation of AP CPS Employees Association State Committee Member Arja Nagaraju, NTR District President K. Prabhakar, and other employees of the Transport Department. The employees vowed to intensify their efforts to secure their rights and push for a return to the old pension scheme.

The Chalo Vijayawada protest on December 10 is expected to witness significant participation as employees across the state rally together to demand pension reforms.





Earthquake Shakes Telugu States with 5.3 Magnitude



TPN CORRESPONDENT AP : An earthquake with a magnitude of 5.3 shook the Telugu states of Andhra Pradesh and Telangana, causing widespread panic among residents. People rushed out of their homes in fear and spent considerable time outdoors, hesitant to return inside.

The earthquake occurred in Telangana's Mulugu district at 7:27 AM this morning. According to the National Seismology Center, the tremor was caused by significant movements in tectonic plates located 40 kilometers beneath the surface.

Simultaneous tremors were felt in various parts of Andhra Pradesh and Telangana. In some areas, the shaking lasted for about two seconds, while in others, it continued for 3 to 4 seconds. The widespread nature of the earthquake across multiple cities and towns made it a significant event.

In Andhra Pradesh, tremors were recorded in Krishna district, particularly in Vijayawada, Jaggayapet, Tiruvuru, and Gampalagudem, where the tremors lasted for approximately two seconds. In Telangana, districts including Hyderabad, Rangareddy, Warangal, Khammam, Bhadradi Kothagudem,

and others experienced tremors lasting 3 to 4 seconds. Specific locations such as Hanmakonda, Manuguru, Godavarihanani, Bhupalapally, Charla, Chintakani, and Bhadrachalam also reported noticeable shaking, including agency areas.

The unexpected tremors caused extreme panic, with people fleeing their homes and apartments, many carrying essential belongings. They sought safety in open spaces, avoiding enclosed areas. Fortunately, there have been no reports of casualties or property damage so far. Authorities are closely monitoring the situation.

TTD Introduces VIP Break Darshan for 'Ananda Nilayam Ananta Swarnamayam' Donors

TPN CORRESPONDENT Tirumala : The Tirumala Tirupati Devasthanams (TTD) has announced a significant decision to provide VIP Break Darshan for donors of the 'Ananda Nilayam Ananta Swarnamayam' scheme. This marks a change from the earlier practice, where donors were granted darshan only after specific special rituals.

Under the new policy, donors of the scheme will now be entitled to three days of VIP Break Darshan along with accommodation facilities annually. This decision aims to honor the contributions of devotees who

supported the scheme, which was focused on enhancing the golden sanctum of the Tirumala temple.

The 'Ananda Nilayam Ananta Swarnamayam' scheme was discontinued in 2008 due to unavoidable circumstances, according to TTD officials. However, the revised benefits reflect TTD's commitment to acknowledging the devotion and support of past donors.

This move is expected to draw appreciation from devotees while further strengthening TTD's engagement with its donor community.



Minister Narayana Reviews Development Plans for Kurnool, Kadapa, and Ananthapuram-Hindupur Urban Authorities



TPN CORRESPONDENT, Amaravati : Urban Development Minister Ponguru Narayana conducted a comprehensive review of the development programs to be undertaken by the Urban Development Authorities (UDAs) of Kurnool, Kadapa, and Ananthapuram-Hindupuram. The meeting was attended by key officials, including Municipal Department Secretary Kannababu, Director Harinarayanan, Town

Planning Director Vidyullatha, ENC Marian, the Vice Chairpersons (VCs) of the three UDAs, Municipal Commissioners, and Kuda Chairman Somiseti Venkateswarlu. During the review, Minister Narayana provided directions to ensure the effective execution of development programs. He emphasized the construction of MIG (Middle Income Group) and HIG (High Income Group) housing under the auspices

of urban authorities and instructed the VCs of the three UDAs to identify suitable land for these projects by the end of the month.

The minister highlighted key initiatives to enhance urban development:

- Simplifying permissions for buildings and layouts.
- Allocating 50 percent of UDAs' income toward municipal development projects.
- Appointing the Director of the Town Planning Department as the nodal officer for coordinating activities across the UDAs.
- Prioritizing tourism projects to boost income generation for the UDAs.

The review reflects the state government's commitment to accelerating urban development while ensuring streamlined processes and sustainable growth. These initiatives are expected to contribute significantly to the urban infrastructure and quality of life in these regions.

Illegally Transported Ration Rice Seized in Nellore



TPN CORRESPONDENT, Nellore : In a significant crackdown, Revenue Enforcement officials have seized 600 bags of ration rice that were being illegally transported from Maidukuru to Nellore. The rice, meant for distribution to the poor under the Public Distribution System (PDS), was intercepted at Badvelu.

The officials seized the lorry carrying the ration rice, valued at approximately ₹15 lakhs. The driver of the lorry, identified as Obules, was arrested on the spot. Investigations are underway to identify the network involved in smuggling the rice.

This incident adds to the growing concern over the illegal diversion of ration rice in Andhra Pradesh. Recently, the smuggling of ration rice through Kakinada Port has also caused widespread outrage. Authorities are intensifying efforts to crack down on such activities to ensure that ration supplies reach the intended beneficiaries.

TTD Brings Good News for Lord Venkateswara Devotees Laddu Production to Increase

TPN CORRESPONDENT, Tirumala : The Tirumala Tirupati Devasthanams (TTD) has announced a plan to significantly boost the production of its iconic laddu prasadam to meet the growing demand from devotees. Renowned for their spiritual significance, these laddus are cherished as sacred offerings and often shared with loved ones. However, the high demand has led to limitations in purchases, leaving many devotees disappointed.

To address this, TTD is set to recruit 74 Vaishnavas and 10 non-Vaishnavas to its workforce, enabling a substantial increase in production. The temple aims to produce an additional 50,000 small laddus, 4,000 large laddus, and 3,500 vadas daily. While the current production meets routine demand, special occasions like weekends, festivals, and Brahmotsavams see a significant surge in requests.

Currently, each devotee visiting Lord Venkateswara receives one small laddu free of cost, with around 70,000 free laddus distributed daily. With increased production, TTD will also be able to sell additional laddus to devotees who wish to purchase more.

At present, TTD produces 3.5 lakh small laddus, 6,000 large laddus (Kalyanam laddus), and 3,500 vadas daily. These are distributed across Tirumala and other TTD-managed temples in cities like Chennai, Hyderabad, Bengaluru, and Tirupati.

This initiative promises to fulfill the expectations of devotees and enhance their spiritual experience, especially during peak seasons and festivals.

Liquor Shops Closed for Two Days in Godavari Districts

Rajamahendravaram : Authorities have ordered the closure of liquor shops in both East and West Godavari districts for two days, delivering a surprise to alcohol consumers. The closure coincides with polling for the Teacher MLC by-election, scheduled to be held tomorrow (Thursday). To ensure smooth and peaceful polling, the district administration has also ordered the closure of schools where polling stations are set up. Preparations for the Teacher MLC by-election in the Godavari districts are almost complete. The election has become highly prestigious this time, with fierce competition among candidates. The government has implemented key measures, including the temporary closure of liquor shops, to maintain peace during the election process. The closure is in effect today and tomorrow.

The by-election was necessitated by the death of Teacher MLC Sheikh Sabji in a road accident on December 15 last year. While polling will take place on Thursday, the counting of votes is scheduled for March 9 at Kakinada JNTU.

Heated Campaign and Key Contenders

The campaign for the Teacher MLC election has concluded with high intensity. Prominent candidates in the fray include Borra Gopimurthy, Gandham Narayana Rao, Deepak, Kavala Nageswara Rao, and Venkatalakshmi. The primary contest appears to be between Gopimurthy and Gandham



Narayana Rao.

This is Gopimurthy's first attempt, and he has garnered significant support from teacher unions, including the United Teachers' Federation (UTF). On the other hand, Gandham Narayana Rao, a seasoned contender, is making another bid, backed by unions such as the State Teachers' Union (STU) and others. The competition between these two has become a battle of strategy, with leftist parties also playing a role in mobilizing support.

This Teacher MLC election is being conducted with

the scale and intensity of a general election. Candidates have left no stone unturned in their efforts to attract voters. Polling will be held from 8 AM to 4 PM on Thursday across 116 polling stations in six districts. A total of 16,737 voters are eligible to exercise their franchise. Election officials are distributing necessary materials to polling staff today.

The election has drawn attention due to its competitive nature, with both candidates and voters eagerly awaiting the results.



India Navigates US Trade and BRICS Currency Disputes Amid Tariff Threats

India's position in global trade is under scrutiny as former US President Donald Trump threatens drastic tariffs on BRICS nations, including India. Trump's proposed 100% tariffs on exports from countries like India, if implemented, could disrupt the nation's economic landscape, particularly given India's growing trade ties with the US. In fiscal year 2024, bilateral trade between the US and India surpassed \$120 billion, making the US India's largest trading partner.

The Challenge of BRICS Currency and De-Dollarisation

Trump's threats come amid ongoing discussions within the BRICS group about creating a common currency to reduce reliance on the US dollar. While the de-dollarisation movement has been gaining momentum, the implementation of a BRICS currency remains highly contentious. Many BRICS members are frustrated with the US dollar's dominance in global trade, but creating a unified currency is complicated by economic and political differences among the member states.

India, a key BRICS member, has expressed caution over the idea of a common currency. External Affairs Minister S. Jaishankar has highlighted the need for significant alignment in fiscal, monetary, and political policies for such a currency to work, noting that BRICS nations are far from achieving these necessary conditions.

India's Pragmatic Approach Amid Global Tensions

India's reluctance to embrace a BRICS currency stems from both economic and strategic concerns. The US dollar remains integral to India's trade and financial systems, and a drastic move away from it could harm



India's economic stability. India is particularly wary of China's growing influence within BRICS, fearing that a shared currency could further enhance Beijing's geopolitical power at the expense of other member nations.

Moreover, India's robust trade ties with the US present a significant challenge. Trump's tariff threats could severely impact Indian exports, particularly in industries such as pharmaceuticals, IT services, and textiles. Small and medium-sized enterprises (SMEs), which rely heavily on exports to the US, would be hit hardest by such tariffs, threatening India's export-driven growth.

India's Strategic Autonomy and Future Prospects

India's strategy focuses on maintaining its strategic autonomy by balancing its relations with the US and its participation in BRICS

discussions on alternatives to the dollar. India supports the concept of de-dollarisation but is cautious about antagonizing its most important trading partner.

By advocating for greater use of local currencies in bilateral trade, India seeks to minimize its dependence on the US dollar without provoking conflict with Washington. This approach reflects India's broader aim to play a leading role in shaping the future of global trade while safeguarding its economic interests.

In the face of Trump's protectionist rhetoric, India's measured response underscores its commitment to economic stability and its long-term vision of a multipolar world order. While the future of the BRICS currency remains uncertain, India is determined to navigate global challenges pragmatically, ensuring it charts its own course in an increasingly complex geopolitical landscape.



BJP Set to Challenge AAP's Stronghold in Delhi Assembly Elections

The upcoming Delhi Assembly elections are shaping up to be a pivotal moment for both the Aam Aadmi Party (AAP) and the Bharatiya Janata Party (BJP), with the latter determined to make inroads in the capital after years of AAP dominance. Arvind Kejriwal's AAP has held a tight grip on Delhi since 2015, but with the BJP's growing confidence following significant victories in Haryana and Maharashtra, the saffron party is prepared to challenge AAP's position.

The stakes are high, particularly for AAP, as a third consecutive victory in Delhi would strengthen Kejriwal's political clout and possibly set the stage for his aspirations on the national stage. Kejriwal, known for his ambition to expand beyond Delhi, has already made waves by contesting against Prime Minister Narendra Modi in Varanasi during the 2014 general elections. A win in Delhi would significantly bolster his profile as a leader capable of challenging Modi in the 2029 Lok Sabha elections.

Currently, the Delhi Assembly consists of 70 seats, with AAP holding a dominant 58, while the BJP holds just seven. Five seats remain vacant. The Congress, which governed Delhi for 15 years before AAP's rise, has no representation in the assembly. AAP has successfully ousted both the BJP and Congress in the capital, further cementing its influence in local politics.

To counter this dominance, the BJP plans to capitalize on AAP's freebie politics, a strategy that has already proven effective in other states. The BJP has been successful in turning the tide by highlighting the freebies offered by AAP, including free electricity, water, and various welfare schemes. The BJP is expected to deploy this tactic in Delhi as part of a concerted effort to sway voters, particularly in light of AAP's declining popularity in other regions.

For the BJP, a victory in Delhi is seen as a critical step in denying Kejriwal a potential national foothold, particularly as he seeks to broaden his influence. The BJP will focus on portraying AAP's governance as unsustainable and its freebies as electoral bribes. By positioning themselves as the responsible alternative, the BJP hopes to tap into voter concerns over fiscal discipline and long-term policy impacts.

In conclusion, the Delhi Assembly elections will be a fierce contest with both parties vying for control. While AAP aims to maintain its reign in the capital, the BJP is determined to challenge its dominance and prevent Kejriwal from gaining national momentum. This election will undoubtedly shape the future political landscape in Delhi and beyond.

Team India's Confidence Shines in Australia: A Force to Reckon With

Over the years, Australia has been a fortress for its cricket team, making it one of the toughest places for any visiting team to win a Test series. From 1993-94 to 2008-09, the Aussies remained unbeaten at home in 28 consecutive Test series. With a win percentage over 80 in the last three decades, Australia's dominance on home soil seemed unmatched. However, India's recent performances in Australia have shattered the myth of invincibility.

The Rise of Self-Belief in Team India

From the historic 2018-19 series win to the 2020-21 triumph, India has increasingly shown that they are no longer intimidated by the mighty Australians. The self-belief within the Indian squad is palpable, and they now go into every Test match in Australia with the expectation to win, not just to compete. This newfound confidence was evident in their recent victory in Perth, where they secured a comprehensive 295-run win in the first Test, a feat they couldn't achieve on their 2018-19 tour. The team managed to do this without key players like Rohit Sharma, Shubman Gill, and Mohammed Shami, showcasing their growing depth and resilience.

The Turning Point in India's Approach

The turning point for India began during the 2014-15 tour, despite losing the series 0-2. The team showed glimpses of their potential by drawing two Tests in Melbourne and Sydney after being on the verge of defeat in Adelaide and Brisbane. This inspired belief that they were closing in on defeating Australia on their own turf. The confidence continued to build, leading to India becoming the first Asian team to win a series in Australia in 2018-19. In 2020-21, India's historic win in Brisbane, despite numerous injuries and setbacks, proved that they could go toe-to-toe with Australia and come out on top. The Indian players' determination, particularly in the final Test, where they chased down a daunting target of 328, showed their readiness to challenge Australia's might on their home ground.



Young Talent Driving India's Success

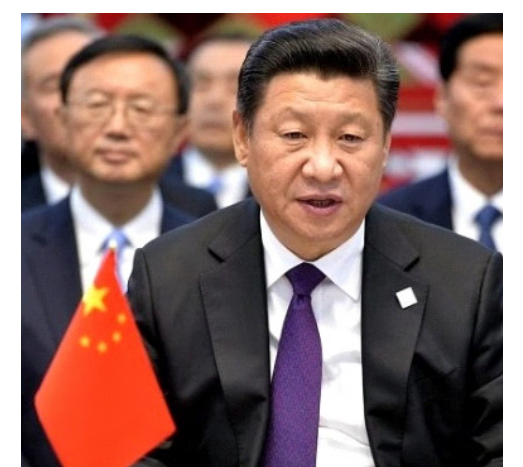
A key factor in India's rise has been their ability to identify young, fearless talent. On the 2020-21 tour, players like Shubman Gill, Rishabh Pant, Mohammed Siraj, and Washington Sundar played crucial roles in India's success. The ongoing series also sees young players like Yashasvi Jaiswal, the current leading run-scorer, and Harshit Rana making significant impacts. The IPL's role in nurturing young talent has allowed them to face the best pacers without fear, showing that they are no longer inferior to any opposition, even Australia's elite fast bowlers.

Changing Conditions and Mindsets

India's changing domestic pitch conditions, with more grass on the tracks, have also contributed to the rise of fast bowlers capable of thriving in Australian conditions. The country's preparation and aggressive mindset have combined to create a team that is ready to challenge the best in any format, anywhere. With India on the brink of achieving a historic hat-trick of series wins in Australia, their confidence and self-belief continue to grow, making them a force to be reckoned with in world cricket.

Xi's Anti-Corruption Campaign: A Double-Edged Sword for China's Military and Governance

China's ongoing anti-corruption campaign, under the leadership of President Xi Jinping, has targeted not only government officials but also the country's powerful military. This phase of the campaign, which traces its roots to the fall of former Politburo member Bo Xilai, has seen the military face a "zero tolerance" approach to corruption. Since the 18th National Congress of the Chinese Communist Party (CCP), the purge has resulted in investigations into numerous high-ranking military officials, including 14 generals and 85 major generals, highlighting the breadth of the effort.



ize opposition and potential political rivals.

Last week, Miao Hua, a senior figure in the Military Commission, was placed under investigation, continuing a pattern of high-profile military figures being scrutinized. Meanwhile, former Foreign Minister Qin Gang's whereabouts remain unclear, fueling further speculation about possible purges within the CCP. Additionally, reports suggest that Defence Minister Dong Jun is facing corruption charges, following the dismissal of his predecessor, Li Shangfu, on similar grounds. These developments raise critical questions about the trustworthiness of the People's Liberation Army (PLA) and whether there is growing discontent or internal rifts within its ranks.

Corruption within China's government and military is not a new phenomenon. Historical anti-corruption campaigns date back to the early days of the People's Republic of China (PRC), such as the 1951-1952 crackdown that targeted over 100,000 cadres. However, the issue became more pronounced following Deng Xiaoping's economic reforms. Under Xi, the campaign has evolved into a broader tool not only to tackle corruption but also to neutral-

Chinese citizens largely support the anti-corruption efforts, viewing them as necessary for national security and dignity. There is widespread agreement that corruption, especially within the government and military, needs to be addressed. However, opinions diverge on whether Xi's campaign-style approach is the right solution.

While there is public support for the idea of cleaning up corruption, critics argue that Xi's campaign approach may not be sustainable. Some Chinese commentators suggest that corruption will resurface once the focus on individual purges fades. A more institutional approach, they argue, is necessary to address the systemic links between power and wealth, which enable corruption to thrive. Without structural reforms, these critics warn, anti-corruption campaigns will remain superficial.

Despite these concerns, Xi's anti-corruption campaign is unlikely to significantly alter China's foreign or military policies, as decisions are ultimately made by him.

Devendra Fadnavis Elected BJP Leader, Set to Become Maharashtra CM for Third Term

TPN CORRESPONDENT
MUMBAI, DECEMBER.5

Devendra Fadnavis will be sworn in as Maharashtra's Chief Minister for the third time on Thursday, December 5, following his unanimous election as the leader of the BJP legislature party. The announcement came after intense discussions and negotiations within the Mahayuti alliance. The oath-taking ceremony will take place at Azad Maidan in Mumbai at 5 pm, with Prime Minister Narendra Modi attending, alongside around 40,000 supporters and nearly 2,000 VVIPs.

The event will also be graced by central ministers, governors, and prominent figures from across Maharashtra. In keeping with the state's diverse cultural heritage, the ceremony will also feature religious leaders, artists, and writers. Fadnavis thanked the alliance leaders, including Eknath Shinde and Ajit Pawar, for their support, emphasizing the historic nature of the recent election victory.

Fadnavis, who previously served as CM in 2014 and 2019,



now returns to power after the BJP secured a significant 132 seats in the 288-member Maharashtra assembly. Despite the Shiv Sena's earlier insistence on Eknath Shinde continuing as CM, Shinde has accepted the deputy CM position, clearing the way for Fadnavis's leadership.

This marks a remarkable political comeback for Fadnavis, who had faced a tumultuous period after the 2019 power struggle with the Shiv Sena and his brief stint as deputy CM after Shinde's defection. The ceremony will be carefully monitored, with extensive

security measures in place due to the expected large crowd.

Fadnavis's third term as CM is expected to reinforce the strength of the Mahayuti alliance and usher in a new phase of governance in Maharashtra.

Assam Bans Consumption Of Beef In Hotels, Public Places

TPN CORRESPONDENT GUWAHATI
DECEMBER.5

Assam Chief Minister Himanta Biswa Sarma announced on Wednesday that the state will enforce a ban on the serving and consumption of beef in restaurants, hotels, and public places. This decision follows a cabinet meeting where amendments were made to the Assam Cattle Preservation Act of 2021 to incorporate these new provisions.

While beef consumption is not illegal in Assam, the Assam Cattle Preservation Act of 2021 already regulates the transportation, slaughter of cattle, and the sale of beef and beef products. The law aims to protect cows and regulate the beef trade, with specific restrictions in place to safeguard religious sentiments.

"We had earlier introduced a bill to protect cows, and we have been successful," Sarma said, referring to the legislation passed by the state assembly in 2021. "Going forward, we have decided that beef will not be served in any hotels or restaurants in the state. It will also not be served during any public function or



in any public place."

The existing law bans cattle slaughter and beef sale in areas with a majority Hindu, Jain, or Sikh population, as well as within a five-kilometre radius of temples or satras (Vaishnavite monasteries). Sarma further revealed that the government has decided to expand these restrictions to additional areas beyond the five-kilometre radius.

The Assam Cattle Preservation Bill was passed in the state assembly in August

2021 through a voice vote, despite objections from the opposition, who called for the bill to be sent to a Select Committee for further discussion. Under the provisions of the bill, violations could result in imprisonment ranging from three to eight years, along with a fine between ₹3 lakh and ₹5 lakh.

The new ban on beef consumption in public spaces is expected to have significant implications for the state's culinary and cultural landscape, impacting both local communities and the tourism sector.

Indian Foreign Secretary to Visit Bangladesh

TPN CORRESPONDENT DELHI
DECEMBER.5

Indian Foreign Secretary Vikram Mirri is expected to visit Bangladesh next week for a Foreign Secretary-level meeting, amid growing tensions between the two nations following the recent political changes in Bangladesh. The meeting, which is part of the Foreign Office Consultation (FOC), is scheduled to take place in Dhaka on December 9 or 10, according to Bangladesh's Foreign Adviser Md Touhid Hosain.

This will mark the first high-level visit by a senior Indian government official to Bangladesh since the interim government, led by Muhammad Yunus, assumed power on August 8. Yunus' government came into power after the ousting of former Prime Minister Sheikh Hasina, a move that has strained diplomatic relations between the neighboring countries.

Hosain, speaking at the Foreign Ministry, reiterated Bangladesh's desire for a strong relationship with India, emphasizing that the two nations must work



towards building ties on a reciprocal basis. "It is very clear that we want a good relationship with India," he stated, while highlighting the need for both sides to commit to mutual cooperation and respect.

Despite the current tensions, the scheduled meeting offers a glimmer of hope for mending ties between the two South Asian nations. The discussion will likely focus on various bilateral issues, includ-

ing trade, security, and regional cooperation, with an emphasis on resolving ongoing challenges. The visit is seen as an important step towards ensuring that both nations can navigate the complexities of their relationship in a constructive manner. It also comes at a crucial time when India and Bangladesh are seeking to manage regional concerns, including security and economic challenges, while ensuring stability in their bilateral relations.



Kuwaiti Foreign Minister Abdullah Ali Al-Yahya Arrives in India

TPN CORRESPONDENT DELHI
DECEMBER.5

Kuwaiti Foreign Minister Abdullah Ali Al-Yahya arrived in India on Tuesday for an official visit aimed at further enhancing the multifaceted relationship between India and Kuwait. The Ministry of External Affairs (MEA) extended a warm welcome to the visiting dignitary, emphasizing the significance of his trip in strengthening the long-standing ties between the two nations.

"Further strengthening India-Kuwait multifaceted relations. Warm welcome to FM Abdullah Ali Al-Yahya MoFA Kuwait as he arrives in India on an official visit," the MEA stated on the social media platform X. Dr. S. Jaishankar, India's External Affairs Minister, also welcomed Al-Yahya's arrival in New Delhi, expressing anticipation for productive discussions during the visit.

According to an official press release, the visit will include a series of high-level meetings, starting with a call on Prime Minister Narendra Modi on Wednesday at the PM's residence. The Kuwaiti foreign minister will also meet with External Affairs Minister S. Jaishankar at Hyderabad House in the national capital before concluding his visit and departing for Kuwait the same evening.

The bilateral relationship between India and Kuwait is historically strong, rooted in centuries of trade and cultural exchanges. Even before Kuwait's independence in 1961, India played a pivotal role in its economy, with the Indian Rupee being its legal tender. Maritime activities like shipbuilding, pearl diving, and trade flourished between the two nations, with India exchanging spices, textiles, and wood for pearls, dates, and Arabian horses from Kuwait.

The Indian community in Kuwait, now numbering over a million, is the largest expatriate group in the country. Indians contribute significantly to various sectors, including engineering, IT, medicine, and business. The economic ties are further solidified by Indian business interests in Kuwait, with major brands like Lulu Hypermarket and Centre Point finding a place in the Kuwaiti market. Additionally, over 200 Indian associations in Kuwait organize events to promote cultural exchange and support the expatriate community.



Kejriwal alleges many forces involved in attack on Sukhbir Badal

TPN CORRESPONDENT DELHI
DECEMBER.5

Aam Aadmi Party (AAP) convenor and former Delhi Chief Minister Arvind Kejriwal on Wednesday alleged that multiple forces were involved in the attack on former Punjab Chief Minister Sukhbir Singh Badal. The incident occurred when a shooter, identified as Narain Singh Chaura, fired a bullet at Badal during his visit to the Golden Temple in Amritsar. The bullet missed Badal and struck the wall behind him, allowing the Shiromani Akali Dal (SAD) leader to escape unharmed.

While addressing the Delhi Assembly, Kejriwal condemned the attack and emphasized that it was part of a larger conspiracy aimed at defaming Punjab and its people. "A big incident was averted today. Someone tried to shoot at Sukhbir Singh Badal, but he is safe. There is a big conspiracy behind this to malign Punjab. There are several forces involved in it," said Kejriwal.

The incident occurred when Badal was undergoing 'tankhah' (religious penance) as instructed by the Sikh clergy. He was performing the penance by washing utensils, cleaning shoes, and attending to other chores as part of the punishment prescribed by the Akal Takht.

Kejriwal also praised the swift response of the Punjab Police, acknowledging their role in averting a potential tragedy. "The Punjab Police did exemplary work in preventing the incident. However, questions are being raised about the law and order situation in Punjab. What about Delhi's law and order situation?" Kejriwal remarked.

South Korean Opposition Moves to Impeach President Yoon After Martial Law Declaration

On Wednesday, South Korea's opposition coalition filed a motion in Parliament to impeach President Yoon Suk Yeol, following his unexpected imposition of martial law, which triggered mass protests across the nation. The opposition Democratic Party (DP) submitted the impeachment motion after lawmakers clashed with security forces in an attempt to block the controversial decree.

Kim Yong-min of the DP announced that the impeachment motion had been prepared urgently, though the exact timing of the vote is yet to be decided. The motion could be put to a vote as soon as Friday. The opposition currently holds a majority in South Korea's National Assembly, which has 300 seats, and needs a two-thirds majority to pass the motion. If President Yoon is removed or resigns, Prime Minister Han Duck-soo would temporarily assume presidential duties, according to the South Korean constitution.

The opposition has also indicated plans to file charges of "insurrection" against President Yoon, his defense and interior ministers, and key figures in the military and police involved in the martial law imposition. The move has sparked



widespread political unrest, with even Yoon's own party leader calling the martial law declaration "tragic" and urging accountability for those involved.

The political chaos has had significant economic repercussions. South Korean stocks tumbled, with the Kospi index falling over 1% and dipping by as much as 2.3% at one point. The country's currency, the won, also hit multi-year lows. In response, the South Korean finance ministry and the central bank

promised to provide financial stability and liquidity to reassure markets.

Despite the political upheaval, life in Seoul returned to normal on Wednesday, with people going about their daily routines, although many residents expressed confusion and fear after the martial law was announced and later rescinded. Thousands of protesters gathered in the streets demanding Yoon's resignation and the reversal of the martial law order.

French Government Risks Falling In No-Confidence Vote

On Wednesday, France's government, led by Prime Minister Michel Barnier, faced a no-confidence vote that could mark the end of his brief administration, plunging the country into political turmoil. If toppled, Barnier's government would be the shortest-lived in France's Fifth Republic, lasting only three months, and President Emmanuel Macron would face the difficult task of finding a viable successor.

The National Assembly was set to debate two no-confidence motions, presented by the far-left and far-right factions, over next year's budget. Tensions escalated after Barnier pushed through a social security financing bill without a vote, which further deepened the rift with opposition parties. The far-right National Rally (RN), led by Marine Le Pen, is expected to support the motion brought forward by the left, giving it enough backing to pass.

Barnier, speaking on French television, expressed hope that his government could survive, citing a "higher interest" in overcoming political divisions. However, analysts largely predict that the government is doomed, given the unlikely alliance between the far-left and the far-right.

This crisis follows a snap election in the summer called by Macron, which failed to stop the rise of the far-right and resulted in a fractured parliament with no clear majority. Barnier's government has been held hostage by the RN, which has the power to bring it down at any time. With no new elections possible within a year of the previous legislative polls, Macron's options are limited.

Macron, currently on a state visit to Saudi Arabia, rejected calls for his resignation, dismissing them as "political fiction." He expressed confidence in his mandate, having been elected twice by the French people, and vowed to serve his full term until 2027.

Should the government fall, the uncertainty facing the French people before Christmas would only increase. Opposition figures, including Socialist party leader Olivier Faure, have urged Macron to address the nation directly. The outcome of the no-confidence vote could reshape France's political landscape as Macron's leadership is increasingly questioned.



Nepal and China Sign Nine Agreements, No Major BRI Mention



During Prime Minister K P Sharma Oli's official visit to Beijing on Tuesday, Nepal and China signed nine agreements aimed at strengthening bilateral ties. However, the absence of any significant mention of the Belt and Road Initiative (BRI) in these agreements has raised questions, suggesting that internal political conflicts within Nepal may have influenced the nature of the agreements.

The signing of these memorandums of understanding (MOUs) followed a meeting between Prime Minister Oli and Chinese Premier Li Qiang. The two leaders discussed various aspects of Nepal-China cooperation, including infrastructure, trade, and development. Despite the broad range of topics covered, there was no major reference to the Belt and Road Initiative, which is a key part of China's global strategy to expand trade and infrastructure connections across Asia and beyond.

The lack of focus on the BRI is notable, especially considering that Nepal had previously shown interest in joining the initiative, which would have included significant investments in infrastructure projects like roads, railways, and energy systems. However, internal political divisions within Nepal's ruling coalition, particularly between the two major political parties, have led to a more cautious approach towards the initiative. These divisions may have contributed to China's decision to limit the scope of the agreements, avoiding the inclusion of BRI-related projects that could provoke further political controversy in Nepal.

Zelensky Urges Strengthened Defenses as Russia Makes Gains in Eastern Ukraine



Ukrainian President Volodymyr Zelensky has called for urgent reinforcement of Ukraine's defenses along the eastern front, where Russian forces have been making steady gains in recent months. Zelensky's appeal came after Russia's Defense Ministry reported capturing two more frontline villages—one in the Donetsk region and the other in the Zaporizhzhia region.

In his nightly video address, Zelensky emphasized the critical need for increased support, particularly in the Donetsk region, where the fighting has been most intense. He stressed that Ukraine's military success depends heavily on timely and consistent weapon supplies from Western allies. "The Donetsk directions require significant reinforcement, particularly the supply of weapons from our partners," Zelensky stated. He added that strengthening Ukraine's firepower and technological capabilities is essential to countering Russia's offensive potential and safeguarding Ukrainian soldiers.

Zelensky specifically highlighted the need for enhanced long-range capabilities, advocating for increased domestic weapons production to bolster Ukraine's defense. This comes after the United States, the largest supplier of military aid to Ukraine, announced a \$725 million military assistance package on Monday. However, Ukraine remains concerned about the future of its weapon supplies, particularly with the uncertainty surrounding President-elect Donald Trump's stance on the war.

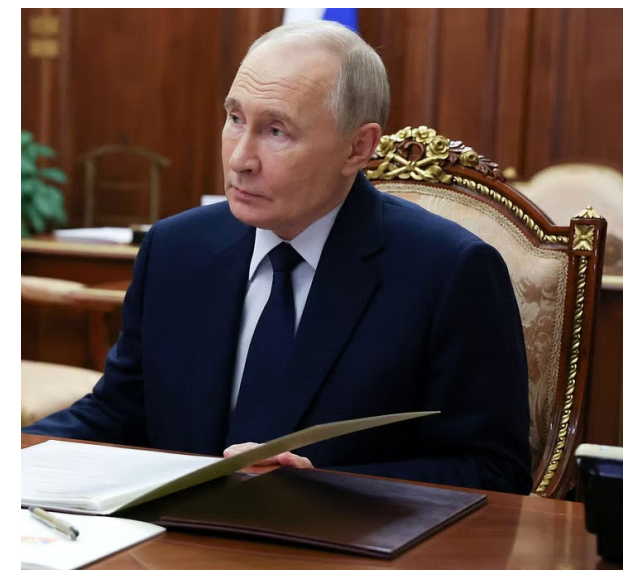
Yale Report Links Putin to Forced Adoption of Ukrainian Children

A new report from Yale University has accused Russian President Vladimir Putin and senior Kremlin officials of authorizing a program to forcibly foster and adopt Ukrainian children during the ongoing war in Ukraine. The investigation, led by Yale's Humanitarian Research Lab, provides compelling evidence that these actions were carried out under direct orders from top Russian leaders, including Putin himself.

The report, released Tuesday, strengthens the case for war crimes charges against Putin and other Russian officials. It reveals that at least 314 Ukrainian children have been placed in Russian institutions or adopted by Russian families as part of a systematic program designed to forcibly separate them from their homes and families. According to the findings, this program was not only a response to the ongoing conflict but part of a larger effort to assimilate these children into Russian society.

The Yale report exposes a disturbing level of state involvement in the practice, implicating Russian authorities at the highest levels. The researchers suggest that the adoption program goes beyond the initial understanding of Russia's war crimes and reveals a more sinister aspect of the conflict. This discovery could strengthen the case against Putin and Russia's Commissioner for Children's Rights, Maria Lvova-Belova, both of whom have been named in an arrest warrant issued by the International Criminal Court (ICC) in March 2023 for their roles in the forced deportation of Ukrainian citizens.

In response, the Kremlin has denied any involvement in war crimes, insisting that the program is part of a humanitarian effort to protect children from the dangers of war. However, Ukrainian officials, along with members of the Yale research team, are scheduled to present their findings to the UN Security Council on Wednesday. The case has drawn significant international attention, further increasing pressure on Russia and its leadership as evidence of war crimes continues to mount.



Swedish PM Postpones Visit to South Korea Amid Political Tensions

Swedish Prime Minister Ulf Kristersson has postponed his planned visit to South Korea, originally scheduled for this week, in light of recent political developments. The decision was confirmed by his spokesperson on Wednesday, following a tense situation in South Korea.

Kristersson had been set to meet with South Korean President Yoon Suk Yeol to discuss bilateral relations and key issues. However, the visit was put on hold after South Korean President Yoon declared martial law on Tuesday. The controversial decision was later overturned after the South Korean parliament rejected the martial law move,



leading to heightened political uncertainty in the country. In a statement, Kristersson's spokesperson explained the rationale behind the postponement, saying, "Given the recent developments, we have decided to postpone the visit. We have been in contact with South Korea this morning and will now work together to find a new time for the visit in the future."

The Swedish government remains committed to strengthening diplomatic ties with South Korea, but due to the ongoing political instability in Seoul, officials felt it would be prudent to reschedule the visit. The move follows growing concerns

over political stability in South Korea, where President Yoon's declaration of martial law sparked criticism and raised fears of escalating tensions within the country. Although martial law was lifted quickly, the incident has caused some unease, prompting foreign leaders like Kristersson to reconsider travel plans.

The new date for the visit is yet to be announced, and it remains to be seen how South Korean politics will evolve in the coming weeks. Both Sweden and South Korea have expressed interest in maintaining strong ties, and once the political situation stabilizes, Kristersson's visit is expected to be rescheduled.

Markets Close Flat as Investors Await RBI Policy Decision

Indian stock markets closed flat on Wednesday amid cautious trading ahead of the Reserve Bank of India's (RBI) Monetary Policy Committee meeting. While indices opened strong and posted significant early gains, they hit daily lows later in the session as investor sentiment turned mixed due to global market signals and low expectations of a repo rate cut.

Despite this, banking and finance stocks rallied on speculation that the RBI might reduce the Cash Reserve Ratio (CRR). The BSE Sensex closed at 80,956, gaining 110 points after hitting an intraday high of 81,245 and a low of 80,630. The NSE Nifty rose 10 points to settle at 24,467, having touched a high of 24,573. The Bank Nifty surged 571 points, closing at 53,266. Among the Nifty50, 20 stocks gained while 30 declined. Top gainers included HDFC Life, HDFC Bank, Bajaj Finserv, Apollo Hospitals, and NTPC, while Bharti Airtel, Cipla, Bajaj Auto, Tata Motors, and Adani Ports were the top losers. Auto, FMCG, Metal, Pharma, and Oil & Gas indices closed in the red, while banking, finance, PSU banks, and realty stocks performed well.

The rupee weakened further, settling at ₹84.73 against the dollar, as foreign institutional investors (FIIs) pulled funds amid a strengthening dollar index.

On the corporate front, KEC International shares surged 12%, while IOB recorded its best performance in six months. Adani Group began evaluating the acquisition of Star Cement for expansion in Northeast India. Meanwhile, Zomato received an "outperform" rating from CLSA with a target price of ₹370. Analysts suggest short-term opportunities in IREDA, IDBI, RBL Bank, Finocables, and Jindal Steel as markets await consolidation and clarity on RBI's policy decisions.

Recommended Stocks:



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IREDA, a government-owned financial institution, focuses on promoting renewable energy projects across India. Recently, it reported a 36% year-on-year increase in net profit for Q2 FY25, amounting to ₹387 crore.

IDBI Bank is a prominent Indian financial institution offering a range of banking and financial services. It has been undergoing strategic transformations to enhance operational efficiency and profitability.



RBL Bank is a private sector bank in India, providing services across retail and corporate banking segments. The bank is focusing on expanding its digital offerings to cater to a broader customer base.

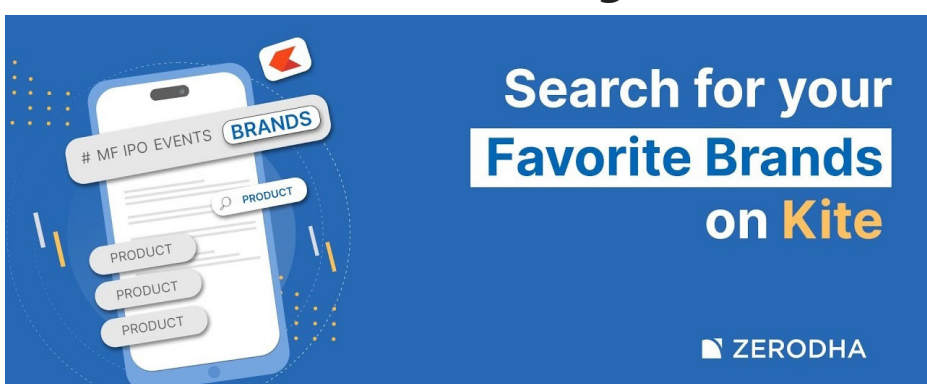


JSPL operates in the steel, mining, and infrastructure sectors both domestically and internationally. In Q2 FY25, the company reported a net profit of ₹50.65 billion, reflecting its strong position in the industry. Please note: Investing in the stock market involves risks. It's advisable to conduct thorough research or consult a financial advisor before making investment decisions.



Finocables is a leading manufacturer of electrical and telecommunication cables in India. The company continues to innovate in its product offerings to meet the evolving demands of the market.

Zerodha Launches 'Search by Brands' Feature on Kite Trading Platform



Zerodha, India's leading discount brokerage, has introduced a new 'Search by Brands' feature on its popular trading platform, Kite. This innovative addition enables users to search for stock details by simply entering brand names, making it easier for investors to find relevant information.



P. Dinesh | Analyst

The feature was announced by Zerodha's co-founder and CEO, *Nithin Kamath*, in a post on X (formerly Twitter). Currently available on the Kite web platform, Zerodha plans to extend this functionality to its mobile app soon.

"We just added the Search by Brands feature on @zerodhaonline. Currently available on Kite web and soon on mobile," Kamath wrote in his tweet. He also shared a screen-

shot showcasing how a search for the brand name 'Bullet' brought up details of *Eicher Motors*, the parent company of the iconic motorcycle brand.

This feature is expected to simplify stock searches for investors who may be more familiar with popular brand names rather than their parent companies. The enhancement is part of Zerodha's continuous efforts to improve user experience and accessibility for traders and investors on its platform.

The new tool aligns with Zerodha's goal to make trading more intuitive and user-friendly for its growing base of retail investors. By bridging the gap between brand recognition and stock market knowledge, Zerodha's 'Search by Brands' feature could set a new standard for trading platforms.

India Poised to Benefit from Shift in Global Manufacturing Away from China

India has emerged as a key destination for companies seeking to diversify their manufacturing bases away from China. With rising geopolitical tensions, supply chain disruptions, and China's growing trade challenges, businesses are looking to relocate their operations to countries that offer a more favorable business environment. India, with its large consumer market, skilled workforce, and competitive manufacturing costs, has become an increasingly attractive alternative.

As global businesses seek to minimize their dependence on China, the prospect of Donald Trump returning to the White House in 2025 could further accelerate this trend. Trump's potential re-election may lead to a more aggressive stance in the ongoing trade war with China, as he has previously taken strong measures to curb Chinese imports and reduce trade deficits. If trade tensions escalate, companies may intensify their efforts to relocate their manufacturing operations to countries outside of China, and India could stand to gain significantly.

India has already taken proactive steps to capitalize on this shift. The government's 'Make in India' initiative, designed to promote manufacturing and attract foreign investment, has already shown promising results.

OECD Raises India's Growth Forecast to 6.8% for 2024-25

The Organization for Economic Co-operation and Development (OECD) has upgraded India's economic growth forecast for 2024-25, increasing it to 6.8% from the previously predicted 6.6% in May. This upward revision is attributed to strong investments and robust agricultural performance.

The OECD's revised outlook highlights India's resilience amid global uncertainties, with the country continuing to demonstrate strong growth despite external challenges. According to the OECD, investment in both infrastructure and private sectors has been a key factor in supporting this economic expansion. Additionally, India's agricultural sector has seen solid growth, further contributing to the country's overall economic performance.

The OECD's report underscores the importance of India's ongoing reforms in improving its investment climate. Policies aimed at enhancing ease of doing business, infrastructure development, and attracting foreign direct investment (FDI) have played a significant role in sustaining growth. Furthermore, the agriculture sector, buoyed by favorable monsoons and government



support, has helped maintain food security and rural income levels.

While India's growth trajectory remains strong, the OECD also cautioned about potential risks. Global economic slowdowns, especially in key trading partners, could affect India's export sector. However, the report suggests that India's diversification of trade partners and growing domestic consumption could mitigate some of these

external risks.

The revised forecast of 6.8% places India as one of the fastest-growing major economies in the world, despite challenges such as inflationary pressures and geopolitical tensions. The OECD's optimism regarding India's growth outlook reflects confidence in the country's economic resilience and its capacity to navigate global uncertainties while driving domestic growth.

India's External Debt Rises by USD 31 Billion in 2023, Interest Payments Surge

India's external debt has seen a significant increase of USD 31 billion, reaching a total of USD 646.79 billion in 2023, according to the World Bank's International Debt Report. This rise in debt highlights the growing financial obligations of the country on the international stage.

The report reveals that India's external debt burden has been steadily climbing, driven in part by rising interest payments. In 2023, the country's interest payments on external debt surged from USD 15.08 billion in 2022 to USD 22.54 billion, marking a substantial increase. This jump in interest payments reflects both the rise in the total debt as well as potentially higher borrowing costs in the global market.

While the increase in debt and interest payments might raise concerns, it also points to India's ongoing efforts to



finance large-scale infrastructure projects and its growing economy. However, the rising cost of servicing this debt could have long-term implications for India's fiscal health, especially if global interest rates continue to remain elevated.

The World Bank report does not speci-

fy the exact causes behind this rise, but it is widely understood that developing countries like India have been borrowing more from international lenders to finance their economic development, address trade imbalances, and tackle the financial aftermath of the COVID-19 pandemic.

India's government will need to carefully manage this growing external debt to ensure that it does not become a burden that impacts the country's economic stability. Efficient debt management strategies and an increase in domestic revenue will be essential to mitigate the risks associated with rising interest payments. As the country navigates these financial challenges, it is also likely to focus on diversifying its sources of funding and seeking favorable terms for future borrowings to reduce the impact of rising global interest rates.

New Patent Suggests Action Button Could Expand to iPhone, iPad, and Mac

Apple's innovative Action Button, first introduced on the iPhone 15 Pro and iPhone 15 Pro Max, is set to make its way to more devices in the future, according to a recent patent filing. Initially exclusive to the iPhone 15 series, this button has since been expanded to all iPhone 16 models. Now, a new report from Patently Apple, based on a recently published patent application, reveals that Apple is exploring the possibility of incorporating the Action Button into future versions of the iPhone, iPad, and Mac.



The patent suggests that not only will the Action Button make its way to future Apple devices, but multiple Action Buttons could also be featured in upcoming models. In addition to the new Action Button, the patent indicates that even the volume rockers on future iPhones may serve as programmable buttons, adding a new layer of functionality. These buttons would be customizable, allowing users to assign different tasks or shortcuts to suit their preferences.

One of the key features outlined in the patent is the integration of haptic motors within these new buttons. This would provide tactile feedback when the buttons are pressed, en-

hancing the user experience with a more satisfying, responsive interaction. Haptic feedback has become a hallmark of Apple devices, and incorporating it into the Action Button and other programmable buttons could make the new features even more immersive and intuitive.

While this new button functionality is exciting, it is unlikely that we will see these changes implemented in the near future. Although the patent includes plans for expanding the Action Button to devices like the iPad and Mac, the timeline for its widespread rollout remains uncertain. Nevertheless, with Apple's consistent innovation, these potential upgrades could be part of a future generation of devices, bringing even more customization and ease of use to Apple's ecosystem.

Spotify Wrapped 2024 Is Almost Here, And The Internet Can't Wait: "Actually Terrified"

The excitement surrounding Spotify Wrapped 2024 is reaching new heights as music lovers eagerly anticipate their personalized year-in-review. The annual feature, which offers users a detailed snapshot of their listening habits, is known for highlighting top artists, tracks, genres, and total streaming minutes. While Spotify has not confirmed the exact release date, reports suggest that Wrapped 2024 will drop on December 4 (Wednesday).



The buzz around Wrapped began intensifying when Spotify France's official TikTok account teased an event titled "On predict vos Wrapped 2024" ("We predict your Wrapped 2024"). The live event is set to run from 3 a.m. to 5 a.m. on December 4 in France, which translates to 7:30 a.m. to 8 a.m. in India, 9 p.m. to 11 p.m. EST on December 3, and 6 p.m. to 8 p.m. PST. Fans across various time zones are eagerly anticipating the release, with many sharing their excitement on platforms like X (formerly Twitter) and Instagram.

One user commented, "Happy Spotify Wrapped day," while another shared their nerves with, "Actually terrified for my Spotify Wrapped, I know it's

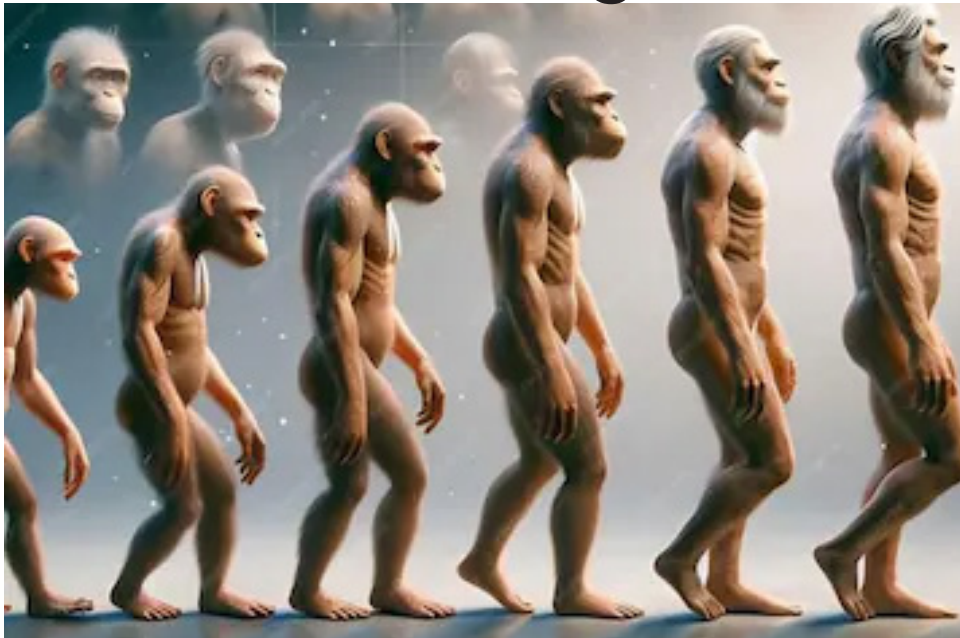
gonna be so random." Some users, however, have expressed frustration over the delay, with one posting, "If you don't drop Spotify Wrapped by the end of the week, I'm moving to Apple Music, I don't care."

Spotify Wrapped first launched in 2015 as a "Year in Music" feature, offering users insights into their most-played artists and songs. In 2016, it was rebranded as "Spotify Wrapped," quickly becoming a yearly tradition. Over the years, Spotify has enhanced the feature with engaging visuals and interactive storytelling, making

it more immersive each time. Users also enjoy sharing their Wrapped highlights on platforms like Instagram and TikTok, and playlists like "Your Top Songs 2024" provide an easy way to revisit their favorite tracks from the year.

Though Wrapped 2024 is a bit delayed compared to previous years—Wrapped 2023 was released on November 29, 2023, and earlier editions arrived in late November—the anticipation is palpable as fans eagerly await their personal music recap.

Direct Evidence Found of Early Human Species Coexisting 1.5 Million Years Ago



A groundbreaking discovery in Kenya has provided direct evidence of two ancient human species coexisting 1.5 million years ago. Published in *Science* magazine, the study analyzes ancient footprints found at the Koobi Fora site in East Turkana. Discovered in July 2021, the footprints belong to two different hominin species: *Homo erectus* and *Paranthropus boisei*. The close proximity of the prints suggests that these species walked the same lakeshore area within hours or days of each other.

"This is the first snapshot we have of these two species living on the same immediate landscape, potentially interacting with one another," says Kevin Hatala, a paleoanthropologist at Chatham University in Pittsburgh, and co-author of the study.

The mud-preserved footprints offer an extraordinary insight into the lives of early humans, revealing intricate details like foot arch heights, toe shapes, and walking patterns. These findings give scientists an unprecedented view into the physical traits and behaviors of these species.

Tracy Kivell, a paleoanthropologist at the Max Planck Institute, described

the discovery as "a snapshot in time" that helps researchers piece together human evolution. Although prior studies suggested that different hominin species lived alongside each other, this is the first direct evidence of their coexistence.

"These fossilized footprints are as close as we are going to get to having a time machine to take us back to an eastern African lakeshore 1.5 million years ago," said Bernard Wood, a paleoanthropologist at George Washington University.

The study employed 3D X-ray imaging to analyze the footprints, revealing significant differences in foot structure compared to modern humans. The site also contained footprints from 30 relatives of cattle, three horse-like animals, and 61 bird species, including the extinct giant stork, *Leptoptilos falconeri*, providing further context about the environment during that period.

Researchers hope that combining data from these footprints and other fossils will provide a more detailed understanding of early human life and the ecosystems they inhabited.

Denmark Introduces World's First Belch and Manure Tax to Combat Climate Pollution

Denmark, renowned for its creative restaurants and cutting-edge design studios, is about to make headlines for something far more basic: the world's first tax on belches and manure. This groundbreaking move comes in response to the country's agricultural sector, which is responsible for a significant share of Denmark's climate pollution.

With a population of just over 5 million people, Denmark has more pigs and cows than people—nearly five times as many. Two-thirds of the country's land is dedicated to farming, making agriculture the largest contributor to the nation's climate emissions. These emissions primarily come from methane, a potent greenhouse gas produced by the animals through their manure, farts, and burps.

In response, Denmark's coalition government, consisting of three parties from across the political spectrum, has agreed to introduce a tax aimed at curbing methane emissions from livestock. This tax will target the planet-heating gases expelled by animals and is part of a larger strategy to tackle agricultural pollution.

Rasmus Angelsnes, 31, a Copenhagen resident, expressed support for the measure, saying, "I think it's good. It's kind of a nudge to make different choices, maybe more climate-friendly choices." The tax is expected to encourage more sustainable farming practices and consumption choices, nudging both farmers and consumers towards



greener alternatives.

This new tax is part of a broader environmental package designed to address Denmark's agricultural pollution. The government also plans to restore some farmland to its natural state, particularly peatlands, which are highly effective at sequestering carbon dioxide and other greenhouse gases from the atmosphere.

While the belch and manure tax may seem unusual, it highlights Denmark's commitment to reducing its environmental footprint and tackling one of the lesser-discussed sources of climate change. As the world's first such tax, it is likely to inspire other nations to consider similar measures in the fight against climate change.

WhatsApp to Stop Supporting Older iPhones Starting May 2025

WhatsApp users with older iPhone models may soon be unable to access the app, as the messaging service is updating its policy to require a more recent version of iOS. This change will impact several older devices, which will no longer be compatible with WhatsApp starting in May 2025.



As reported by WABetaInfo, iPhone models such as the iPhone 5s, iPhone 6, and iPhone 6 Plus will be affected by the update. These models, which are limited to iOS 12.5.7, the last software version they received, will no longer support WhatsApp's latest features and updates.

WhatsApp frequently updates its app to improve security and add new features, and this policy change is in line with its ongoing efforts to ensure us-

ers benefit from the latest updates. As newer versions of iOS are released, older devices become increasingly unable to support the app's advanced functionalities. With iOS 12.5.7 being the final update for these older iPhones, users of these devices will need to upgrade to a newer iPhone model to continue using WhatsApp.

This move follows similar decisions

made by other app developers, who have phased out support for older operating systems in favor of more recent versions. While this may affect a portion of WhatsApp's user base, it is also a step toward ensuring that the app remains secure and reliable for all users, especially as new technologies and security measures emerge.

For iPhone users with affected models, upgrading to a newer device will be necessary to keep using WhatsApp beyond May 2025. Users are encouraged to check their iPhone's compatibility with future software updates to avoid interruptions in service. This shift marks another chapter in the evolving landscape of smartphone technology, where app compatibility is increasingly tied to the latest operating systems.

Heinrich Klaasen to Lead South Africa in T20I Series Against Pakistan



Heinrich Klaasen has been named captain of South Africa's T20I team for the upcoming three-match series against Pakistan, starting on December 10. Klaasen steps in for regular captain Aiden Markram, who is occupied with the two-match Test series against Sri Lanka. Markram, who will feature in the second Test from December 5, has been rested from the T20Is due to the tight schedule, which includes the third Test and the T20I series.

Along with Markram, several key players will also miss the T20I series due to their involvement in the ongoing Test series. Marco Jansen, Keshav Maharaj, Kagiso Rabada, and Tristan Stubbs are all unavailable for selection. Despite these absences, South Africa's T20I squad still has a wealth of talent and experience.

Anrich Nortje and Tabraiz Shamsi return to the T20I setup for the first time since the ICC Men's T20 World Cup 2024. Their return bolsters the bowling unit, adding depth to both the pace and spin departments. Another exciting addition to the squad is all-rounder George Linde, who makes a return after a three-year absence. Linde, who

was in outstanding form during the CSA T20 Challenge, scoring 171 runs at a strike rate of 178.12 and taking nine wickets at an average of 18.33, will bring balance to the team as a spinning all-rounder.

Rob Walter, South Africa's white-ball head coach, expressed confidence in the squad, saying, "All 15 players are capped, and we are looking to build on the experience within the group as we continue to grow as a unit." He further praised Klaasen's leadership and Linde's return, highlighting the importance of experience and balance in the team.

The three-match T20I series against Pakistan will kick off on December 10 in Durban, followed by the second match on December 13 in Centurion, and the final T20I on December 14 in Johannesburg.

****Squad:**** Heinrich Klaasen (captain), Ottneil Baartman, Matthew Breetzke, Donovan Ferreira, Reeza Hendricks, Patrick Kruger, George Linde, Kwena Maphaka, David Miller, Anrich Nortje, Nqaba Peter, Ryan Rickelton, Tabraiz Shamsi, Andile Simelane, and Rassie van der Dussen.

England Announce Unchanged XI for 2nd Test Against New Zealand

England has confirmed an unchanged playing eleven for the second Test against New Zealand, which is scheduled to begin on December 6 at Basin Reserve in Wellington. The decision comes after England's dominant eight-wicket victory in the first Test at Hagley Oval in Christchurch, giving them a 1-0 lead in the three-match series.



Vice-captain Ollie Pope will continue in his role as the stand-in wicketkeeper for the second Test, with left-handed batter Jacob Bethell retaining his position at number three in the batting order. Pope impressed in the first Test, not only with his solid wicketkeeping performance but also with a crucial knock of 77 after moving down to number six in the batting order.

Bethell also played a key role in England's victory, scoring an unbeaten fifty off just 37 balls to complete the team's chase of 104 runs in 12.4 overs. Despite uncapped wicketkeeper-batter Ollie Robinson joining the squad after Jordan Cox was ruled out due to a broken finger, England have opted to keep the same winning combination for

the second Test. **S e a m - b o w l i n g** all-rounder Chris Woakes praised Pope's performance, saying, "They always say when you don't notice a keeper he's done a good job, and Ollie certainly did that. He stepped up at short notice and did the job fantastically, and to score runs just shows his character."

Captain Ben Stokes will also be available for the Wellington Test despite a back injury that limited his role in the Christchurch game. As an all-rounder, Stokes is set to play an important role for England in the upcoming match.

A victory in Wellington would give England their first away series win in two years, further cementing their strong form under Stokes' leadership.

England's playing XI: Zak Crawley, Ben Duckett, Jacob Bethell, Joe Root, Harry Brook, Ollie Pope (WK), Ben Stokes (C), Chris Woakes, Gus Atkinson, Brydon Carse, Shoaib Bashir.

Djokovic to compete in Brisbane International for first time since 2009

The 2025 Brisbane International has unveiled a stellar lineup of 61 professional tennis players, headlined by 24-time Grand Slam champion Novak Djokovic, ahead of its December 29 kickoff at Pat Rafter Arena. Djokovic, who has won 99 career titles and is aiming for his 100th, will compete in Brisbane for the first time since the tournament's inaugural year in 2009.



"I'm excited to be kicking off my Australian swing at the Brisbane International and to compete again at Pat Rafter Arena. I am looking forward to experiencing the incredible support from the Australian fans and making this tournament one to remember," said Djokovic, who has dominated the Australian Open with 10 titles.

Djokovic will headline the ATP 250 event, which also features defending champion Grigor Dimitrov (No. 10), Holger Rune (No. 13), and Frances Tiafoe (No. 18). The Australian contingent will be strongly represented by Nick Kyrgios (PR 21), Alexei Popyrin (No. 24), and Jordan Thompson (No. 26), alongside ris-

ing stars such as Sebastian Korda (No. 22), Matteo Berrettini (No. 34), and Gaël Monfils (No. 55).

The WTA 500 event will showcase an equally impressive lineup, with world No. 1 Aryna Sabalenka leading the women's field. Joining Sabalenka are three other top-10 players: Jessica Pegula (No. 7), Emma Navarro (No. 8), and Daria Kasatkina (No. 9). Former Brisbane champion and two-time Australian Open winner Victoria Azarenka (No. 20) will also make her return, adding further prestige to

the event.

With 15 of the top 20 male and female players confirmed, this year's tournament promises to be one of the most exciting in its history. Brisbane International Tournament Director Cam Pearson expressed his enthusiasm for the star-studded lineup, noting that the presence of highly ranked Australians will inspire the next generation of tennis fans. Fans can look forward to an unforgettable event filled with world-class tennis right here in Brisbane.

277 Runs, 1 Century: Virat Kohli's Record In Pink-Ball Tests For India



As India prepares for the second Test of the ongoing series against Australia in Adelaide, which will be a day-night affair with a pink ball, Virat Kohli's remarkable record in pink-ball Tests remains a key highlight. India has played four pink-ball Tests so far, and Kohli has been a part of each of them, establishing himself as the team's leading run-scorer in this format.

India's first-ever pink-ball Test came against Bangladesh in 2019, and since then, the team has had a mixed but mostly successful record in these day-night matches. Of the four pink-ball Tests India has played, they've won three, includ-

ing a memorable victory against Australia in Perth in 2021. In that game, Kohli played a crucial role with an unbeaten century in the second innings, helping India secure a commanding 295-run win.

Kohli's consistency in pink-ball Tests has been impressive, and he remains the only Indian cricketer to score a century in these matches. His contributions have been vital for India's success, with his steady presence at the crease making him a key player for the team in these unique conditions. As India heads into the day-night Test against Australia at the Adelaide Oval, all eyes will be on Kohli, hoping for another solid performance

under the lights.

India's last pink-ball Test came in March 2022 against Sri Lanka, where they secured a dominant win. Since then, the Indian team has not played any more day-night Tests, making the upcoming match against Australia all the more significant.

As Virat Kohli continues to build on his legacy, his performances in pink-ball Tests add another impressive chapter to his career. With India looking to extend their strong record in day-night Tests, Kohli's form will be crucial in the upcoming encounter against the Aussies.

India Dominates UAE by 10 Wickets to Secure Semi-Final Spot

India made a dominant statement in their final group game in Sharjah, securing a commanding 10-wicket victory over UAE to qualify for the semi-finals. Chasing a modest target of 137, India's openers Vaibhav Suryavanshi and Ayush Mhatre put on a clinical performance, chasing down the total in just 16.1 overs. Suryavanshi remained unbeaten on 76, while Mhatre supported him with a solid 67*, as they added an unbroken 143-run partnership to see India across the line.

Earlier in the match, UAE, opting to bat first, struggled against India's disciplined bowling attack. They were bowled out for

137 in just 44 overs, with six overs remaining. Muhammad Rayan was the top scorer for the UAE, contributing 35 runs, while Akshat Rai provided valuable support with a knock of 26. India's bowlers were in excellent form, with Yudajit Guha leading the charge, taking three wickets. Chetan Sharma and Hardik Raj also played key roles, claiming two wickets each to stifle UAE's batting lineup.

The match was crucial for both teams, as a win was needed to secure a spot in the semi-finals, and India's comprehensive victory ensured their progression. With the bat, the Indian openers made light

work of the chase, exhibiting excellent form and putting the result beyond doubt in no time. This commanding performance serves as a statement ahead of the semi-final, showcasing India's all-round strength.

As India now looks forward to the semi-final, the team's focus will be on continuing this dominant form and ensuring a strong finish to the tournament. The semi-final match promises to be a thrilling contest, with India brimming with confidence after this resounding win.





Megastar Chiranjeevi to Collaborate with Director Srikanth Odela for Upcoming Film

In an exciting turn of events, the long-standing rumors have now been confirmed, sending waves of excitement through the film industry and fans alike. It is officially announced that the highly anticipated collaboration between Megastar Chiranjeevi and director Srikanth Odela, the man behind the blockbuster hit **Dasara**, is now a reality.

This marks a significant milestone in Indian cinema as two big names from different realms of the industry come together for what promises to be a monumental film. Srikanth Odela, who made an impactful debut with **Dasara** and earned widespread recognition for his storytelling, will helm this project with Chiranjeevi playing the lead role. The director's success with **Dasara** has already set high expectations for this upcoming film, and fans are eager to see what magic he will create with the Megastar.

What makes this combination even more special is that **Natural Star** Nani, known for his impeccable acting skills and keen production sense, is stepping into the producer's role for the first time under his production house, Unanimous Productions. He will be producing the film alongside Sudhakar Cherukuri, who is a well-established producer in the industry and will bring his experience to the project under the banner of SLV Cinemas. With two well-respected producers backing the film, the project is already generating massive buzz and anticipation.



While further details about the film's storyline, cast, and other key members are yet to be revealed, the union of Chiranjeevi, Srikanth Odela, Nani, and Sudhakar Cherukuri has already created a storm of excitement. Movie lovers are now eagerly waiting to see this dynamic team in action and what promises to be one of the most awaited releases in the near future.



Rashmika Mandanna Brings Joy and Goofiness Ahead of **Pushpa 2** Release

As **Pushpa 2: The Rule** gears up for its much-awaited release tomorrow, the excitement around the movie is palpable, and the entire team is buzzing with anticipation. Among the cast, Rashmika Mandanna, who plays the beloved character Srivalli, is spreading cheer in her unique, playful way.

Rashmika, known for her bubbly personality, recently took to social media to share her excitement with fans. In a fun and light-hearted post, she posted a series of happy, goofy photos of herself, offering her followers a break from the usual glamorous content that floods social media. Rashmika can be seen posing joyfully in a custom-made saree emblazoned with the words "Pushpa Srivalli," further reinforcing her connection to the iconic character. She donned a beautiful blue saree, radiating positivity and excitement, perfectly matching the mood of the moment.

In her caption, Rashmika expressed her bubbling joy as she wrote, "I am so happyeee PUSHPA 2 is coming out in 2 days And hence only my happyeee poses on camera today. Giving a lil break to your timelines of all the glamorous and informative content with a lil goofy content of mine! Pushpa and Srivalli coming to you in just 2 days guyssss."

Rashmika's infectious energy is sure to make her fans even more eager for the release of **Pushpa 2**, a sequel to the highly successful **Pushpa: The Rise**. Her goofy, unfiltered poses are a refreshing change from the usual glamorous posts and showcase her down-to-earth personality.

As the film's release draws closer, fans are eagerly anticipating the return of Pushpa and Srivalli to the big screen. With Rashmika's playful spirit, it's clear that the excitement surrounding **Pushpa 2** will only continue to grow in the days ahead.

Raid 2 Release Date Postponed Set to Clash with Rajinikanth's Coolie

The much-awaited sequel to the blockbuster **Raid**, titled **Raid 2**, is making waves in the film industry, and fans are eagerly awaiting its release. The original **Raid**, starring Ajay Devgn and Ileana D'Cruz in the lead roles, was a massive success at the box office. Directed by Raj Kumar Gupta, the film was based on real-life incidents and garnered praise for its compelling story and intense performances. The film was later remade in Telugu as **Mr. Bachchan**, adding to its widespread popularity.



plays a crucial role, adding excitement to the storyline.

The film was initially scheduled to release on November 15, 2024, but due to a significant reshuffling in Bollywood releases, the film's release was postponed to February 21, 2025. However, in a new update, **Raid 2** is now confirmed to release on May 1, 2025. This move is expected to make the film a major contender at the box office, but it will also face stiff competition. **Raid 2** is set to clash with **Coolie**, starring

ring Rajinikanth and directed by Lokesh Kanagaraj, which is also slated for release on the same day.

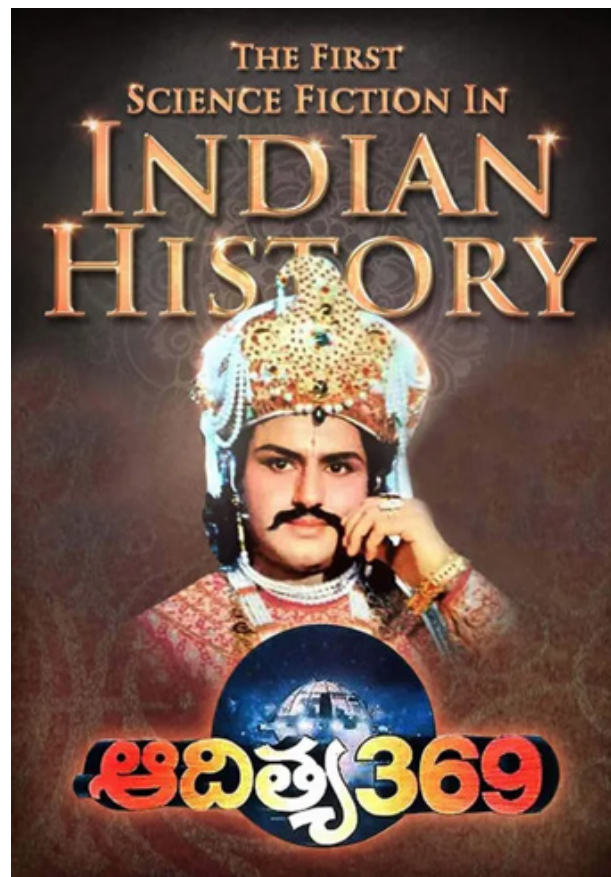
Now, after much anticipation, **Raid 2** is set to hit theaters, reuniting the original team for another high-stakes, gripping story. The sequel is once again directed by Raj Kumar Gupta, who will bring his signature style to continue the thrilling narrative. Ajay Devgn will reprise his role, and this time, **Raid 2** introduces new faces to the cast. Ritesh Deshmukh will portray the antagonist, while Vaani Kapoor

Produced by T-Series, **Raid 2** promises to deliver the same level of excitement and action that made the first film a hit. With the combination of a gripping story, powerful performances, and high-octane drama, **Raid 2** is bound to be one of the most talked-about films of 2025.

Balakrishna Confirms Sequel to Aditya 369: Aditya 999 with Son Mokshagnya

Nandamuri Balakrishna is gearing up for an exciting year with the upcoming grand release of **Daaku Maharaaj** during Sankranti 2025, directed by Bobby Kolli. As fans eagerly await the film, Balakrishna continues to captivate audiences as the host of **Unstoppable with NBK** Season 4, which remains a huge hit.

Among his many iconic films, the sci-fi classic **Aditya 369** (1991) holds a special place in the hearts of fans. For years, rumors about a potential sequel have circulated, and now Balakrishna has officially confirmed that the much-awaited sequel, **Aditya 999**, is in the works. The announcement has set the stage for a new chapter in this beloved franchise.



Mokshagnya, in the lead role, adding an extra layer of excitement for fans of the family legacy. In addition to this exciting news, Balakrishna will also reprise his iconic role from **Aditya 369** in the episode, making it a must-watch for fans.

Set to stream exclusively on Aha on December 6, 2024, the episode promises to offer a sneak peek into the making of **Aditya 999**, with Balakrishna's return to his iconic character generating immense anticipation. Fans of both Balakrishna and **Aditya 369** are thrilled to see the continuation of this cult classic, with the legacy of the original film now passed on to the next generation with Mokshagnya at the helm.

The exciting reveal came during the promo for Episode 6 of **Unstoppable with NBK**, where Balakrishna confirmed that **Aditya 999** is progressing. The sequel will feature Balakrishna's son, Nandamuri

Stay tuned for more updates as the **Aditya 999** journey unfolds, and get ready for a thrilling new chapter in Indian cinema's sci-fi history.

Netflix to Celebrate Roshan Family Legacy with New Documentary Series

Honoring the legacies of iconic cinematic families has become a growing trend, with recent projects shedding light on the contributions of Bollywood legends. Following Netflix's **The Romantics**, which explored the life and work of Yash Chopra, and Amazon Prime Video's **Angry Young Men**, which highlighted the impact of Salim-Javed, the spotlight now shifts to the celebrated Roshan family.

Netflix has officially announced **The Roshans**, a documentary series dedicated to the remarkable legacy of the Roshan family, featuring the lives and work of Roshan Lal Nagrath, Rakesh Roshan, Rajesh Roshan, and Hrithik Roshan. This series will explore the family's contributions to Indian cinema, spanning several decades and showcasing their creative journey, artistic vision, and innovation.

Directed by Shashi Ranjan, who also serves as the co-producer, **The Roshans** will take viewers through a fascinating narrative of the family's impact on the film industry. Produced in collaboration with Rakesh Roshan, the series promises to offer an intimate look into their personal and professional lives, shedding light on their enduring influence in shaping the Indian entertainment landscape.

While the official premiere date is still under wraps, it is expected that **The Roshans** will be released on January 10, 2025. Fans of the family and cinema en-



thusiasts alike are eagerly awaiting the documentary, which will undoubtedly provide fresh insights into the pioneering work of this influential family.

As anticipation builds for the series, audiences can look forward to discovering how the Roshans, spanning generations, have continuously redefined Bollywood, leaving an indelible mark on its history. Stay tuned for further updates on this exciting project.