



POINT

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Weather Forecast

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

ALMOST ALL THE MLAS ARE GETTING SHARES

FROM SAND, LIQUOR, GRAVEL & RATION MAFIA, WHATEVER AVAILABLE

TPN CORRESPONDENT
ANDHRA PRADESH, DEC-9

State of Andhra Pradesh is witnessing a variety situation, where the Government is getting good marks with inviting number of companies with huge investments and in the ground level almost all the MLAs are getting money on sand, liquor and gravel, whichever is available in their constituency. Only a few are exceptional for this. The only difference between Alliance Government and YSRC Government is that here MLAs are not troubling any Business Person or any Industrialist or Any person. They are just looting the nature products like sand, gravel. They are getting shares from even illegal smuggling of PDS Rice allegedly.

Without the knowledge of MLA of any constituency, nobody can smug-

gle sand, gravel or PDS rice. And it is true that almost all the MLAs are taking monthly shares from the liquor business or else they will do the liquor business on their own, that's it. The situation in the state is creating a little bit confuse among the people. A farmer said that "They have spent lots of money to become MLA and now they are recovering double, even they have to face elections next time also. Becoming MLA is to get richer not to serve us." Here the above farmer is not bothering about the looting of MLAs. But a private employee said that "It's all our money. Government money means public money. If the Government earns directly from sand, liquor and gravel, then that amount will be spent for us only. If Government loses it, to balance they will tax us only. So, MLAs are damaging people's lives also".



A political supporter of TDP said that "YCP MLAs have grab the lands of middle class. They have grabbed industries, mines also forcibly. Here our MLAs are not doing like that. Few were allowing illegal transport of PDS rice, sand, gravel and getting shares from liquor. After all, to run politics, they need money naa?". The surprise is that the Chief Minister N.Chandrababu Naidu is giving warnings to MLAs repeatedly, but there is no change in the situation. Now the doubts are coming that, whether CM's warning is for only namesake or a real one. As per the

sources, the ruling parties have permitted their MLAs to do like this for up to three years and then onwards they have to stop this to win again. Even the leaders decided to stop, do they really stop after three years? Never. Allegedly No.2 of the Government Mr. Lokesh Nara is allowing MLAs to do like this and for the namesake Mr. Chandrababu Naidu giving statements.

Deputy CM Mr. Pawan Kalyan is trying to differentiate himself from these activities. Though he knows what is going on in the state and he knows that even MLAs of Janase-

na are also part of it, he is struggle to deal it within the Government and within the party as well. The outburst on law & order and the aggressive show at Kakinada Port have shown his motive of distancing himself from the corruption going on by the ruling parties, whereas BJP MLAs are also become part of it allegedly. Out of all the MLAs only a ten percent of them are only maintaining distance from these illegal activities. But, most of the public are seeing it as Government affair and they will be realized afterwards that all those resources are of public only.

Raghav Reddy: Will Appear for Investigation Only if Notices Are Given



TPN CORRESPONDENT
PULIVENDULA, DEC-9

The Andhra Pradesh High Court has granted a temporary reprieve to MP Avinash Reddy's personal assistant, PA Raghav Reddy, by issuing orders to prevent his arrest until December 12. In response, Raghav Reddy appeared in Pulivendula after a month's absence. The Pulivendula police had previously visited Raghav Reddy's residence, requesting his presence for questioning in connection with a social media case involving YSRC. Raghav Reddy had stated that he would comply if provided with an official notice, prompting the police to turn back without further action.

Raghav Reddy is implicated in the Varra Ravinder Reddy case, which involves alleged misconduct related to YSRC's social media activities. As per the legal developments, the AP High Court's directive has allowed Raghav Reddy to avoid arrest until the court's set deadline.

In a separate but related case, the Kadapa District SC and ST Court dismissed an anticipatory bail petition filed by Raghav Reddy in relation to the circulation of obscene posts on social media under the YSRC banner. The case, initiated by a complaint from a resident

of Simhadripuram in Pulivendula, involves several key figures, including YSRC Social Media District Co-Convenor Varra Ravindra Reddy, Sajjala Bhargav Reddy, and others. Varra Ravindra Reddy has already been arrested and is currently in Kadapa Central Jail. The police investigation into this case has led to an arrest warrant for Raghav Reddy, who remains a fugitive. The Pulivendula police had even posted notices at his house in Ambaka Palli, Lingala Mandal, with authorization to search the property. A hunt for Raghav Reddy has been launched, and the police have issued similar notices for YSRC Social Media District Convener, Vivekananda Reddy.

In addition to this case, Raghav Reddy, along with Kadapa MP Avinash Reddy, faces serious allegations linked to the murder of former Minister YS Vivekananda Reddy. Varra Ravindra Reddy, the main accused in the social media case, recently revealed during police questioning that the posts targeting YS Sharmila, YS Vijayamma, and YS Sunitha were directly orchestrated by Avinash Reddy's PA, Raghav Reddy. The revelation adds further complications to Avinash Reddy's legal challenges, as the police investigation continues to unfold.

PAWAN WARNED 3 JSP MLAs



TPN COORESPONDENT
KADAPA, DEC-9

Deputy CM Mr. Pawan Kalyan has called three Janasena MLAs to Kadapa, while he was in Kadapa tour. Mr. Sundarapu Vijayakumar of Yalaman-chili, Pantham Nanaji of Kakinada Rural and Mr. Aarani Srinivasulu of Tirupati have been called up and had a meeting with Mr. Pawan Kalyan. As these three MLAs are getting severe allegations regarding corruption, Mr. Pawan Kalyan has warned them seriously as per the sources. As almost all the MLAs are doing corruption in the state, these three of JSP have also joined with them. The main common problem with these three is that they are doing works, sanctioning contracts, releasing bills only on the base of payment irrespective of political affiliation. Because of that YSRC

affiliated people are paying money and getting benefits directly. This situation has irked JSP, TDP cadre and leaders. As per their complaint only Mr. Pawan Kalyan has taken this initiative, as per the sources.

Mr.Sundarapu Vijaya Kumar is involving in all the activities of the constituency including private ones allegedly. He is demanding in every work or any activity allegedly. If anybody didn't care, MLA is showing his muscle power allegedly.

Allegations on Mr. Pantham Nanaji are that he is taking amounts from any person for any kind of work including the syndicate of Mr. Dwarampudi Chandrasekhar Reddy. That is why Mr. Pawan Kalyan has avoided him in his recent tour of Kakinada. Moreover, the son of Nanaji has also been involving in all the activities of collecting amounts al-

legedly. There is a buzz that he has received a benz car as a gift from a real estate person.

In Tirupati, Mr. Aarani Srinivasulu has opened counter for collecting commission for any work, and 20% advance was fixed allegedly. In the municipal corporation, all the works, bills are going to YSRC persons due to this model of business doing by MLA. That is why local JSP leaders have complained to Mr. Pawan Kalyan. Even two sons of MLA are also involving in all the activities and taking care of liquor syndicate allegedly. The warning of Pawan Kalyan is means to all other JSP MLAs, as per the party sources. Mr. Pawan Kalyan is trying to combat with the corruption doing by TDP MLAs. So he is trying to control his own party MLAs so that he can accelerate his fight on the corruption going on in the state.



Govt to Replace DSPs Involved in Ration Rice Smuggling Case

TPN CORRESPONDENT
Andhra Pradesh, DEC-9

The Andhra Pradesh government has decided to replace DSPs involved in the investigation of ration rice smuggling cases, particularly those who are believed to be aligned with the YSRCP. The government has raised concerns about the appointment of DSPs with possible bias, and complaints have been submitted to the state government, with some MLAs directly reporting to Chief Minister Chandrababu Naidu. These MLAs argue that the current DSPs' connections to the YSRCP may hinder the investigation and prevent the truth from emerging in the smuggling case. The TDP government swiftly replaced these DSPs as soon as it came to power, appointing individuals more aligned with the party's interests. Further developments include the appointment of three new DSPs, previously in VR, to address this issue. Articles in ABN Andhra Jyothi highlighted the controversy, prompting the government's decision to take action. Minister Nadendla Manohar emphasized the government's



seriousness regarding the illegal movement of PDS rice, particularly through ports. He announced that Chief Minister Chandrababu Naidu had ordered a CBCID inquiry to conduct a thorough investigation into the smuggling activities. So far, 1,066 cases have been registered under the coalition government, resulting in the seizure of 62,000 metric tons

of rice valued at Rs 240 crore in the open market. However, Minister Manohar expressed concerns that this is only a small fraction of the scale of the smuggling operations, pointing out that 1.31 crore metric tons of rice have been exported from Kakinada port over the past three years. Minister Manohar also called on rice millers across the state

to cooperate with the government in eradicating smuggling and maintaining transparency. He warned that any involvement in illegal activities or actions that oppose government programs would lead to strict legal action. The government aims to create an environment where business practices are fair, and rice millers adhere to government directives.

Full Support for a Tuberculosis-Free Country

TPN CORRESPONDENT
AMARAVATI, DEC-9

State Health Minister Satyakumar reiterated Andhra Pradesh's commitment to fully cooperate with the central government in the mission to make India a tuberculosis-free country.

The Union Government launched the "Ni-Kshay Shivir: 100 Days Intensive Campaign" under the National TB Elimination Program in 347 districts across the country on Saturday. Vizianagaram district in Andhra Pradesh has been selected for this initiative.



Minister Satyakumar, speaking during a video conference with Union Health Minister Nadda, emphasized that the state would contribute wholeheartedly to the success of this campaign. He urged officials to implement long-term measures to make the state TB-free. Highlighting the severity of the issue, Satyakumar revealed that there are 76,590 TB patients in Andhra Pradesh. The Health Department plans to organize numerous medical camps and widespread awareness campaigns in Vizianagaram district as part of this ongoing effort to tackle tuberculosis.

Finance Department Raises Concerns Over Free Schemes

The Finance Department has raised concerns regarding the increasing trend of free schemes in many states, warning that this could significantly impact the economic health of these regions. The department expressed its worries over the growing reliance on free schemes, particularly as a political strategy to win elections, and cautioned that these initiatives may harm state economies in the long run.

It has become common practice for political parties to announce free schemes to attract voters, particularly from poor and middle-class segments. While such promises often lead to electoral victories, the Finance Ministry warns that they are unsustainable and could create severe financial strain on the states' budgets. The Ministry also suggested that the Central Government may intervene if necessary.

Case Studies: Maharashtra and Delhi

The recent Maharashtra assembly elections serve as a key example. Ahead of the elections, the BJP and its allies introduced a scheme offering monthly financial assistance of Rs. 1,500 to 2.5 crore women. The scheme was designed to win support from rural and economically disadvantaged groups and was credited with helping the BJP alliance secure a decisive victory. Similarly, the Delhi government has proposed the 'Mukti Mahila Samman Yojana' (MMMSY), which would offer Rs. 1,000 per month to women above the age of 18.

The Delhi Finance Department has raised alarms about the financial impact of MMMSY, which is expected to cost Rs. 4,560 crore annually. This, coupled with existing subsidies totaling Rs. 11,000 crore, could severely strain the state's budget. There are concerns that this initiative could lead to a significant increase in Delhi's budget deficit by the 2025-26 financial year. Moreover, if implemented, the Central Government might need to step in, limiting Delhi's financial autonomy and restricting its ability to borrow from the market like other states.

Long-Term Financial Risks

The Finance Department warns that such schemes, while beneficial in the short term for political gains, could undermine the long-term fiscal health of states. In addition, experts note that similar free schemes in the Telugu states could place a heavy financial burden on these regions and hamper their economic growth. The National Small Savings Fund might be tapped into, and additional funding may be required for other essential services like water supply, further complicating the financial outlook.

National Energy Conservation Week

States Urged to Step Up for a Sustainable Future

TPN CORRESPONDENT
ANDHRA PRADESH, DEC-9

The Bureau of Energy Efficiency (BEE), under the Ministry of Power, has called for active participation in National Energy Conservation Week, slated for December 14-20, 2024. This initiative is a critical step in India's efforts to address environmental degradation and climate change, focusing on promoting energy efficiency and conservation as cornerstones of sustainable development.

BEE Secretary Shri Milind Deore emphasized the urgency of addressing climate change, describing it as a pressing challenge impacting ecosystems, economies, and livelihoods. He highlighted the importance of collective action involving governments, industries, and individuals to mitigate greenhouse gas (GHG) emissions, deforestation, and pollution. He urged states to devise localized strategies tailored to their unique conditions, ensuring the effective execution of energy-saving measures across sectors like agriculture, industry, IT, transport, and urban development.



Milind Deore.
Bureau of Energy Efficiency
(BEE) Secretary
Ministry of Power (MOP), Govt.
of India.

Commending the proactive roles of Andhra Pradesh and Telangana, Deore praised their initiatives in promoting energy conservation. Andhra Pradesh's Special Chief Secretary of Energy, in collaboration with the School Education Department, has engaged students in a state-wide short video competition titled Bright Ideas and Brighter Future, targeting students from classes 8 to 10. Meanwhile, Telangana has mobilized women

and students for energy conservation campaigns, showcasing the impact of community-driven initiatives.

The success of India's Standards & Labeling (S&L) Program, which encompasses 38 energy-efficient appliances, was also highlighted. As of January 2024, the program has achieved savings of 81.64 billion units of energy, translating into ₹54,324 crores in cost savings and the prevention of 58 million tonnes of CO₂ emissions in FY 2022-23. Andhra Pradesh and Telangana, through their respective agencies, AP SECM and TS REDCO, have contributed significantly by popularizing energy-efficient star-rated appliances.

Looking ahead, BEE has set an ambitious national target of 150 million tonnes of oil equivalent (Mtoe) in energy savings by 2030. Andhra Pradesh alone has been assigned a target of 6.68 Mtoe, reflecting its potential for impactful contributions. These targets were determined through detailed analyses of energy consumption and sectoral savings. Shri Deore called on states to prepare time-bound roadmaps prioritizing clean en-

ergy, afforestation, water management, and energy efficiency to meet these goals.

To ensure public engagement, BEE is rolling out impactful communication campaigns across print, electronic, and social media, particularly targeting youth and women. These campaigns aim to inspire sustainable practices and promote the adoption of BEE star-rated appliances. Deore underscored the broader significance of energy efficiency, stating, "Energy conservation is not just about saving electricity; it is about securing a sustainable future for generations to come." He emphasized the need to limit global temperature rise within the 1.5°C target set by the Paris Agreement, given that the energy sector accounts for nearly three-quarters of global GHG emissions.

As National Energy Conservation Week approaches, BEE urges all stakeholders, including governments, industries, and individuals, to unite in making this initiative a success. Collective efforts can propel India toward a sustainable, energy-efficient future, contributing meaningfully to global climate action.

Jana Sena Party Office Inaugurated in Vijayawada's 48th Division

TPN, CORRESPONDENT
Vijayawada, DEC-9

The Jana Sena Party (JSP) expanded its presence in Vijayawada with the inauguration of a new party office in the 48th Division. The event was marked by the presence of several prominent leaders, including NTR District President Samineni Udayabhanu and Telugu Desam Party's official spokesperson Nagul Meera.

The inauguration ceremony took place under the leadership of Vijayawada West Constituency Local Corporator Athuluri Pedababu, along with the support of 48th Division Corporator Attaluri Adilakshmi. The new party office aims to strengthen Jana Sena Party's foothold in the region, fostering political engagement and community involvement.

During the event, the 2025 New Year calendar was unveiled, which is part of the party's efforts to connect with the public. Several key leaders from various divisions also joined the Jana Sena Party, including Durga Rao from the 48th Division, Chalamala Shetty, Jagadish, Srinu, and others.



The ceremony also saw participation from several local leaders such as Mahadev Appaji (53rd Division Corporator), Marupilla Rajesh (51st Division Corporator), and numerous activists and supporters from across Vijayawada, showing a strong show of unity for the party's growth.

This inauguration marks a significant step in Jana Sena Party's ongoing efforts to establish its presence in Andhra Pradesh and further mobilize political support ahead of the upcoming elections.



Is Yanamala Playing the Blackmail Card Against Chandrababu?



TPN CORRESPONDENT
AP, DEC-9

A case was recently filed against Y.V. Subba Reddy, his son Vikrant Reddy, and Vijayasai Reddy based on allegations by KV Rao. The complaint accused them of coercion and forcibly acquiring KV Rao's shares in Kakinada Port at a throwaway price. YSR Congress leaders, including Vijayasai Reddy, have countered by labeling KV Rao as a benami of Chandrababu Naidu.

Amid these developments, Yanamala Ramakrishnu penned an open letter to the Chief Minister, alleging that KV Rao Chowdary's companies acquired lands in the Kakinada SEZ at meager prices, later selling them to GMR for hundreds of crores. Yanamala claimed that these lands were resold for profits of ₹4,000 crores, demanding justice for the BC farmers who, he alleged, were deprived of their lands. Curiously, he referred to KV Rao as "KV Rao Chowdary," a surname that doesn't exist in Rao's name.

This letter has raised eyebrows. What is Yanamala's true motive?

Political analysts suspect that Yanamala is attempting to pressure Chandrababu Naidu using

the BC card. Disappointed over not being re-nominated for an MLC seat, Yanamala has chosen to highlight an issue that has been long-standing and unrelated to recent events. Despite contributing little to the party's success in recent years, Chandrababu has consistently shown deference to Yanamala, recognizing his seniority and the BC factor.

Tuni, Yanamala's stronghold, has been a TDP bastion since his debut in 1983. He secured six consecutive MLA victories before losing in 2009 due to allegations of arrogance. Following this loss, he transitioned to the Legislative Council. Despite his family's subsequent defeats—his brother Krishnu lost in 2014 and 2019—Chandrababu continued to back the Yanamala family. His daughter Divya was given the Tuni ticket in the last election, while his son-in-law Putta Mahesh Yadav was nominated for the Eluru MP seat, and his brother-in-law Putta Sudhakar Yadav for Mydukuru.

Now, with his MLC tenure ending, Yanamala seems to be leveraging the BC farmer narrative to corner Chandrababu into offering him another opportunity. Is this a genuine crusade for justice or a strategic move to regain lost political ground?

Will TDP Cadre Warm Up to Vasireddy Padma?

TPN CORRESPONDENT
AMARAVATI, DEC-9

Vasireddy Padma, one of the few prominent Kamma leaders in the YSR Congress Party, has decided to part ways with the party. She is now gearing up to join the Telugu Desam Party (TDP) on December 9 in the presence of Nara Lokesh, following a meeting with Vijayawada TDP MP Kesineni Chinini.

However, her imminent induction into TDP hasn't been well-received by the party's hardcore supporters, particularly on social media.

The main grievance among TDP loyalists stems from Padma's past remarks against their leader, Chandrababu Naidu. She frequently took to the media to make scathing and provocative statements about the TDP supremo. In one instance after the 2019 elections, she even suggested that Chandrababu should "keep his mouth shut and stay at home," a comment that deeply hurt the party's base.

As a prominent Kamma leader in YSRCP, Padma was reportedly encouraged by the party high command to target Chandrababu Naidu, often making her a central figure in their media campaigns.

Now, however, Padma seems to be disillusioned with the YSRCP's vindictive politics and is preparing to switch allegiances to TDP. While this move



has sparked displeasure among certain TDP loyalists, it is nearly certain to go through.

Padma brings to the table a sharp understanding of Y.S. Jagan Mohan Reddy's strategies, having been part of his camp since its inception. Her vocal skills and insider knowledge could make her a potent critic of Jagan's governance, potentially strengthening TDP's narrative against the ruling party.

Whether or not the TDP cadre fully embraces her, Vasireddy Padma's move signals a significant political shift that could reshape party dynamics in the run-up to the next elections.

Home Minister Vangalapudi Anitha Compares Vijayasai Reddy to Shakuni

TPN CORRESPONDENT
AMARAVATI, DEC-9

Andhra Pradesh Home Minister Vangalapudi Anitha has strongly criticized YSRCP MP Vijayasai Reddy, calling him a person like Shakuni, in response to his recent attacks on Chandrababu Naidu and Lokesh. The remarks were made during a meeting with senior police officers on Sunday, where the Minister also launched several development initiatives in Visakhapatnam.

Anitha accused Vijayasai Reddy of intensifying his tweets as the alleged wrongdoings of the YSRCP come to light. She expressed her distress over Reddy's comments targeting a leader of the Chief Minister's stature, particularly criticizing his statements about the ongoing issues surrounding the Kakinada Port. The Home Minister claimed that YSRCP leaders have been using threats to silence opposition.

Anitha also addressed the ongoing investigation into the illegal transportation of PDS rice in the state, revealing that a CBCID probe is underway. She pointed out that land irregularities in AP are tied to YCP leaders, with evidence of their involve-



ment emerging gradually.

Referring to Vijayasai Reddy's social media activity, Anitha expressed her frustration, especially after a recent tweet by Reddy in which he criticized Chandrababu's comments about officials in Pawan Kalyan's departments. In his tweet, Reddy accused Chandrababu of trying to undermine the credibility of the Deputy CM, Pawan Kalyan, for the benefit of his son Lokesh. In response, Anitha lashed out, describing Reddy's actions as being akin to that of a "demon" in politics.

Chandrababu Damaging Pawan's Credibility for Lokesh

TPN CORRESPONDENT
AP, DEC-9

YCP MP Vijayasai Reddy, who has been in opposition in AP for the past five years, has targeted Chandrababu and his son Lokesh with tweets. Now, after the alliance came to power, he has once again raised his voice. Specifically, Sai Reddy is posting tweets targeting Chandrababu and Lokesh while obstructing Pawan Kalyan. In the same vein, he recently posted another tweet. In this, he explained how Chandrababu is damaging Pawan's credibility.

YCP MP Vijayasai Reddy

made a tweet referring to the recent criticism made by CM Chandrababu targeting the officials of the Panchayat Raj, Rural Development, and Rural Water Supply departments run by Pawan Kalyan. In it, he explained how Chandrababu is trying to damage the credibility of the Deputy CM by attacking the officials of Pawan Kalyan's departments.

Vijayasai Reddy, who started his tweet by saying that Chandrababu has returned to his hypocritical trademark political games, made sensational allegations that Chandrababu is cleverly shifting the blame onto Pawan Kalyan by criticizing Pawan Kalyan's department officials with harsh language and trying to damage his credibility. Chandrababu, who used Pawan Kalyan's popular-



ity to achieve victories in the 2014 and 2024 elections, has now been accused of deliberately tarnishing the image of the same leader.

Sai Reddy described this as Chandrababu's classic style. He took it to another level by saying that this is a daring plan to suppress the growth force that is now considered a threat to his son. He also criticized Lokesh, calling him an avatar who has no chance or is almost impossible to ascend to the throne. On the other hand, TDP leader Varla Ramaiah has complained to the DGP to keep an eye on Vijayasai Reddy, who is allegedly trying to create a rift between Chandrababu and Pawan Kalyan.

Case Registered Against Borugadda Anil Under Various Sections

TPN CORRESPONDENT
ANANTAPUR, DEC-9

A case has been filed against YSRCP leader and rowdy sheeter Borugadda Anil under various sections after his derogatory comments, threats, and abuses on social media during the YSRCP government. Currently held in Rajahmundry Central Jail, Anil was taken into custody by the Anantapur Fourth Town Police on Saturday with court approval.

The police registered the case at the Fourth Town Police Station, following a complaint by Telugu Mahila State Spokesperson Sanga Tejaswini. She accused Anil of making offensive remarks against Chief Minister Chandrababu Naidu, his family, and judges. After investigation, the court remanded Anil in police custody for three days for further questioning by the Anantapur police.

In addition to the social media case, Borugadda Anil is also involved in an attempted murder case in Guntur. The Tullur police registered the case related to the attack on BJP leader Satyakumar on March 31 of the previous year, in which Anil is named as A2. The incident, which occurred during a visit to support farmers in the capital, resulted in



injuries to BJP workers. Nandigam Suresh, the main accused, is already in Guntur jail in connection with a separate murder case. Anil is also implicated in the AELC church dispute case. He was produced in Guntur court and remanded before being sent back to Rajahmundry Central Jail. During his interrogation, Anil reportedly admitted that he had acted on the orders of former Minister Mopidevi Venkataramana and YSRCP leaders, engaging in insults and threats against opposition members. He also revealed that he had been staying with Union Minister Ramdas Athawale in Delhi before returning to Guntur for his mother's surgery.

Allu Arjun 'Mana Vadu': YCP's Attempt to own the Star

TPN CORRESPONDENT
AMARAVATI, DEC-9

Andhra Pradesh politics often resemble a stage for high drama and entertainment, with politicians going the extra mile to capture the public's attention. Among them, YSRCP leader Ambati Rambabu stands out for his peculiar antics and outspoken nature.

Recently, Ambati has taken an unusual interest in Allu Arjun's upcoming film Pushpa 2, sparking a mix of amusement and bewilderment on social media. The former irrigation minister seems to have added "film enthusiast" to his resume, with his frequent media mentions and tweets about the movie.

In one of his tweets, Ambati proclaimed, "For the first time in Indian cinema history, a hero's film collected ₹294 crores. I am proud that this hero is Mana Vadu." This statement seemed like an attempt to link Allu Arjun, who has no political affiliations, to the YSRCP.

Ambati's fixation on Pushpa 2 and his overt attempts to woo Allu Arjun's fans—who otherwise have no connection with him or his party—have become the talk of the town. This isn't his first brush with cinema-related controversies either. Earlier, he organized a



press meet solely to criticize Pawan Kalyan's film Bro.

Netizens have taken Ambati's cinematic fascination as fodder for memes, dubbing him the "Film Reviews Minister" of Andhra Pradesh. One user quipped that Ambati, who previously served as the irrigation minister, now seems more knowledgeable about Telugu films than the Polavaram project. Despite losing from Sattenapalli in the recent elections, Ambati's antics have kept him trending on social media—for all the humorous reasons. Whether it's intentional or not, his curious obsession with films like Pushpa 2 has turned him into a meme sensation, cementing his status as one of AP's most entertaining political figures.

Empowering Futures

Scholarship Distribution and Charitable Initiatives Event by Royal SERVICE TRUST Vijayawada

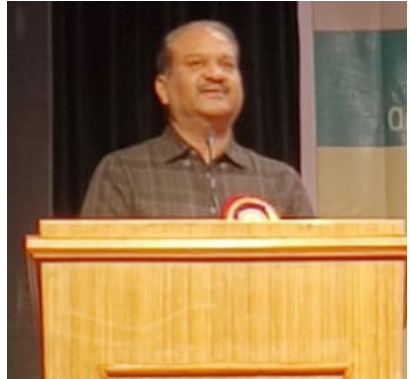
TPN CORRESPONDENT
VIJAYAWADA, DEC-9

On a bright and hopeful evening, the community gathered at the Makine-ni Basava Punnayya Bhavan to celebrate an inspiring event dedicated to empowering the futures of deserving students and addressing pressing charitable issues by trustees of by Royal SERVICE TRUST Vijayawada. The atmosphere was filled with anticipation and excitement as dignitaries, students, and community members came together for a cause that truly inspired awe.

The event commenced with a warm welcome from the president of the trust Sri Seethalam Rambabu garu, who highlighted the significance of the occasion. The primary focus of the event was the distribution of scholarships to needy students, aimed at providing them with the financial support necessary to pursue their educational dreams.

The event was graced by the esteemed presence of Justice Akula Venkata Sessa Sai, a former High Court judge, who served as the chief guest. The event began with a warm welcome from the chairman of the trust Sri Seethalam Rambabu garu, who introduced Justice Sessa Sai and highlighted his significant contributions to the legal field and his dedication to social justice. Justice Sessa Sai's presence added immense value to the event, given his illustrious career and unwavering commitment to the cause of legal services and community welfare.

In his keynote address, Justice Sessa Sai emphasized the importance of education and the role it plays in shaping the future of young minds. He commended the scholarship recipients



for their hard work and perseverance, encouraging them to continue striving for excellence. His inspiring words resonated with the audience, leaving a lasting impact on everyone present. The another highlight of the event was the presence of the distinguished academician and former vice chancellor of Adikavi Nannaya University Sri DR. Prof.Koppineedi Padma Raju as guest of honour. He advised the students to be wary of destructive technologies and their impact on daily life, urging them to use technology responsibly and ethically.

Speaking on the occasion National president of Royal Clubs Associations Dr Sri Chinamilli Satyanarayana garu advised the students to develop the skills needed for gainful employment. He also stressed the need to empower

students with vocational training, digital literacy, and entrepreneurship. Sri Bondada Raghavendra Rao MD M/S Bondada Engineering Ltd has also graced the occasion as special invitee. Advising the students to take inspiration from his own story of rags and riches, he gave an inspiring tale of his entrepreneurial journey. Bondada Raghavendra Rao's journey from humble beginnings to remarkable success is truly inspiring. Born into a modest family, he faced numerous challenges but never let them deter his determination to succeed. Starting with limited resources, Rao's relentless pursuit of excellence led him to establish Bondada Engineering Pvt. Ltd. in 2012. Today, it boasts a PAN India presence and serves major clients across India. His story is a testament to the power of

perseverance and hard work. His commitment to quality and innovation has set new benchmarks in the industry, making Bondada Engineering a leader in its field. Rao's story is not just about business success; it's also about giving back to the community. He has been actively involved in various charitable initiatives, supporting education, healthcare, and environmental conservation. His journey from rags to riches is a powerful reminder that with determination and hard work, anything is possible. The audience erupted in thunderous applause when Mr Rao who hailed from a remote village in divideema with no electricity rose to become an entrepreneur dealing in power plants. The occasion was marked by a sense

of pride and community spirit as attendees gathered to celebrate the distribution of scholarships to deserving students and the launch of various charitable initiatives. Each recipient was called to the stage to receive their scholarship certificate from Justice Sessa Sai, and other dignitaries who personally congratulated them and offered words of encouragement. The joy and gratitude on the faces of the students and their families were palpable, reflecting the profound impact of this initiative.

The scholarships were awarded to students who had demonstrated exceptional academic performance, resilience, and a commitment to their education despite facing financial hardships. In addition to the scholarship distribution, the event also addressed various charitable issues that are crucial to the well-being of the community.

The event concluded with a vote of thanks from the organizers, expressing gratitude to all the sponsors, volunteers, and participants who made the event a resounding success. The event concluded with a delightful dinner, where attendees had the opportunity to network, share experiences, and celebrate the success of the initiatives.

TDP Leader Buddha Venkanna Files Police Complaint Against Vijayasai Reddy



TPN CORRESPONDENT
VIJAYAWADA, DEC-9

TDP leader Buddha Venkanna has lodged a complaint with the Police Commissioner against YSRCP MP Vijayasai Reddy, alleging inappropriate and threatening remarks against TDP chief and former Chief Minister N. Chandrababu Naidu. Venkanna has urged legal action against Vijayasai for his comments, which he described as disrespectful and inflammatory. Speaking to the media, Venkanna lashed out at Vijayasai Reddy, criticizing his remarks and accusing him of using intimidation tactics. "If Chandrababu is alive, you claim you'll put him in jail if you come to power. Are we supposed to fear your threats and blackmail? Isn't it true that Jagan forcibly took control of the Kakina-da port?" he questioned, referring to past allegations of asset misappropriation by the YSRCP government.

Venkanna further accused the YSRCP leaders of committing numerous atrocities between 2019 and 2024, claiming that many victims have started filing complaints against them. He urged Vijayasai Reddy to address allegations of wrongdoing instead of using caste as a shield to deflect criticism.

The TDP leader also condemned Reddy's comments, stating, "Will you go to the extent of threatening that people will beat Chandrababu with sandals? Such remarks reflect the peak of madness. Your government's threats and conspiracies in the name of caste won't scare us."

Venkanna accused Vijayasai Reddy of playing mind games to divert attention from the Kakinada port issue, where allegations have been raised about its forced acquisition. He claimed that victims of these actions are now stepping forward to seek justice against YSRCP leaders, which has allegedly led to panic and nonsensical remarks from Vijayasai Reddy.

The complaint also highlighted past incidents involving Vijayasai Reddy, including alleged derogatory comments made against media representatives in Visakhapatnam. Venkanna alleged that Reddy has been avoiding Andhra Pradesh, fearing backlash from the public and the media.

Call for Arrest and Legal Action

Venkanna has demanded Vijayasai Reddy's immediate arrest for threatening Chandrababu Naidu and warned of escalating the matter to the judiciary if the police fail to act. He declared, "If the police do not take action, we will approach the court. No matter what, Vijayasai Reddy will have to face the consequences for his remarks."

The Police Commissioner reportedly responded positively to Venkanna's complaint, assuring a consultation with the judiciary to determine the next legal steps. This incident highlights the intensifying political tensions in Andhra Pradesh as leaders from both parties continue to trade barbs over sensitive issues, including allegations of corruption and misuse of power.

MSME Awareness Conference Held at Vijayawada Ilapuram Hotel

TPN CORRESPONDENT
VIJAYAWADA, DEC-9

The Joint Krishna District Chiranjeevi Youth and Janasena successfully organized an MSME Awareness Conference at the Ilapuram Hotel in Vijayawada today. The event saw participation from 400 young people eager to become new entrepreneurs with government support, clearing their doubts about starting businesses.

The conference featured speeches from Andhra Pradesh MSME Chairman Sri Tammireddy Sivashankar, Mandali Rajesh, APIIC Director, and Sri Melam Bhagya Rao, who shared insights on the latest developments in the MSME sector, government schemes, and effective marketing strategies. This conference provided MSMEs with valuable information to expand their businesses and offered solutions to address their challenges. Chiranjeevi



Youth and Janasena are pleased with the success of the event and plan to organize similar awareness programs in the future. Prominent leaders in attendance

included All India Chiranjeevi Youth Vice Presidents Sodiseti Krishna Prasad, Lakanam Shyam Prasad, State Chiranjeevi Youth Il-luri Sugunababu, Vijayawada Chi-

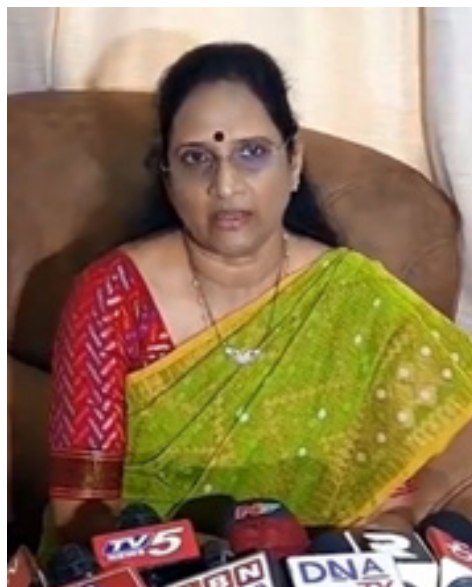
ranjeevi Youth K Rakesh Nath, Jana Sena Party leaders Ajay Varma Tagore, Akkala Gandhi Mylavaram Jana Sena Party Coordinator, Ravi Soujanya, Bolisetty Vamsi Krishna, Central Constituency Jana Sena Party Coordinator, and others.



Jagan Has Lost the Trust of the People Party Responsibilities Should Be Handed Over to Vijayamma

TPN CORRESPONDENT
AMARAVATI, DEC-9

Vasi Reddy Padma, former leader of the party and former chairperson of the Women's Commission, has severely criticized YCP chief YS Jaganmohan Reddy. She stated that Jagan has lost the trust of the people and the party, and demanded that he step down from his presidential responsibilities and hand over the party leadership to his mother, Vijayamma. She spoke to reporters in Vijayawada yesterday, along with MP Kesineni Chinni. Padma also lashed out at YCP Rajya Sabha member Vijayasai Reddy. Countering Vijayasai's comments about changing Chandrababu, Padma said that first, the YCP president should be



changed. She expressed her anger, accusing Vijayasai of indulging in petty politics. She further stated that there is a scam behind every scheme in the Jagan government, and evidence is emerging one by one.

Padma mentioned that the YCP leaders are showing great enthusiasm in disputing the CM post without being able to answer these allegations.

Meanwhile, Padma, who had been staying away from the YSRCP after its crushing defeat in the assembly elections, recently resigned from the party. Though she announced that she would be joining the TDP soon, the exact date has not been decided yet.

After Years, A Deputy CM Wields True Power

G. AVINASH | TPN : Jana Sena president and Andhra Pradesh's Deputy Chief Minister, Pawan Kalyan, is redefining what it means to hold the Deputy CM post.

Traditionally, the position has been largely symbolic, often handed to less influential leaders within the ruling party. During Y.S. Jagan Mohan Reddy's tenure, there were nine Deputy CMs across five years, many of whom left little impression on the public or political landscape. Under the current NDA government, however, the Deputy CM role has transformed into a position of real power and influence, thanks to Pawan Kalyan's dynamic leadership.

From the outset, Pawan's entry into politics promised to be a game-changer. Yet, even his staunchest supporters could not have predicted the magnitude of his impact. Within six months, Pawan has elevated the Deputy CM's office to unprecedented levels of authority and visibility. His proactive measures, such as his recent visit to Kakinada Port, scrutiny of

Saraswati Power lands linked to Jagan, high-profile campaigning for the NDA in Maharashtra, and initiatives to strengthen policing under the Home Ministry, have showcased his assertive approach to governance.

In stark contrast to the largely ceremonial Deputy CMs of the past, Pawan has taken the reins, becoming a powerful force within the administration. His relentless drive has eased the burden on Chief Minister Chandrababu Naidu, complementing Naidu's leadership with a fresh and impactful style of governance.

Backed by robust support from the NDA's leadership in Delhi, Chandrababu Naidu's guidance, and the unwavering support of TDP heir Nara Lokesh, Pawan has emerged as a pivotal figure in Andhra Pradesh's political landscape.

What sets Pawan apart is his humility despite his growing stature. He has openly declared his willingness to work under Chandrababu's leadership in the next



term, prioritizing the state's progress over personal ambition.

Pawan Kalyan's tenure as Deputy Chief Minister is a turning point in Andhra Pradesh politics—a blend of charisma, vision, and decisive action that may set a benchmark for years to come.

Dwarampudi Speaks Out on Ration Rice Controversy

TPN CORRESPONDENT, KAKINADA : Former YSRCP MLA Dwarampudi Chandrasekhar Reddy, currently facing allegations of involvement in the illegal smuggling of ration rice at Kakinada port, has broken his silence on the matter. Addressing the accusations, he denied any connection to the smuggling and named others allegedly involved, including actor-politician Pawan Kalyan and Finance Minister Payyavula Keshav.

Dwarampudi stated that neither he nor his family has any role in the illegal smuggling of ration rice. He pointed out that while rice exports from various ports were common in the past, Kakinada port has handled 98% of rice exports since the YSRCP came to power. This, he claimed, has significantly benefited local lorry owners in the region.



Clarifying his family's involvement, Dwarampudi said his younger brother is engaged in rice exports but emphasized that their operations are legitimate. He alleged that Payyavula Keshav's connections in the rice export business make him a key figure in this affair. He further accused a local MLA of taking bribes of ₹5 lakhs from those supplying ration rice, suggesting this was why Pawan Kalyan had been vocal about the issue.

Dwarampudi called for a Special Investigation Team (SIT) probe into the transportation of rice from Kakinada port, expressing no objection to such scrutiny. He questioned the government's inability to control ration rice smuggling over the past six months and urged authorities to take decisive action.

He also dismissed claims that exporters like his family are involved in ration rice smuggling, reiterating that they have no connection to the illegal trade. Dwarampudi noted that while his family had a history in the rice business, it was blemish-free, and current allegations were unfounded attempts to tarnish their reputation.

Highlighting the importance of rice exports, he remarked that during the COVID-19 pandemic, shipments from Kakinada saved many countries from rice shortages. He criticized the disruption of exports due to the ongoing controversy, claiming that exporters from Delhi, Singapore, and Bihar used to rely on Kakinada as a hub. Dwarampudi's comments have sparked fresh debates on the issue, putting the spotlight on the broader dynamics of rice exports and alleged smuggling in Andhra Pradesh.

We Will Recover Every Penny from Them— Minister Ram Prasad Reddy

TPN CORRESPONDENT, CHITTOOR : Chittoor District In-charge Minister Ram Prasad Reddy has vowed to hold accountable those responsible for looting public money during the YSRCP government. He emphasized that legal action will be taken against individuals involved in corruption, and a thorough investigation will be carried out into the actions of the previous government.



Minister Reddy expressed his outrage over the weakening of systems during the last five years under the YSRCP leadership. He stressed that every penny of misappropriated funds will be recovered, and that strict legal measures will

be implemented if there is no improvement in the performance of officials.

The remarks came during the Chittoor District Review Committee (DRC) meeting held on

Sunday, where the behavior of district education department officials was strongly criticized by elected representatives. The MLAs and MLCs voiced their frustration, stating that the education department was not

following the proper protocol, with the recommendations of public representatives being ignored.

Minister Reddy questioned why the officials, who had been cooperative with public representatives during the YSRCP regime, had become so unresponsive after the coalition government took power. He issued a stern warning to the district officials to improve their performance.

The meeting was attended by MP Daggubati Malla Prasad Rao, MLAs Gurajala Jagannathan, Murali Mohan, Thomas, MLC Srikanth, and Collector Sumit Kumar.

Low Pressure Area Continues in Southeast Bay of Bengal; Rain Forecast for AP



TPN CORRESPONDENT, AP : A low-pressure area over the southeastern Bay of Bengal in the eastern Indian Ocean is still persisting.

According to the Indian Meteorological Department (IMD) Amaravati Division, the system is expected to move west-northwestward in the next 24 hours and may strengthen further. The system is likely to enter the southwest Bay of Bengal by Wednesday.

In light of this, the Andhra Pradesh State Disaster Management Authority (APSDMA) has issued a rain forecast for the state. APSDMA predicts heavy rainfall in some parts of Rayalaseema on December 11th and 12th, with moderate rains expected in other areas. The weather across the state is expected to remain dry tomorrow, December 9th.

The IMD also noted that the low-pressure area continues to maintain a surface circulation, which is contributing to the ongoing weather pattern.

Congratulations Extended to Smt. Anugola Rangasree and Sri A.V. Ratnam



TPN CORRESPONDENT, HYDERABD : Heartfelt congratulations were extended to Smt. Anugola Rangasree garu on her appointment as a member of the Tirumala Tirupati Devasthanam (TTD) Board. The community expressed their hope that Smt. Rangasree would continue to work towards the fur-

ther development of the TTD Board, enhancing its service to the devotees and preserving the sacred heritage of the temple.

Additionally, congratulations were extended to Sri A.V. Ratnam garu, a multi-faceted genius and the backbone of the Jana Sena Party since its inception. His efforts and contributions to the party were recognized, and he was heartily congratulated for his continued dedication to the party's growth and progress.

It was wished that the divine blessings of Lord Sri Kalyana Venkateswara Swamy, the God of Kaliyuga, continue to guide this distinguished couple in their roles and endeavors.

Heartfelt thanks were also extended to Andhra Pradesh Deputy CM Sri Pawan Kalyan garu for his unwavering support on this occasion, acknowledging his leadership and commitment.

The event was marked by warm congratulations from Ravana Swamy Naidu, representing the All India Chiranjeevi Youth, who also extended his best wishes to the newly appointed members.

Mohan Babu Attacked Bhuma Mounika? Manoj Files Complaint

TPN CORRESPONDENT, HYDERABD : Property disputes within the family of renowned actor and producer Mohan Babu have escalated into a full-blown conflict, leading to physical altercations and police involvement.

Reportedly, actor Manchu Manoj has lodged a complaint against his father, Mohan Babu, alleging that he physically assaulted his wife, Bhuma Mounika Reddy. Manoj also claims that he was attacked during the incident. In response, Mohan Babu has reportedly filed a counter-complaint against Manoj, alleging that his son assaulted him.

The root of the conflict appears to be disagreements over the management and distribution of assets, including the operations of Mohan Babu University in Tirupati, which is owned by the Manchu family. According to reports, these simmering differences recently escalated into a confrontation.

Manoj reportedly arrived at the police station with visible injuries and filed a written complaint alleging that his father had assaulted both him and his wife. In his counter-complaint, Mohan Babu accused Manoj of physically attacking him, stating that his son showed no regard for him as a father.

On the professional front, Manchu Manoj is currently working on the film Bhairavam, co-starring Bellamkonda Srinivas and Nara Rohit. Manoj is playing a powerful character named Gajapathi Varma. The film, directed by Vijay Kanakamedala and produced by KK Radhamohan under Sri Sathya Sai Arts and Pen Studios, features Aditi Shankar, Divya Pillai, Sarath Lohitashwa, and Ajay in key roles. The movie is still in production.

The unfolding family drama has drawn significant attention, adding an unexpected twist to the public lives of the Manchu family.



HE IS LIKE COLUMBUS, INVENTING HIS OWN SUCCESS

Yes, he is Columbus in inventing his own success. He is a stork in separating his troubles aside and striving towards education & career. He is a gold fish, who swam the pool of hurdles with rapid speed. His eyes were on the ball, not the scoreboard, such that the results were nothing short of spectacular. As of now, his revenues is worth Rs. 200 Cr and growing. Once he was a citizen of India, residing in Vijayawada, Andhra Pradesh, and now he is a Singapore citizen. Back then, he had no money to study and struggled to make ends meet. Now, he is the one employing hundreds, if not thousands, in running a group of businesses with an annual turnover value of Rs. 200 Crores. 10 businesses with 38 companies across 18 countries—that is the stature of Mr. Muvva Vijay Kumar now.

Mr. Muvva Vijay Kumar of ENSOFT Group had opened his heart with POINT. He pushed through his childhood struggles, empowering him to reach his current position, making his journey quite the inspiring one. Mr. Muvva Vijay Kumar has completed his education with his own income earned from taking part time jobs (rather full-time jobs during the night) starting from class 10. He accomplished his higher education in KBN College as well as MBA in Nagarjuna University, graduating with one of the highest scores. He mentioned that his tenth-class school principal, Mr Luther, was his first life mentor. Though his relatives were in somewhat good positions financially and his own family was rather weak, but hardly he could get help from anyone. He had a very strong attachment with his mother, who worked as an Anganwadi teacher. Many will dream and become ambitious in their interested fields. But Mr. Vijay Kumar didn't plan and didn't dream about the present position. He never had a vision of becoming an entrepreneur himself. But he strived towards whatever he faced and achieved whatever he witnessed. From childhood, he was used to getting some prize in some competition every year. In his college time, he had written an article named "Whose college is this anyway?" and just shared it with his lecturer. The lecturer pub-



Muvva Vijay Kumar
Founder & Chairman, Ensoft

lished it in the college magazine, which got appreciations for Vijay Kumar from his classmates and lecturers. "It's a surprise appreciation for me," he explained. After completing his MBA in 1997, he went to Chennai, as his relatives were staying there. There, he touched IT in terms of hardware and networking. He was used to assemble systems and install all the software. "Daytime I worked as a salesperson, and in the late evenings, I used to assemble computers at the customers' homes. That income helped me a lot to survive in Chennai", he describes. Once an astrologer stated that Mr. Vijay would go abroad. From then onwards, Mr. Vijay tried to get jobs abroad by appearing in different exams and interviews. Once identifying his MBA Marketing degree, a person from Malaysia sent an invitation to Vijay to work with him. "Then I went

to Malaysia and started working there. But in a few days, that company closed down due to financial troubles. I had gotten a six-month visa, so I tried for a job at another place and got it. But, I had a visa renewal problem. Then suddenly one day, Mr. Prabhat Kumar came to my working place and I suggested him a good laptop. By identifying my knowledge and skills, he asked me to repair his computer at home. After our interaction, he offered me to take care of his company in Brunei, believing in my abilities." Afterwards, he took a break and came to India. Due to visa problems and having a return ticket to Singapore, he went to Singapore on a travel visa. "My most success is in sales and marketing only. Identifying the current needs, I used to suggest suitable technical products to the customers. That eventually made me a successful en-

trepreneur." The discretion shown by the owner of the company towards Mr. Vijay Kumar made him the entrepreneur he is today. He started his own company in 2007 and achieved a breakeven within 4 months. In 2009, when sub-prime crisis hit the global economy, he faced severe financial problems, where he couldn't even procure a milk bottle for his own child. This situation ignited a change of business model in his mind. "Depending on only one business is not advisable. That's when I decided to have seamless expansion, continuous innovation and diversification as my primary motto to continue to excel in business. That is why I am running 10 different types of businesses which are unrelated to each other with 38 companies across 18 countries." Answering the question of how he manages multiple businesses, he said, "I observe, find suit-

able persons, and identify their skills in order to start suitable businesses in a profit-sharing model, but yet paying a monthly salary also to the business partner chosen. I have witnessed both good and bad experiences. Many backstabbing incidents have happened in my business journey. But I never lose confidence in talent and good people. I have continued my habit of believing in people and innovative concepts." Mr. Muvva Vijay Kumar believes in the phrase "Charity starts from family." Along his journey, he helped his own family, relatives and friends. "Everything else will come after my family, relatives and friends, and my native place," he affirmed. To this day, he still helps many people and the present generation ought to learn from his success, and he is the torchbearer for many aspiring entrepreneurs from the middle and lower middle class.



The Story Behind the Rebels' Flag That May Soon Symbolize Syria

As Syrians awoke to a transformed country, the rebel flags that had once symbolized resistance now replaced the ubiquitous posters of President Bashar al-Assad, signaling the end of his family's decades-long rule. The rebels' declaration of Assad's fall, following a swift offensive that toppled his regime, marks a significant moment in Syria's turbulent history. This shift could soon lead to the adoption of a new official flag for the country, one that may symbolize a break from the past.

Current Syrian Flag
The current flag, in use since 1980, is a symbol of Arab unity, with each color representing a distinct aspect of Syria's history.

- Red represents the blood shed during the revolution for Syrian freedom.
- White symbolizes the hope for a peaceful future.
- Green stars in the center represent Syria and Egypt, the two founding states of the United Arab Republic.
- Black stands for the oppression Arabs have endured.

This flag was first adopted in 1958 when Syria gained independence from European influence and formed the United Arab Republic with Egypt. The country changed its flag several times between 1961 and 1980 before settling on the cur-



rent design. With Assad's regime now overthrown, there are calls for a new flag, reflecting the changing political landscape.

Rebel Flag and Its Significance

As the rebels celebrated their victory,

the green, white, black, and red opposition flags were seen throughout Syria, replacing Assad's imagery. The flag became a symbol of defiance and revolution. In fact, it was raised in jubilant demonstrations not just across Syria, but also in countries like Germany, Tur-

key, and Greece, where Syrian expatriates showed their support. In Athens, supporters even raised the rebel flag at the Syrian embassy, though police detained four people while allowing the flag to remain. The rebel flag closely resembles the cur-

rent Syrian flag, with the same green, white, and black color scheme, but it features three red stars in the center. This design is a modified version of Syria's independence flag, first used in 1932 when the country gained independence from France. The opposition has embraced this flag to symbolize Syria's break from Assad's rule and a return to the ideals of independence.

The End of Assad's Regime

The whereabouts of Bashar al-Assad remain unclear after his regime collapsed. Russia, one of Assad's key backers, confirmed that he fled Syria following a peaceful handover of power. Rebel leader Abu Mohammed al-Jolani, speaking on Syria's state television, declared that the fight for Syria's future would continue. He vowed to "complete the path we started in 2011," referring to the year when Assad's crackdown on peaceful pro-democracy protesters triggered the ongoing civil war. While Assad's location is still unknown, Prime Minister Mohammed al-Jalali expressed readiness to cooperate with any new leadership chosen by the Syrian people. This marks a new chapter for Syria, one that could soon be symbolized by the flag of the revolutionaries who helped bring down a dictator's decades-long reign.



Sharad Pawar Supports Mamata Banerjee's Bid to Lead INDIA Bloc

TPN CORRESPONDENT
Mumbai, DEC-9

Nationalist Congress Party (NCP) chief Sharad Pawar has expressed his backing for West Bengal Chief Minister Mamata Banerjee's statement about her willingness to lead the opposition INDIA bloc. Pawar, speaking to reporters in Kolhapur on Saturday, described Banerjee as a "capable leader" and affirmed her right to express her intent to head the alliance.

Pawar's comments come after Banerjee, the Trinamool Congress (TMC) chief, stated earlier this week that she could manage both the responsibilities of leading the opposition bloc and continuing her role as the Chief Minister of West Bengal.

Her remarks have sparked conversations within the opposition camp, especially as tensions rise within the INDIA alliance. Dissatisfaction has been brewing among several regional parties, and the Congress party's recent setbacks in Haryana, Jammu and Kashmir, and Maharashtra have added to the discord.

In response to Banerjee's statement, Pawar praised her leadership abilities, saying, "She is a capable leader in the country and has the right to say it. The MPs she has sent to Parliament are hardworking and aware."

Pawar's support provides a significant endorsement for Banerjee as the opposition alliance navigates leadership dynamics ahead of upcoming elections.

BJP Claims Sonia Gandhi Linked to Group Funded by George Soros

TPN CORRESPONDENT
New Delhi, DEC-9

The Bharatiya Janata Party (BJP) on Sunday alleged that former Congress President Sonia Gandhi has ties to an organization funded by the George Soros Foundation, which has supported the idea of an independent Kashmir. The BJP's allegations center around Gandhi's role as co-president of the Forum of the Democratic Leaders in Asia Pacific (FDL-AP) Foundation, which they claim is connected to the Soros-backed group.

In a series of posts on X, the ruling party highlighted what it termed the influence of foreign entities in India's internal affairs. The BJP contended that this association reflects an attempt by foreign groups to influence Indian politics, especially regarding Kashmir.

"Notably, the FDL-AP Foundation has expressed views supporting the idea of Kashmir as a separate entity," the BJP said. "This link between Sonia Gandhi and an organization that has advocated for an independent Kashmir demonstrates the political impact of foreign-backed organizations in India," the party added.

The BJP further referenced Gandhi's previous leadership of the Rajiv Gandhi Foundation, which they claim had ties to the George Soros Foundation, illustrating foreign influence on Indian institutions. The party also raised concerns about Congress MP Shashi Tharoor's public acknowledgment of Soros as an "old friend."

In addition, BJP MP Nishikant Dubey criticized Rahul Gandhi for using



reports from the Soros-funded Organized Crime and Corruption Reporting Project (OCCRP) to attack the Adani Group. The BJP claims that this connection indicates a coordinated effort between the opposition and foreign entities to undermine the Indian economy and discredit Prime Minister Narendra Modi's government.

"The live telecast of Rahul Gandhi's press conference on Adani, funded by OCCRP, shows the deep and dangerous relationship between these groups. They are working to derail the Indian economy," the BJP alleged.

The controversy escalated following BJP's earlier claims that U.S.-funded organizations, including OCCRP, had colluded with the opposition to tarnish India's image. However, a spokesperson from the U.S. embassy

in New Delhi dismissed these accusations, calling them "disappointing" and emphasizing the U.S. government's commitment to media freedom globally. The embassy also clarified that its programs supporting independent journalism did not influence editorial decisions.

The BJP's claims come after Dubey, reacting to the embassy's rejection of the accusations, stated that the U.S. embassy's admission of funding for OCCRP and Soros-linked organizations further supported his position. He also announced that he would raise ten questions in the Lok Sabha to seek clarification from Rahul Gandhi on the issue.

The opposition, led by the Congress party, has yet to formally respond to the BJP's latest allegations.

BJP's Rahul Narwekar Set to Be Elected Unopposed as Maharashtra Assembly Speaker

TPN CORRESPONDENT
Mumbai, DEC-9

BJP's Rahul Narwekar is poised to be re-elected unopposed as the Speaker of the Maharashtra Legislative Assembly after the opposition alliance Maha Vikas Aghadi (MVA) decided not to field a candidate. Narwekar, who previously served as Speaker in the 14th Assembly for two and a half years, is set to assume the position once again.

Narwekar, who represents the Colaba assembly seat in Mumbai, was re-elected in the recent Maharashtra elections. On Sunday, he filed his nomination for the Speaker's post, accompanied by Chief Minister Devendra Fadnavis, Deputy Chief Ministers Eknath Shinde and Ajit Pawar, and other leaders. The nomination was submitted to the legislature secretary, Jitendra Bhole.

During his previous tenure as Speaker, Narwekar made pivotal rulings, including declaring the faction led by Eknath Shinde as the legitimate Shiv Sena and recognizing the group led by Ajit Pawar as the real Nationalist Congress Party (NCP) after a split in both parties.

The formal election of the Speaker will be announced in the Assembly



on Monday, followed by a floor test to demonstrate the strength of the new government. Maharashtra Governor CP Radhakrishnan is expected to address a joint session of both Houses of the state legislature after the proceedings.

Meanwhile, MVA leaders met with Fadnavis and urged him to follow protocol by allocating the deputy speaker's post to the opposition and seeking the post of the Leader of the Opposition.

The Maharashtra Legislative Assembly is now dominated by the Mahayuti coalition, which includes the BJP, Shiv

Sena, and NCP factions, with over 230 of the 288 seats. The MVA, in contrast, secured only 46 seats in the recent elections.

The composition of the 15th Maharashtra Assembly is as follows:

- **Mahayuti: BJP 132, Shiv Sena 57, NCP 41, Jan Surabaya Shakti Party 2, Rashtriya Yuva Swabhiman Party 1, Rashtriya Samaj Paksh 1, Independents 2, Rajarshi Shahu Vikas Aghadi 1**
- **Opposition: Shiv Sena (UBT) 20, Congress 16, NCP (SP) 10, CPM 1, PWP 1, AIMIM 1, Samajwadi Party 2.**

PM Modi Hails Indian Priest George Jacob Koovakad's Elevation as Cardinal

TPN CORRESPONDENT
New Delhi, DEC-9

Prime Minister Narendra Modi on Sunday expressed his joy and pride over the elevation of Indian priest George Jacob Koovakad to the rank of Cardinal in the Holy Roman Catholic Church by Pope Francis. Modi took to social media to congratulate Koovakad, highlighting his lifelong dedication to humanitarian service as an ardent follower of Jesus Christ. "A matter of great joy and pride for India! Delighted at His Eminence George Jacob Koovakad being created a Cardinal of the Holy Roman Catholic Church by His Holiness Pope Francis," the Prime Minister wrote on X (formerly Twitter). He further praised Koovakad, saying, "His Eminence George Cardinal Koovakad has devoted his life in service of humanity as an ardent follower of Lord Jesus Christ. My best wishes for his future endeavors."

Koovakad, 51, was formally elevated to cardinal during a grand consistory held at St. Peter's Basilica in Vatican City on Saturday. The ceremony, which included 21 new cardinals from across the globe, was attended by clergy and dignitaries worldwide. The Vatican event began at 8:30 PM



IST with a procession of the cardinal-designates to the altar, where Pope Francis handed each of them a cap, ring, and a certificate, followed by prayers.

Koovakad's appointment brings the total number of Indian cardinals to six, further strengthening India's presence at the Vatican and showcasing the country's growing representation in the Catholic Church.

Dronaam, India's Anti-Drone System, Neutralizes 55% of Drones

TPN CORRESPONDENT
New Delhi, DEC-9

Home Minister Amit Shah announced that India's indigenous counter-unmanned aerial system (C-UAS), Dronaam, has successfully neutralized 55 percent of drones along the India-Pakistan border in Punjab, significantly enhancing border security. This achievement is attributed to the use of a "laser-equipped anti-drone gun-mounted" mechanism that has shown promising results.

Speaking at the 60th Raising Day of the Border Security Force (BSF), Shah highlighted the success of Dronaam and commended the Border Security Force for its vigilance. "I sleep fearlessly at night knowing that you are guarding our borders. The new system installed has proven to be a great success," Shah said.

The system, developed by Guruvaa Systems, has greatly improved drone detection and neutralization capabilities, with figures jumping from just 3 percent to 55 percent. The Home Minister emphasized the growing threat of unmanned aerial systems (UAS) and assured that India is taking a "whole of government" approach to tackle this menace, collaborating with defense and research organizations, including DRDO.

Dronaam is a cutting-edge, modular system designed to offer foolproof protection against illegal drones. It is versatile, capable of both directional and omni-directional coverage, making it adaptable for various security needs. The system can be used in a rifle-style configuration or as a portable countermeasure in a



backpack form, and it is effective in both fixed installations and mobile setups.

The technology uses laser rays to neutralize drones by jamming their hardware, effectively disabling their operations. Inspector Pawan Kumar, who operates Dronaam, explained to

NDTV, "With the help of laser rays, we can neutralize the drone."

This year, over 260 drones have been downed or recovered along the India-Pakistan border, compared to around 110 in 2023. The majority of these interceptions, involving drones carrying arms and drugs, have taken place in Punjab, with fewer incidents reported in Rajasthan and Jammu.

Shah also addressed the ongoing efforts to strengthen India's border security through the Comprehensive Integrated Border Management System (CIBMS), which is being deployed along the borders with Pakistan and Bangladesh. The system has shown promising results in areas like Assam's Dhubri region, although some

improvements are still necessary.

In addition to strengthening border security, Shah outlined the government's commitment to bolstering border infrastructure. The Union government has sanctioned significant funding for fencing, road construction, and logistics, with 573 new border posts and 1,812 km of roads created under Prime Minister Modi's leadership.

BSF Director General Daljit Singh Chawdhary revealed that 190 drone devices had been seized and mapped, with data shared with other agencies for further investigation.

Shah concluded by reiterating the importance of the country's security forces, stating, "Securing global recognition and the number one place for India by 2047 is not possible without the dedication of our security personnel guarding our borders."

Indians in Syria Safe, Embassy Operational in Damascus

Sources have confirmed that all Indian nationals in Syria are safe, and the Indian embassy in Damascus remains operational, providing support to those in the war-torn country.

Despite the ongoing conflict, the embassy continues to be in regular contact with Indian citizens in Syria, offering assistance when needed. The situation has escalated as Islamist-led rebels announced they had liberated Syria from the regime of President Bashar al-Assad.

Earlier, the Ministry of External Affairs (MEA) had issued an advisory urging Indian nationals in Syria to leave the country via the earliest available commercial flights. This advisory was issued before the rebels breached the capital, Damascus.

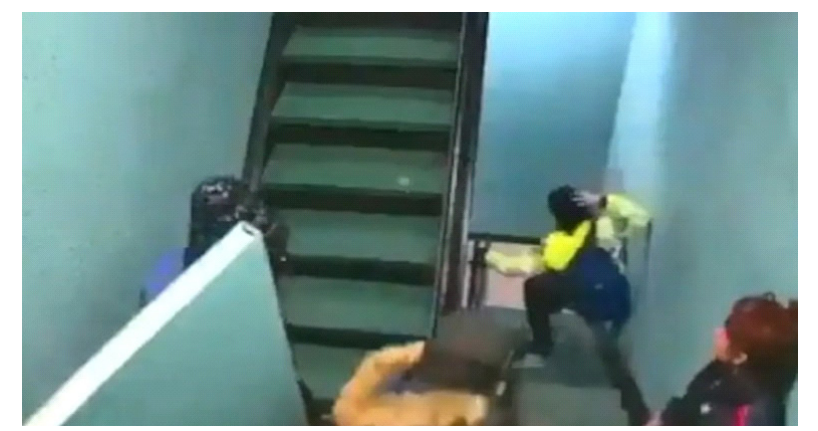
The MEA advised Indian nationals to avoid travel to Syria and remain in contact with the embassy for updates. The embassy's emergency helpline number is +963 993385973 (also available on WhatsApp), and the contact email is hoc.damascus@mea.gov.in. It also urged those who could leave to



do so immediately and advised others to stay cautious and limit their movements. India's Ministry of External Affairs has been closely monitoring the situation, particularly the recent escalation of fighting in northern Syria. MEA spokesperson Randhir Jaiswal stated, "We have taken note of the recent escalation in fighting in the north of Syria. We are closely following the situation." There are approximately 90 Indian nationals in Syria,

including 14 working with various UN organizations. Meanwhile, Syria's rebels have claimed victory, with the leader of the Islamist group Hayat Tahrir al-Sham, Abu Mohammed al-Jolani, arriving in Damascus following the rebels' seizure of the capital. The group declared the ousting of President Bashar al-Assad, whose whereabouts remain unclear after reports suggested he may have fled the country. In a statement read on Syr-

ian state television, which was also captured by rebels, al-Jolani declared the triumph of their cause, saying, "We continue to work with determination to achieve the goals of our revolution... We are determined to complete the path we started in 2011." The Syrian conflict began in 2011 after Assad's crackdown on pro-democracy protests, which escalated into a devastating civil war involving foreign forces and jihadist groups.



Indian-Origin Man, 20, Shot Dead in Canada; Second Death in a Week

Edmonton, Canada – In a tragic incident on Friday, Harshandeep Singh, a 20-year-old Indian-origin man working as a security guard in Edmonton, Canada, was shot dead in what authorities are calling a gang-related attack. The Edmonton Police Service (EPS) responded to the scene at around 12:30 a.m. following a report of gunfire inside an apartment building on 107 Avenue. Officers discovered Singh's unresponsive body in a stairwell and immediately attempted to administer first aid. He was rushed to the hospital but was declared dead shortly after.

CCTV footage circulating on social media shows a harrowing sequence of events, where Singh is pushed down the stairs by one of the three suspects, while another member of the gang shoots him from behind.

Two individuals, 30-year-old Evan Rain and Judith Saulteaux, have been arrested and charged with first-degree murder. Police also recovered a weapon linked to the crime. An autopsy is scheduled to take place on Monday to confirm the cause of death.

"The EPS typically does not release the names of deceased individuals unless a homicide is confirmed, but in this case, we are doing so to aid the investigation and address any public safety concerns," said EPS Homicide Staff Sgt. Rob Bilawey in a press statement.

This marks the second murder of an Indian-origin individual in Canada within a week. On December 1, 22-year-old Gurasish Singh, a first-year business management student at Lambton College in Ontario, was fatally stabbed by his housemate, 36-year-old Crossley Hunter, following a violent altercation. Hunter has been charged with second-degree murder.

Authorities are continuing their investigations into both incidents, as the Canadian-Indian community grapples with these shocking tragedies.



Netanyahu Calls Overthrow of Assad in Syria a 'Historic Day' for Middle East

Israeli Prime Minister Benjamin Netanyahu hailed the overthrow of Syrian President Bashar al-Assad as a "historic day" for the Middle East, describing it as the fall of a "central link in Iran's axis of evil." Speaking from the Israeli-occupied Golan Heights, Netanyahu attributed the events to the series of military actions Israel has carried out against Iran and its allies, Hezbollah and Palestinian Hamas. These strikes, Netanyahu said, had "triggered a chain reaction across the Middle East," empowering those resisting Assad's oppressive regime.

The Israeli Prime Minister noted that the downfall of Assad presents Israel with "significant new opportunities," though he acknowledged that it also carries risks. He stressed Israel's commitment to a "good neighbour policy," extending peace offers to various ethnic and religious groups in Syria, including Druze, Kurds, Christians, and Muslims who wish to live peacefully alongside Israel.

Syria's diverse population includes significant minorities such as Christians, Alawites, Kurds, and Druze, an ethno-religious Arab group with large communities in Israel and Lebanon. Netanyahu emphasized that Israel would "closely monitor developments" and take necessary steps to protect its border and security, particularly by deploying military forces to a demilitarized buffer zone along the Syrian border.

Israeli Defence Minister Israel Katz echoed Netanyahu's sentiment, saying Iran's influence is being "severed one by one" as its allies are weakened.

The Syrian rebels' successful overthrow of Assad marks a dramatic shift in the Syrian Civil War, which began in 2011. The rebels' offensive, which began on November 27, ended more than five decades of rule by Assad and his late father, Hafez al-Assad. Iran, Hezbollah, and Russia had long supported Assad's regime, providing significant military backing. Israel, which has carried out hundreds of airstrikes in Syria since the civil war began, has consistently targeted Iranian forces and Iran-backed groups to prevent Tehran's expansion in the region.

Netanyahu's comments reflect Israel's growing concern over Iran's influence in Syria, particularly after the recent escalation in hostilities with Hezbollah in neighboring Lebanon. Despite the risks, Israel views the collapse of Assad's regime as an opportunity to reshape the balance of power in the region.

South Korean Opposition Plans New Impeachment Push To Oust President Yoon

South Korea's political turmoil escalated on Sunday as the main opposition party announced plans to once again attempt to impeach President Yoon Suk Yeol following his short-lived declaration of martial law earlier this week. The crisis reached new heights as Lee Jae-myung, leader of the Democratic Party (DP), stated that if President Yoon does not resign by December 14, the opposition will proceed with an impeachment motion.

The move comes after a failed attempt to impeach the president late Saturday. In South Korea's 300-member National Assembly, the opposition parties' impeachment motion required 200 votes to pass. However, the motion was doomed to fail due to a near-total boycott by Yoon's People Power Party (PPP).

President Yoon had appeared briefly on Saturday to apologize for the chaos and anxiety caused by his martial law declaration, which he rescind-



ed after six hours. Despite the apology, Yoon stopped short of resigning, leaving his fate to the decision of his party. The leader of the PPP, Han Dong-hoon, later indicated that Yoon would be excluded from key state affairs until his eventual resignation. However, opposition lawmakers and legal experts decried the move as an unconstitutional delegation of power.

The opposition DP has demanded an immediate sus-

pension of Yoon's presidential duties and called for his authority over the military to be stripped. National Assembly Speaker Woo Won-shik also criticized the actions as unconstitutional and proposed a meeting to discuss suspending Yoon's powers. Meanwhile, police have arrested former Defence Minister Kim Yong-hyun and Interior Minister Lee Sang-min, both of whom resigned after the martial law debacle. The two,

along with President Yoon, are under investigation for alleged insurrection. South Korean prosecutors have formally named Yoon, Kim, and martial law commander Park An-su as subjects of an insurrection investigation, a crime that could result in life imprisonment or even death.

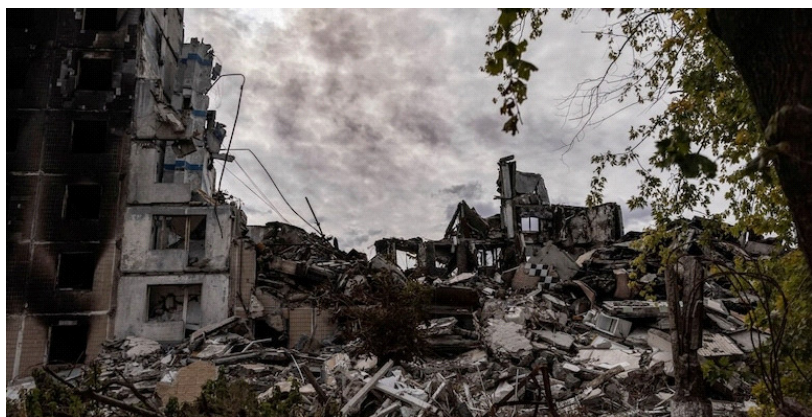
Protests continued to grow, with large crowds gathering outside the National Assembly to demand the president's ouster. Police estimated the crowd at 150,000, while organizers claimed over a million protesters took part, many waving flags and chanting against the government.

Prime Minister Han Duck-soo sought to reassure the public and international allies, including the United States and Japan, by emphasizing the cabinet's efforts to restore trust and order. He also stressed that military leaders, including the acting defense minister, would refuse any orders to impose another round of martial law.

43,000 Ukrainian Troops Killed, Kyiv Wants 'Enduring' Peace: Zelensky

Ukrainian President Volodymyr Zelensky has revealed that 43,000 Ukrainian troops have been killed in combat as the country continues its nearly three-year war against Russia. Speaking on Sunday after a meeting with U.S. President-elect Donald Trump in Paris, Zelensky stressed the need for an "enduring" peace, one that Russia cannot destroy in the future, amid a continuing escalation of deadly attacks in recent weeks.

"Ukrainians want peace more than anyone else. Russia brought war to our land, and it is Russia that most seeks to disrupt the possibility of peace," Zelensky stated. The war, which began in 2022, has devastated Ukraine, leaving thousands dead and millions displaced. In his social media post, Zelensky underscored that Ukraine would only agree



to a peace deal that ensures long-term stability and security, warning that "war cannot be endless – only peace must be permanent and reliable." Zelensky also expressed disappointment in Russia's stance on negotiations, saying that peace talks would only be possible with guarantees that Russia could not repeat its actions in the future. "We need a just and enduring peace – one

that the Russians will not be able to destroy in a few years, as they have done repeatedly in the past," he said.

Trump, who met Zelensky alongside French President Emmanuel Macron at the Elysee Palace, previously suggested he could end the war quickly but did not provide specifics on how he would achieve this. Trump has advocated for an "immediate ceasefire" and

urged for the resumption of talks, arguing that the conflict could escalate into something far worse if not resolved soon. While Trump has emphasized the importance of peace talks, the Kremlin remains firm in its demands. Kremlin spokesperson Dmitry Peskov accused Ukraine of "refusing" negotiations, asserting that Russia's conditions for peace remain unchanged, including the requirement for Ukraine to relinquish control of four regions. Peskov referred to a Ukrainian decree from 2022 that ruled out talks with Russian President Vladimir Putin, though negotiations with other Russian officials have not been ruled out.

A senior Ukrainian official confirmed that the two presidents discussed "key conditions" for ending the war, though no specific details were disclosed.

Markets Likely to Gain on RBI Liquidity Measures and Positive Global Cues



The RBI's decision to keep interest rates unchanged is likely to influence stock markets this week. Banking-related sectors could gain momentum due to the reduction in the cash reserve ratio. Positive signals from global markets and the return of foreign institutional investors are expected to drive indices higher. Last week, strong buying was observed in consumer durables, media, metal, realty, tourism, and PSU bank sectors, and a similar trend may continue this week.

Stock Recommendations

Tata Motors: After hitting a lifetime high in July, these shares have gradually fallen. They have lost almost 36%. Accumulation is currently underway after taking support at the Rs. 770 level. Last Friday, investors closed at Rs. 816 with a gain of 3.06% on good volume. Take a position in the range of Rs. 810 with a target price of 870/890. Place a stop loss at Rs. 790.



Transport Corporation of India: The shares are cur-

rently trading at lifetime highs. They gained consecutively with good momentum last week. EPS, sales, profit, and operating margins are improving in every quarter. In this counter, which closed at Rs. 1206 last Friday, investors should take a position at Rs. 1150/1180 with a target price of Rs. 1450/1500. Place a stop loss at Rs. 1110.



Varun Beverages: These shares have been in an uptrend for a long time. Currently, consolidation is taking place at lifetime highs. A base is being formed. Momentum is only increasing now. Momentum investors should buy at Rs.630/620 with a target price of Rs.740 on Friday. Stop loss is mandatory at Rs.600.



Angel One: The finance and stock broking sector is currently bullish. These shares have been in Stage 2 since August this year. These shares, which rallied 58% in August, are showing strength compared to the Nifty. Investors should take a position at Rs.3250 with a target price of Rs.3550 on this counter, which closed with a gain of 2.2%. Stop loss should be placed at Rs.3200.



Castrol India: These shares, which touched a lifetime high in July, later underwent a gradual correction. They fell by 34% due to the poor market conditions. The key support level has turned around at Rs.186. It has risen by 24% in the last two weeks. In this counter, which closed at Rs.222 last Friday, a position should be taken at Rs.210/200 with a target price of Rs.260/280. A stop loss at Rs.190 is mandatory.



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Govt Plans to Slash Logistics Costs, Says Nitin Gadkari

Union Minister for Road Transport and Highways, Nitin Gadkari, announced the government's plan to reduce logistics costs in India to single-digit levels within the next two to three years, aiming for a major boost in the country's economic competitiveness.



Currently, logistics costs in India range between 14-16%, but Gadkari expressed confidence that this figure will be brought down to 9% over the next few years. This reduction, he said, would significantly enhance the country's efficiency and competitiveness in global markets.

The government has implemented several key initiatives to improve the logistics sector, including the Prime Minister Gati Shakti-National Master Plan (PMGS-NMP) and the National Logistics Policy (NLP). These policies aim to address current constraints and streamline logistics infrastructure in the country.

Addressing an event in Mumbai, Gadkari also highlighted India's ambitious future plans for alternative and biofuels. The minister projected that in the next decade, India will lead the world in the production and use of alternative fuels, including hydrogen, biomass, and CNG. He emphasized that these fuels, along with innovative technologies like biomass and biodigester systems, would help meet the country's energy needs sustainably.

Gadkari further mentioned that toll income from the country's highways, which currently stands at ₹52,000 crore, is expected to rise to ₹1.4 lakh crore

within the next two years. The government is actively building green express highways, with the minister assuring that funding for these projects is not a concern due to their economic viability. Additionally, with strong support from the Finance Ministry and a budget of ₹2.8 lakh crore, the government is fully committed to driving infrastructure development.

He also acknowledged the role of Prime Minister Narendra Modi, who has prioritized infrastructure development, focusing on crucial sectors like water, power, transport, and communication. The minister stressed the importance of innovation and collaboration to tackle challenges in infrastructure development, ensuring that projects are completed on time and within budget. Gadkari also pointed to India's impressive export growth from 2000 to 2022, with goods exports increasing from \$48.5 billion to \$467.5 billion. The government aims to achieve \$2 trillion in exports of goods and services by 2030.

Laurus Labs Secures Rs 120 Cr Investment from Eight Roads Ventures and F-Prime Capital



Laurus Labs Ltd. announced today that its subsidiary, Laurus Bio, has secured an equity investment of ₹120 crore from Eight Roads Ventures and F-Prime Capital. In addition to the investment, Laurus Labs has agreed to co-invest an additional ₹40 crore at the same valuation. The press release from Laurus Labs also revealed that share warrants have been issued to the promoters of Laurus Bio, which can be exercised within two years from the date of issue at the same valuation. Furthermore, Laurus Labs or Eight Roads Ventures have the option to invest an additional ₹35 crore before December 2025 under the same terms. Following the transaction, the ownership distribution will be as follows: Laurus Labs will hold 75%, Eight Roads Ventures will hold 14%, and the promoters of Laurus Bio will retain 9% on a fully diluted basis. The equity infusion will be utilized to expand Laurus Bio's fermentation-based manufacturing capabilities to meet increasing customer demand. Dr. Satyanarayana Chava, Founder & CEO of Laurus Labs, and Rajesh Krishnamurthy, CEO of Laurus Bio, expressed their excitement about the

partnership. "We are pleased to announce our re-engagement with Eight Roads Ventures and the continued commitment of Laurus Labs with an additional investment in Laurus Bio. This collaboration will support the expansion of our manufacturing and R&D infrastructure, enabling faster product development, scaling up commercial capacity, and accelerating growth opportunities," they said. Dr. Prem Pavor, Managing Partner of Eight Roads Ventures India, also shared his enthusiasm about the deal. "We are excited to reunite with Laurus Labs and Laurus Bio, which has developed a best-in-class biomanufacturing platform to meet the global demand for sustainable manufacturing technologies. We look forward to growing Laurus Bio into a global leader in biomanufacturing, a sector with applications across industries like personal care, nutrition, pharmaceuticals, and materials," he stated. Laurus Bio, formerly known as Rich-core Lifesciences, is focused on advancing microbial fermentation capabilities to enhance its product pipeline and expand its commercial scale capacity.

India Records 67% Growth in Exports Over 10 Years

Reaches \$778 Billion in FY 2023-24

India has achieved remarkable growth in its export sector, with total exports reaching \$778 billion in FY 2023-24, marking an impressive 67% increase from \$466 billion in FY 2013-14. This growth reflects the surging demand for Indian products across various global markets, boosted by strategic government initiatives aimed at sustaining and accelerating export performance.

Union Minister of Commerce and Industry, Piyush Goyal, highlighted that India's share in world merchandise exports has also risen, improving from 1.66% to 1.81%, while its global ranking advanced from 20th to 17th. These achievements were revealed in response to a parliamentary query. India's trade performance for the first half of 2024 showed a 5.45% year-on-year increase, reaching a total of \$576 billion compared to the same period in 2023. The country's merchandise exports rose by 5.95% in Q1 FY25, totaling \$110 billion, while imports grew by 8.40%, amounting to \$173 billion, leading to a widening trade imbalance.

Notably, India's export growth to Free Trade Agreement (FTA) partners was strong at 12%, while imports from



these regions increased by 10.29%. Despite a decline in iron and steel exports by 33% in Q1 FY25—due to weak domestic demand and oversupply from China—India's export performance in other sectors, particularly electronics and semiconductors, remains robust.

North America was the largest recipient of Indian exports, accounting for 21% of the total, followed by the European Union at 18.61%. Meanwhile,

India's imports were largely sourced from Northeast Asia, West Asia (GCC), and ASEAN, which together comprised 51% of total imports. The report, issued by NITI Aayog, shows that India's overall trade balance continues to demonstrate stability, with sustained growth across various export categories and a promising outlook for future trade performance.

Study Shows UPI Boosts Financial Inclusion, Economic Growth, and Access to Credit

India's Unified Payments Interface (UPI) has played a key role in enhancing financial inclusion and promoting equitable economic growth, according to a study by professors from the Indian Institute of Management (IIM) and the Indian School of Business (ISB). The research highlights how UPI has expanded access to formal credit, particularly for underserved groups, and suggests that India's success with UPI can serve as a model for other countries.

Since its launch in 2016, UPI has transformed the landscape of digital payments in India, enabling over 300 million individuals and 50 million merchants to conduct seamless digital transactions. By October 2023,



UPI accounted for 75% of all retail digital payments in India, with its rapid adoption driven by the affordability of internet services across the country. The study emphasizes how UPI has become a tool for financial empowerment, facilitating digital transactions from street vendors to large shopping malls. It further notes that a 10% increase in UPI transactions led to a 7% rise in credit availability, as digital financial histories enabled lenders to assess borrowers more effectively.

Between 2015 and 2019, fintech loans to subprime borrowers grew in tandem with those provided by traditional banks, particularly in regions with high UPI usage. Fintech lenders scaled rapidly, increasing their loan volumes by 77 times, far surpassing banks in serving smaller, underserved borrowers. Despite the surge in credit, the study found that default rates remained stable, indicating that UPI-enabled data helped lenders make responsible lending decisions.

The authors of the study suggest that the success of UPI in India can be replicated in other countries, positioning India as a leader in helping other nations adopt similar fintech systems.

2,500-km Chase, China Firm That Scammed Indians

How Delhi Cops Caught Trafficker In Hyderabad

A man involved in trafficking vulnerable young Indian men to Southeast Asia, where they were forced to work in cybercrime operations for Chinese companies, has been arrested by Delhi Police after a relentless 2,500-kilometre chase. Kamran Haider, also known as Zaidi, was apprehended in Hyderabad after a nationwide search that took the police across multiple states.



Zaidi, who had a ₹2 lakh reward for information leading to his arrest, is accused of running a human trafficking ring that exploited young men by luring them with promises of overseas employment. Once the victims arrived in the Golden Triangle Region—where the borders of Thailand, Laos, and Myanmar meet—their passports were confiscated, and they were coerced into cybercrime activities, including scamming people in India, Europe, and the United States.

The investigation began after a complaint by Naresh Lakhwat, an Indian national who had sought employment through a consultancy called Ali International Service. After receiving job offers in Thailand and Laos, Lakhwat was sent to Thailand, where his passport was taken, and he was forced to work in a Chinese company involved in cybercrime.

The case, initially handled by the New Friends Colony police in Delhi, was transferred to the National Investigation Agency (NIA), which uncovered the full scope of the trafficking operation. The probe revealed that Zaidi, along with accomplices like Manzoor Alam (Guddu), Sahil, Ashish (Akhil), and Pawan Yadav (Afzal), trafficked

young men to the Golden Triangle. Once there, victims were made to run fake call centres, scamming unsuspecting individuals online. Those attempting to escape were also extorted for cryptocurrency.

Zaidi, who had been evading arrest for some time, was tracked through a combination of manual intelligence and technical surveillance. Delhi Police teams pursued him across Maharashtra, Madhya Pradesh, and Chhattisgarh, finally pinpointing his location in Hyderabad. He was arrested near Nampally Railway Station while attempting to flee a new hideout.

The NIA's investigation also revealed the inhumane conditions the trafficked individuals faced. Victims were poorly treated and forced to participate in fraudulent activities, with traffickers extorting money from those who tried to escape.

Zaidi's arrest marks a significant breakthrough in the fight against human trafficking and cybercrime, with authorities continuing to investigate the full extent of the international racket.

Samsung Galaxy S25 Ultra Leaked Renders Reveal Updated Design and Four Color Options

The Samsung Galaxy S25 Ultra, anticipated to launch in early 2025, has surfaced in new design renders, offering a glimpse into the potential look and features of Samsung's upcoming flagship. Expected to follow the Galaxy S24 Ultra, which was introduced in January, the Galaxy S25 Ultra showcases a refined design with a few notable tweaks. The renders, shared by Technizo Concept on X (formerly Twitter), display the smartphone's revamped build and reveal four distinct color options.



Design Enhancements and New Colorways

The leaked renders suggest that the Galaxy S25 Ultra will retain the flat edges of its predecessor but with slightly rounded corners, aiming to improve ergonomics. Additionally, the rear camera module appears more pronounced, with thicker rings around each lens, as depicted in close-up images of the device's back panel. Only one render shows the display, which appears to have a flat screen, possibly a shift from previous Galaxy Ultra models that often featured curved screens.

The device is expected to debut in four premium colorways: Titanium Black, Titanium Blue, Titanium Gray, and Titanium Silver. This aligns with predictions from industry expert Ross Young, who hinted at these color options last month, underscoring Samsung's focus on a sleek, metallic aesthetic for

its new flagship.

Performance Boosts and Additional Features

The Galaxy S25 Ultra is expected to be powered by Qualcomm's latest Snapdragon 8 Elite chip, marking a significant performance improvement from the Galaxy S24 Ultra. Samsung's trademark S Pen, visible in the renders, will remain a key feature of the device. Additionally, the smartphone is likely to introduce enhanced Galaxy AI capabilities right out of the box, enhancing user experience across applications.

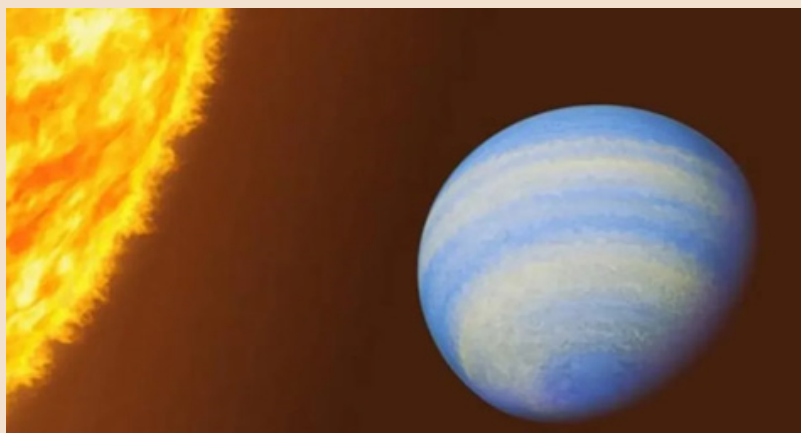
As Samsung fans await further updates, the Galaxy S25 Ultra is expected to reveal more details leading up to its release, setting the stage for one of Samsung's most anticipated devices in the Galaxy series.

New Earth-Like Planet Discovered Orbiting White Dwarf, Offers Insight into Humanity's Future

Astronomers have discovered an Earth-sized rocky planet orbiting a white dwarf star 4,000 light years away in the constellation Sagittarius, a finding that could offer crucial insights into the future of Earth and humanity. The planet, designated KMT-2020-BLG-0414, has a similar mass to Earth and orbits at a distance double that of Earth from the sun. Alongside it is a massive brown dwarf, a planet-like object 17 times the mass of Jupiter.

This discovery provides a glimpse into Earth's potential fate when the sun reaches its final stages of evolution. White dwarfs are the remnants of stars like our sun, which, after exhausting their nuclear fuel, expand into red giants before shedding their outer layers and contracting. As our sun ages, it will expand to engulf its inner planets—Mercury and Venus are the most vulnerable—before likely shrinking to a white dwarf. The extent of its expansion remains uncertain, leaving the fate of Earth in question.

The study, published in Nature Astronomy, was led by researchers from the University of California, Berkeley, who observed



the system using the Keck Telescope in Hawaii. According to Jessica Lu, an associate professor of astronomy at UC Berkeley, the white dwarf's companion planet may support theories that planetary orbits can shift outward as a star loses mass and expands. "Whether life can survive on Earth through that (red giant) period is unknown. But certainly, the most important thing is that Earth isn't swallowed by the Sun when it becomes a red

giant," Lu noted.

Keming Zhang, the study's lead author, explained that Earth's habitability is limited to roughly another billion years, as the sun's increased heat will eventually evaporate the planet's oceans. However, should Earth avoid engulfment, outer regions of the solar system could offer refuge. As the sun swells into a red giant, its habitable zone will shift outward, potentially warming the icy moons of Jupiter and Saturn, such as Europa, Callisto, and Enceladus, making them possible havens for life.

"In any case, planet Earth will only be habitable for another billion years, at which point Earth's oceans would be vaporized by the runaway greenhouse effect," Zhang added. "Humanity could migrate out there," he suggested, envisioning a future where humanity seeks refuge on ocean worlds in the outer solar system.

This newfound Earth-like planet near a white dwarf not only opens doors for studying Earth's fate but also emphasizes the possibility of future human habitats beyond our home planet.

Gen Z's Favorite Social Media Platforms: Insights

Social media has become an integral part of modern life, providing platforms for everything from personal connections to news consumption, content creation, and even career development. For Gen Z—defined as those born between the late 1990s and early 2010s—social media plays a particularly crucial role in shaping communication and entertainment habits.



According to 2023 data from the Pew Research Center, YouTube stands as the most popular social media platform among Gen Z, with a significant 93% of U.S. adults aged 18-29 using it. Instagram follows closely, with 78% of this demographic engaging on the platform. Facebook, Snapchat, and TikTok also rank highly, each favored by over 60% of Gen Z users. The platforms that attract fewer, but still significant, percentages include Pinterest, Reddit, X (formerly Twitter), LinkedIn, WhatsApp, and BeReal.

Among U.S. adults aged 18-29, social media usage is led by YouTube, with 93% of this demographic engaging on the platform. Instagram follows with 78%, while Facebook is used by 67%. Snapchat and TikTok are also popular, with 65% and 62% of users, re-

spectively. Pinterest sees engagement from 45%, and Reddit is used by 44%. X (formerly Twitter) has 42% of this age group, while both LinkedIn and WhatsApp each have 32% usage. BeReal is less popular, with 12% of adults in this age group using the platform.

Social media also plays a significant role in how Gen Z and other Americans consume news. Half of U.S. adults report getting news from platforms like TikTok, X, Facebook, and Instagram. However, the way users encounter news varies across these platforms. On Facebook and Instagram, news is often shared by friends and family, while TikTok users are more likely to get news from influencers or unfamiliar sources. X, by contrast, tends to feature more news from media outlets and journalists.

Viral Video Shows Pilot Cleaning Windscreen, Sparks Online Debate

A recent viral video has garnered significant attention after it captured a Serene Air pilot cleaning the windscreen of his Airbus A330-200 just before takeoff. The footage, which has been widely shared on social media, shows the pilot leaning out of the aircraft's side window to clear the view ahead.

The incident, reported to have occurred on a flight between Pakistan and Jeddah, Saudi Arabia, has sparked a mix of reactions online. Some viewers have expressed surprise and amusement, questioning the unusual sight. One comment read, "Pilot h ya bus conductor (Is he a pilot or a bus conductor)?", while another noted, "Pakistan being Pakistan."

Others have defended the practice, suggesting it is not entirely out of the ordinary. A user commented, "Frankly, pilots do this. Not everyone, sometimes



those who are not satisfied by windscreen cleaning." Another added, "Pilots clean all the time."

The video has raised questions about airline safety protocols and the roles of ground staff, highlighting a potential gap in standard procedures. However, the incident also serves as a reminder of the diverse practices that can occur in aviation operations around the world.

In the broader context, Pakistan has been navigating severe economic challenges, including high inflation and substantial public debt. Despite recent support from friendly nations and the IMF, the country's financial situation remains precarious. The new three-year deal with the IMF aims to

stabilize the economy and foster more resilient growth, pending approval from the IMF Executive Board.

India Handed a Shocking 59-Run Defeat by Bangladesh in U19 Asia Cup Final

India's hopes of winning the U19 Asia Cup were dashed as they suffered a crushing 59-run defeat to Bangladesh in the title clash held in Dubai on Sunday. Despite a stellar performance by the bowlers, who restricted Bangladesh to just 198 runs in 49.1 overs, the Indian batters failed to capitalize, falling short in their chase and succumbing to pressure.

Chasing a modest target of 199, India were bowled out for 139 in just 35.2 overs. None of the top-order batters managed to step up, including IPL sensation Vaibhav Suryavanshi, who was dismissed for just 9 runs off 7 balls.

India's chase began poorly, losing Suryavanshi and Ayush Mhatre (1) early, leaving the team at 24 for 2 within the first five overs.

As the pressure mounted, Bangladesh's bowlers and fielders tightened their grip, restricting India from finding boundaries or even easy singles. C Andre Siddarth tried to hold the innings together with 20 runs off 35 balls, but his dismissal by Rizan Hossain in the 12th over tilted the balance in Bangladesh's favor.

Bangladesh's Iqbal Hossain Emon then took center stage, claiming three crucial wickets in quick succession, including KP Karthikeya (21), Nikhil Kumar (0), and Harvansh Pangalia (6). India's hopes were further dashed despite a resistance from Mohamed Amaan, who scored a patient 26 off 65 balls. Hardik Raj added 24 off 21 balls late in the innings, but the required runs were too many to chase down.



The end came swiftly as Bangladesh's Azizul Hakim delivered a decisive spell, taking 3 wickets for just 8 runs in 2.2 overs.

Earlier, Bangladesh's batting was steady but not explosive. Rizan Hossain top-scored with 47, while Mohammad Shihab James contributed 40, and Farid Hasan added 39. India's bowlers dominated the first half, limiting Bangladesh to a manageable total. Yudhajit Guha was the stand-out performer with figures of 2/29, while Chetan Sharma (2/48) and Raj (2/41) each picked up two wickets. Kiran Chormale (1/19), Karthikeya (1/37), and Mhatre (1/9) also contributed with wickets, but it wasn't enough to stop Bangladesh from claiming the title.

India's failure to chase down a reachable target has ended their quest for the U19 Asia Cup title, with Bangladesh emerging victorious by 59 runs.

How India Can Still Qualify for the World Test Championship Final After Loss to Australia

India's chances of qualifying for the World Test Championship (WTC) Final were dealt a significant blow after their crushing defeat to Australia in the pink-ball Test in Adelaide. The Rohit Sharma-led team was comprehensively outplayed, with Australia winning by 10 wickets, which saw India drop to third in the WTC Points Table. Despite this setback, India is still in contention for a spot in the final, with several scenarios that could see them advance.

India's qualification for the WTC Final now hinges on their performance in the remaining Tests of the ongoing series against Australia. To keep their hopes alive, India cannot afford to lose any more matches. If they win all three of the remaining Tests, they will secure a place in the final.

Alternatively, two wins and a draw would also guarantee qualification, provided South Africa wins their second Test against Sri Lanka. If India loses another match in the series, their qualification hopes will depend on the results of the South Africa vs Sri Lanka and Sri Lanka vs Australia series.

Meanwhile, cricket legend Sunil Gavaskar has urged the Indian team to make the most of the



two extra days between Tests. Following the early finish in the second Test, he advised the players to focus on intense practice sessions to regain their rhythm ahead of the third Test, which begins on December 14.

Gavaskar emphasized the importance of utilizing the break for training rather than lounging around. "You can't be sitting in your hotel room. You have come here to play cricket. Practice for a session in the morning or afternoon, but do not waste these days," he advised. India's goal is clear: win the remaining matches and secure their place in the World Test Championship Final.

D. Gukesh Takes Lead in World Chess Championship with Win Over Ding Liren



Young Indian Grandmaster D. Gukesh moved a step closer to the World Chess Championship title by defeating reigning champion Ding Liren in the 11th game, taking a 6-5 lead in the 14-round classical match. After a series of draws, this victory gives Gukesh a crucial advantage with just three games remaining.

With this win, Gukesh has created history. No challenger in modern chess has ever taken the lead after a 5-5 tie following the 10th game. For Ding Liren, the only consolation could be his own comeback in the last World Championship, where he won the 12th game against Ian Nepomniachtchi.

In the 11th game, Gukesh started with a Knight move, catching Liren off guard as he opted for a reverse Benoni opening. This unexpected decision seemed more like an on-the-spot choice than a well-prepared strategy. Gukesh quickly gained an hour's advantage on the clock, a position difficult for any opponent to recover from in a high-stakes game. Although Liren's early plan appeared flawed, he turned the tables when Gukesh miscalculated his middle game strategy. But when Liren attempted to complete his development, he missed a simple maneuver that could have given him a slight edge. Gukesh, despite spending considerable time, managed to find a brilliant pawn sacrifice on the queenside to open up space for his rooks. As he doubled his rooks on the file, Liren faltered, making a crucial

blunder that sealed the game. Reflecting on the match, Gukesh said, "After Game 1, I had to show mental resistance. Losing the first game wasn't pleasant, but I bounced back and started playing good chess." He acknowledged the support of his team in preparing him for the opening line in the 11th game, adding that the risk-reward ratio of the strategy was appealing, and it successfully surprised Liren.

Gukesh rejected the idea that Liren was playing for a draw, pointing out that his opponent had been in strong positions at several points. "Chess is a 14-game match, and you can't plan for tie-breaks from the start. Mistakes happen, and this game was a rollercoaster that could have gone either way."

During the game, Gukesh took a six-minute break to regain his focus. "I was getting behind on the clock and wasn't thinking clearly. I needed a break to reset and take it one move at a time," he said, explaining the reason behind his pause. His calmness paid off, as things turned around in his favor.

Now, with only three games left, Gukesh needs just three draws to claim his first World Chess Championship title. Liren, with two games as White, will need a strong comeback to stay in contention. However, Gukesh remains focused on the process and intends to continue playing solidly, undeterred by the upcoming result. "I will just try to play good games," he emphasized.

More Bad News for Team India?

Rohit Sharma Shares Disappointing Update on Mohammed Shami

Mohammed Shami's highly anticipated return to the Test arena could face further delays, as Indian captain Rohit Sharma revealed that the senior pacer has once again developed "some swelling" in his knees. After featuring in seven Syed Mushtaq Ali Trophy (SMAT) games, Shami's knee issue resurfaced, throwing his participation in the upcoming series into doubt.

Despite Shami having his playing kit ready and an Australian visa in hand, fresh uncertainty surrounds his trip to Australia. When asked about the possibility of Shami's return to the squad, Rohit was cautious in his response. "No, no, definitely. That door is very much open. But we are just monitoring him because while playing Syed Mushtaq Ali T20, he again got some swelling in his knee, which obviously hampers his preparation to come and play a Test match. We want to be very, very careful," Rohit explained after the match.

Shami had bowled 42 overs in a Ranji Trophy game in addition to playing seven SMAT T20 matches over 13 days. According to an NCA source, Shami has told the medical team that, although he has no issues bowling four overs, the swelling in his knee returns after each game. Decision-makers, including the team management, have spoken with Shami and sensed his reluctance to return to the longest format at this stage.

Rohit emphasized that the team would not rush Shami's comeback unless he is fully fit. "We don't want to bring him here in a situation where he plays and then pulls up sore or something happens. We want to be more than 100



percent sure with him. It's been such a long time since he last played international cricket," the skipper said. "If Shami doesn't feel 100 percent, we won't put pressure on him." Rohit added that the final decision would be made by the NCA medical team, led by Dr. Nitin Patel. "There are professionals monitoring him, and we will take the call based on what they feel. They are the ones watching him every game," he noted. While the team is cautious, Rohit reiterated that Shami's door to a comeback remains open, but only when he is fully fit to perform at his best.

Lando Norris Wins Abu Dhabi Grand Prix as McLaren Clinch Constructors' Title

Lando Norris triumphed in a dramatic and action-packed Abu Dhabi Grand Prix on Sunday, securing McLaren's first Constructors' Championship in 26 years. The 25-year-old British driver crossed the line 5.832 seconds ahead of Carlos Sainz and his teammate Charles Leclerc, ensuring McLaren's dominance on a night filled with accidents, penalties, and tensions under the lights of Yas Marina Circuit.

"Papaya on top!" Norris exclaimed during his cooldown lap, celebrating with his team. "Congrats to everyone. Incredible. So proud of you all. You all deserve this. It's been a special one. Next year is going to be my year too." McLaren's victory marks their first Constructors' title since 1998, the year



before Norris was born. The team began the day with a 21-point lead and a front-row lockout, but saw Oscar Piastri spun out after a collision with

newly crowned four-time world champion Max Verstappen of Red Bull at the first corner. Despite this setback, McLaren held their ground as Ferrari fought back, with Leclerc starting from 19th on the grid and finishing second, while Sainz secured third. Lewis Hamilton, in his final race for Mercedes, finished an impressive fourth, overtaking his teammate George Russell on the final lap. Russell took fifth, ahead of Verstappen, who received a 10-second penalty for his crash with Piastri. Alpine's Pierre Gasly took seventh, while Nico Hulkenberg finished eighth for Haas. Fernando Alonso crossed the line in ninth for Aston Martin, with Piastri securing a battling tenth place for McLaren.



Telugu Films Changing the Game for Netflix in India



Netflix, the global OTT giant, has transformed its strategy in India to become a major player in the country's streaming market, particularly by tapping into the popularity of regional content from the Telugu and Tamil film industries.

A few years ago, Netflix struggled to gain a foothold in India, with platforms like Amazon Prime and Hotstar dominating the scene. The streaming service's high subscription cost and a lack of local content made it less appealing to Indian viewers, who favored more affordable platforms offering content in their native languages.

However, Netflix quickly recognized the need to cater to the diverse Indian market and began focusing on local content. This shift paid off as the platform embraced the growing appeal of Telugu and Tamil cinema, which has garnered significant attention both in India and internationally.

By 2023, Netflix's investment in regional films began to show impressive results. Major blockbusters like Jr NTR's *Devara* quickly became global trends, staying in the top three for over two weeks. Dulquer Salmaan's *Lucky Bhaskar* also became a hit, gaining massive traction despite its brief four-week theatrical window.

Earlier hits like *Tillu Square* and *Guntur Karam* had already demonstrated Netflix's growing influence in the Telugu film space, and the addition of *Pushpa 2: The Rule* to its catalog further solidified its foothold. The streaming service secured the rights to the film for a significant sum, and it has since become another major success.

Even non-star-driven films like *Mathu Vadalara 2* have gained traction, becoming social media sensations. Meanwhile, Nani's *Saripodaa Sanivaram* saw a surge in its audience across multiple languages. Netflix's investment in regional content isn't just about blockbusters. Films like *Gangs of Godavari* and *Mr. Bachchan* have performed well on the platform, regardless of their box office performance. Even films that underperformed theatrically but found popularity among streaming users have been successful on Netflix.

While some of its competitors saw their flops go unnoticed, Netflix has consistently churned out hits. The platform's strategic focus on regional cinema, particularly from the Telugu film industry, has proven to be a fruitful investment, and it's clear that Netflix plans to continue expanding its regional content offerings in the future.

Shilpa Shetty's Missed Opportunity in Iconic 'Chaiyya Chaiyya'

In a surprising revelation, Shilpa Shetty, Namrata Shirodkar's sister, shared how she was initially approached for the iconic *Chaiyya Chaiyya* song from *Dil Se*, only to be rejected due to unexpected reasons that reflect the body standards prevalent in 90s Bollywood.

Choreographer Farah Khan had originally selected Shilpa to feature in the song, but asked her to lose weight in order to fit the required appearance. When Shilpa couldn't meet the expectations, Malaika Arora took her place, and the rest became history with *Chaiyya Chaiyya* becoming a legendary track in Bollywood.

Shilpa, in a recent appearance on *Bigg Boss 18*, disclosed that only Farah and director Mani Ratnam knew the real reason behind her rejection. She also reflected on how this decision shaped her career and how it highlighted the industry's focus on physical appearance and beauty standards, which often determined career trajectories in the 90s.



Had Shilpa featured in the song, her career might have taken a different turn, with more visibility and possibly greater stardom. Her missed opportunity underscores the body image pressures in the industry, even as Malaika's performance in the song

propelled her into the limelight. Despite the setback, Shilpa's journey reflects the complex relationship between beauty standards, career choices, and the business of Bollywood at the time.

Three Arrested in Connection with Pushpa 2 Stampede at Sandhya Theater

Three individuals have been arrested in connection with the tragic stampede that occurred at Sandhya Theater during the premiere of *Pushpa 2* on December 4. The incident resulted in the death of a woman, while her nine-year-old son remains in critical condition and is being treated at a local hospital.

The police registered a case based on the complaint filed by the family members of the deceased. The arrests were made following an investigation into the management's role in the incident. The Chikkadapalli ACP is expected to



release further details about the arrests.

While there have been rumors suggesting that the theater's owner,

manager, and security in charge were among those arrested, there has been no official confirmation yet.

The incident has sparked criticism of both the *Pushpa 2* team and Sandhya Theater for the lack of crowd control. In response to the tragedy, Allu Arjun, the lead actor of *Pushpa 2*, and the film's team have announced a compensation of ₹25 lakh for the affected family.

The theater's owner, along with Allu Arjun and the security team, have been named as accused in the case as investigations continue.

Allu Arjun's Next Project After Pushpa 2??



After the massive success of *Pushpa 2*, Allu Arjun's next project is generating buzz, with reports suggesting that the actor may collaborate with Malayalam filmmaker Vipin Das. Known for his work in *Jaya Jaya Hey*, Vipin Das has reportedly approached Arjun for a potential film. However, this collaboration raises questions about whether it would be the right move for the star, who is at the peak of his career.

Allu Arjun, now a pan-Indian star, is witnessing success beyond his South Indian roots, with *Pushpa 2* performing exceedingly well in the Hindi-speaking belt, even surpassing its performance in Telugu-speaking regions. As Arjun's fanbase grows in the north, he will need to carefully choose scripts that cater to this expanding audience. The right project will be crucial to maintaining his momentum and avoiding the pitfalls

that other stars have faced after delivering pan-Indian blockbusters.

For instance, Prabhas struggled to replicate the success of *Baahubali* with *Saaho*, while Yash's upcoming project *Toxic* hasn't generated much excitement. While collaborations with directors like Vipin Das could bring fresh and unique narratives to Arjun's filmography, there is concern whether it will resonate with his mass audience, who are accustomed to his high-energy, larger-than-life roles.

Malayalam cinema, known for its more niche appeal and distinct storytelling style, may offer compelling stories but might not align with the mass image that Allu Arjun has carefully cultivated. As Arjun continues to ride the wave of his success, his next choices will be pivotal in shaping his future trajectory in the industry.

Actress Samantha Ruth Prabhu, who separated from Naga Chaitanya in 2021 after four years of marriage, continues to stir speculation with her cryptic social media posts. While Samantha has addressed her separation directly only a few times, she frequently shares indirect hints through her posts, leading to widespread curiosity among fans and followers.

Recently, Naga Chaitanya married actress Shobita Dhulipala in an intimate ceremony at Annapurna Studios. On the same day, Samantha

took to Instagram to share a story that read, "As the year comes to a close, we reflect on the ups and downs that shaped our journey. From challenges to triumphs, moments of growth and joy, you've made it to the end like a shining star! This year has tested us, but it has also taught us strength, resilience, and the beauty of perseverance." The message seemed to resonate deeply with her fans, with many interpreting it as a reflection of her own journey post-separation. In addition, Samantha reshared a video posted by Hollywood actress

Viola Davis, featuring a girl defeating a boy in a wrestling match, which many perceived as a metaphor for Samantha's resilience in the face of her personal challenges.

These posts have ignited further speculation, with fans believing that Samantha is subtly referencing her past relationship with Naga Chaitanya. While the actress has remained private about the details of her separation, her social media activity continues to fuel public interest, drawing attention to her emotional journey and strength.

Chay's Wedding: Fans Digging Samantha's Posts

