



Weather Forecast

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

We Have Signed Investments Worth Rs. 4 Lakh Crore: CM

TPN Correspondent
Guntur | Jan 11

Andhra Pradesh Chief Minister Chandrababu Naidu expressed his commitment to revitalizing the construction sector in the state, emphasizing its importance for economic growth. Speaking at the inauguration of the NAREDCO Property Show at Chebrolu Hanumaiah Maidan in Guntur, Chandrababu outlined his government's vision for rapid development and highlighted key achievements since the coalition came to power.

The Chief Minister criticized the previous YSRCP government for the deterioration of the construction sector. "The people who trusted us gave us victory with a strike rate of 93 percent," he said, adding that the state's reconstruction began immediately under the coalition.

- Investments worth Rs. 4 lakh crore signed, with plans to create 20 lakh jobs in five years.
- Free sand policy revitalized construction, benefiting 34 lakh people dependent on the sector.
- Amaravati to get a 183 km ring road, merging Guntur-Amaravati towns and setting a national benchmark.

Chandrababu also praised Prime Minister Narendra Modi's support, citing the recent inauguration and foundation stone laying of development projects worth Rs. 2 lakh crore in Visakhapatnam. He credited the coalition



government's free sand policy for giving a significant boost to construction and employment.

The Chief Minister acknowledged a surge in applications related to land issues, attributing it to irregularities during the YSRCP regime. He vowed to tackle land grabbers with an iron fist and protect innocent victims of corruption.

He announced that Amaravati's development will commence with an investment of Rs. 50,000 crore, promising to transform it into the best model city in the country. "A well-planned 183 km ring road around Amaravati, bigger than Hyderabad's Outer Ring Road, will integrate Guntur and Amaravati, creating unparalleled urban growth,"

he said.

Chandrababu also revealed plans to focus on the holistic development of key cities like Visakhapatnam, Guntur, Nellore, Kurnool, and Tirupati, ensuring equitable urban progress across Andhra Pradesh.

Addressing corruption in the previous administration, he said, "One person profited from TDR bonds, while others lost money. We will hold those involved accountable and ensure justice for the innocent."

Chandrababu concluded by affirming his government's goal to create wealth by enhancing real estate prospects, ultimately laying the foundation for long-term prosperity in Andhra Pradesh.



"I Have Apologized Myself, What's Stopping You?"

TPN Correspondent
Pithapuram, Jan 11

Deputy Chief Minister Pawan Kalyan expressed deep sorrow over the loss of six lives in the recent Tirumala stampede incident. Speaking at the inauguration of Gokulam sheds in Kumarapuram, Pithapuram constituency, Pawan demanded that the Tirumala Tirupati Devasthanams (TTD) Chairman and members hold a press conference to apologize for the tragedy. "When I have already apologized, what is stopping you?" he questioned, urging accountability and fairness.

- Pawan Kalyan demands TTD officials apologize for the Tirumala stampede tragedy that claimed six lives.
- 12,500 Gokulam sheds built in six months, with plans for 20,000 more to boost the dairy industry.
- Calls for a 15-year coalition government, emphasizing accountability and responsibility.

Pawan Kalyan emphasized the need to reduce VIP privileges and prioritize the needs of the common man. Highlighting the NDA coalition's vision, he remarked, "We must be willing to admit our mistakes and respond with responsibility." He pointed out that under his leadership, the government has built 12,500 Gokulam sheds in just six months, compared to the 268 sheds constructed during the YSRCP regime. He promised to construct 20,000 more sheds to strengthen the dairy industry, which he claimed was weakened under the previous administration.

The Deputy CM also criticized officials aligned with the previous government, accusing them of negligence. "Power is not an ornament for me," he asserted, warning against any misconduct. Pawan expressed his vision for a coalition government to last at least 15 years, emphasizing his commitment to responsibility over personal gain.

Concluding his address, Pawan announced plans to begin a district tour starting from Pithapuram to engage with the public and ensure the government's initiatives reach the grassroots.

True Point News 2025 Diary Launched by Shri Nadendla Manohar Garu



True Point News proudly unveiled its 2025 diary, marking another milestone in its commitment to journalistic excellence and public service. With the esteemed presence of Shri Nadendla Manohar Garu, Honorable Minister of Civil Supplies, Food, and Consumer Affairs in Andhra Pradesh. Speaking on the occasion, Shri Nadendla Manohar highlighted the significant role of credible journalism in shaping informed societies. He commended True Point News for its unwavering dedication to delivering accurate and impactful reporting, emphasizing that initiatives like the annual diary symbolize the organization's enduring connection with its audience. The 2025 diary, meticulously designed with insights and key highlights, reflects True Point News' journey and its vision for the year ahead.

Time for Venigandla Ramu to Make a Choice Party or Personal Ties?

G Avinash | TPN
Amaravati | Jan 11

As we at True Point News have been following and covering this issue long before others, the moment of reckoning has arrived for Gudivada MLA Venigandla Ramu. The arrest of Tulasi Babu Kamepalli, a key figure allegedly involved in the custodial torture of Deputy Speaker Raghu Rama Krishna Raju (RRR), has placed the spotlight firmly on Ramu and his choices.

Tulasi Babu's arrest stems from his alleged role in the 2021 CID custody torture of RRR. Back then, RRR accused three individuals of assaulting him under the watch of then-CID Chief



Sunil Kumar IPS, who had close ties with the YSRCP. Tulasi Babu, reportedly a relative of Sunil Kumar, is now under investigation for his involvement

in this high-profile case. The controversy deepened when Tulasi Babu arrived at the Prakasam District Police Station in a convoy of vehicles bearing stickers of Venigandla Ramu, threatening the authorities with dire consequences. This has raised eyebrows and questions about Ramu's association with Babu, especially since the latter is accused of working against the interests of the TDP in Prakasam while maintaining his TDP ties in Gudivada.

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TTD Chairman BR Naidu Counters Pawan Kalyan

There Is Nothing Wrong with Apologizing but..

TPN Correspondent
Tirumala | Jan 11

Responding to Deputy Chief Minister Pawan Kalyan's demand for a public apology over the Tirumala stampede incident, TTD Chairman BR Naidu stated that there is "nothing wrong with apologizing." However, he remarked, "The dead won't come back just by saying sorry," emphasizing the need for action beyond words in addressing the tragedy.



BR Naidu further clarified that there is no compulsion to respond to someone else's words, stressing the importance of measured and thoughtful communication in the aftermath of such incidents.

The comments come in the wake of Pawan Kalyan's strong appeal for TTD officials to take accountability and apologize publicly, highlighting a growing debate over responsibility and leadership in handling the incident.



AP Govt's Decision to Abolish 1st Year Inter Exams Sparks Mixed Reactions

TPN Correspondent
Andhra Pradesh | Jan 11

The Andhra Pradesh government's recent decision to abolish first-year intermediate exams has sparked mixed reactions from various sections of society. While some believe it will streamline education, others raise concerns about its impact, especially on students in non-science groups and the broader educational ecosystem.

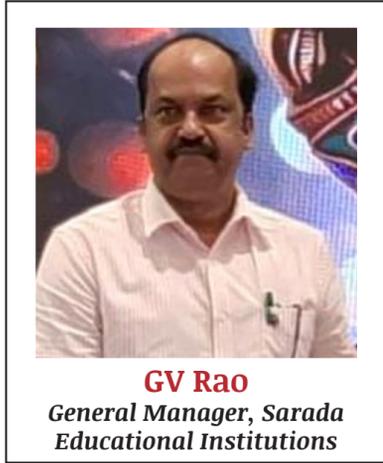
One of the key criticisms of this move is that it primarily benefits corporate colleges. With the first-year exams out of the way, these institutions can start second-year syllabi early, preparing students for competitive exams like JEE, IIT, and EAMCET. This approach, critics argue, will only further prioritize the science streams, potentially sidelining students pursuing arts, commerce, or other non-science disciplines.

A Potential Risk to Student Engagement

Another significant concern is the potential decline in student attendance and focus. Without exams as a benchmark for performance, students may lose motivation to attend classes or take their studies seriously. "Failure rates in the second year could soar as a result of this system," warned GV Rao, General Manager of Sarada Educational Institutions. According to him, the absence of exams could encourage neglect of academics, leading to a more significant gap in learning.

Impact on Mental Health and Pressure

Furthermore, experts like Rao also warn about the mental health implications. The



GV Rao
General Manager, Sarada Educational Institutions

grading system that replaces exams may increase pressure on students, especially in a highly competitive environment. The system of merit and demerit could lead to more students facing stress and anxiety, potentially exacerbating cases of depression and suicides. "The increase in academic pressure could be a contribut-

ing factor to more tragic outcomes," Rao explained.

The Role of Parents in the New System

Parents, too, will have a more active role to play in the new system. They will need to be more vigilant about their children's academic progress, ensuring they stay on track despite the lack of formal exams. While the government's aim may be to create a more streamlined system, the lack of robust evaluation mechanisms could have unintended consequences on students' overall well-being and educational outcomes.

As the state government pushes ahead with this controversial decision, the debate on its long-term effects on students' academic growth, mental health, and societal impact remains unresolved. With the potential for both positive and negative outcomes, it is clear that more time and careful consideration are needed to understand the true implications of this change.

Minister Gottipati Ravi Kumar Lights Up Tribal Lives with Electrification Efforts in Prakasam



TPN Correspondent
Prakasam | Jan 11

Andhra Pradesh Power Minister Gottipati Ravi Kumar is transforming the lives of tribals in the Yerragondapalem constituency in Prakasam district by providing much-needed electricity to remote tribal areas. Despite being located in the middle of roads between Yerragondapalem and Srisailam, several tribal camps had been without electricity since independence. Recognizing this issue, Minister Gottipati Ravi Kumar took swift action by conducting a survey with electricity employees, discovering that 1,750 tribal houses were lacking power supply.

In response, the coalition government under Chief Minister Nara Chandrababu Naidu immediately prioritized the electrification of these tribal areas. A total of Rs. 2.20 crore was allocated to bring electricity to six villages, benefiting 956 tribal households. Additionally, 611 families in the Tiger Reserve Zone will soon be supplied with electricity through solar batteries.

Minister Gottipati spoke about the government's efforts to uplift the tribals, particularly the Chenchu community, who are among the poorest in the region. He emphasized that the government is committed to improving their living standards by providing essential services like electricity. The electrification process has also extended to agricultural support, with solar power being introduced for farming purposes. Furthermore, the Minister promised employment opportunities for the youth under the employment guarantee scheme, ensuring equal rights and support for the tribals within the coalition government's framework.

Minister Gottipati assured that all remaining Chenchu families in the Tiger Reserve Zone would soon have access to electricity and that the government's commitment to the welfare of the tribals remains unwavering.

Skill Census in Andhra Pradesh to Start Soon - Nara Lokesh



TPN Correspondent
Andhra Pradesh | Jan 11

Andhra Pradesh Education, IT, and Electronics Minister Nara Lokesh has announced that the state will soon launch its first-ever Skill Census, a comprehensive initiative aimed at strengthening the state's workforce and offering better job opportunities for the youth. Minister Lokesh held a review meeting with the Skill Development Department officials at his residence in Undavalli, emphasizing the importance of making the skill census data valuable for a lifetime.

The Skill Census, set to be conducted across the state, will collect data from both organized and unorganized sectors. Minister Lokesh pointed out the success of similar efforts in Mangalagiri and suggested that the process should be simple, meaningful, and efficient. He emphasized the need for accurate data collection that will directly benefit young people seeking employment opportunities.

One of the key aspects of the Skill Census is the creation of international job opportunities. Minister Lokesh highlighted the demand for skilled workers in regions like Arab countries, Europe, and Southeast Asia. He proposed training programs in local languages such as German and Japanese to enhance the employability of youth in international markets. He further suggested incorporating cutting-edge technologies in training to meet global standards.

Minister Lokesh also discussed the primary goal of the Skill Census, which is to create 20 lakh jobs over the next five years, thus strengthening the financial stability of poor and middle-class families. He instructed the officials to ensure that the census data is integrated without duplicating information from existing databases like CDAP, APSSDC, and NAP.

The Skill Census will provide a crucial foundation for empowering youth through skill development programs, ensuring they are well-prepared for the workforce both locally and abroad.

TTD Offers Vaikunthadwara Darshan to Stampede Victims

TPN C. SEKHAM
Tirumala | Jan 11

In response to the recent stampede incident, the Tirumala Tirupati Devasthanams (TTD) provided special Vaikunthadwara darshan to the 52 injured devotees, following instructions from Chief Minister N. Chandrababu Naidu and TTD Chairman.

The CM and Chairman ensured that those affected by the unfortunate incident received immediate medical attention and were granted the privilege of a special darshan at the Vaikunthadwara, a significant spiritual offering.

A total of 52 injured devotees were given priority darshan, and arrangements were made for their treatment. Many of the devotees expressed their gratitude toward the CM Chandrababu Naidu, Deputy CM Pawan



Kalyan, and TTD for ensuring their well-being and granting them the spiritual experience, offering prayers for the speedy recovery of those affected.

The TTD administration, in coordination with local authorities, has ensured that the devotees receive proper medical treatment and spiritual support during this challenging time.

Health Chariots Launched to Provide Healthcare in Tribal Mining Areas

TPN Correspondent
Vijayawada | Jan 11

Two health chariots, aimed at delivering advanced medical care to the tribal communities in Araku and Paderu mining areas, were launched on Friday by State Mines, Mineral Resources, and Excise Minister Kollu Ravindra. These mobile healthcare units, developed under the Corporate Responsibility Scheme of the Andhra Pradesh Mineral Development Corporation (APMDC), come at a cost of ₹1 crore.

The inauguration took place at the APMDC office in Tadigadapa, where Minister Kollu Ravindra expressed satisfaction at the initiative to provide medical services to underserved areas. He emphasized that the health chariots align with the vision of Chief Minister Nara Chandrababu Naidu to enhance medical accessibility in tribal and mining regions.

"These fully-equipped vehicles symbolize our commitment to providing quality healthcare. They offer services such as health checkups, cardiology care, blood tests, and ECGs, ensuring that even the remotest communities receive essential medical attention," said the Minister.

AP Leads Real Estate Revival with Landmark Reforms Under CM Chandrababu

TPN Correspondent
Guntur | Jan 11

State Urban Development Minister Narayana participated in the NAREDCO Capital Zone Property Show in Guntur alongside Chief Minister Nara Chandrababu Naidu. Addressing the gathering, Minister Narayana highlighted the comprehensive reforms undertaken by the NDA government to revive and boost the real estate sector in Andhra Pradesh. He remarked, "Real estate was completely destroyed under the misrule of the YCP government. However, after the NDA government assumed power, we prioritized the revival of the sector. The Chief Minister has always emphasized that the state's development is directly linked to a robust real estate industry."

Key Reforms Introduced:

- Road Layout Changes:** Reduced road width requirements in layouts from 12 meters to 9 meters.
- Group Development Rules:** Applied for gated communities to streamline approvals.
- NOC Revisions:** Simplified the process for constructions adjacent to railway tracks.

- Expanded Permissions:** Allowed cellars for constructions exceeding 500 sq m and introduced environmental decks for buildings taller than 30 meters.
- Constructions Without Permissions:** Enabled building up to five floors without prior approval under a new G.O.
- Agricultural Land Flexibility:** Permitted poultry farms on agricultural lands.
- Integrated Permissions System:** Streamlined building and layout permissions through an integration system.

Minister Narayana also announced the single-window system, implemented for the first time in India under the leadership of CM Chandrababu Naidu, allowing hassle-free approvals for real estate projects. The minister stated that officials visited several states to adopt the best policies, ensuring Andhra Pradesh remains a model for real estate development. The reforms aim to resolve industry bottlenecks, attract investments, and ensure the sector's sustainable growth. The event saw active participation from key stakeholders, with the Chief Minister reiterating the government's commitment to making Andhra Pradesh a leader in real estate innovation and infrastructure development.

Time for Venigandla Ramu to Make a Choice

Continued from page 1

Raghu Rama Krishna Raju, the first leader to openly challenge Jagan Mohan Reddy's administration, has consistently called for justice regarding the custodial torture he endured. With the coalition government now in power, investigations into this case have gained momentum, ensuring no individual, no matter how politically connected, escapes scrutiny.

For Venigandla Ramu, this situation presents a critical test. Known as a "giant killer" for defeating Kodali Nani, Ramu has built a strong reputation within the TDP. However, his support or association with someone like Tulasi Babu, who faces

serious allegations, risks damaging his standing within the party and with the public.

The TDP high command must step in to address this sensitive matter. Venigandla Ramu must now decide whether to stand by Tulasi Babu or reaffirm his loyalty to the TDP and its values. His choice will not only shape his personal trajectory but also send a clear message about the party's commitment to justice and integrity.

As the case unfolds, the people of Gudivada and the broader political landscape will closely watch Venigandla Ramu's next move. For a leader of his stature, distancing himself from controversy and aligning firmly with the party's principles will be the wisest path forward.

Minister Anam Ramanarayana Reddy on Tirupati Stampede: Failures Identified, Action Initiated

TPN Correspondent
Nellore | Jan 11

Andhra Pradesh Endowment and Charitable Trusts Minister Anam Ramanarayana Reddy expressed deep sorrow over the tragic stampede at the Vaikuntha Dwara Darshan Token Issuance Center at Padmavati Park, Tirupati, on Wednesday night. Terming the incident unfortunate and painful, the minister highlighted the reasons behind the mishap and detailed the state government's response.

Minister Ramanarayana Reddy explained that the stampede occurred when a gate was opened to take a woman with low sugar levels to the hospital. Misunderstanding the situation, devotees assumed tokens were being distributed and surged towards the gates, leading to the tragedy. He further stated that the gates meant to be opened on one side were mistakenly opened on the other, worsening the situation.

Highlighting administrative lapses, the minister revealed that the DSP in charge was absent at the time of the incident, a critical failure noticed by Chief Minister Nara Chandrababu Naidu during his inspection of the scene.

The minister announced that the postmortems of the six deceased were conducted promptly, and their bodies were sent home in



ambulances, accompanied by family members and revenue officials. Among the deceased, four were from Andhra Pradesh, one from Tamil Nadu, and one from Kerala. Ramanarayana Reddy shared that 35 injured individuals were initially treated at Ruia Hospital and later shifted to SWIMS Hospital for advanced care. A sub-committee of three ministers met each victim to collect details and ensure their

needs were addressed. Chief Minister Chandrababu Naidu personally spent over an hour and a half visiting the injured, inquiring about their condition, and offering assurance. He announced an ex-gratia of ₹25 lakh for the families of the deceased. The minister reaffirmed the government's commitment to ensuring accountability and taking steps to prevent such incidents in the future.

Roja's Remarks on Tirumala's Sanctity and "Demons Reciting the Vedas"

TPN Correspondent
Andhra Pradesh | Jan 11

Legislative Council Chief Whip Panchumarthi Anuradha launched a scathing attack on YSRCP leader Roja Reddy, accusing her and the ruling party of exploiting Tirumala for personal and political gains. Speaking at a media conference at the Telugu Desam Party (TDP) central office, Anuradha drew parallels between Roja's remarks on Tirumala's sanctity and "demons reciting the Vedas."

Anuradha criticized the negligence that led to the recent stampede at the Vaikuntha Dwara Darshan Token Issuance Center in Tirupati. She highlighted the government's swift response, including the suspension and transfer of officials responsible and the announcement of Rs. 25 lakh ex-gratia for the deceased and Rs. 5 lakh compensation for the injured.



Targeting YSRCP Chief Jagan Mohan Reddy, Anuradha accused him of misusing his position to amass wealth, citing his 16-month jail term and the alleged construction of a Rs. 500 crore palace with public funds. She also questioned Roja's motives, alleging that her visit to Tirupati was a mere political drama aimed at deflecting attention from the government's failures. Anuradha accused YSRCP leaders

of turning the Tirumala Tirupati Devasthanams (TTD) into an "ATM machine," claiming that they exploited its resources for corruption. She pointed to the alleged sale of darshan tickets, land grabs, and misuse of temple funds during the YSRCP regime.

The Chief Whip further attacked Roja, accusing her of looting public money through various illegal activities, including gravel and tourism scams. She questioned Roja's credibility in criticizing Chandrababu Naidu, stating that Naidu and his appointees upheld the sanctity of Tirumala.

Anuradha defended TTD Chairman BR Naidu, highlighting his integrity and personal commitment to not misusing resources. She concluded by accusing Jagan of using Tirumala for political theatrics and emphasized that people are aware of the ruling party's actions.

Ambati Rambabu Blames Chandrababu Naidu for Tirupati Stampede

Calls for Action Against Top Officials

TPN Correspondent
Guntur | Jan 11

Former minister and YSR Congress Party (YSRCP) leader Ambati Rambabu made sensational allegations regarding the recent stampede incident at the Vaikuntha Dwara Darshan Token Issuance Center in Tirupati, which resulted in the tragic deaths of six devotees. Speaking at the Guntur camp office, Rambabu accused Andhra Pradesh Chief Minister Chandrababu Naidu of orchestrating the events surrounding the incident and labeled him the "leader of the criminal gang" responsible for the chaos.

Key Allegations

1. Failure to Act Against Top Officials:

Rambabu criticized CM Chandrababu for not taking decisive action against the Tirumala Tirupati Devasthanams (TTD) Chairman, Executive Officer (EO), Joint Executive Officer (JEO), and the Tirupati Superintendent of Police (SP). He alleged that these officials were appointed solely to target YSRCP leaders through illegal cases.

2. Neglect of Victims:

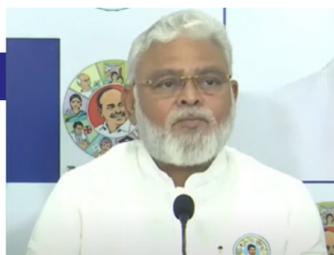
He condemned the government's decision to place blame solely on low-level employees, calling it "cruel and unjust." Rambabu emphasized that the stampede, caused by poor planning, was a significant tragedy that required accountability at the highest levels.

3. Political Drama by Chandrababu and Pawan Kalyan:

Rambabu accused Chandrababu Naidu of using his visit to Tirupati for political theatrics and protecting his loyal officials rather than focusing on the victims. He also criticized Jana Sena Party leader Pawan Kalyan, alleging that his separate visit was part of a coordinated effort to hinder Chief Minister YS Jagan Mohan Reddy's interactions with the victims' families.

4. Conspiracy Against YS Jagan:

Rambabu claimed that obstacles were deliberately created to prevent YS Jagan from meeting the victims' families. He praised Jagan for walking to meet the affected families, gathering details, and assuring them of his support. Rambabu argued that the government feared



public anger if Jagan's direct engagement brought the truth to light. **5. Commitment to Justice:** Rambabu declared that the YSRCP has nothing to fear from the alleged false cases filed against its leaders and vowed to face any legal challenges head-on.

Call for Preventive Measures:

Rambabu urged the state government to implement serious measures to prevent such incidents in the future, emphasizing that safety and proper planning must be prioritized at sacred sites like Tirumala. The allegations have added another layer of political tension to an already volatile situation, with the opposition and ruling parties trading barbs over accountability and governance.

YS Sharmila Slams PM Modi and AP Leaders: Calls Modi's Promises a Betrayal

TPN Correspondent
Visakhapatnam | Jan 11

Andhra Pradesh Congress Committee (APCC) President YS Sharmila accused Prime Minister Narendra Modi of betraying the people of Andhra Pradesh by failing to fulfill promises made during the state's bifurcation. She labeled Modi's actions as a "brutal backstabbing" of the state, citing his silence on critical issues during his recent visit to Visakhapatnam.



Sharmila criticized Modi for not addressing key promises, including the special status for Andhra Pradesh, the future of Visakhapatnam Steel Plant, and a financial package for the development of Uttarandhra and Rayalaseema. She also highlighted his lack of clarity on the Kadapa Steel Plant and other pressing state issues. In her scathing remarks, Sharmila targeted both Chief Minister Chandrababu Naidu and YS Jagan Mohan Reddy. She questioned the legitimacy of their alliances with the BJP, calling them a betrayal of the people's trust. "If Chandrababu's relationship with Modi is legitimate, then Jagan's relationship is illegitimate," Sharmila declared, accusing both leaders of compromising the state's interests. Sharmila further criticized Jagan for allying with the BJP, alleging that he had abandoned the principles of his

father, the late YS Rajasekhara Reddy. She claimed that Rajasekhara Reddy consistently opposed the communal politics of the BJP and questioned why Jagan, who claims his legacy, has chosen to side with them. Positioning herself as the true heir to Rajasekhara Reddy's principles, Sharmila stated, "I am the only one among Rajasekhara Reddy's heirs who opposes the BJP." She asserted that the Congress party is the only political force in Andhra Pradesh actively fighting against anti-BJP policies and urged people to support the Congress to protect democratic values and the state's interests. Sharmila's fiery comments reflect the growing tension among political parties in Andhra Pradesh as alliances and policies come under intense scrutiny ahead of the elections.

High Court Rejects Chevireddy Bhaskar Reddy's Quash Petition in POCSO Case

TPN Correspondent
Andhra Pradesh | Jan 11

The Andhra Pradesh High Court dealt a blow to YSR Congress Party (YSRCP) leader Chevireddy Bhaskar Reddy by dismissing his petition to quash a POCSO case registered against him. The court refused to entertain the plea, allowing the case to proceed as per law.

Court's Decision:

Chevireddy sought the dismissal of the case, claiming that his statements were intended to support the victim. However, the High Court found no grounds to quash the case at this stage, citing the seriousness of the allegations and the need for due legal process.

Background of the Case:

The case stems from an incident in Yarravari mandal of Tirupati district, where a 14-year-old girl alleged that she was attacked by masked individuals while returning from school. The girl reported being drugged, prompting concerns from her parents. Chevireddy Bhaskar Reddy, a former MLA and YSRCP leader, visited the girl's school and publicly commented that the girl had been raped. He also shared posts about the incident on social media, allegedly without verifying the facts.



However, subsequent medical examinations revealed no evidence of sexual assault. The girl's father filed a complaint against Chevireddy, accusing him of spreading misinformation and making defamatory comments. Based on the complaint, the police registered a case under the Protection of Children from Sexual Offenses (POCSO) Act against Chevireddy.

Implications:

The High Court's decision to allow the case to proceed underscores the importance of responsible public statements, especially concerning sensitive cases involving minors. The ruling sends a strong message against spreading unverified information, which could potentially harm victims and their families. Chevireddy is expected to face further legal proceedings as the case continues.

Sri Satyanarayana Lake Park Inaugurated by Minister Nadendla in Tenali

A New Landmark for Greenery and Recreation

TPN Correspondent
Tenali | Jan 11

The much-anticipated Sri Satyanarayana Lake Park, a project designed to rival the recreational facilities of metropolitan cities, was inaugurated on Friday by State Food, Civil Supplies, and Consumer Affairs Minister Nadendla Manohar Garu. The park, located in Tenali's Chinna Raor area, has now been officially dedicated to the public. Fulfilling the promise to complete the park before Sankranti, the project has transformed a previously neglected area into a vibrant and serene oasis. Equipped with advanced facilities, Sri Satyanarayana Lake Park has quickly become a symbol of greenery and tranquility in the region. The construction, carried out at a rapid pace with close coordination between authorities, has given the community a much-needed recreational space. Special features of the park include a dedicated walking track for senior citizens, lush greenery, and a pleasant atmosphere that makes it an ideal location for families to relax and enjoy quality time.

Speaking at the inauguration, Minister Nadendla Manohar praised the teamwork and commitment that went into completing the park. "This park is a gift to the people of Tenali, providing a space where families and individuals can connect with nature," he said.

As part of its grand opening, the park will offer free entry to the public for the first two months, encouraging residents to explore and enjoy its facilities.

Sri Satyanarayana Lake Park is expected to become a popular destination, combining natural



beauty with modern amenities, and marks a significant milestone in the city's development. Residents have welcomed the initiative, expressing gratitude for the focus on creating a sustainable and enjoyable environment. The park's inauguration adds to Tenali's growing reputation as a city that values community well-being and urban greenery.

Real Estate Growth Crucial for State Development - MP Kesineni Shivanath



TPN Correspondent
Vijayawada | Jan 11

Vijayawada MP Kesineni Shivanath (Chinni) emphasized that the state's development hinges on the progress of the real estate sector. Speaking at the inaugural ceremony of the three-day CREDAI Property Show at S. Convention in Vijayawada on Friday, he highlighted the need to revive the construction industry, which has stagnated over the past five to six years.

MP Kesineni stated that cities like Hyderabad and Bangalore have seen significant real estate growth, largely driven by infrastructure and industry development. He noted that Chief Minister Nara Chandrababu Naidu had laid a strong foundation for the sector during his tenure, particularly in Hyderabad, where IT and pharma industries spurred real estate expansion.

"The collapse of the construction sector in Andhra Pradesh over the last five years has adversely affected real estate and building workers. However, Chief Minister Chandrababu Naidu is now taking decisive steps to revive the sector," he said.

State Urban Development Minister Pongu-

ru Narayana announced reforms, including the introduction of Joint Venture Ordinances (JVOs) to simplify building construction and layout permissions. Initiatives like reducing layout road widths from 12 meters to 9 meters and delegating responsibilities for buildings under 15 meters to licensed surveyors aim to streamline processes. A single-window system is also being implemented to avoid bureaucratic hurdles.

Minister Narayana expressed optimism that these measures would lead to rapid real estate growth, especially in Vijayawada and Amaraty. He also acknowledged plans to establish a National Academy of Construction (NAC) to benefit construction workers.

The event saw participation from Ministers Kollu Ravindra, MLAs Bode Prasad, Bonda Umamaheswar Rao, Gadde Rammohan, and prominent CREDAI leaders, including National Secretary G. Ramireddy and AP President Y.V. Ramana Rao.

The property show, accessible to middle-class families, showcases affordable and premium housing projects, highlighting the government's commitment to rejuvenating the real estate sector.

Vijayawada Municipal Corporation Begins Desilting Process to Address Rainwater Stagnation

TPN Correspondent
Vijayawada | Jan 11

Vijayawada Municipal Corporation Commissioner Dhyanchandra has directed officials to commence the desilting process across the city to address rainwater stagnation and drainage issues. During his inspection on Friday, he



visited several areas, including Eat Street, Eluru Road, Machavaram, ESI Hospital, Kristhu Rajupuram, A.S. Rama Rao Road, Harijan Wada, Loyola College Road, and Madhu Chowk. The Commissioner emphasized the need to resolve water stagnation at 72 identified locations across the city, especially during heavy rains. He instructed engineering officials to ensure that rainwater drains efficiently from roads and to monitor and desilt drains leading to main outlets regularly.

Addressing specific issues, he urged immediate action to resolve underground drainage overflow in Eluru Road and Machavaram. He also directed officials to remove abandoned two-wheeler and four-wheeler vehicles obstructing traffic in Kristhu Rajupuram and Harijan Wada, in coordination with the police. The Commissioner highlighted the urgency of repairing the

damaged culvert near ESI Hospital and completing the drain construction at Madhu Chowk Center. Additionally, he instructed officials to clear construction waste from roads periodically, coordinating with the Engineering and Town Planning departments. Commissioner Dhyanchandra stressed that timely interventions would improve urban infrastructure and minimize inconvenience to residents, especially during the rainy season.

The inspection was attended by Zonal Commissioner Prabhudas, Chief Engineer R. Srinath, In-charge Chief Medical Health Officer Dr. Suresh Babu, and Superintending Engineers P. Satyanarayana and P. Satyakumari. The Vijayawada Municipal Corporation's proactive measures aim to ensure smoother traffic flow and better water management, enhancing the city's preparedness for adverse weather conditions.

Inspection for Development of Shadi Khana and Burial Ground in Vidyadharapuram

TPN Correspondent
Vijayawada | Jan 11

Andhra Pradesh Waqf Board Chairman Abdul Aziz, accompanied by Waqf Board CEO Abdul Qadir, conducted an inspection of the Shadi Khana and Burial Ground in Vidyadharapuram, Vijayawada, to explore developmental possibilities for the area.

During the visit, Chairman Abdul Aziz stated that the inspection focused on assessing the feasibility of developing the site to benefit the local Muslim community. He informed that 6.90 acres and 3.00 cents of land, listed under NTS No.



128, have been allocated for the Muslim cemetery. Out of this, 3 acres and 90

cents have been officially registered in the gazette for developmental purposes. Chairman Abdul Aziz assured that a suitable decision regarding the site's development would be taken soon. He also emphasized the Waqf Board's commitment to initiating development projects for the area in a timely manner to enhance its utility for the community.

The inspection underscores the Waqf Board's focus on addressing the needs of local communities by ensuring optimal use of allocated lands for welfare and development purposes.

CPI Leaders Demand Immediate Implementation of Promises to the Poor

TPN Correspondent
Tadepalli | Jan 11

CPI Tadepalli area secretary Kancharla Kasaiah, along with assistant secretary Tudimella Venkataiah and beneficiaries, presented a petition to Tahsildar Seetharamaiah on Friday, urging the coalition government to fulfill its promises to the underprivileged.

The protest was organized as part of the Communist Party of India's state-wide initiative to collect and submit petitions from the poor at Tahsildar offices. During the event, Kancharla Kasaiah emphasized the urgent need to implement the coalition government's election promises of providing two cents of land in towns, three cents in villages, and ₹5 lakh for house construction. He pointed out that while Chief Minister Chandrababu Naidu promised two cents of land for urban residents, three cents for rural dwellers, and ₹4 lakh for house construction during the elections, these promises remain unfulfilled even seven months after the coalition government assumed power.

Kancharla Kasaiah also appealed to IT & Electronics and Education Minister Nara Lokesh to grant land titles to the poor living in Konda Poramboku railway plots and other areas where impoverished families currently reside. He stressed the importance of providing pattas in the locations where the poor are



already settled to avoid displacement. Assistant Secretary Tudimella Venkataiah added that due to rising construction costs, the financial assistance for house construction should be increased to ₹5 lakh, ensuring the poor can afford quality housing.

Several CPI leaders, including Manikonda Dange, Guddanti Shiva, and Sheikh Kashim, along with numerous beneficiaries, participated in the protest. The group collectively urged the coalition government to take immediate action to fulfill its promises, providing much-needed relief and support to the homeless poor in both urban and rural areas. This initiative highlights the CPI's continued advocacy for social justice and better living conditions for the marginalized sections of society.

District-Level Sub-Junior Boys and Girls Hockey Team Selection on January 11

TPN Correspondent
Vijayawada | Jan 11

The NTR District Hockey Association has announced the selection trials for the district sub-junior boys and girls hockey teams. The trials will be held on January 11th at the MBP Stadium in Ajit Singh Nagar.

Interested players are required to report at 7:00 AM with their Aadhar card and birth certificate for verification.

The selected boys' team will represent the district in the state-level hockey competitions scheduled to be held in Madanapalle from January 17th to 19th. Similarly, the selected girls' team will participate in the state-level competitions in Anantapur from January 27th to 29th. Eligibility criteria state that participants must be born on or after January 1, 2009.

NTR District Hockey Association Secretary K. Rajasekhara urged aspiring players to take advantage of this opportunity and showcase their talent. For further details, interested players can contact the MBP Stadium Hockey Coach at 9550671671.

This event is expected to identify and nurture promising young hockey talent in the district, paving the way for future achievements in the sport.



Strict Action Against Illegal Liquor Sellers: Excise CI Telangana Liquor Bottles Seized

TPN Correspondent
Nandigama | Jan 11

Excise Circle Inspector Ashrapunnisa Begum has issued a stern warning that illegal liquor sales will not be tolerated in the region. Acting on a tip-off, the Excise Department arrested Sheikh Mohammed Rasool in Moguluru village, Kanchikacherla Mandal, for smuggling liquor from Telangana and selling it illegally. During the operation, 481 liquor bottles were seized from his possession. CI Ashrapunnisa Begum emphasized that stringent measures will be enforced against those involved in illegal liquor sales. A



case has been registered against the accused, and further investigations are underway. The Excise Department reiterated its commitment to curbing illegal liquor trade in the district, urging residents to report any such activities to authorities.

Dy CM Pawan Kalyan Inspects Accident Site in Mukundavaram Village



TPN Correspondent, Kakinada Dist | Jan 11 : Deputy Chief Minister Shri Pawan Kalyan visited Mukundavaram village in Rangampet mandal to inspect the site of a tragic accident on the ADB road, where two individuals, Charan and Manikanta, tragically lost their lives.

appropriate steps to prevent such accidents in the future and ensure the safety of the residents. The loss of lives has deeply affected the community, and the Deputy Chief Minister assured that measures would be taken to improve road safety in the region.

Shri Pawan Kalyan, along with local officials, reviewed the circumstances surrounding the incident. Expressing his condolences, he promised to take ap-

The incident serves as a somber reminder of the importance of road safety and the need for preventive measures to avoid such tragedies.

Grand Vaikuntha Ekadashi Celebrations at Sri Lakshmi Narayana Swamy Temple in Kolakala

TPN Correspondent, Chittoor Dist | Jan 11 : The Sri Lakshmi Narayana Swamy temple in Kolakala village, Airala mandal, witnessed grand celebrations for Vaikuntha Ekadashi. Devotees gathered in large numbers to participate in the auspicious event, which was marked by traditional rituals and vibrant decorations.



The temple was adorned with fragrant flowers and illuminated with electric lamps, creating a divine ambiance. The festivities began with special pujas performed at the temple's north gate, followed by camphor aartis. Devotees were then allowed to enter the temple through the north gate, symbolizing the pathway to Vaikuntha (heaven).

As part of the celebrations, Thiruppavai Seva Archanas and other traditional pujas were conducted, culminating in the offering of Pancha Kala aartis to the temple's presiding deity, Sri Lakshmi Sametha Narayana Swamy. Devotees circumambulated the temple, seeking blessings and paying their respects.

The event drew a large turnout of devotees and temple administrators, along with enthusiastic participation from the villagers of Kolakala and surrounding areas.

The grand celebrations reflected the deep cultural and spiritual significance of Vaikuntha Ekadashi and brought the community together in devotion and festivity.

Mukkoti Ekadashi Celebrations at Sri Kalahasteswara Temple

TPN C. SEKHAR, Chittoor Dist | Jan 11 : On the occasion of Mukkoti Ekadashi, the Sri Kalahasteswara Temple, a revered pilgrimage site often referred to as the Southern Kailasam, hosted grand celebrations on Friday morning. The ceremonial idols of Goddess Soma Skandamarthi Gyan Prasannamba were adorned with beautiful and intricate ornaments at the temple's decorative mandapam.



Following the adornment, the Goddess was taken on a procession with auspicious instruments and mela talas. She was carried on a golden Sesa Vahanam and a golden Yali Vahanam, moving gracefully through four Madaveedhu processions, captivating the devotees who had gathered in large numbers to witness this divine event.

The temple's administrative officials, including Temple Superintendent Nagabhushan, Temple Inspector Sudarshan, Suresh, Rajini, and Shekhar, participated in the program, contributing to the seamless execution of this auspicious event. The celebrations were a blend of devotion, tradition, and cultural heritage, marking the significance of Mukkoti Ekadashi at this sacred temple.

Sri YN College Celebrates Platinum Jubilee with Grandeur



TPN Correspondent, Narsapur | Jan 11 : Sri YN College (Autonomous), Narsapur, marked its platinum jubilee with a grand celebration, commemorating 75 years of excellence in education and holistic development. The event was graced by several distinguished guests, including Smt. Daggubati Purandeswari, Hon'ble Member of Parliament from Rajamahendravaram and State BJP President.

Smt. Purandeswari inaugurated the celebrations by lighting the ceremonial lamp and unveiling a Saraswathi Devi idol on the college premises. In her address, she lauded the contributions of the college's founders, particularly Sri Yerramilli Narayana Murthy and Dr. Chinimilli Satyanarayana Rao, for their visionary

leadership in building the institution. Quoting Swami Vivekananda, she emphasized the transformative power of education in addressing societal challenges and called on parents to prioritize their children's education.

The event was presided over by the college's Vice President, Sri Ponnappalli Sri Ramarao, who reflected on the college's illustrious history, beginning in 1949, and its significant contributions to the town of Narsapur, renowned for its natural beauty. He expressed hope that the institution would soon achieve university status.

Dr. Chinimilli Satyanarayana Rao, Secretary of Sri YN College, delivered the wel-

come address, recounting the college's humble beginnings and its journey of growth despite numerous challenges. He highlighted the role of dedicated teachers and alumni in the institution's success, including achieving NAAC A+ accreditation in 2023.

Renowned singer Sri Gazal Srinivas, an alumnus, shared nostalgic memories of his college days, attributing his cultural grounding to the institution. He praised Dr. Satyanarayana Rao as a "sage" who tirelessly worked for the college's development.

Another highlight of the event was the unveiling of a Swami Vivekananda statue by Dr. Nimmala Rama Naidu, Head of the State Water Resources Department. Dr. Naidu acknowledged Dr. Satyanarayana Rao's unwavering dedication to academic excellence and credited him for inspiring his own professional journey.

The celebrations also included speeches by dignitaries such as High Court Judge Sri Andavarapu Bhavani Prasad, State Advisor Sri Ahmad Mohammad Sharief, and local MLA Sri Bommidi Nayakar. They commended the college for its role in shaping the lives of its students and contributing to the broader community.

The event concluded with the felicitation of Smt. Daggubati Purandeswari by the college management. Principal Dr. Ch. Kanaka Rao, Director N. Chinta Rao, faculty members, students, alumni, and several governing body members participated in the celebrations, making it a memorable occasion in the history of Sri YN College.

Minister Dola Sri Balaveeranjanyaswamy Highlights Development in Prakasam Dist

TPN Correspondent, Prakasam Dist | Jan 11 : Andhra Pradesh State Welfare Minister Dola Sri Balaveeranjanyaswamy emphasized the alliance government's commitment to rapid development during the inauguration of a mini Gokulam in Maddipadu. He highlighted the government's achievements within six months of its rule and criticized the opposition for exploiting recent incidents for political mileage.

Speaking at the event, the minister announced the construction of 1,342 mini Gokulams in Prakasam district, with a total investment of ₹22 crore. He said these projects would transform the lives of dairy farmers by providing consistent economic opportunities. "Under this government, every day will be a festival for dairy farmers," he remarked. Infrastructure Development in Focus Minister Swamy highlighted several infrastructure initiatives, including the construction of roads and side canals in villages across the district. He affirmed that the government is actively addressing rural development challenges and creating better connectivity for villagers. Support for Farmers and SC Communities The minister revealed plans to provide



tractors to eligible farmers through the SC Corporation with a 60% subsidy. Additionally, loans will soon be sanctioned to eligible individuals under various welfare schemes.

Criticism of Opposition Politics Swamy criticized the opposition, particularly YSRCP, accusing them of exploiting the recent Tirumala stampede incident for political gains. He alleged that YS Jagan Mohan Reddy had a history of using personal tragedies, including his father's

death, for political purposes.

Event Participation The event was attended by MLA Vijayakumar and District Collector Tamim Ansaria, who joined the minister in inaugurating the project and inspecting ongoing development work in the region. Minister Swamy reaffirmed the alliance government's commitment to the holistic development of villages and towns, ensuring tangible progress for the people of Prakasam district.

Gauthu Shyam Sundar Shivaji Attends Mukkoti Ekadashi Celebrations at Sri Kodandaramaswamy Temple

TPN Correspondent, Srikakulam | Jan 11 : Former Andhra Pradesh State Minister Gauthu Shyam Sundar Shivaji participated in the Mukkoti Ekadashi celebrations at the Sri Sri Sri Kodandaramaswamy Temple in Sompeta, Srikakulam district. On this auspicious occasion, the temple witnessed a large influx of devotees who visited from early morning to receive offerings and take part in the sacred rituals.

The day's celebrations included a procession in the evening, where a large number of devotees accompanied the Swamiji as they paraded the Sitarams through the streets of Sompeta town. The temple, with its vibrant atmosphere, saw devotees engaging in prayers and rituals, making the Mukkoti Ekadashi observance a spiritually significant event for all involved.



Why India's Softening Stance on the Taliban Provokes Pakistan

The recent meeting between Indian Foreign Secretary Vikram Misri and Taliban's Acting Foreign Minister Amir Khan Muttaqi in Dubai has raised significant concerns, particularly in Pakistan. The two officials were seen engaging in dialogue, signaling a possible shift in India's approach to Afghanistan's new rulers. This diplomatic move was followed by India's strong condemnation of Pakistan's bombing of Kabul on December 25, a statement that echoes the Taliban's own criticisms of Pakistan. For Pakistan, India's engagement with the Taliban is not only seen as a geopolitical shift but also a challenge to its influence in the region.

India's growing ties with the Taliban come after years of aid to Afghanistan, even as the Taliban assumed power in Kabul. In fact, India's humanitarian assistance to Afghanistan has never ceased, despite the Taliban's rule. Delhi allocated Rs 200 crore for aid and became one of the first countries to respond to a devastating earthquake in Afghanistan in 2021. The logistical challenges posed by Pakistan's restrictions on aid deliveries led India to use alternative routes, such as the Chabahar port, to ensure assistance reached the Afghan people.

India's consistent support for Afghanistan's welfare has been further emphasized by its long history of providing significant aid, from infrastructure projects like the Salma Dam to training Afghan military personnel. With these efforts, India has solidified its position as a reliable partner for Afghanistan, regardless of the Taliban's controversial takeover.

Pakistan, however, remains deeply insecure about India's growing role in Afghanistan. The situation is complicated by the rise of the Islamic State Khorasan (IS-K), an extremist group with a history



of ties to Pakistan. This group has carried out attacks on Indian nationals and interests, as well as inciting violence in Indian Kashmir. These developments underscore the complex and sensitive nature of Pakistan's own internal security situation, which is exacerbated by Afghanistan's instability.

Furthermore, the worsening relations between Pakistan and Afghanistan add another layer of tension. The Taliban has increasingly criticized Pakistan's involvement in Afghanistan, accusing it of using the country as a pawn in its regional power games. Meanwhile, Pakistan's increasing military offensives against domestic insurgent groups like the Tehrik-i-Taliban Pakistan (TTP) have also led to rising casualties and widespread protests in its tribal areas. These movements challenge Pakistan's authority, especially in areas where the TTP has found refuge, leading to a dan-

gerous cycle of instability. India's diplomatic engagement with the Taliban, while still cautious, marks a significant shift in the region's geopolitical dynamics. This move, combined with its continued commitment to Afghan development and humanitarian efforts, is seen as a stabilizing force in the region. However, for Pakistan, India's growing influence in Afghanistan is a strategic threat that could undermine its own ambitions in the region.

As India, Russia, and China move towards economic cooperation and regional stability, Pakistan seems increasingly isolated, focusing on blaming others instead of capitalizing on opportunities for peace and trade. The challenge for Pakistan lies in deciding whether to pursue peace and stability or to continue fighting a battle that could further destabilize the region. The time for decisive action is now.



Alcohol Consumption and Cancer Risk: A Call for Stricter Health Regulations

As we begin a new year, a fresh health warning has surfaced, with the U.S. Surgeon General Vivek Murthy releasing an advisory that directly links alcohol consumption to an increased risk of cancer. According to the advisory, alcohol is the third leading preventable cause of cancer in the U.S. It increases the risk of at least seven types of cancer, including breast, colorectal, esophageal, liver, oral cavity, throat, and voice box cancers. Astonishingly, 16.4 percent of breast cancer cases in the U.S. are attributed to alcohol consumption, with the risk beginning to rise with just one or fewer drinks a day for certain cancers like breast, mouth, and throat.

The advisory follows the World Health Organization's (WHO) 2023 statement on the dangers of alcohol consumption, based on a comprehensive review of scientific evidence. The WHO categorically states that there is no safe amount of alcohol that does not affect health, as even small amounts can contribute to chronic conditions such as liver cirrhosis. The WHO's findings reinforce the claim that alcohol, classified as a 'Group 1 carcinogen' by the International Agency for Research on Cancer since the 1980s, causes cancer through biological mechanisms when it breaks down in the body. This includes all alcoholic beverages, be it beer, wine, or whiskey.

Furthermore, despite claims from the alcohol industry suggesting that moderate alcohol consumption, particularly red wine, could offer health benefits, these notions are debunked by research. For decades, the industry has promoted the idea that red wine in moderation is good for heart health, although no credible scientific study has supported such claims. On the contrary, data from WHO's European Region reveals that what is considered 'light' or 'moderate' drinking—such as consuming a bottle of wine or two bottles of beer per week—still contributes to a substantial number of alcohol-related cancers. WHO experts assert that no studies demonstrate that light drinking offers protective benefits for heart disease or diabetes that outweigh the cancer risk. The real solution lies in stricter health regulations and clear warning labels on alcohol products.

Online lies: A Setback in the Fight Against Misinformation



Meta's recent announcement to end its fact-checking programme, starting with the United States, represents a significant setback in the global effort to combat misinformation and disinformation online. The decision marks the closure of the independent, third-party fact-checking initiative launched by the company in 2016 and signals a dramatic shift in its approach to content moderation. This policy change is all the more concerning given its timing, coinciding with the incoming administration of President-elect Donald Trump—who has been a vocal critic of Meta's efforts to censor right-wing voices.

Meta CEO Mark Zuckerberg's rationale for this shift, claiming that it is motivated by a desire to promote free speech, raises serious doubts. Zuckerberg has long been hesitant about content moderation, and his company's past missteps—particularly around the spread of fake news—have forced him and other social media leaders to take firmer actions. While his decision to move away from fact-checkers may make business sense by mending relations with Trump's administration, it is ultimately an irresponsible move that undermines the integrity of information online.

Instead of relying on professional, independent fact-checkers to moderate content, Meta now plans to adopt a model similar to X's, where volunteers write contextual notes beneath misleading posts. This shift raises significant concerns about the quality and effectiveness of content moderation, especially given the vast scope of misinformation across platforms like Facebook, Instagram, and Threads. Critics warn that loosening these controls could allow falsehoods to spread unchecked, with potentially harmful effects on public discourse.

In countries like India, where misinformation is rampant, especially in the form of hate speech, the consequences of reducing fact-checking are even more severe. The proliferation of false information not only erodes the public's access to reliable news but also hampers the ability to hold political leaders accountable. The rise of the so-called 'WhatsApp university,' where falsehoods and historical distortions are regularly spread, serves as a stark reminder of the dangers of leaving social media platforms unregulated.

Rather than pulling back on fact-checking efforts, more resources are needed to combat the spread of lies online. The absence of rigorous oversight invites further misinformation, creating an environment where accountability is virtually nonexistent.

Is It Time For A Relook At Low Corporate Tax Rates?

As India gears up for the 2025 Union Budget, there has been growing speculation surrounding potential changes in tax rates, with particular focus on corporate tax rates. Recent reports suggest that trade unions have urged the government to consider raising corporate tax rates, while prominent voices such as veteran banker Uday Kotak have warned against any hikes.

The trade unions' stance comes amid a push for increased government spending on welfare programs, leading to their call for higher taxes on corporations. They argue that the country's fiscal needs and social commitments require a more equitable tax structure, which could include an increase in corporate tax rates.

On the other hand, Uday Kotak's remarks, made in a recent interview with Mint, highlight concerns that raising corporate taxes could hurt India's business climate, particularly when the country is striving to boost economic growth and attract foreign investment. Kotak's argument is rooted in the belief that a stable and competitive tax environment is crucial for encouraging private sector investment, which is essential for job creation and overall economic growth.

This debate raises an important question: should the government increase corporate tax rates to address fiscal challenges, or is maintaining the current rate necessary for sustaining economic momentum? Advocates for higher taxes believe that corporations should contribute more, especially when their profits are substantial. However, critics worry that increasing taxes could dampen corporate profitability and discourage business expansion.

The decision will likely hinge on the government's broader economic strategy and the challenges it faces, including funding public welfare programs, managing fiscal deficits, and promoting business investment. As the Budget 2025 approaches, all eyes will be on how the government strikes a balance between ensuring fiscal health and maintaining a conducive environment for businesses to thrive.



My risk-taking capacity hasn't been fully utilised: PM Modi in podcast

TPN Correspondent
Delhi, Jan 11

In a candid conversation with Zerodha co-founder Nikhil Kamath, Prime Minister Narendra Modi reflected on his approach to life, emphasizing that he has never lived in a comfort zone. He shared that his risk-taking capacity has not been fully utilized, and he believes that true success comes from stepping out of one's comfort zone.

During the podcast, PM Modi explained that people often struggle in life when they become accustomed to comfort. "It has been my luck that I have not spent life in a comfort zone, have never been there... Since I was out of comfort zone, I knew what I had to do. Probably I am unfit for comfort," he said.

The Prime Minister elaborated on his philosophy of embracing discomfort, which he believes has been instrumental in shaping his journey. "The kind of life I have lived, even small things give me satisfaction," Modi remarked, highlighting how simple experiences bring



him joy, despite the challenges he has faced.

This conversation with Nikhil Kamath, in the podcast series, provided a rare glimpse into Modi's mindset, focusing on his resilience and determination to constantly challenge himself. He suggested that being in a comfort zone can hinder progress, and that success is of-

ten the result of taking risks and pushing boundaries.

PM Modi's reflections on his life and leadership journey have resonated with many, as he continues to inspire others with his unyielding approach to challenges and his belief in the importance of personal growth and perseverance.

Talk To Farmers, Shun Ego: Priyanka To PM Modi



TPN Correspondent
New Delhi, Jan 11

Congress MP Priyanka Gandhi has called on Prime Minister Narendra Modi to engage in dialogue with protesting farmers and intervene to end the hunger strike of farmer leader Jagjit Singh Dallewal. Gandhi voiced her concerns on the social media platform X, expressing her dismay over the ongoing situation and urging the government to show empathy toward the farmers.

In her post, Priyanka Gandhi questioned the government's stance, stating, "This stubbornness took the lives of 750 farmers. Why so much cruelty towards farmers? Talk to them." Her remarks come amidst continuing protests by farmers who have been demanding fair treatment and seeking government intervention in addressing their grievances.

Jagjit Singh Dallewal, a prominent farmer leader, has been on a hunger strike to highlight the unresolved issues faced by the farming community. Gandhi's appeal to PM Modi emphasizes the need for a compassionate approach to resolve the ongoing crisis, which has already claimed several lives, as she pointed out in her statement.

The protests have been marked by widespread unrest, with farmers voicing concerns about policies that they believe harm their livelihood. Priyanka Gandhi's comments reflect the growing political pressure on the government to address the demands of farmers and find a solution to the prolonged standoff.

Her appeal comes at a critical juncture when the issue of farmer welfare continues to dominate political discourse in the country. Gandhi's call for a conversation between the government and farmers aims to bring about an amicable resolution and prevent further loss of life and suffering.

As the hunger strike of Jagjit Singh Dallewal continues, the Congress MP's intervention highlights the urgency of dialogue and the importance of addressing the concerns of the agricultural community in a timely and humane manner.



Full Meal At Rs 9: Yogi Adityanath Launches 'Maa Ki Rasoi' Ahead Of 'Maha Kumbh'

TPN Correspondent
Mahakumbh Nagar, Jan 11

Ahead of the Maha Kumbh in Prayagraj, Uttar Pradesh Chief Minister Yogi Adityanath inaugurated the 'Maa Ki Rasoi' community kitchen on Friday. This initiative, aimed at supporting the economically weaker sections of society, offers a full meal for just Rs 9. The meal, served by the Nandi Sewa Sansthan at the Swaroop Rani Nehru Hospital, includes dal, four rotis, vegetables, rice, salad, and dessert.

On his second day in Prayagraj, Chief Minister Adityanath visited the hospital, where he personally served food to the attendees and reviewed the arrangements. The government stated that the kitchen would be of significant help to people, especially those visiting the hospital for treatment and looking for affordable food options.

The Nandi Sewa Sansthan, which is operating this community kitchen, is focused on providing nutritious meals to people who are struggling financially. The initiative aims to address food insecurity by offering meals at a highly subsidized rate. The kitchen's modern facilities, spread over 2,000 square feet at the SRN Hospital campus, include hygienic and air-conditioned dining spaces where around 150 people can sit together and eat. Industrial Development Minister Nand Gopal Gupta accompanied Chief Minister Adityanath to the kitchen, where he was briefed about the food quality, hygiene standards, and overall arrangements. The Nandi Sewa Sansthan has expressed its commitment to ensuring that the kitchen operates with high standards of cleanliness and care. The launch of 'Maa Ki Rasoi' comes as part of the government's ongoing efforts to make essential services accessible and affordable to the people, especially in light of the large influx of visitors expected during the Maha Kumbh. The community kitchen is expected to be an essential service for those coming from various parts of the country to participate in the spiritual event.



Pune Court Grants Bail To Rahul Gandhi In Savarkar Defamation Case

TPN Correspondent
Pune, Jan 11

A special court in Pune granted bail to Congress leader Rahul Gandhi on Friday in connection with a defamation case regarding his alleged controversial remarks about Hindutva ideologue V D Savarkar. The court granted bail on a surety bond of Rs 25,000 after Gandhi appeared virtually. Senior Congress leader Mohan Joshi stood as the surety for Gandhi during the proceedings.

Advocate Milind Pawar, representing Rahul Gandhi, confirmed that the court granted a permanent exemption for Gandhi from appearing in person during future hearings. The case, which stemmed from a speech Gandhi delivered in London in March 2023, will now be heard on February 18, 2025.

The complaint was filed by the grandnephew of Vinayak Damodar Savarkar, who alleged defamation over the remarks made by Gandhi during his speech, in which he had referred to a book written by Savarkar. The remarks were considered objectionable by some sections, leading to the defamation suit.

Rahul Gandhi, who is the Leader of the Opposition in the Lok Sabha, has been facing multiple legal battles, and his remarks on historical figures have often led to controversy. This defamation case, however, is significant as it highlights the ongoing political tensions between Gandhi and certain right-wing groups.

Gandhi's legal team, however, maintains that the remarks were made in the context of a larger political discourse, and they are confident that the court will deliver a fair judgment.

The case has garnered significant political attention, with some opposing political parties accusing Gandhi of trying to discredit Savarkar's legacy, while others argue that it is part of the ongoing political fight against the Congress leader.

As the matter is set to return to court next month, it remains to be seen how the legal proceedings unfold in the coming weeks.



CM Siddaramaiah Criticizes Legislators, Announces Key Development Plans for Mysore

TPN Correspondent
Srinagar, Jan 11

Karnataka Chief Minister Siddaramaiah held a review meeting on Mysore district's development and criticized the district's legislators, including those from BJP, JDS, and Congress, for their role in the ongoing mismanagement within the Mysore Urban Development Authority (MUDA). The meeting, aimed at addressing issues such as poor management, inadequate infrastructure, and water and sewage problems in the city, saw the Chief Minister holding legislators accountable for their inaction over the past two decades.

Siddaramaiah asked the group of legislators, "You've all been members of MUDA for 20 years. Why did you let this chaos happen?" His remarks came in response to concerns raised by MLAs regarding the lack of basic amenities in private settlements and the general mismanagement in the area. The meeting revealed that nearly 950 newly developed layouts in Mysuru had not been handed over to urban local bodies, despite developers being responsible for providing essential infrastructure.

To address these issues, the Chief Minister instructed officials to convene a separate meeting focused on improving the management of the Mysore Municipal Corporation and MUDA. This signals a more focused effort to tackle long-standing problems in the region.

Siddaramaiah also expressed concerns about the delays in the expansion of Mysore's airport, which has hindered regional development. He announced plans to meet Union Aviation Minister Jyotiraditya Scindia on January 15 to push for the swift implementation of the airport expansion project.

10 Fishermen Arrested By Sri Lanka, MK Stalin Urges S Jaishankar To Intervene

TPN Correspondent
Chennai, Jan 11

Tamil Nadu Chief Minister M.K. Stalin has urged External Affairs Minister S. Jaishankar to take immediate diplomatic steps for the release of 10 Indian fishermen apprehended by the Sri Lankan Navy. The fishermen, along with their Karaikal-based mechanised fishing boat, were detained on January 8, 2025, while fishing in the waters off Sri Lanka.

In a letter to the External Affairs Min-

ister, Stalin highlighted that six of the apprehended fishermen are from Tamil Nadu—five from Mayiladuthurai District and one from Nagapattinam District. The remaining fishermen are from the Union Territory of Puducherry. Stalin emphasized that these fishermen are solely reliant on their catch for their livelihoods, and their detention by Sri Lankan authorities has caused considerable distress to their families.

Stalin also pointed out that as of now, a total of 102 fishermen and 210 fish-

ing boats are still in the custody of Sri Lankan authorities. This ongoing situation has exacerbated tensions and has been a source of concern for the fishermen's communities in Tamil Nadu and Puducherry. In his letter, the Tamil Nadu Chief Minister urged Jaishankar to pursue diplomatic efforts through appropriate channels to facilitate the early release of the detained fishermen and their boats. Stalin underscored the importance of taking swift action to alleviate the hardship faced by the fishermen and their families.

Vladimir Putin Wants To Meet, We're Setting It Up: Donald Trump

US President-elect Donald Trump announced on Thursday that Russian President Vladimir Putin had expressed a desire to meet and that efforts were underway to arrange a meeting between the two leaders. The statement came just days before Trump was set to assume office, following his campaign promises to bring peace to Ukraine, which has been embroiled in conflict since Russia's invasion in February 2022.

"President Putin wants to meet, he's said that even publicly, and we have to get that war over with, that's a bloody mess," Trump stated during a meeting with Republican governors at his Mar-a-Lago resort in Palm Beach, Florida.



Although Trump has voiced a desire to mediate peace, he has not proposed any specific ceasefire or peace agreement and has often criticized the substantial military aid the United States has sent to Ukraine. His stance on the conflict has raised questions, particularly given his history of praising Putin and his frequent criticisms of Ukrainian President Volodymyr Zelensky, whom he has derisively referred to as a "salesman."

Trump's approach to Ukraine contrasts sharply with that of current President Joe Biden, who has been a strong supporter of Ukraine, providing military aid totaling more than \$65 billion since the invasion began. Trump has repeatedly questioned the level of US involvement in the Western military alliance NATO, suggesting that he may reconsider the country's role in the alliance.

Trump's comments have drawn atten-

tion in Washington, with critics expressing concern over his reluctance to openly criticize Putin. His comments suggest a softer stance toward the Russian president, which has sparked debate on the future of US foreign policy, particularly in relation to the ongoing war in Ukraine. While Trump's meeting with Putin remains uncertain, the plans signal a shift in approach, potentially altering the US response to the ongoing crisis.



Italian PM Meloni Criticizes George Soros, Defends Elon Musk's Political Views

Italian Prime Minister Giorgia Meloni on Thursday expressed concerns over foreign interference in domestic politics, criticizing billionaire George Soros for using his wealth to destabilize countries. Her comments came in the midst of rising controversy surrounding Elon Musk's alleged interference in European politics.

Meloni downplayed Musk's influence, claiming his comments on European politics via his social media platform X do not pose a threat to democracy. She compared him to Soros, stating that Musk's views, although right-wing, do not represent the political meddling that Soros engages in. "Elon Musk is exercising his right to free speech," Meloni said, questioning whether the issue with Musk stems from his wealth and political views. She also pointed out that Soros, a well-known proponent of left-wing causes, has historically used his resources to influence political decisions and destabilize democracies.

Musk quickly responded to Meloni's statement on X, writing, "And Soros is being defeated."

Meloni also rejected media claims that her government was on the verge of signing a controversial cybersecurity deal with Musk's SpaceX. She stated that unlike those who have accepted funding from Soros, she has never received any money from Musk.

Musk has faced backlash in Europe, particularly from liberal groups, for his attacks on European leaders like UK Prime Minister Keir Starmer and German Chancellor Olaf Scholz. Critics worry that his influence could exacerbate the growing right-wing sentiments across Europe. However, Meloni dismissed concerns, asserting that Musk's opinions shared on X cannot be considered dangerous interference.

Meloni emphasized the real danger lies when wealthy individuals, like Soros, use their resources to fund political parties and organizations across nations to sway political outcomes. "This is what George Soros does - and yes, I consider that dangerous interference," Meloni concluded.

Soros has been criticized for using his Open Society Foundations to support liberal policies and democratic causes globally, though he also faces accusations of political manipulation and funding political parties during elections.



Fresh Fire Erupts, National Guard Called In: What's Happening In Los Angeles

Los Angeles County Sheriff Robert Luna has compared the devastation caused by the ongoing wildfires to the aftermath of an atomic bomb, saying, "It looks as though an atomic bomb dropped in these areas." The fires have wreaked havoc on Southern California, with multiple blazes tearing through the region, displacing tens of thousands of residents and leaving a trail of destruction in their wake.

Fresh Blaze in West Hills: On Thursday evening, a new fire broke out in the West Hills neighborhood, rapidly consuming over 900 acres. The fires have now claimed at least 10 lives, with the death toll expected to rise as the crisis continues.

Massive Fires in Pacific Palisades and Altadena: The Pacific Palisades fire has burned over 19,000 acres, while the Altadena fire has scorched 13,000 acres. Thousands of homes, including multi-million-dollar properties, have been destroyed.

Tens of Thousands Evacuated: Nearly 180,000 residents remain under evacuation orders, and many areas have been left in ruin. The fires have also forced the relocation of celebrities, including Paris Hilton, Anthony Hopkins, and Billy Crystal.

State and Federal Support: Governor Gavin Newsom has deployed the California National Guard to help manage the crisis, while President Joe Biden has pledged federal resources to assist in the state's response, calling the disaster the "most devastating wildfire" in California's history.

Political Clash Over the Fires: President-elect Donald Trump has criticized Governor Newsom's handling of the wildfires, accusing him of mismanagement, while Biden urged Americans to avoid politicizing the disaster.

International Help: Amid the crisis, Canadian Prime Minister Justin Trudeau offered assistance, with Canadian firefighters joining the efforts to combat the blazes.

Shelters Overwhelmed: Local shelters have been flooded with donations from generous residents, although officials have started redirecting supplies to other areas.

Social Media Conspiracy Theories: Some conspiracy theorists have spread false claims about firefighting equipment being sent to Ukraine or staffing issues due to diversity, further fueling misinformation.

Severe Drought and Weather Conditions: Experts point to two decades of drought followed by exceptionally wet years as factors that created the dry vegetation fueling the fires. Meteorologists warn that critical conditions, including strong winds and dry weather, are likely to persist. **Historic Wildfire Crisis:** Los Angeles Mayor Karen Bass described the fires as "unprecedented," as the state continues to battle one of the worst fire seasons on record.



Liberal Party Of Canadian PM Justin Trudeau To Choose New Leader On March 9

The Liberal Party of Canada, under outgoing Prime Minister Justin Trudeau, announced on Thursday that it will hold a leadership election on March 9, 2025, as the party faces a tough challenge ahead of the upcoming general elections. Trudeau, who has led the party for nine years, revealed on Monday that he will step down after a series of disappointing polls for the Liberals, with many lawmakers expressing concern over their party's standing.

Trudeau confirmed that he would remain as both the prime minister and the leader of the Liberal Party until a new leader is chosen. "After a robust and secure nation-wide process, the Liberal Party of Canada will choose a new leader on March 9 and be ready to fight and win the 2025 election," the party said in a statement following a National Board of Directors meeting on Thursday.

The leadership race will conclude on March 9, and the new leader will be announced on the same day. To participate in the race, individuals must be registered as a Liberal member by January 27. The party has set a C\$350,000 (\$242,920) entrance fee for potential candidates. Speculation about the contenders for the leadership has already begun. Reports suggest that former finance minister Chrystia Freeland and former Bank of Canada governor Mark Carney are set to enter the race. Other potential candidates include Foreign Minister Mélanie Joly and Innovation Minister François-Philippe Champagne, although their involvement remains uncertain. While the Liberal Party gears up for its leadership contest, Prime Minister Trudeau also announced the prorogation of parliament until March 24. This decision effectively delays any immediate election until at least May 2025. Trudeau's leadership remains pivotal, particularly as Canada prepares for the looming threat of tariffs under U.S. President-elect Donald Trump.



Japan Imposes New Sanctions on Russia Over Ukraine Conflict

On Friday, Japan announced additional sanctions against Russia in response to its ongoing invasion of Ukraine. The new measures include freezing the assets of dozens of individuals and organizations, as well as banning exports to various Russian entities and other organizations accused of helping Russia evade existing sanctions. The decision, made by Japan's Cabinet, signals the country's ongoing commitment to the Group of Seven (G7) efforts to intensify pressure on Russia over its actions in Ukraine. Chief Cabinet Secretary Yoshimasa Hayashi emphasized that the additional sanctions are part of Japan's dedication to upholding international law and supporting Ukraine in its fight for sovereignty.

The sanctions target individuals and groups believed to be involved in facilitating Russia's attempts to circumvent global sanctions, which have been imposed by several Western nations in response to Russia's invasion of Ukraine. These sanctions are seen as an attempt to further isolate Russia and limit its access to critical resources and financial support.

Japan has been a vocal critic of Russia's aggression, aligning with the G7 and other international partners to hold Russia accountable. By expanding the list of sanctioned individuals and entities, Japan hopes to contribute to the global effort to force Russia to cease its military operations in Ukraine.

The move follows Japan's previous sanctions, which have included restrictions on financial transactions and exports of high-tech goods to Russia.

Tough Times for Markets: Falling Indices Raise Concerns

The stock markets are facing a challenging phase, with significant weakness in key indices. On Friday, the markets ended with heavy losses, as negative signals from international markets initially led to a decline. While there was a brief rebound, traders went short, further pushing the markets down. Although IT stocks showed some strength, the overall weakness in broader and sectoral indices prevented any significant recovery. Sectors like pharma, banking, and realty saw sharp declines, and there seems to be little hope for a market reversal in the near future.



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The BSE Sensex closed at 77,378, down by 241 points after an intraday low of 77,099 and a high of 77,919. Similarly, the NSE Nifty ended at 23,431, losing 95 points after dipping to 23,344 and reaching a high of 23,596. The Nifty Bank fell by 769 points, closing at 48,734. In the Nifty50, 14 companies gained while 36 lost. IT sector stocks such as TCS, Tech Mahindra, HCEL Tech, Infi, and Wipro were the top gainers, whereas Shriram Finance, IndusInd Bank, Adani Enterprises, NTPC, and BEL were the biggest losers. The IT index rose 3.44%, but weakness was seen across various sectors like Pharma, PSU Bank, Realty, Healthcare, Consumer Durables, Metal, Finance, and Banks. Market breadth turned unfavorable for buyers, with 2,287 stocks losing ground and only 552 stocks gaining among 2,910 traded. Notably, 15 stocks reached their 52-week highs, while 219 stocks touched 52-

week lows. Additionally, 181 stocks reached their lower circuit limits. On the stock front, SRF and Naveen Fluorine fell by 4% as investors booked profits. Meanwhile, the Indian rupee continued its downward slide, reaching a record low of 85.97 against the US dollar. In other news, BHEL and ONGC signed an MOU for joint projects in renewable energy. The Centre released Rs 1.73 lakh crore to state governments, and IREDA's Q3 net profit rose by 26.8% to Rs 425 crore. Additionally, Tata Steel saw 10 lakh shares change hands, while Adani Wilmar saw 15 lakh shares traded. DAM Capital issued a buy call for Lloyd Metals, setting a target price of Rs 1905. Vedanta secured a \$300 million loan and is working on raising another \$200 million. Bernstein gave TCS an outperform rating with a target price of Rs 4700, while Nomura suggested that FMCG stocks like Hindustan Unilever, ITC, and Marico are now reasonably valued and a good buy. As market volatility continues, investors are closely monitoring developments, hoping for stabilization.

Industrial Output Surges to Six-Month High of 5.2% In India

India's industrial output, as measured by the Index of Industrial Production (IIP), recorded a robust growth of 5.2% in November 2024, marking the highest growth rate in six months. This performance represents an improvement from the 3.5% growth reported in October 2024, according to data released by the Ministry of Statistics and Programme Implementation (MoSPI) on Friday.



Economists had anticipated a slightly lower growth rate of 4.1%, making the actual figure a positive surprise. The factory output in November 2023 had seen a modest 2.5% growth, reflecting a notable year-on-year improvement.

The strong performance in November helped boost industrial output during the April-November period of the current fiscal year. The cumulative growth for the first eight months of FY 2024-25 stands at 4.1%, although this marks a slowdown compared to the revised growth of 6.5% during the same period in the previous year.

The data highlights that India's industrial sector is experiencing recovery, with key sectors likely contributing to the overall growth. However, the figures also suggest that the pace of industrial expansion may face challenges ahead, as evidenced by the slowdown in cumulative growth for the first eight months of the fiscal year.

This improvement in industrial output is seen as an encouraging sign for India's economic prospects as it continues to recover from the impacts of the pandemic. Going forward, the government is expected to continue its focus on policy measures aimed at supporting industrial growth, including infrastructure development and fostering domestic manufacturing.

TCS Reports 11.95% Increase in Net Profit for December Quarter



India's largest IT services company, Tata Consultancy Services (TCS), announced an 11.95% year-on-year increase in its net profit for the December quarter, reaching Rs 12,380 crore. This marked a solid growth from Rs 11,058 crore in the same quarter last year and Rs 11,909 crore in the preceding September quarter.

The company's revenue also saw a 5.6% rise, standing at Rs 63,973 crore, compared to Rs 60,583 crore in the corresponding period of the previous year. However, revenue was slightly down from Rs 64,259 crore in the September quarter, reflecting a slight seasonal dip.

Despite the quarterly challenges, TCS reported a strong performance in new order bookings, which reached USD 10.2 billion, up from USD 7.9 billion in the year-ago period. This strong order intake is noteworthy, especially in what is typically a seasonally weaker quarter due to the holiday season.

CEO K Krithivasan noted that macroeconomic factors that have been weighing on the IT sector persisted in the reporting quarter. However, he highlighted that new orders were well-diversified across various industries, geographies, and service lines, providing TCS with good visibility for long-term growth.

Krithivasan also mentioned that there were early signs of a revival in discretionary spending, which had been weak for much of the fiscal year. This, he suggested, was contributing to the softer revenue growth of 4.6% in the first nine months of the year.

TCS remains focused on navigating the ongoing challenges in the IT industry while capitalizing on long-term growth opportunities across diverse sectors. The company's strong order bookings and improved visibility for the future are expected to provide a solid foundation for sustained growth moving forward.

Crude Oil Market Shows Unprecedented Stability in 2024 Amid Global Turmoil

The global crude oil market has exhibited remarkable stability in 2024, a year marked by geopolitical tensions and changing demand dynamics. Despite several significant global events, Brent crude prices have remained within a tight range of \$74 to \$90 per barrel. According to a Deloitte report, 2024 is on track to be one of the most stable years for the oil market in the past 25 years.



This stability comes in the face of multiple challenges, including ongoing geopolitical conflicts, such as the war between Ukraine and Russia, and heightened instability in the Middle East, a key oil-producing region. Additionally, slower economic growth in China, combined with a gradual shift toward electric vehicles, has exerted downward pressure on oil demand. The strengthening of the US dollar also played a pivotal role in maintaining price stability by offsetting potential price fluctuations.

The oil and gas industry has taken full advantage of this market steadiness, with a surge in shareholder returns. From January to mid-November, the sector distributed nearly \$213 billion in dividends and \$136 billion in share buybacks. Oilfield services

have had their best year in 34 years, capitalizing on the sustained market conditions.

This unprecedented stability, despite global uncertainties, highlights how the oil market has weathered various external factors with minimal disruption. The combination of consistent production levels, strategic investments, and the ability to adapt to shifting economic and geopolitical landscapes

has allowed the oil market to remain resilient.

Investors will need to continue monitoring key developments, such as geopolitical risks, global demand trends, and regulatory shifts in energy policy, as these factors will ultimately determine whether this stability can be sustained into 2025.

Equity Mutual Fund Inflows Rise 14.5% in December, SIP Contributions Grow

Equity mutual funds saw a significant rise in inflows in December, with a 14.5% month-on-month increase, totaling Rs 41,155.91 crore, up from Rs 35,943.49 crore in November 2024, according to the latest data released by the Association of Mutual Funds in India (AMFI).

The data highlights the strong investor confidence in equity markets, as the continued surge in mutual fund inflows reflects growing optimism despite market volatility. In December, systematic investment plan (SIP) contributions also saw an increase, reaching Rs 26,459 crore compared to Rs 25,320 crore in November 2024.

The rise in SIP contributions suggests that investors remain committed to disciplined, long-term investing, with many preferring to invest smaller amounts regularly rather



than opting for lump sum investments. SIPs have gained popularity among investors for their ability to mitigate market fluctuations and build wealth steadily over time.

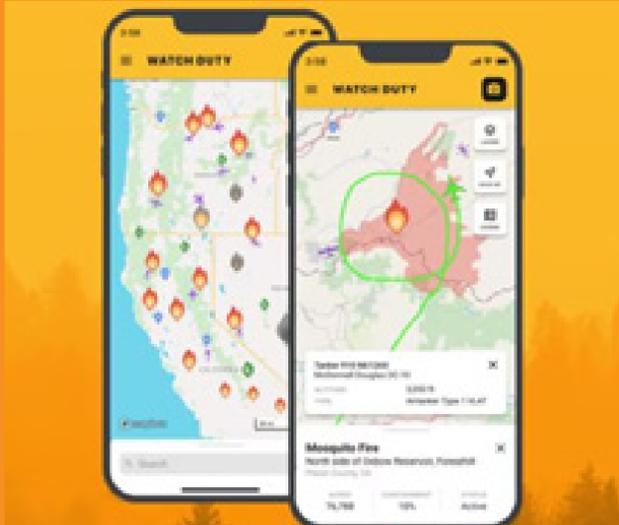
The growth in both overall inflows and SIP investments in equity mutual funds comes amidst a favorable market outlook, with strong corporate earnings and optimism

about the Indian economy driving investor interest. Additionally, the overall trend of increasing equity investments indicates a shift toward riskier assets as investors seek higher returns in an environment of lower interest rates.

This growth in inflows into equity mutual funds, particularly through SIPs, highlights the evolving preferences of Indian investors as they look for better avenues to generate returns. It also reflects the growing maturity of India's mutual fund industry, with more investors recognizing the potential of equities to deliver long-term wealth creation.

As equity markets continue to show resilience and performance, it is expected that inflows into equity mutual funds may continue to rise, further strengthening investor participation in the capital markets.

What Is Watch Duty, The Free App Helping Users Track The Wildfires In Los Angeles



Amid the devastating wildfires sweeping across Los Angeles, California, a free app called Watch Duty has seen a massive spike in downloads, offering critical real-time information to those affected. Developed by a non-profit organization, the app provides users with timely alerts about active fires in their areas, along with updates on evacuation zones and other vital safety information.

In the wake of the ongoing wildfires, Watch Duty has gained over 1.6 million new users in just a few days, with the majority of these sign-ups coming from Los Angeles County. The app has now surged to the top of the charts, becoming Apple's most downloaded free iOS app. It has quickly earned a reputation as one of the most trusted and reliable sources of wildfire information, not just for residents, but also for emergency responders.

What sets Watch Duty apart is its ability to provide real-time alerts, keeping users informed

about the ever-changing wildfire situation in their vicinity. In addition to this, the app offers a map feature that highlights critical information such as danger zones, active fire perimeters, evacuation orders, and even power outages. These features are invaluable for those looking to make informed decisions during an emergency.

As wildfires continue to impact communities across the state, Watch Duty has become a lifeline for individuals seeking to stay safe. Its seamless integration of real-time data and user-friendly interface has helped it gain a loyal user base during one of California's most perilous wildfire seasons.

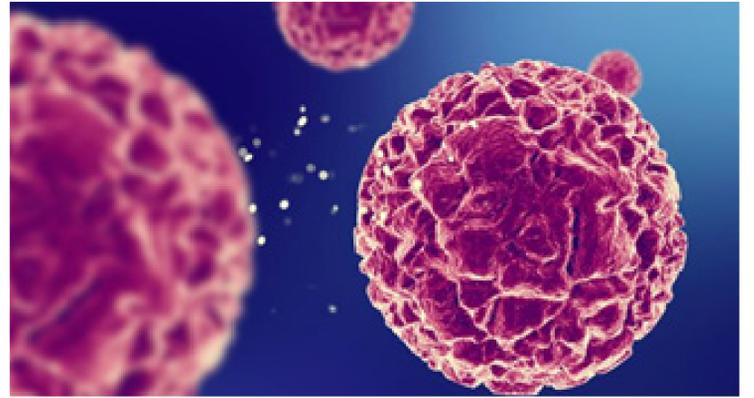
With the increasing demand for reliable information in the face of natural disasters, Watch Duty has proven to be an essential tool, empowering users to take action and stay updated as the crisis unfolds. As the wildfires continue, the app is likely to remain a crucial resource for Los Angeles residents and beyond.

AI Boosts Breast Cancer Detection by Over 17%, Study Finds

In a groundbreaking development, researchers from the University of Lubeck in Germany have revealed that artificial intelligence (AI) can enhance breast cancer detection rates by more than 17%. This major breakthrough comes from the world's largest-ever study involving the integration of AI in breast cancer screenings.

The research, which involved 119 radiologists, included screenings for over 460,000 women. The radiologists were given the option to voluntarily use AI technology in their evaluations. The study found that AI-assisted radiologists achieved a cancer detection rate of 6.7 per 1,000 screenings, which represents a significant 17.6% improvement compared to traditional manual readings.

AI's role in improving diagnostic accuracy has been a growing area of interest in medical research, and this study provides compelling evidence of its potential in the fight against cancer. The results suggest that incorporating AI into routine breast cancer screenings could lead to earlier and more accu-



rate detection, ultimately saving more lives.

While AI has already shown promise in various medical fields, this study is particularly noteworthy as it marks the first time such a large-scale, real-world implementation of AI has been used in breast cancer detection. The success of the study highlights the importance of integrating innovative technologies into healthcare, especially in areas like cancer screening,

where early detection is crucial for effective treatment.

As the study continues to gain attention, it could pave the way for wider adoption of AI in diagnostic procedures, not only for breast cancer but for other forms of cancer as well. With its proven ability to improve detection rates, AI is poised to become an invaluable tool for radiologists and healthcare providers in the future.

Amazon and Flipkart Reveal Dates for Republic Day Sales

With Republic Day just around the corner, India's top e-commerce giants, Amazon and Flipkart, have announced the dates for their highly anticipated sales. Amazon's Great Republic Day sale 2025 is set to begin on January 13 at noon for non-Prime members, while Prime members will enjoy exclusive access to the deals 12 hours earlier. Flipkart, on the other hand, will kick off its Monumental Sale on January 14, with Flipkart Plus members getting early access on January 13.

Amazon is gearing up for its Great Republic Day sale, promising massive discounts across various categories. Shoppers can expect up to 40% off on mobile phones and accessories from leading brands such as Apple, iQOO, OnePlus, Samsung, and Xiaomi. The platform has already started teasing some of the exciting offers on its mi-



crosoft, ensuring that shoppers are eagerly awaiting the deals.

Along with smartphones, the sale will offer significant discounts on a range of electronics, fashion items, home appliances, and more. There will also be special offers on Amazon's own products, including Alexa-enabled devices, Fire TV sticks, and Kindle e-readers.

Flipkart's Monumental Sale promises great bargains as well, starting on January 14 for the general public. However, Flipkart Plus members will be able to access the sale one day earlier, on January 13. Much like Amazon,

Flipkart will offer discounts on electronics, fashion, home essentials, and more, with a focus on smartphones, televisions, and other tech gadgets.

The sales from both Amazon and Flipkart are sure to attract millions of shoppers ahead of Republic Day, offering them the perfect opportunity to grab deals on electronics, gadgets, and other popular products. As the sale dates draw closer, expect more details and additional offers to be revealed on both platforms, making it the perfect time for online shopping enthusiasts to score unbeatable deals.

US Woman Wins Over Rs 40 Lakh Lottery Prize Using Numbers From A Dream

A Maryland resident recently struck it rich by winning \$50,000 (approximately Rs 42.96 lakh) in the Pick 5 lottery, and what makes this win even more extraordinary is that the winning numbers appeared to her in a dream.

The woman, from Prince George's County, shared that in December, she woke up from a dream with a string of digits firmly etched in her mind. These numbers — 9-9-0-0-0 — felt significant, and she couldn't shake the feeling that they were meant to be played.

Despite the rush of her daily routine, the woman almost forgot to buy the ticket. However, she trusted her instincts and decided to purchase a Pick 5 ticket from the Oxon Hill Zip In Mart, using the numbers from her dream. Little did she know that her decision would lead to a life-changing win.

On December 20, during the evening drawing, the numbers matched perfectly, and the woman won the \$50,000 prize. Her husband, who was initially skeptical, said, "My wife showed me, but it didn't seem real. But when the Midas touch comes, hopefully, you're on it, and thankfully we were."

The couple is still contemplating what to do



with the prize money but have already made sure to spread some joy by gifting extra presents to their grandchildren for Christmas.

This isn't the only remarkable lottery win in recent times. In a similar turn of events, an Indian-origin man in Singapore, Balasubramanian Chithambaram, became an overnight millionaire after winning \$1 million (Rs 8.45 crore) in a lucky draw. His win came after he purchased a gold chain for his wife at Mustafa Jewellery, which conducted the contest.

Both stories highlight the element of surprise and luck that often accompanies major lottery wins.

WhatsApp for Android Set to Introduce AI Character Creation Feature

WhatsApp for Android is reportedly working on a new artificial intelligence (AI) feature that will allow users to create personalized AI characters within the app. This feature is expected to be similar to the AI character creation tools available on other Meta-owned platforms such as Instagram and Messenger.

According to feature tracker WABetaInfo, the AI character creation feature was spotted in the WhatsApp beta for Android 2.25.1.26 update. However, since the feature is still in development, it is not yet available for beta testers. Along with the character creation tool, the tracker also discovered a new tab in the WhatsApp beta for Android 2.25.1.24 update, which is likely to showcase the AI characters, although this is also not yet visible.

The feature will enable users to describe the personality traits and focus areas of their AI chatbot through a text prompt. The AI will then generate a profile picture and bio based on the user's input. The feature appears to work similarly to the AI Studio available on Instagram and Messenger, which allows users to build AI characters either from scratch or using a pre-existing template.

In one of the screenshots shared by WABetaInfo, it was shown that users could input up to 1,000



characters to describe the chatbot's personality and role. WhatsApp is also providing description suggestions at the bottom of the screen to help users get started. The following steps in the process will likely involve generating an image and bio for the character, as well as setting the privacy preferences for the AI chatbot.

Additionally, the new feature may include a dedicated space or tab within WhatsApp to showcase all the AI characters created by the user, along with public AI characters. It remains unclear whether these AI bots will be exclusive to WhatsApp or shared across other Meta apps like Instagram and Messenger.

Abraham Ancer, John Catlin Set To Star At International Series India Presented By DLF

Abraham Ancer, the 2024 LIV Golf Hong Kong champion, and John Catlin, the reigning Asian Tour Order of Merit winner, have confirmed their participation in the International Series India, presented by DLF. The US\$2 million tournament will be held at the DLF Golf and Country Club in Gurugram from January 30 to February 2, 2025. They will join a star-studded field that includes U.S. Open champion Bryson DeChambeau, local hero Anirban Lahiri, and International Series Rankings winner Joaquin Niemann.



Ancer, a key member of Sergio Garcia's Fireballs GC, had an exceptional 2024 season in the LIV Golf League, finishing 12th in the individual standings. His victory in Hong Kong and three additional top-10 finishes marked a strong year. Catlin, on the other hand, had a standout 2024, clinching back-to-back wins at the International Series Macau and the Saudi Open, with an impressive 59 in Macau. Catlin also had a series of near-wins, finishing as a runner-up in Morocco and Thailand, while also making a successful appearance as an alternate in the LIV Golf League.

The International Series India, presented by DLF, is set to be the first LIV Golf-backed event in India and is part of a global tour on the Asian Tour. The series features 10 elevated events this season, with stops in var-

ious countries, including Morocco, Indonesia, the Philippines, and Saudi Arabia. These tournaments offer a unique opportunity for players to qualify for the prestigious LIV Golf League, with the season-ending rankings champion earning a guaranteed spot in the next season.

This exciting addition to the golf calendar marks the growing influence of the LIV Golf series and its expanding global reach. Fans and players alike are eagerly anticipating the action-packed tournament as it showcases top-tier talent on the subcontinent.

Satwik and Chirag Reach Quarterfinals at Malaysia Super 1000; Prannoy Falls Short

Star men's doubles pair Satwiksairaj Rankireddy and Chirag Shetty advanced to the quarterfinals, while HS Prannoy's determined effort ended in a narrow second-round loss at the Malaysia Super 1000 badminton tournament on Thursday. Satwik and Chirag delivered a dominant performance in the Round of 16, defeating the Malaysian duo of N Azriyn and Tan WK 21-15, 21-15 in just 43 minutes.



The seventh-seeded Indian pair will now face local favorites Yew Sin Ong and Ee Yi Teo in the quarterfinals. Chirag expressed his satisfaction with the result, saying, "It feels really good, happy to be back on tour. A good start to the year, and we're looking forward to going as far as possible in the tournament." He also mentioned their new coach, with whom they have worked previously. "He was the one who paired me and Satwik up when we were youngsters," he added.

Meanwhile, HS Prannoy fought valiantly but ultimately lost to China's Li Shi Feng in a thrilling match. Prannoy lost 8-21, 21-15, 21-23 in a match that lasted an hour and 22 minutes. The 32-year-old Indian player was returning to competitive action after the Paris Olympics and put up a strong challenge against the seventh seed, but came up short in a tight decider.

In other results, Malvika Bansod bowed out in the women's singles Round of 16, losing 18-21, 11-21 to world No. 5 and third seed Han Yue of China. The women's doubles pair of Treesa Jolly and Gayatri Gopichand also suffered a heartbreak, going down 21-15, 19-21, 19-21 to China's Jia Yi Fan and Zhang Shu Xian in their Round of 16 match. In mixed doubles, Dhruv Kapila and Tanisha Crasto lost 13-21, 20-22 to China's Cheng Xing and Zhang Chi. Sathish Karunakaran and Aadya Variyath, the other Indian mixed doubles pair, also faced defeat.

Despite the setbacks, Satwik and Chirag's continued success offers hope for India's progress in the tournament.

India's Bronze Medal Win At Paris Olympics A "Farewell Gift" For PR Sreejesh

Indian midfielder Shamsher Singh, co-captain of the Delhi SG Pipers in the ongoing Hockey India League (HIL), recently spoke about the Indian men's hockey team's memorable bronze medal win at the Paris Olympics, which he described as a farewell gift to the legendary PR Sreejesh. The team's third-place finish in Paris cemented their status as a rising force in world hockey, proving that their historic bronze at the Tokyo Olympics was no fluke.



The Indian team had an almost flawless group stage but faced an unexpected loss to Germany in the semi-finals. However, they showed resilience and determination, bouncing back to secure a 3rd-place finish against Spain, clinching the bronze medal. This victory held special significance, as it marked the fitting farewell for PR Sreejesh, one of India's most iconic players, who decided to retire after the Games.

Shamsher revealed that the team had made a pact before the Paris campaign to dedicate their medal to Sreejesh. "Sreejesh

Bhai is a legend, and everyone saw what he did for India at the Paris Olympics. We decided that we would dedicate our medal to

him even before the campaign started. He gave so many years to Indian hockey, and thankfully, we were able to give him a memorable farewell gift," said Shamsher.

On Sreejesh's absence, Shamsher expressed confidence in the replacements, Krishan Pathak and Suraj Karkera, stating that both players had experience playing alongside Sreejesh and would carry forward his legacy.

In the ongoing HIL, Shamsher is leading the Delhi SG Pipers, a new challenge for him as a captain. "My role is different, but the game style remains the same. As a captain, I need to take extra responsibility and ensure a comfortable environment for all players, both foreign and domestic," he explained.

Delhi SG Pipers, after four matches, are currently placed at the bottom of the points table with three losses and one win, which came in their opening match against Team Gonasia. They will face UP Rudras on January 11.

Real Madrid Defeat Mallorca 3-0 to Set Up Clasico Spanish Super Cup Final Against Barcelona

Real Madrid secured a dominant 3-0 victory over Real Mallorca on Thursday, booking their place in the Spanish Super Cup final, where they will face arch-rivals Barcelona. The win in Saudi Arabia sets up a highly anticipated Clasico clash, giving Madrid the opportunity for revenge following their heavy La Liga defeat to Barcelona in October.



Jude Bellingham and Rodrygo scored for Madrid, while a stoppage-time own goal from Mallorca's Martin Valjent sealed the win. Bellingham's clinical strike in the second half was the turning point, followed by a late goal from Rodrygo to round off the result. The win was further fueled by strong support from Madrid's fans in Jeddah.

"It's always difficult to play against Barcelona, but we are ready, we're doing well, and we want this trophy," Rodrygo said after the match. He also praised Bellingham, who has been in sensational form, scoring eight goals in his last 10 games. "At the start of the season, he was having trouble scoring, but he's always working hard, and his work is paying off," Rodrygo added.

Madrid dominated early on, with Lucas Vazquez and Rodrygo both coming close in the opening stages. Mallorca managed to limit Madrid's chances in the first half, with the Spanish giants struggling to break through. In

the second half, Madrid lost Aurelien Tchouameni due to a head injury, though he was unharmed after the game.

The breakthrough came in the 63rd minute when Bellingham slotted home a rebound after a shot from Rodrygo and a save by Mallorca's goalkeeper Dominik Greif. The second goal came in the 85th minute when Valjent accidentally scored an own goal, and Rodrygo added a third in stoppage time.

Madrid's win sets up a repeat of last year's Super Cup final, which they won, and coach Carlo Ancelotti praised his team's attacking depth, saying, "When those up front activate, anything can happen."

Everton Secure FA Cup Win Over Peterborough After Sean Dyche's Dismissal

Everton avoided a potential FA Cup shock with a 2-0 victory over third-tier Peterborough on Thursday, just hours after Sean Dyche's sudden dismissal as manager. Dyche was sacked less than four hours before the match, with Everton's new owners, the Friedkin Group, reportedly in talks with former boss David Moyes about a return to Goodison Park. Moyes, who managed Everton from 2002 to 2013, is the bookmakers' favorite to take over and help the club avoid relegation.



The Toffees have struggled in the Premier League, winning just one of their last 11 games and sitting 16th in the league, only one point above the relegation zone. Despite these challenges, Everton's players stepped up to secure a comfortable victory over Peterborough.

With Dyche's departure, former Everton defender Leighton Baines and captain Seamus Coleman took charge for the match, using a lineup selected by Dyche. Peterborough had an early chance when Cian Hayes' low drive was cleared off the line by Jarrad Branthwaite. However, Everton took the lead in the 42nd minute when Beto finished off a pass from Harrison Armstrong, rounding Peterborough's goalkeeper Nicholas Bilokapic to slot into an empty net.

In a setback for Everton, on-loan Chelsea striker Armando Broja was stretchered off after a heavy

ankle injury, requiring oxygen before leaving the pitch. Despite the injury, Everton continued to press and extended their lead in stoppage time when Iliman Ndiaye converted a penalty after Branthwaite was fouled in the box by Jadel Kattongo.

In other FA Cup action, Fulham powered to a 4-1 win over Watford, while Cardiff stunned Sheffield United with a 1-0 victory at Bramall Lane, knocking them out of the competition.

Everton's win against Peterborough marked a fresh start for the club, albeit under difficult circumstances, as they advanced to the next round of the FA Cup without Dyche at the helm.



Mammooty Unveils a New Detective Avatar in 'Dominic and the Ladies' Purse'

Mammooty, the iconic Malayalam megastar, is all set to captivate audiences with his latest film *Dominic and the Ladies' Purse*. Directed by the renowned Tamil filmmaker Gautham Vasudev Menon, this film marks an exciting collaboration between two giants of the industry. Produced by Mammooty's own production company, the movie is gearing up for its theatrical release on January 23, as a special Republic Day offering for fans.

The trailer of *Dominic and the Ladies' Purse* has already sparked much excitement, as it reveals Mammooty in the intriguing role of a detective named Dominic. The plot centers around the mysterious discovery of a lady's purse found in a hospital, which sets off a chain of events that are bound to keep the audience on the edge of their seats. As the story unfolds, Dominic's investigation into the purse's owner and its

contents takes a dark turn, uncovering connections to a series of murders. The question of who the purse belongs to, what secrets it holds, and how it ties into the killings adds layers of suspense and mystery to the narrative.

The movie is written by Dr. Neeraj Rajan, and features a talented ensemble cast including Gokul Suresh, Sushmita Bhatt, Viji Venkatesh, Vineeth, Vijay Babu, and others, who will play pivotal roles in the story. With its gripping storyline and Mammooty's commanding presence, *Dominic and the Ladies' Purse* promises to be a thrilling ride for moviegoers.

As the film's release date approaches, anticipation is building, and fans are eager to see how the mystery unravels. Will Dominic uncover the truth behind the purse and the murders? Only time will tell when the film hits screens this Republic Day.

Vikram's 'Veera Dheera Sooran' Set for Grand Release

Kollywood superstar Vikram, known for his versatile roles, is all set to entertain his fans with an action-packed thriller, *Veera Dheera Sooran*. Directed by SU Arun Kumar, who previously gained fame with *Chitta (Chinna)*, the film is slated for a grand worldwide release on January 30. This much-awaited film, also referred to as *Chiyan 62*, has already garnered attention with its thrilling title teaser, which is making waves across the industry due to its high-octane commercial elements.



Jayan plays the female lead, while the film also features prominent actors like SJ Surya and Malayalam star Suraj Venjaramoodu in key roles, adding further star power to the project.

Vikram's fans are eagerly awaiting this movie, and the buzz is not just limited to *Veera Dheera Sooran*. The actor is also working on *Dhruva Nakshatra: Yudda Kandam* (also known as *Dhruva Natchathiram*), directed by Gautham Vasudev Menon, where Vikram will be seen alongside popular actress Ritu Varma, known for her role in *Pelli Chusalu*.

Though the official announcement of the film's release is still awaited, the makers have confirmed the distribution details for the Telugu states. *Veera Dheera Sooran* will be released in Andhra Pradesh by Srilakshmi Movies and in Telangana by NVR banners. This news has further increased excitement for the film's

release in the Telugu-speaking regions.

In this high-energy action drama, Vikram plays the titular role of a fierce warrior, and the film promises to be an intense cinematic experience with a gripping storyline. Alongside Vikram, Kollywood actress Bama Dushara Vi-

As the release date of *Veera Dheera Sooran* approaches, movie lovers are eagerly anticipating more updates from the makers, promising a thrilling cinematic adventure with Vikram at the forefront.

Daaku Maharaaj Release Trailer: Balayya's Powerful Dialogues Take Center Stage



The much-awaited trailer for *Daaku Maharaaj*, starring Nandamuri Balakrishna, was released recently, generating immense buzz ahead of its release. Directed by Bobby, who delivered a blockbuster with *Waltheru Veeraya* in 2023, the film is set to hit the screens on January 12 as a special Sankranti treat for audiences. Produced by Suryadevara Nagavanshi and Sai Saunjanya under Sitara Entertainments and Fortune Four Cinema banners, *Daaku Maharaaj* promises to be a thrilling action-packed entertainer.

The trailer showcases the powerful persona of Balakrishna as he steps into the role of *Daaku Maharaj*. Along with Balakrishna, the film features Shraddha Srinath and Pagwa Jaishwal in pivotal roles, adding to the star power and drama of the narrative. Set against a grip-

ping backdrop of Rayalaseema, the trailer exudes high voltage action sequences and dramatic flair, hinting at the intensity of the storyline.

Although the film's trailer had already been shared earlier, the team planned to release the final version during the film's pre-release event. Unfortunately,

the event was postponed due to a tragic incident—the stampede that claimed several lives at Tirumala. In light of this, the team opted to release the trailer directly to the public, ensuring that excitement for the movie continued to build. With its compelling storyline, intense action sequences, and the presence of Nandamuri Balakrishna, *Daaku Maharaaj* is poised to capture the audience's attention. The film's release around Sankranti, a festival celebrated with much enthusiasm, adds to the anticipation, making it a highly anticipated entry in the Telugu film industry. Fans are eagerly awaiting the film's release, and the trailer has only fueled their excitement.

Triptii Dimri Shines on Forbes India Cover in Fiery Gowns!

Triptii Dimri has truly established herself as one of Bollywood's brightest rising stars with a sensational 2024, featuring major hits such as *Bad Newz*, *Vicky Vidya Ka Woh Wala Video*, and *Bhool Bhulaiyaa 3*. The actress, known for her captivating performances, has now taken her place on the prestigious *Forbes India* cover, showcasing her fierce sense of style and elegance.

In a stunning photo shoot for the cover, Triptii flaunts several striking outfits that leave a lasting impression. From a ruched black bodycon dress that accentuates her curves to a bold purple gown with a daring thigh-high slit, each ensemble highlights her confidence, grace, and undeniable beauty. The carefully curated looks exude a perfect balance of strength and femininity, further cementing her status as a style icon.

The actress shared the cover on her social media, expressing her gratitude

with the caption, "Grateful for everything right here, right now," which resonated with fans and fellow celebrities alike. Her bold yet elegant appearance on the cover has been met with widespread admiration.

Looking ahead in her career, Triptii is gearing up for the much-anticipated romantic film *Dhadak 2*. The movie, directed by Shazia Iqbal and produced by Dharma Productions, stars Triptii alongside Siddhant Chaturvedi. As a spiritual sequel to *Dhadak*, expectations for the film are incredibly high. Fans are eagerly awaiting Triptii's return to the big screen and her portrayal of a character that promises to enchant audiences once again.

With her impressive string of successes and growing fan base, Triptii Dimri is poised to continue making waves in Bollywood, both in terms of her acting and her bold fashion choices.

Game Changer : Ram Charan Shines But The Film Doesn't

Global star Ram Charan's highly anticipated film *Game Changer* has finally hit theaters today, marking his first collaboration with renowned director Shankar Shanmugam. It also serves as Shankar's debut in Telugu cinema and is producer Dil Raju's 50th milestone project. The film, which has been in the making for nearly four years, has generated significant buzz, and the question on everyone's mind is whether it lives up to the high expectations. Here's a closer look at the film.



Ram Charan plays the role of Ram Nandan IAS, a newly appointed collector in Visakhapatnam, who is renowned for his unflinching integrity and dedication. His pursuit of justice clashes with the ambitions of Bobbili Mopidevi (SJ Suryah), the son of the Chief Minister, who is deeply involved in corrupt activities. When Mopidevi orchestrates Ram's suspen-

sion through false charges, an unexpected twist propels Ram into a power struggle, as the CM nominates him as his successor for the Chief Minister's post. This sparks a gripping battle of wits and political maneuvers as Ram faces off against Mopidevi, creating a thrilling narrative about ambition, power, and justice.

Ram Charan delivers an exceptional performance, portraying two distinct roles—an authoritative IAS officer and a man with a stutter, each character brimming with depth and conviction.

His confrontational scenes with antagonist SJ Suryah are a highlight, particularly in the intense second half of the film. SJ Suryah impresses as the ambitious and manipulative antagonist, adding significant gravitas to the story.

Anjali, though in a limited role, leaves a strong impact with her emotional performances, while Kiara Advani plays a decent romantic interest. Thaman's background score enhances the film's emotional depth, and Tirru's cinematography captures the essence of the po-

litical drama.

Despite the stellar performances, the film's second character arc lacks emotional depth, which somewhat weakens the latter half. Certain random romantic sequences disrupt the otherwise serious tone of the narrative, and some moments feel exaggerated for cinematic effect. The "Jara-gandi" song falls short of expectations, and the absence of the much-anticipated "Naanaa Hyraanaa" song is a letdown.

Game Changer is a gripping political drama with strong performances, especially from Ram Charan and SJ Suryah. While it may not be groundbreaking in terms of story, it is an engaging watch, particularly for fans of political thrillers. With its intense confrontations and powerful performances, the film is definitely worth watching

