



Weather Forecast

HYDERABAD	VIJAYAWADA	TIRUPATHI
TEMPERATURE	TEMPERATURE	TEMPERATURE
H 28° C L 22° C	H 29° C L 24° C	H 26° C L 24° C

Telangana to Issue New Ration Cards from Jan 26th



has encouraged newly married couples and those who previously did not have a ration card to apply for the benefit through the 'Praja Vani' system.

Minister Srinivas Reddy further elaborated that, in addition to the ration cards, the state would also provide homes under the Indiramma Housing Scheme for the eligible poor. He confirmed that 3,500 homes have already been allocated for a specific segment of the population, and in the coming four phases, financial assistance of ₹5 lakh each would be provided to beneficiaries.

TPN Correspondent, Telangana, Jan 12: In a significant move, the Telangana government has announced that it will begin issuing new ration cards to eligible citizens starting January 26. The state's Minister, Ponguleti Srinivas Reddy, made the announcement during a media interaction in Khammam district, where he stated that the previous governments had only issued ration cards during election times, but his government was committed to providing them to all deserving individuals across the state.

For the past decade, no new ration cards were issued in Telangana, leading to a growing demand among citizens for the much-needed cards. The Telangana government, under the leadership of the Congress,

In a separate matter, Minister Ponguleti criticized BRS Working President K. T. Rama Rao's recent comments regarding the 'Formula E Car' race case. He described KTR's remarks as unnecessary, suggesting that accusations against the Anti-Corruption Bureau (ACB) and Enforcement Directorate (ED) in their investigations into BRS ministers' actions were baseless.

He emphasized that the Congress government was not targeting any individual, but rather letting the law take its course. Minister Srinivas Reddy concluded by urging that KTR should refrain from blaming investigation agencies for their actions, emphasizing that his government would ensure fair investigations without political interference.

Revanth Reddy Directs New Osmania Hospital Foundation by Month-End

TPN Correspondent, Hyderabad, Jan 12: Telangana Chief Minister Revanth Reddy has directed the state government to lay the foundation stone for the new Osmania Hospital by the end of this month. Speaking during a review meeting with officials today, Reddy emphasized the need for swift progress in the construction of the hospital in Goshamahal.



The meeting discussed the land transfer process and other essential tasks related to the proposed site for the new hospital.

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Five Youth Drown in Kondapochamma Sagar Reservoir



TPN Correspondent, Siddipet, Jan 12: A tragic incident occurred in Siddipet district, where five young individuals lost their lives while swimming in Kondapochamma Sagar Dam. Seven youths had ventured into the dam for a swim, but five of them drowned, while two others managed to escape with their lives.

The deceased youths were identified as Dhanush (20), Lohith (17), Dineshwar (17), Sahil (19), and Jatin (17), all residents of Musheerabad in Hyderabad. The surviving youths, Mrigank (17) and Ibrahim (20), were able to make it out of the water safely.

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KTR Slams Telangana Govt for Covering Up Sunkishala Report

TPN Correspondent, Hyderabad, Jan 12: Telangana Minister K.T. Rama Rao (KTR) has strongly criticized the state government for refusing to release the vigilance report on the Sunkishala incident, which resulted in the collapse of a retaining wall and a loss of ₹80 crore in public funds. He condemned the government for withholding the report under the Right to Information (RTI) Act, calling it a "disastrous" and "unjust" action.

KTR accused the government of hiding the truth to protect Megha Engineering & Infrastructures Ltd. (Megha), the construction company responsible for the failure. He claimed that the government had linked the issue to national security laws



to prevent the disclosure of the committee's findings. He also stated that the government's reluctance to make the report public was an attempt to cover up the flaws in the construction and avoid political embarrassment.

Further, KTR alleged that there was a secret political deal between Chief Minister Revanth Reddy and Megha Krishna Reddy, which is the main reason behind suppressing the report. He pointed out that Revanth Reddy, who had previously accused Megha of being corrupt when in the opposition, now appeared to be protecting the company for personal and political gain after coming to power.

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Traffic Chaos in Uppal, Nagol, Boduppall, and LB Nagar Roads Amid Sankranti Rush

TPN Correspondent, Hyderabad, Jan 12: The Sankranti festival approaches, the city roads are witnessing severe traffic congestion as residents head to their hometowns to celebrate. The Uppal Ring Road, a key route, has become a traffic bottleneck, with vehicles stuck in long queues. This has resulted in a complete standstill on many roads, including Uppal, Nagol, Boduppall, and LB Nagar.

With people opting for various modes of transport, including RTC buses, private vehicles, and private travels, the roads have been clogged with

traffic. Vehicles heading towards key routes such as Vijayawada, Guntur, Nalgonda, Warangal, Mahabubabad, Bhongir, and Jangaon are all part of the massive congestion. Even the Uppal Skyway, usually not crowded, has been overwhelmed with people.

Commuters have expressed frustration as their journeys, meant to be for a festive celebration, are being delayed due to the unexpected traffic jam. The situation is likely to persist as more people continue to travel for the holiday season.





Month-End

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Reddy instructed the officials to expedite the land exchange between departments and complete all preparatory work in a timely manner to ensure the foundation stone is laid as planned. Reddy also reviewed the preliminary design of the new Osmania Hospital, with officials presenting a sample map of the proposed construction. He suggested several modifications to the design, stressing that the hospital should be built to accommodate the needs of the next 50 years. The Chief Minister emphasized that the hospital must be easily accessible, with roads connecting all four sides of the building. This would ensure smooth traffic flow and better connectivity for people traveling from other districts. Reddy also called for sufficient parking space, a mortuary, and other necessary facilities to be included in the design. With these instructions, the government is moving forward with plans for the new hospital to meet the growing healthcare needs of the state and improve public services.

Sunkishala Report

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KTR also raised concerns about the Kondagal Lift Irrigation project, accusing Revanth's government of awarding lucrative contracts to Megha and companies linked to Minister Ponguleti's family in exchange for political favors. He referred to these deals as a "quid pro quo" arrangement that resulted in large-scale corruption.

In conclusion, KTR demanded that the government release the full investigation report on the Sunkishala incident and stop undermining the Right to Information Act. He called on the government to be transparent and accountable for its actions.

Five Youth Drown in

continued from P-1

Upon receiving the distress call, the local police quickly arrived at the scene and spoke to the survivors to gather details about the incident. A case has been registered, and an investigation is underway. The bodies of the deceased have been sent to the local hospital for post-mortem. The tragic deaths of the five young men while swimming together have shocked the state, with many expressing their grief over the incident.

BRS Delays Nalgonda Farmers' Protest, Plans Post-Sankranti Rally

TPN Correspondent, Nalgonda, Jan 12: In a key decision, the Telangana Rashtra Samithi (BRS) has postponed the planned farmers' Mahadharna (mass protest) scheduled for Sunday in Nalgonda district. The party announced that the protest would be delayed to avoid causing inconvenience to the public during the Sankranti festival season, citing travel difficulties and road congestion. BRS leaders assured that the Mahadharna would be held on a larger scale after Sankranti.

BRS district president Ravinder Kumar, former Zilla Parishad chairman Banda Narendar Reddy, ex-MLAs Nallamothu Bhaskar Rao, Chirumarti Lingayya, and Kancherla Bhoopal Reddy spoke to the media, explaining the reasons behind the delay. They emphasized that the decision was made in consideration of the festival-related travel and road congestion. They also declared that after Sankranti, they would expose the failures of the Congress party.

The BRS leaders reminded the public of the Congress party's unfulfilled promises, highlighting issues like the reduction of farmer support from ₹15,000 to ₹12,000 and the incomplete implementation of the ₹2 lakh loan waiver scheme. They further criticized Congress for trying to divert attention from these failures by filing cases against KTR, the son of Chief Minister K. Chandrashekar Rao. The BRS party has vowed to continue pushing for farmers' rights and address these unresolved issues once the festive season concludes.



Bhatti Vikramarka's Key Announcements for Adivasis at Nagarjunasagar Camp



TPN Correspondent, Nagarjunasagar, Jan 12: Deputy Chief Minister Bhatti Vikramarka made several important announcements at the concluding session of the Adivasi and Tribal Public Representatives Training Camp in Nagarjunasagar. In his speech, he outlined key initiatives aimed at improving the welfare of Adivasi and tribal communities in Telangana.

1. SC/ST Sub-Plan Implementation: Bhatti Vikramarka stated that he would personally take responsibility for the successful implementation of the SC/ST Sub-Plan to ensure that the rights and needs of marginalized communities are effectively addressed.

2. Tribals' Contribution to Free-

dom Struggle:

The Deputy CM paid tribute to the Adivasis and tribals for their unwavering participation in India's freedom struggle, emphasizing their role as fearless fighters who never took a step back in their pursuit of independence.

3. Congress Government's Role in Rights Legislation:

Bhatti Vikramarka credited the Congress government for introducing laws that empowered people, especially marginalized communities, to freely question and assert their rights.

4. Freedom of Speech and Telangana's Progress:

He reflected on how Telangana, after being formed, has ensured

that citizens enjoy the freedom of speech, a fundamental right brought by Indira Gandhi's leadership. He mentioned how this was a promise fulfilled to the people of the state.

5. Support for Farmers: Addressing concerns raised by the opposition, Bhatti Vikramarka clarified that Congress would ensure support for farmers, with the state government planning to increase the farmer welfare assistance to ₹12,000, which includes an additional ₹2,000.

6. Indiramma Aatmiya Bharosa Scheme for Landless Poor: Bhatti Vikramarka announced the launch of the Indiramma Aatmiya Bharosa scheme starting January 26, aimed at supporting landless poor families with ₹6,000 annually, paid in two installments, amounting to ₹12,000.

7. Implementation of Forest and Tribal Rights Laws:

He reaffirmed the government's commitment to fully implement the PESA (Panchayats Extension to Scheduled Areas) Act and the Forest Rights Act, ensuring that tribal communities receive all the rights related to forest resources.

8. Rejuvenation of ITDAs and Em-

ployment Opportunities:

The Deputy CM also mentioned plans to revitalize the Integrated Tribal Development Agencies (ITDAs), allocate necessary budgets, and provide training and self-employment opportunities for unemployed tribal youth.

9. Concerns Over Constitution Under Threat:

Bhatti Vikramarka raised concerns about efforts to undermine the Indian Constitution and the rights of common citizens. He stressed the importance of protecting the Constitution as a safeguard for everyone's rights.

10. Support for Rahul Gandhi's Vision:

He expressed his support for Rahul Gandhi's leadership in protecting the Constitution and urged Congress leaders to work swiftly and effectively, following Gandhi's example in safeguarding the nation's values.

Bhatti Vikramarka's speech highlighted the Telangana government's ongoing efforts to uplift Adivasi and tribal communities, emphasizing rights, welfare schemes, and employment opportunities.

Strengthening Security and Governance

The Case for a National Temple Force and Union Territory Status for Tirumala

By Dr. Buragadda Srinadh : The tragic loss of lives during pilgrimages has emerged as a national concern, highlighting the urgent need to implement robust security measures. The establishment of a national temple security force, akin to the Central Industrial Security Force, could be a vital step in safeguarding pilgrims and ensuring their safety during visits to sacred sites.

A significant issue contributing to the crisis is the ongoing space crunch at pilgrimage sites, which has been exacerbated by encroachment from state governments for electoral gains and by unauthorized individuals. The lack of effective control over these areas calls for the introduction of central laws similar to those that protect defense and forest lands. These laws

could help preserve the integrity of pilgrimage spaces and prevent their misuse.

To address these challenges, it may be beneficial to involve paramilitary forces in securing pilgrimage sites, drawing from the rigorous protocols employed at airports. Such measures would not only enhance security but also protect the sanctity of religious offerings, ultimately restoring public trust in the administration's ability to ensure the safety of both the sites and their visitors.

In addition to bolstering security, one potential solution to the governance challenges at pilgrimage sites is to designate Tirumala as a Union Territory. This change could lead to a more direct and accountable administration, free from the

political influence that has hindered efficient management. The move would provide a transparent and effective governance model, ensuring resources are allocated fairly and used appropriately, without local political pressures distorting priorities.

Over recent decades, the Tirumala Tirupati Devasthanams (TTD) has been a focal point for political debate, particularly regarding allegations of misappropriation of funds meant for the upkeep of the temple. These accusations, often tied to the political appointment of board members, have resulted in a lack of accountability, creating a cycle of disputes that diverts attention from the essential need for reform. The situation demands a comprehensive approach that addresses not only security concerns but also



governance and accountability issues. Exploring alternative solutions, such as making Tirumala a Union Territory, could lead to a more responsible management framework. This change, coupled with stronger security measures, would help ensure that pilgrimage sites are effectively governed and protected, providing a safer and more transparent experience for all devotees.

AIG Hospitals Introduces India's First DynamicARC® Proton Beam Therapy

TPN Correspondent, Hyderabad, Jan 12: AIG Hospitals, one of India's largest tertiary care centers, has announced the acquisition of the ProTs@ONE proton therapy system equipped with DynamicARC® technology from IBA, a global leader in radiation oncology. This advanced technology marks a groundbreaking achievement in cancer treatment, as it is the first of its kind in India. Proton beam therapy, powered by DynamicARC® technology, offers unparalleled precision in targeting tumors while minimizing damage to surrounding healthy tissues. Particularly effective for advanced cancers of the lips, tongue, and other areas near soft tissues, this innovation represents a significant leap in cancer care.

Dr. Dinayageshwar Reddy, Chairman of AIG Hospitals, expressed his commitment to providing world-class cancer care. "Proton Beam Therapy is a highly precise form of radiation therapy that significantly reduces collateral damage to healthy tissues. This addition to AIG Hospitals underscores our mission to deliver cutting-edge, personalized care to our patients," he said. Dr. Reddy also highlighted the hos-



pital's new 300-bed oncology unit in Gachibowli, which will house this revolutionary technology, ensuring comprehensive cancer treatment. Vice Chairman PVS Raju emphasized the transformative impact of this technology on cancer care services at AIG Hospitals, enhancing offerings in medical oncology, radiation oncology, surgical oncology, and supportive care.

This center is the third proton therapy facility in India and the first in the Telugu states of Telangana and Andhra Pradesh. Positioned at the forefront of cancer treatment, AIG Hospitals aims to set a new benchmark in accessible and effective oncology care with this milestone.

Minister Ponnam Prabhakar Launches Key Projects in Husnabad

TPN Correspondent, Husnabad, Jan 12: Minister for Transport and BC Welfare, Ponnam Prabhakar, visited Husnabad constituency in Siddipet district today, where he laid the foundation for several development



projects aimed at enhancing local infrastructure. During his visit to Husnabad Municipality, the minister inaugurated the construction of CC roads and sewage drains in the 10th Ward (G.R. Reddy Colony), with an investment of ₹50 lakh. This initiative is part of the government's efforts to improve basic infrastructure in urban areas.

Addressing the gathering, Minister Ponnam Prabhakar assured residents that the issues of flood-affected villages would be resolved after March. He mentioned that the government had previously compensated flood victims with valuable land and would continue to address their concerns. The minister also emphasized that ₹50 lakh would be allocated for the construction of roads and drains in each of the 20 wards of Husnabad Municipality.

In addition, Ponnam Prabhakar laid the foundation for the beautification of Ellamma Cheruvu tank and allocated ₹10 lakh specifically for road development in the G.R. Reddy Colony. He promised to resolve local issues through discussions with the Municipal Department and emphasized the importance of increasing tax revenue for better development.

The minister also announced plans to open an open gym in the colony and personally contributed ₹50,000 for the construction of a temple dedicated to mothers. He assured the public of continued support under Mission Bhagiratha for drinking water and highlighted the importance of health and agriculture sectors.

Ponnam Prabhakar concluded by offering Sankranti greetings and assured the people of his commitment to their welfare.

TPCC Chief: Congress to Announce MLC Candidate in Two Days

TPN Correspondent, Hyderabad, Jan 12: The Telangana Pradesh Congress Committee (TPCC) Chief, Mahesh Kumar Goud, has announced that the party will finalize its candidate for the upcoming MLC elections within two to three days. These elections include the Teachers' and Graduates' constituencies in Telangana.

While the BJP has already finalized its candidates, the Congress is still in the process of making a decision. Mahesh Kumar Goud revealed that four names are currently under consideration for the Congress MLC candidate. Among the frontrunners is re-



portedly the chairman of Alfors Educational Institutions.

The TPCC Chief assured full support to allied parties in the MLC elections and highlighted the party's commitment to rewarding hard work. He stated that individuals actively contributing to various committees will be given posts by the end of this month. Additionally, Goud confirmed that corporation posts would be allocated in the last week of January.

In a related event, senior leader D.V. Satyanarayana Rao formally joined the Congress party. At a ceremony held at Gandhi Bhavan, he was warmly welcomed and draped with the Congress shawl, symbolizing his inclu-

sion in the party's fold.

This announcement and developments reflect the Congress party's strategic preparations to strengthen its position ahead of the elections. The decision on the MLC candidate is expected to be a significant step in consolidating support among teachers and graduates, who play a crucial role in these elections.

The upcoming announcement is eagerly awaited as it will indicate Congress's approach to challenging the BJP and other contenders in the state's political landscape.

RG TV Reporter in Jangaon Jail: Palla and Errabelli Extend Support



TPN Correspondent, Jangaon, Jan 12: RG TV journalist Raj Kumar, known for his critical reporting on the failures of the Congress government, has been sent to judicial remand following court orders. The journalist was reportedly charged by the police for his continued questioning of the government's actions.

On Saturday, former minister Errabelli Dayakar Rao and Jangaon MLA Palla Rajeshwar Reddy visited Raj Kumar at Jangaon jail to express their support. Both leaders inquired about the journalist's health and well-being during their visit.

After meeting Raj Kumar, Palla Rajeshwar Reddy and Errabelli Dayakar Rao criticized the Congress government for allegedly targeting individuals who question its governance. They accused the government of filing baseless and illegal cases against those who speak out against its failures.

The visit by these prominent leaders highlights the growing tensions between the media and the Congress government. It also underscores the opposition's efforts to rally against what they describe as suppressive actions aimed at silencing dissent.

The case against the journalist and the subsequent political developments have become a flashpoint in the state's ongoing political discourse, drawing significant attention from the public and media alike.

MLC Kavitha Slams Congress Over BRS Office Attack

TPN Correspondent, Hyderabad, Jan 12: BRS MLC Kavitha Kalvakuntla strongly condemned the attack on the BRS party office in Yadadri Bhuvanagiri district, allegedly carried out by NSUI and Congress workers. She accused the Congress party of fostering hatred and violence, claiming it is ingrained in the party's DNA.



hallmarks of the Congress party," Kavitha remarked, adding that such behavior has no place in Telangana. She dismissed

Kavitha alleged that the attack was a result of incitement by Telangana Chief Minister and Congress leader Revanth Reddy. She criticized the Congress for resorting to such acts, stating that the party is unable to confront the BRS politically and is resorting to cowardly actions instead.

"Hatred, violence, and destruction are the

Congress leader Rahul Gandhi's concept of a "Mohabbat ki Dukan" (shop of love) as a façade, claiming it is being used to incite hatred and violence.

The MLC also accused the Congress of turning its youth wing, NSUI, into a "goon wing," spreading unrest in the state. She reaffirmed that Telangana rejects violent politics and remains committed to peace and progress.

Kavitha called on citizens to denounce such destructive acts and urged political parties to uphold democratic values. The attack on the BRS office has sparked tensions between the ruling BRS and Congress, further intensifying the political climate in Telangana.

Congress NSUI Leaders Attack BRS Party Office in Yadadri



TPN Correspondent, Bhuvanagiri, Jan 12: Tensions escalated in Telangana as Congress NSUI leaders launched an attack on the BRS party office in Yadadri Bhuvanagiri district. The attack resulted in extensive damage to the office furniture, further fueling political unrest in the state.

This incident comes amid heightened political tensions, following a series of retaliatory actions between the Congress and BJP. Earlier, Congress leaders attacked the BJP office, protesting controversial remarks made by BJP leader Priyanka Gandhi. In response, BJP leaders targeted Gandhi Bhavan, leading to a heated confrontation that was eventually quelled by police intervention.

BRS leaders have criticized the law enforcement authorities, alleging that the attacks occurred in the presence of the police, who failed to act promptly. They questioned the state of law and order under the current administration, expressing concerns over the apparent inaction of authorities during such violent incidents.

The back-and-forth clashes among political parties have led to a war of words, raising concerns about the deteriorating political environment in Telangana. The attacks have drawn widespread attention and calls for stronger measures to maintain peace and order in the state.

Minister Ponnam Inaugurates 3rd CREDAI Warangal Property Show

TPN Correspondent, Hanumakonda, Jan 12: Minister Ponnam Prabhakar inaugurated the third edition of the CREDAI Warangal Property Show, highlighting the rapid development of the tri-cities of Warangal, Hanumakonda, and Kazipet. The event was attended by Deputy Chairperson Banda Prakash, MLA Naini Rajender Reddy, Warangal Mayor Gundu Sudharani, Chairman Inagala Venkat Ramireddy, and CREDAI representatives.

Minister Prabhakar congratulated CREDAI for organizing the event and emphasized that property shows provide residents of Warangal and surrounding areas with opportunities to purchase property locally without traveling elsewhere.

He noted that the region is advancing significantly, with recent development works worth



₹6,000 crores initiated by the Chief Minister. The area boasts strong connectivity, with railway junctions linking North and South India, upcoming plans for an airport, and well-connected national highways.

Highlighting key infrastructure, the Minister mentioned government hospitals like Kakatiya Medical College and MGM, prestigious educational institutions such as Kakatiya University and NIT, and temple tourism attractions like Sammakka Saralamma Temple, Ramappa Temple, and the Thousand Pillar Temple.

Prabhakar assured CREDAI representatives that he would bring their concerns to the Chief Minister's attention and expressed his commitment to supporting the district's development. He reiterated his dedication to the progress of his constituency, which includes two mandals in the district, and pledged continued efforts as the District Minister.

The event underscored Warangal's growing status as a hub for real estate, infrastructure, and tourism.

KTR Condemns Attack on BRS Office, Warns of Retaliation



TPN Correspondent, Hyderabad, Jan 12: BRS Working President K.T. Rama Rao (KTR) strongly condemned the attack on the BRS party office in Yadadri Bhuvanagiri district by NSUI leaders. The incident occurred after KTR allegedly made remarks against Telangana Chief Minister Revanth Reddy, triggering violent reactions from Congress workers. The

attack caused significant damage to the office furniture, further escalating political tensions.

Responding to the incident on Twitter, KTR labeled the attackers as "Congress goons" and warned of potential retaliation if BRS workers and leaders were provoked further. "If our party workers come to us, we will teach them a suitable lesson. The Congress is running a goon kingdom in the state. People will teach that party a lesson," he stated.

KTR demanded the immediate arrest of those involved in the attack and criticized the Congress for its alleged role in creating unrest. He also expressed concern over the recent spate of political violence, including the attack on the BJP office in Nampally and now the BRS office in Bhuvanagiri district.

The incident underscores the rising tensions among political parties in Telangana as accusations and counter-accusations continue to dominate the political landscape.

Congress' Longstanding Bond with Tribals: Minister Komati Reddy

TPN Correspondent, Nagarjuna Sagar, Hyderabad, Jan 12: Minister Komati Reddy Venkat Reddy emphasized the Congress party's decades-long connection with tribal communities, tracing it back 75 years. Speaking at a political training session for tribal Congress leaders, he highlighted the numerous laws and initiatives introduced by the Congress to empower and protect tribal rights. Minister Reddy noted that under the leadership of former Prime Minister Jawaharlal Nehru, significant steps were taken to uplift tribal communities, including the inclusion of Article 46 in the Constitution, which emphasizes social, economic, and educational welfare. He also credited the Congress with implementing key legislations such as the Tribal Rights Protection Act, the PESA Act, and the Forest Rights Act, aimed at safeguarding tribal land and autonomy.

Additionally, Minister Reddy pointed out that the Congress was instrumental in establishing legislative reservations for Dalits and tribals and setting up the SC and ST Commission to address their issues. He stressed that the party's commitment to tribal welfare has been a cornerstone of its policies since independence. "The connection with the tribals is not of today. It is a 75-year-old bond built on trust and progress," he stated, reaffirming the Congress' dedication to tribal development and representation.

Kite & Sweet Festival at Parade Grounds from January 13 : Minister Jupally Krishna Rao



this grand event. Additionally, 54 national kite flyers from 14 different states will showcase their skills.

The festival will feature a special night kite flying event, which is set to be a highlight of the three-day celebration. Minister Jupally Krishna Rao mentioned that the previous year's festival in 2024 had seen an overwhelming participation, with over 1,000 delicious sweets prepared and presented by attendees from various regions and countries. The event had not only been a spectacle for kite lovers but also a significant boost to tourism, attracting approximately 1.5 million visitors.

The event will offer an exciting blend of entertainment, culture, and international participation, making it a must-attend festival for kite enthusiasts and food lovers alike. Minister Jupally Krishna Rao emphasized the importance of such events in promoting tourism and showcasing the rich cultural diversity of India on a global stage.

TPN Correspondent, Hyderabad, Jan 12: Minister Jupally Krishna Rao announced the upcoming International Kite & Sweet Festival, which will take place at Parade Grounds in Secunderabad from January 13 to 15. The festival promises to be a vibrant celebration with participation from kite enthusiasts and sweet makers from around the world. A total of 47 international kite flyers from 19 countries, including Indonesia, Sweden, Australia, Sri Lanka, Canada, Cambodia, Thailand, South Korea, the Philippines, Vietnam, Malaysia, Italy, South Africa, Japan, Tunisia, Poland, Singapore, Ukraine, and France, will take part in

Kite Festival Gets Special Touch with CM Revanth's Photo



TPN Correspondent, Hyderabad, Jan 12: With Sankranti just around the corner, kites are once again taking center stage, filling the skies with vibrant colors and festive energy. Flying kites has long been a cherished tradition during this festival, symbolizing joy and togetherness. This year, however, there is an interesting twist: kites featuring the image of Chief Minister Revanth Reddy have emerged in the market.

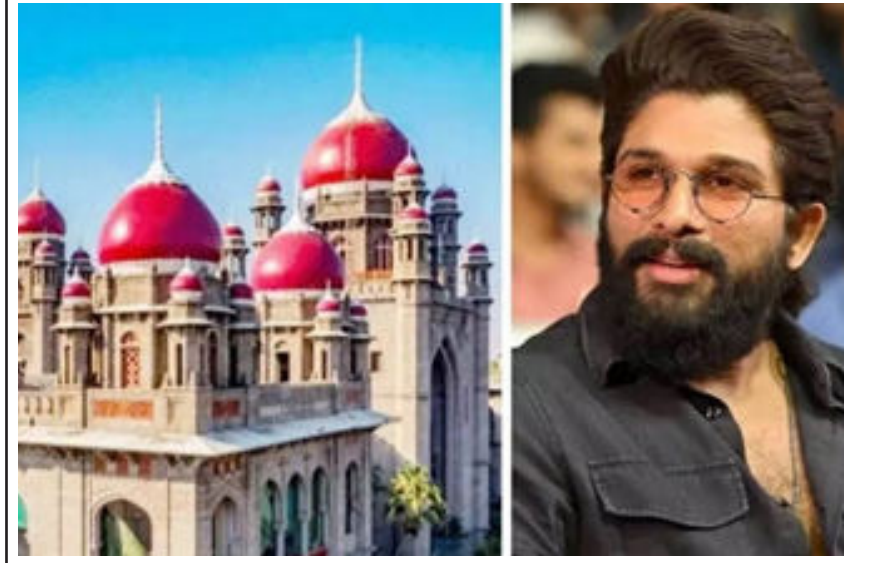
State Fisheries Corporation Chairman, Mettu Saikumar, has taken the initiative to create and distribute these special kites for free, especially to children. This gesture reflects his admiration and support for the Chief Minister. Saikumar, who previously gained attention by creating a sand sculpture of Revanth Reddy during the Chief Minister's birthday celebrations at Puri beach, has now extended this support through a unique way of celebrating Sankranti.

The kites, featuring Revanth Reddy's photo, have sparked curiosity and interest, blending political enthusiasm with festive spirit. Many see this as a novel way to honor the Chief Minister while celebrating the traditional kite flying associated with Sankranti. As these special kites soar in the sky, they are sure to add extra excitement and vibrancy to the festival, making this Sankranti even more memorable for all.

Allu Arjun Granted Relief by Nampally Court, Exempted from Sunday Appearances

TPN Correspondent, Hyderabad, Jan 12: Actor Allu Arjun has been granted relief by the Nampally Court, which exempted him from the condition of appearing every Sunday before the Chikkadpally police. This decision follows a petition filed by the actor, requesting exemption from the weekly attendance, which was part of his bail conditions in connection with the Santhya Theatre stampede incident. The incident, which resulted in the death of a woman and severe injuries to her son, led to a case against Allu Arjun, his security team, and the theatre management.

After his arrest and remand, Allu Arjun was granted interim bail by the High Court, followed by regular bail from Nampally Court, with conditions to submit a personal bond and appear on Sundays. Due to his shooting commitments, the actor requested an exemption, which the court granted, allowing him to travel abroad for work. His legal team cited security concerns for the exemption, which was accepted by the court.



STF Seizes 1050 Kgs of Sugar and 50 Kgs Palm Jaggery in Nalgonda

TPN Correspondent, Hyderabad, Jan 12: In a major operation, the Special Task Force (STF) from Hyderabad seized a large quantity of sugar and palm jaggery being transported illegally from Bidar. Acting on a tip-off, the STF team conducted a raid at the Cherukupally area in Nalgonda district's Devarakonda region, where they intercepted a car and recovered 1050 kgs of sugar, 50 kgs of palm jaggery, and 10 liters of illicit liquor.

The car, which was valued at around Rs. 15 lakh, was found carrying the illegally transported goods intended for the production of local liquor. The STF team apprehended the driver, Ramesh, who was allegedly transporting the goods to the Padamati Tanda area in Devarakonda mandal.

The operation was led by CI Bhiksha Reddy, SI Balaraju, Constable Yadgiri, and Kaushik Shankar, along with support from the Excise Enforcement team. The Excise Enforcement Director, V.B. Kamal Haasan Reddy, and STF leader Pradeep Rao extended their congratulations to the team for successfully preventing the illegal transportation.

The seizure, which involved the recovery of goods worth Rs. 1.10 lakh, has disrupted the supply chain for illicit liquor production in the region. Authorities are continuing their investigation into the matter.



Dil Raju apologies for his comments on Telangana culture



TPN Correspondent, Hyderabad, Jan 12: Famous producer and FDC Chairman Dil Raju has issued an apology to the people of Telangana for his controversial remarks about 'kallu' and 'mutton.' In a video posted on social media, he clarified that his intention was never to disrespect Telangana's culture, which he holds in high regard. The controversy arose during a pre-release event in Nizamabad for his upcoming film, where he made comments comparing the cultural vibes of Andhra Pradesh and Telangana.

He said, "In Andhra, there is a vibe for films. In Telangana, we associate 'white collar' and 'mutton' with our vibe," which

many interpreted as offensive, associating it with alcohol consumption and reinforcing negative stereotypes.

In response to the backlash, Dil Raju apologized, explaining that he was referring to the tradition of feasting and celebrating the festive culture of Telangana. He emphasized his admiration for the state and its people, highlighting his deep connection with Nizamabad and his work that showcases Telangana's culture, as seen in films like Fida and Balagam. He concluded by expressing regret if his words hurt anyone and reaffirmed his respect for the state.

Big Alert for Passengers: Shamsabad Airport Issues New Rule to Arrive 3 Hours in Advance

TPN Correspondent, Hyderabad, Jan 12: Shamsabad Airport has issued a crucial announcement for all passengers. As per the new rule, travelers are now required to arrive at the airport 3 hours prior to their flight. This applies to both domestic and international travelers arriving at the airport.



The decision comes in light of the significant increase in passenger traffic, particularly due to the Sankranti festival rush. Airport authorities have stated that the heavy footfall has led to delays in security checks and other procedures. To avoid any inconvenience, passengers are being urged to arrive 2 to 3

hours ahead of their scheduled departure time.

Authorities have emphasized that the increased volume of travelers means longer wait times for security screenings and other processes. To ensure a smooth experience and to avoid any last-minute rush, passengers are strongly advised to follow these guidelines. Failure to comply could result in delays and inconvenience for the travelers, warned airport officials.

Hydra Commissioner Rangnath Vows to Resolve Durga Cheruvu FTL Dispute in Four Months

TPN Correspondent, Hyderabad, Jan 12: Hyderabad's Hydra Commissioner, Rangnath, has assured the public that the ongoing dispute regarding the Full Tank Level (FTL) of Durga Cheruvu will be resolved within the next four months. Speaking at a meeting with local residents, he emphasized that both the FTL and buffer zones would be clearly defined through a comprehensive process. He assured that a permanent solution would be provided without any room for controversy. Rangnath explained that experts from renowned institutions such as IIT, BITS Pilani, and JNTU would collaborate with various departments like the National Remote Sensing Centre, Survey of India,



Telangana's Revenue, Irrigation, and GHMC departments to analyze the issue scientifically. Satellite images and official records will be used to study the area, and a final report will be prepared based on thorough research. The Commissioner also addressed concerns from residents of surrounding areas who had raised objections to the preliminary notification issued by the Hyderabad Metropolitan Development Authority (HMDA) regarding the FTL. He assured that after careful consideration of all factors, a solution would be reached that ensures peace and clarity for all parties involved. Rangnath's approach aims to settle the dispute comprehensively without further complications.

Job Can Wait, Start Trading First – DCP Kavitha Highlights Growing Online Scams in Two Villages

TPN Correspondent, Hyderabad, Jan 12: Hyderabad is witnessing a disturbing rise in online trading scams, with rural youth being targeted and unknowingly roped into illegal activities. These scams are particularly prevalent in villages near Kodad, Suryapet district, where many young individuals are being pressured by their families to participate in stock market trading, often without understanding the risks. Cyber Crime DCP Kavitha highlighted that the youth, lured by promises of quick profits, are becoming agents for cyber fraudsters.

In one case, a recently widowed woman, struggling with debt, pushed her daughters into trading, believing it would solve their financial problems. The eldest daughter, an engineering student in Hyderabad, was initially hesitant but eventually invested her family's gold after being promised substantial returns. Similarly, a young man with an agriculture degree was also encouraged to take part, unaware of the legal risks involved.

These criminals exploit the youth by using their bank accounts to transfer funds, convert them into cryptocurrency, and



send them to foreign accounts. With complaints leading to frozen accounts, they open new ones to continue their scams. DCP Kavitha and her team are working to raise awareness in these communities, issue notices to suspects, and take further action to prevent further exploitation.

Dr. Elender Demands Apology from Former MLA Gongadi Sunitha for Inappropriate Comments on Aleru MLA Beerla Ailayya

TPN Correspondent, Hyderabad, Jan 12: Dr. Elender, the State President of Kuruma Student Association, has demanded that former MLA Gongadi Sunitha immediately withdraw her inappropriate comments about Aleru MLA Beerla Ailayya. Condemning Sunitha's remarks, Dr. Elender and the leaders of the Kuruma Student Association staged a protest in the Osmania University Arts College premises. Dr. Elender questioned the legitimacy of the false allegations made by Sunitha, who accused Ailayya, a leader from the backward classes, of being involved in land scams. He emphasized that Ailayya has consistently worked for the development of the Aleru constituency and its people. He further criticized Sunitha for attempting to tarnish the reputation of a prominent leader like Ailayya, who has been an advocate for the downtrodden. Dr. Elender demanded that Sunitha immediately retract her comments and apologize publicly. He warned that if she fails to do so, they would be forced to take appropriate action.

Rahul Gandhi and Mallikarjun Kharge to Visit Telangana on January 27



TPN Correspondent, Hyderabad, Jan 12: Congress President Mallikarjun Kharge and Leader of Opposition in the Lok Sabha Rahul Gandhi are set to visit Telangana on January 27 to participate in the "Samvidhan Bachao" program. The event is being organized to commemorate the 75th anniversary of the Constitution's implementation.

As part of the Congress' national initiative, programs like "Jai Babu, Jai Bhim, Jai Samvidhan Abhiyan" will also be held across the country to promote constitutional values and safeguard democratic principles.

Their visit has sparked speculation about a possible cabinet expansion in Telangana. Reports suggest that during their visit, the Congress leadership may announce opportunities for new ministerial appointments.

Further announcements regarding the cabinet and other political developments are anticipated during their visit.

With political activity heating up in the state, the visit by two senior Congress leaders is expected to energize the party cadre and strengthen their efforts in Telangana ahead of upcoming elections. Party insiders are optimistic about the visit and its impact on consolidating the Congress' position in the state.

Further announcements regarding the cabinet and other political developments are anticipated during their visit.

KTR, Harish Rao React to Kondapochamma Sagar Tragedy



TPN Correspondent, Hyderabad, Jan 12: BRS Working President K.T. Rama Rao (KTR) and former Minister Harish Rao expressed deep condolences over the tragic death of five youths in an accident at Kondapochamma Sagar in Siddipet district.

KTR described the untimely demise of the young individuals as an irreparable loss for their families. He called for the government to extend full support to the grieving families during this difficult time.

Harish Rao also conveyed his shock and sorrow over the incident, emphasizing the loss of young lives with promising futures. He urged the government to implement precautionary measures to prevent similar tragedies in the future.

Both leaders demanded that the government announce an ex-gratia payment of Rs. 15 lakh for each bereaved family. Harish Rao reiterated the need for immediate support to the families and highlighted the importance of ensuring safety measures around public water bodies, especially during festivals.

The incident has sparked calls for enhanced safety protocols at popular sites to avert such unfortunate occurrences.

New Animal Species Released at Kakatiya Zoo Park

TPN Correspondent, Warangal, Jan 12: Ministers Ponnam Prabhakar and Konda Surekha released two tigers, two bisons, a herd of half-deer, and barking deer at the Kakatiya Zoo Park as part of a special ceremony. The event marked a significant addition to the park's animal collection, enhancing its conservation efforts.

Alongside the animal release, the ministers launched the Kakatiya Zoo Park's new brochure, calendar, and official website, offering a comprehensive guide to the park's facilities and wildlife.

A cultural building was also inaugurated at the zoo park, designed to host various cultural and educational programs for visitors.

The inauguration event saw the participation of several prominent leaders, including Legislative Council Deputy Mayor Banda Prakash, MLA Nayini Rajender Reddy, Warangal Mayor Gundu Sudharani, and Chairman Inagala Venkatrami Reddy.



These initiatives are part of ongoing efforts to promote wildlife conservation and make the zoo a more accessible and educational destination for the public.

Minister Inaugurates Indira Mahila Shakti Canteen



TPN Correspondent, Husnabad, Jan 12: Minister Ponnam Prabhakar inaugurated the Palle Ruchulu Family Restaurant and Canteen, set up by the Indira Mahila Shakti Canteen initiative, in the Husnabad Municipal Complex building. During the event, the minister sampled various food items offered at the canteen.

Minister Prabhakar emphasized that the

Telangana government, through women's groups, will continue to launch Indira Mahila Shakti Canteens across the state. The goal is to provide healthy, high-quality food while empowering women's groups. She urged that these canteens be managed in a way that enhances the respect and recognition of women's groups within the community.

The minister also discussed several government programs aimed at supporting women's economic growth, including initiatives for women's groups in fields like solar energy, coconut farming, and the silk industry. She mentioned the purchase of 600 buses by RTC through women's groups, highlighting the government's commitment to strengthening women's financial independence.

Additionally, Minister Prabhakar encouraged women to actively participate in community events such as the sister-daughter trio competition during Sankranti, ensuring a brighter future for themselves.

Patolla Shashidhar Reddy Demands Increase in BC Reservation

TPN Correspondent, Medak, Jan 12: Former Medak MLA Patolla Shashidhar Reddy has called for the local body elections to be held only after the Backward Classes (BC) reservation is increased from 20 percent to 42 percent. In an open letter addressed to Chief Minister Revanth Reddy, Reddy questioned the reluctance to raise the reservation to 42 percent, despite the BC figures being available from the caste census.

Reddy emphasized that increasing the BC reservation in local bodies would offer greater opportunities for BC candidates to be elected as panchayat members, sarpanches, MPTCs, MPPs, ZPTCs, and ZP chairmen. He proposed that an assembly meeting be convened immediately to draft a law providing 42 percent reservation for BCs in local bodies. Reddy argued that implementing this law along with the Dedication Commission report, as recommended by the Supreme Court, would protect the government from any legal challenges in the future.

Reddy further demanded that the local body elections be conducted only after the BC reservation is increased through legislation in the Assembly.

Bodies of Five Missing Youths Found

TPN Correspondent, Hyderabad, Jan 12: In a tragic incident, five youths from Musheerabad, Hyderabad, lost their lives after drowning in Kondapochamma Sagar reservoir on Thursday. Seven youths had gone on a trip to the reservoir, where some of them ventured into the water to swim and take selfies. During this activity, they fell into the dam. Despite the desperate efforts of locals to rescue them,



five youths drowned. Two others managed to escape the dangerous waters and were brought

out safely.

The authorities launched a search operation that lasted for about six hours. The first body to be recovered was that of Dinesh, followed by the recovery of other bodies. The final body to be recovered was that of Lohit. The victims have been identified as Dinesh, Dhanush, Jatin, Lohit, and Sahil. Mrigank and Ibrahim survived the tragic accident. The

bodies of the deceased were later sent to Gajwel Government Hospital for post-mortem.

The incident has left the families and the local community devastated, as the youths, all from Musheerabad, were full of life and had gone for a fun trip that turned into a horrific disaster. Authorities have urged citizens to exercise caution when engaging in water-related activities.



In response to the tragedy, BRS Working President KTR and Minister Harish Rao expressed their deep grief over the untimely deaths of the five youths. They extended their condolences to the grieving families and emphasized the importance of caution while engaging in water-related activities.

Diesel Thieves Caught Red-Handed in Karimnagar, Tied and Humiliated

TPN Correspondent, Hyderabad, Jan 12: In a shocking incident on Saturday morning in Karimnagar district, two diesel thieves were caught red-handed while stealing diesel from parked lorries. Vehicle owners have reported that such thefts have been ongoing in the area for some time, causing significant issues for lorry drivers

and owners.

The two thieves were apprehended by the vehicle owner, who tied their legs and hands with rope and subjected them to physical humiliation. A video of the incident, showing the thieves performing physical ablution, quickly went viral on social media platforms.

The rise in thefts has raised concerns among lorry owners in Karimnagar, with many calling for stricter security measures to prevent such incidents in the future. Authorities are investigating the matter to take further action against the thieves.



Why Should It Take Three Days to Declare Delhi Assembly Election Results?

On January 7, the Election Commission of India (ECI) announced that polling for the Delhi Assembly elections will take place on February 5, with results to be declared on February 8. This three-day gap between polling and results has raised questions, especially considering the relatively small size and urban nature of Delhi, which has only 70 constituencies.

A key argument often made in favor of Electronic Voting Machines (EVMs) is that they allow for faster result declaration compared to traditional paper ballots, which are time-consuming to count. In multi-phase elections across larger, rural areas, the time taken to transport EVMs from distant polling stations to counting centers is often cited as the reason for delayed results.

However, Delhi's geography presents a different scenario. The state is largely urbanized, and all villages are well-connected by good roads. Even if polling extends until late evening on February 5 due to long queues, the transportation of EVMs to counting centers by the following morning, February 6, should be feasible. Count-



ing could commence early in the day, and results could easily be declared by noon.

The Election Commission of India (ECI) announced that Delhi Assembly election results will be declared on February 8, three days after voting on February 5. Given Delhi's small size and urban infrastructure, this delay seems

unnecessary. Unlike rural areas with distant polling stations, Delhi's well-connected roads should allow EVMs to reach counting centers by the morning of February 6, enabling results by noon. Even in the unlikely event of a repoll, results for the remaining constituencies could be declared on the same day, making the three-day wait questionable and inefficient.

In most cases, an extra day is reserved for unforeseen circumstances, such as a repoll in a constituency. However, the situation in Delhi doesn't justify the three-day delay for result declaration. If a repoll were needed, the results for the remaining constituencies could still be announced on the same day by withholding results from only one or two constituencies.

Two key factors point to a different reason for the delayed result announcement. Firstly, the Election Commission's track record suggests a pattern of delays in the declaration of results, even when logistical reasons do not fully justify the delay. Secondly, the potential for a repoll is extremely unlikely in Delhi, and even if it occurs, it would only affect a few constituencies, making it possible to announce the majority of results on the same day.

Given these factors, the decision to declare the results on February 8 seems unnecessary and raises questions about the efficiency of the process.

BJP's Delhi Election Strategy: From Governance to Brand Modi



The 2025 Delhi Assembly elections are poised to be a crucial battleground, with the Bharatiya Janata Party (BJP) strategically positioning itself to challenge the Aam Aadmi Party (AAP) and reclaim control of the national capital. The BJP's strategy is multifaceted, focusing on governance issues, avoiding divisive rhetoric, capitalizing on Prime Minister Narendra Modi's popularity, and carefully selecting candidates to maximize their impact in key constituencies.

One of the primary elements of the BJP's approach is a two-phase campaign aimed at exposing the AAP government's governance failures. Key areas such as education, healthcare, and infrastructure, where the AAP has been criticized for its inefficiency, are set to be central points of focus. The BJP plans to install posters across Delhi comparing the governance of BJP-ruled states with the performance of the AAP government in Delhi. This comparison seeks to highlight the discrepancies between the two parties' approaches and showcase the BJP's proven track record in various sectors. By emphasizing governance and the tangible improvements seen in other BJP-led states, the party hopes to sway voters in its favor.

Another significant aspect of the BJP's strategy is its focus on avoiding divisive narratives. The party is aiming to create a broad-based appeal by steering clear of polarizing issues and focusing instead on development, stability, and good governance. This shift is in contrast to previous election cycles, where

polarizing rhetoric and identity politics played a prominent role in campaigning. The BJP appears to be prioritizing issues that affect the everyday lives of Delhiites, positioning itself as a responsible, development-oriented alternative to the AAP.

Additionally, the BJP is making strategic use of Prime Minister Narendra Modi's leadership to further bolster its campaign. Known for his strong political brand and nationwide popularity, Modi's image is being leveraged to rally support and attract voters. His presence is expected to give the party a significant edge, as his leadership is seen as a key factor in the BJP's success in previous elections. The party will likely continue to emphasize Modi's role in steering India towards economic growth, national security, and social welfare, aligning his persona with the BJP's vision for Delhi.

Moreover, the BJP's candidate selection process is critical to its success in Delhi. By choosing candidates who are locally popular, experienced, and capable of connecting with voters, the party hopes to gain an advantage in key constituencies. The BJP's strategic candidate choices are aimed at ensuring the party's message resonates with a diverse electorate across the city.

Through a combination of governance-focused messaging, leveraging Modi's popularity, and strategic candidate selection, the BJP is laying the groundwork for a compelling challenge to the AAP in the upcoming 2025 Delhi Assembly elections.

Social Media's Dark Side: Fueling Radicalisation in Bangladesh

Bangladesh, a country experiencing rapid digitisation, is facing a growing concern: online radicalisation. While the widespread use of social media platforms marks a significant step towards progress, it has also opened the door for extremist groups to exploit these spaces, potentially turning them into breeding grounds for radical ideologies.

The country has a vast and growing digital footprint, with over 52 million users on Facebook, more than 33 million active viewers on YouTube, and at least 1.69 million users on X (formerly Twitter). These platforms, while offering opportunities for communication and information sharing, are increasingly being used by radical groups to spread their ideologies. This growing digital space has raised alarm bells as it becomes a fertile ground for extremist propaganda, particularly among vulnerable groups.

A recent survey by Bangladesh Police sheds light on the alarming extent of online radicalisation. The survey, which involved 250 jailed militants, found that 82 per cent of the individuals had been radicalised via social



plexities of their identities in an increasingly globalised and digital world. The ease of access to extremist content and the anonymity offered by social media platforms make it easier for radical groups to manipulate young minds.

The issue of online radicalisation is compounded by the limited resources available to law enforcement and digital platforms to effectively monitor and combat extremist content. While Bangladesh has taken steps to address this issue, including increasing surveillance and promoting digital literacy, the scale of the problem requires a more coordinated effort between the government, law enforcement agencies, and social media companies.

In conclusion, while Bangladesh's growing digital landscape offers numerous benefits, it also poses serious challenges in terms of online radicalisation. Addressing this issue requires a multifaceted approach, focusing on both prevention and intervention, to ensure that social media remains a platform for positive engagement and not a tool for spreading extremism.

Banning Afghanistan cricket from Champions Trophy will be a gift to Taliban

Afghanistan's impressive performances in the 2023 ICC Men's Cricket World Cup and the 2024 Men's T20 World Cup ignited celebrations across the country, from the bustling streets of Kabul to remote villages. These celebrations went beyond just sporting achievements—they were acts of defiance against the Taliban regime's oppressive policies. Afghans from all walks of life found in their cricket team a symbol of unity and hope, challenging the Taliban's stranglehold over the nation.

However, the same Taliban, who have long viewed sports as a distraction from religious duties and an obstacle to enforcing their ideology, are likely to be disheartened by recent calls from British politicians and South Africa's sports minister. They have urged the ICC to ban Afghanistan's men's cricket team from participating in the Champions Trophy, scheduled for February 19 in Pakistan and Dubai. The demand for England and South Africa to boycott their matches against Afghanistan reflects growing international pressure over the Taliban's harsh restrictions on Afghan women, adding



to the regime's frustrations. But banning Afghanistan's cricket team is not an act of justice—it is an endorsement of oppression.

Since the Taliban regained power, Afghanistan has faced a mass exodus, with over 8 million Afghans fleeing due to poverty, economic collapse, and repression. Those who remain have little hope, living under the Taliban's stringent policies that have stifled opportunity and progress. Amid this bleak reality, cricket has become one of the few outlets for joy, inspiration, and resistance. For countless Afghan youth, players like Rashid Khan and Mohammad Nabi embody the possibility of a better future, offering an alter-

native to the extremism of groups like ISKP. Stripping Afghanistan of its cricketing platform would not only crush these dreams but could also push vulnerable young people toward radicalization, posing a potential global security threat.

Afghan cricketers are not just athletes; they are brave symbols of resistance. Many have used their platform to speak out for women's rights, particularly advocating for the right to education in defiance of the Taliban's oppressive policies. Their public statements, social media posts, and even silent protests demonstrate remarkable courage in a regime where dissent is punishable by death. These players risk everything to stand up for the rights of Afghan women, making them champions of more than just sport.

Banning Afghanistan's cricket team would not only be a blow to the nation's morale but also a victory for the forces of repression. Supporting Afghanistan's cricketers is supporting a brighter, more inclusive future for the country.

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.



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 often 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.

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

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.

CAG Report Exposes Kejriwal: JP Nadda



TPN Correspondent
Delhi, Jan 12

BJP president J.P. Nadda on Saturday accused the Delhi government of causing a loss of Rs 2,026 crore to the exchequer due to "intentional lapses" in the implementation of its excise policy, as highlighted in a report by the Comptroller and Auditor General (CAG).

Nadda, addressing the media on social media platform X, slammed the Aam Aadmi Party (AAP) government for its handling of the excise policy, saying, "Intoxicated by power, high on misgovernance. 'AAP'DA model of loot in full display and that too on something like liquor." He further added that it was only a matter of time before the AAP government would be voted out and held accountable for what he termed "misdeeds."

The CAG report, which has not yet been officially released, reportedly sheds light on significant financial mismanagement under the Delhi government's excise policy, claiming that lapses in policy implementation resulted in the loss of over Rs 2,000 crore. This comes amidst the ongoing investigation into the alleged corruption related to the policy. The Enforcement Directorate had previously arrested Delhi Chief Minister Arvind Kejriwal and his deputy Manish Sisodia in connection with the excise scam. Both were later released on bail after spending months in custody.

In response to these allegations, AAP Rajya Sabha MP Sanjay Singh questioned the validity of the CAG report, stating, "Where is the report? The BJP keeps claiming that no CAG report has been tabled." Singh's remarks suggest a level of skepticism surrounding the BJP's claims.

The controversy surrounding the excise policy has sparked intense political debate, with the BJP calling for accountability, while the AAP denies the allegations. As the issue continues to unfold, the political temperature in Delhi is set to rise in the lead-up to the upcoming elections.

Uddhav Thackeray's Shiv Sena Will Contest Local Body Polls Alone: Sanjay Raut

TPN Correspondent
Nagpur, Jan 12

Shiv Sena (UBT) leader Sanjay Raut confirmed on Saturday that his party will contest upcoming local body elections on its own, signaling a shift away from alliances like the INDIA bloc and Maha Vikas Aghadi (MVA), which were formed for Lok Sabha and state assembly elections. Raut, a Rajya Sabha MP, explained that alliances often limit opportunities for individual party workers, hindering organizational growth. Therefore, Shiv Sena (UBT) intends to contest municipal corporation elections in cities like Mumbai, Thane, and Nagpur, as well as zilla parishads and panchayats, based on its own strength.

Raut added that party chief Uddhav Thackeray had hinted that the party should go solo in these elections, and emphasized the importance of the party's own organizational growth.

Addressing the ongoing discord within the Maha Vikas Aghadi, Raut criticized Congress leader Vijay Wadettiwar for blaming the alliance's failure in the state assembly elections. He stated that those unwilling to embrace consensus and compromise should not be part of an alliance, suggesting a lack of unity in MVA. Raut also point-

ed out that since the 2019 Lok Sabha elections, the INDIA bloc has failed to hold a single meeting, leaving unresolved issues within the alliance.

On the topic of Deputy Chief Minister Ajit Pawar's recent remark denying any men-



tion of farm loan waivers, Raut responded by reminding him that both the farm loan waiver and the Rs 2,100 support for Laadki Bahin beneficiaries were featured in the BJP's election manifesto, and as the finance minister in the BJP government, Pawar would be expected to fulfill these promises.

Raut also commented on Prime Minister Narendra Modi's recent admission that he is human and capable of making mistakes. Responding to this, Raut humorously stated, "He (Modi) is god. I don't consider him a human. He is the 13th avatar of Vishnu." He further questioned Modi's statement, suggesting there might be something wrong if someone regarded as a deity claims to be human.

Governor Ravi Unable To Digest Tamil Nadu Growing, His Actions Are Childish: CM Stalin

TPN Correspondent
Chennai, Jan 12

Tamil Nadu Chief Minister M K Stalin on Saturday criticized Governor R N Ravi for his refusal to address the state Legislative Assembly, calling his decision "childish." Stalin's remarks came in the wake of ongoing tensions between the Governor and the state government, which have escalated since Ravi assumed office.



Stalin accused the Governor of being unable to accept the state's progress, stating that Ravi's actions reflected a reluctance to acknowledge Tamil Nadu's development. The Chief Minister further pointed out that the atmosphere in the Legislative Assembly had become increasingly contentious since Ravi's tenure began, leading to unusual scenes and disruptions.

In recent years, the relationship between the Tamil Nadu government and Governor Ravi has been marked by friction, with multiple disagreements over issues such as state autonomy and the role of the Governor. Ravi's refusal to deliver the customary address to the Assembly has only added to the ongoing tensions, with many in the state questioning his approach.

Stalin emphasized that the Governor's refusal to engage with

the Assembly, a key institution of the state, was an unnecessary provocation. "It is childish," Stalin remarked, highlighting how this refusal was damaging to the spirit of cooperative governance. The Chief Minister also noted that these developments were a matter of concern for the functioning of the state's legislative processes, as the Governor's actions were seen as undermining the smooth operation of the Assembly.

As the political drama continues to unfold, tensions between the state government and the Governor are expected to remain high, with the opposition and the ruling party accusing each other of playing political games. The ongoing conflict has raised questions about the broader implications for governance and the relationship between the state and the central government.

Don't want To Force Anyone: DK Shivakumar Mmids Rumblings Over Karnataka Top Post

TPN Correspondent
Bengaluru, Jan 12

Karnataka Deputy Chief Minister DK Shivakumar addressed growing speculation about a potential change of leadership in the state, asserting that he was not seeking anyone's support and would continue to follow the directives of the Congress party. His remarks come in the wake of recent developments surrounding Chief Minister Siddaramaiah, including a dinner with select Dalit and ST Cabinet colleagues, which sparked discussions about the future of the top post.

Speaking to reporters at the Sringeri helipad, Shivakumar quoted the Sanskrit saying "Karmanye Vaadhikaraste..." to emphasize his belief in putting in the effort while leaving the results to God. "I don't want anyone's support, and I will do what the party wants me to do," he said, reaffirming his loyalty to the Congress leadership. He added that he did not want to pressure anyone into supporting him for the Chief Minister's position and emphasized that any decisions would be made by the party.

As the president of the Karnataka Pradesh Congress Committee (KPCC), Shivakumar responded to the demand from party workers who have urged him to take on the Chief Minister's role. He clarified, "I don't want to force anyone, nor do I need anyone's support. I don't want any MLA to shout out his support for me. It is between the Congress



party and me. I will do whatever the party wants me to do."

When asked about his frequent temple visits, Shivakumar explained that he was a devout believer in Dharma and offered daily prayers for the welfare of the state and its people. "If praying is dubbed as a temple run, all the temples must be closed," he remarked.

Shivakumar also downplayed any significance of his recent visit to Sringeri, stating that he was there to commemorate 50 years of Sri Bharathi Theertha Swamy taking over responsibility at the mutt. He added, "We will govern the state for five years. The Chief Minister and I will work as per the party's instructions. What others say does not matter."

Shivakumar's statement comes amidst ongoing speculation, with Minister KN Rajanna recently suggesting that Shivakumar should aim to lead the party to victory in future elections rather than seeking the top post in the current government.

Rijiju embarks On 5-Day Visit To Saudi Arabia, To Sign Agreement For Hajj pilgrimage



TPN Correspondent
New Delhi, Jan 12

India's Minority Affairs Minister Kiren Rijiju commenced a five-day visit to Saudi Arabia aimed at signing a bilateral agreement for the Hajj pilgrimage of 2025. A key objective of the visit is for India to secure an additional quota of 10,000 pilgrims for the upcoming pilgrimage year.

Rijiju is scheduled to meet with Saudi Arabia's Minister Tawfiq bin Fawzan Al Rabiah on Monday, where the two ministers are expected to formalize the agree-

ment. Rijiju expressed his anticipation for the visit, emphasizing its significance in strengthening the people-to-people ties between the two nations.

Apart from signing the agreement, Rijiju is set to meet with Saudi Minister of Transport and Logistic Services, Saleh Al Jasser. The discussions will focus on the logistics of the Hajj pilgrimage, particularly flight operations and transportation services for pilgrims, such as bus and train services, ensuring smooth travel and efficient management of the

pilgrimage.

In addition to the meetings, Rijiju plans to visit the Jeddah Hajj Terminal, which handles Indian pilgrims. The government has dedicated office space at the terminal to help facilitate the pilgrims' smooth passage. Some Indian pilgrims also use the Jeddah Airport Terminal One, which features a high-speed rail service designed to streamline travel for those on the pilgrimage.

For the Hajj pilgrimage of 2025, Saudi Arabia has allocated a fixed

quota of 1,75,025 pilgrims for India. Rijiju's visit is partly focused on securing an additional 10,000 pilgrims for the pilgrimage. Rijiju will also travel to Madina, where he will visit the famous mosques at Quba and Qublatain, further strengthening the cultural and religious ties between the two countries.

This visit highlights India's commitment to ensuring that more pilgrims can perform Hajj, a significant religious obligation for Muslims, while enhancing bilateral relations with Saudi Arabia.

Afghan Taliban Refuses To Attend Muslim Girls Education Summit In Pakistan

The Afghan Taliban government has decided not to attend a global summit focused on girls' education in the Muslim world, which was hosted by neighboring Pakistan. Islamabad extended an invitation to Afghanistan, but no representatives from the Afghan government were present at the conference, according to Pakistani Education Minister Khalid Maqbool Siddiqui.



The summit, aimed at addressing issues related to the education of girls in Muslim-majority countries, was expected to bring together education ministers, experts, and policymakers from across the region. However, despite the invitation, the Taliban's absence from the event raised eyebrows and fueled concerns about the state of education in Afghanistan, particularly for girls.

The Taliban's refusal to allow girls to attend secondary school and university has drawn widespread condemnation from international communities and human rights organizations. Since the Taliban's return to power in August 2021, many of their policies have faced criticism for their strict interpretation of Islamic law, particularly those that limit the rights and freedoms of women and girls.

Pakistani officials expressed disappointment over the Afghan government's absence at the summit, highlighting the importance of international cooperation in addressing education

challenges across the Muslim world. Minister Siddiqui emphasized that the summit was a vital platform for discussing solutions to improve access to education for girls and women in the region.

While the Afghan Taliban's absence was noted, other countries participated in the summit, which focused on creating initiatives and partnerships to ensure better educational opportunities for young girls in the Muslim world. Pakistan continues to advocate for a collaborative approach to tackle education-related challenges and promote gender equality in education across the region.

The absence of Afghanistan's government at the conference further underscores the complex and sensitive situation surrounding the education of girls in the country, with the international community continuing to monitor the Taliban's policies closely.

Neuralink Brain Chip Implanted In 3rd Patient, Musk Says Working Well

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 Amer-

icans 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.



Imran Khan Urges Transparency: Addresses Lawyers And Media From Jail

In a conversation with his lawyers and media inside Adiala Jail, incarcerated former Pakistan Prime Minister Imran Khan reiterated his call for a transparent investigation into the violence surrounding the November 26 Islamabad massacre and the May 9 incidents. Khan demanded the formation of a judicial commission to probe these cases, stressing the importance of impartiality in delivering justice.

of Pakistan Tehreek-i-Insaf (PTI) party members while in military custody. He mentioned that despite their repeated attempts to seek justice through the local judicial system, they were left with no choice but to raise these human rights violations on international platforms. He urged his lawyers to take these issues to global forums, asserting that Pakistan is bound by international human rights laws and treaties.

Khan criticized the ongoing negotiations in Pakistan, claiming that the lack of seriousness from the government is evident. He pointed out that he was not invited to a meeting with the negotiating committee, leading him to believe the purpose of the talks is merely to delay the response to the November 26 killings. He expressed his frustration over the government's inability to form a judicial commission, which he believes is essential to investigating the tragic events and bringing justice to those who were killed or disappeared during the violence.

In his statement, Khan called for a transparent investigation into both the November 26 and May 9 incidents, highlighting the brutal treatment

Khan also touched on Pakistan's deteriorating economic situation, quoting a World Bank report that revealed another 13 million people had fallen below the poverty line. He expressed concern over the country's political and economic instability, which he blamed on institutions, including the judiciary and law enforcement agencies, being politicized and weaponized against PTI. Khan warned that as long as political instability persists, Pakistan's growth rate would remain stagnant, making it impossible to address the nation's economic challenges. He concluded by criticizing the government's actions, which he believes are part of a broader plan to establish a ten-year dictatorship.

This Hit Extreme: Mark Says Biden Govt Pressured Facebook To Censor Covid vaccine Info

Meta CEO Mark Zuckerberg revealed on Friday that the Biden administration exerted pressure on Facebook to censor content related to Covid-19 vaccines, particularly information discussing vaccine side effects. Zuckerberg made these comments during an appearance on the Joe Rogan Podcast, where he discussed several issues, including government censorship.



According to Zuckerberg, the pressure from the Biden administration reached its peak during the rollout of the Covid-19 vaccination campaign. He explained, "This hit the most extreme. I'd say it was during the Biden Administration when they were trying to roll out the vaccine programme. Now I'm generally pretty pro rolling out vaccines, I think on balance the vaccines are more positive than negative, but I think that while they're trying to push that program, they also tried to censor anyone who was arguing against it."

Zuckerberg clarified that while he supported the vaccine effort, he found it trou-

bling that the government pushed Facebook to remove content that questioned the safety or potential side effects of the vaccine. He described the government's approach as a push to take down "things that were honestly true," adding that the administration pressured Facebook to remove posts discussing vaccine side

effects. "They pushed us super hard to take down things that were honestly true. I mean, they basically pushed us and said, 'You know anything that says that vaccines might have side effects, you need to take down,'" Zuckerberg recalled.

While Zuckerberg stressed his general support for the vaccine program, he was firm in his stance against censoring factual information. He said, "I was just like, well, we're not going to do that," emphasizing that Facebook would not comply with requests to remove truthful content about vaccine side effects.

The comments sparked debate around the balance between public health measures and freedom of speech, raising questions about the role of social media platforms in moderating content under government pressure. The revelations come at a time when both tech companies and government agencies are under increased scrutiny regarding content moderation practices.

President Biden To Deliver His Farewell Address On January 15 From Oval Office

U.S. President Joe Biden will deliver his farewell address to the nation in prime time on January 15, just days before the inauguration of President-elect Donald Trump as the 47th president. The White House confirmed the timing of Biden's speech on Friday, with the address scheduled to take place at 8 p.m. ET from the Oval Office.

Biden's farewell speech will mark the end of his first term as president and his exit from the White House. The speech is expected to reflect on his accomplishments during his presidency, the challenges faced by the country, and his hopes for the future as he prepares to hand over the reins of power to the incoming administration. The address will offer Biden a final opportunity to address the American people before the historic transition of power to his successor.



itics, as Biden bids farewell to the presidency and looks back on his legacy, while preparing for the transition to the next administration.

While Biden's farewell address will focus on his presidency and the journey ahead, it will also set the stage for the political landscape that will unfold in the coming years. The speech is expected to highlight key moments from his administration, as well as the challenges that lie ahead for both the nation and the new president.

The timing of the speech is significant, coming just five days before the swearing-in of Donald Trump on January 20. It is likely to be a poignant moment in U.S. pol-

As the country prepares for a new chapter in its political history, President Biden's farewell address will be an important occasion for reflection and a moment of closure for the outgoing administration.

India at an Economic Crossroads

Balancing Growth and Emerging Challenges

As of January 2025, India stands at a pivotal moment in its economic journey. While the economy remains resilient, new challenges loom, potentially redefining its growth trajectory. This article examines the current landscape, opportunities, and hurdles that lie ahead for the nation.

Current Economic Landscape

India's GDP growth rate, projected at 6.4% for the fiscal year ending March 2025, marks its slowest pace in four years. Analysts attribute the deceleration to global headwinds, weakened manufacturing output, and reduced investments. Despite this, India remains one of the fastest-growing major economies globally. The services sector continues to be a key driver of growth, with sub-sectors like information technology, hospitality, and transportation attracting robust domestic and international investments. Meanwhile, rural consumption is undergoing a transformation, with increasing demand for processed foods, discretionary products, and non-food items, closing

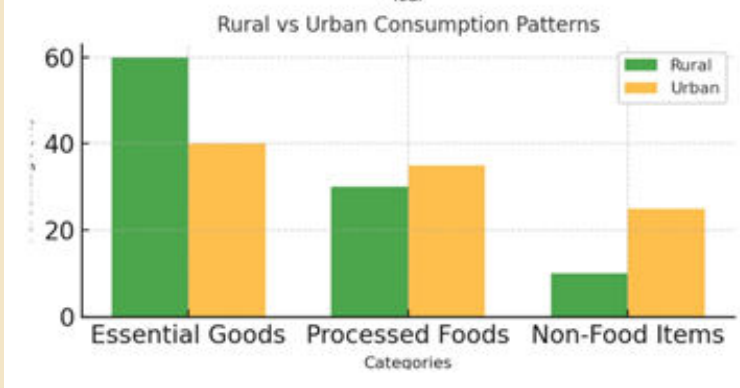
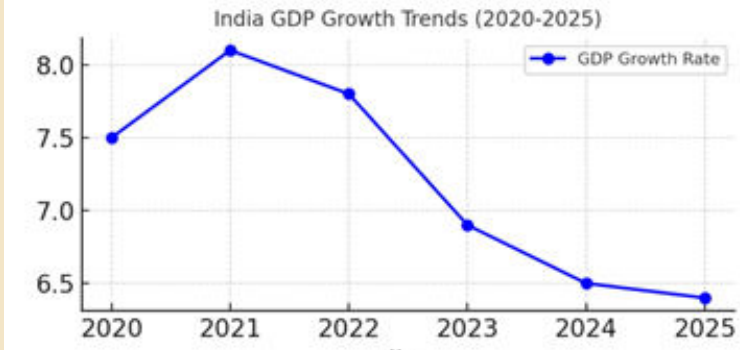
the gap with urban markets. Agriculture, the backbone of rural India, has seen mixed fortunes. While advancements in technology and subsidies have boosted productivity, challenges like erratic monsoons and water scarcity persist. On the industrial front, the "Make in India" initiative has had moderate success but still faces hurdles such as inefficiencies, skill shortages, and infrastructure gaps. Government's Strategic Response

In response to these challenges, the government under Prime Minister Narendra Modi is focusing on targeted interventions, including:

- **Monetary policy shifts:** Encouraging the Reserve Bank of India (RBI) to adopt an accommodative stance to improve liquidity.
- **Fiscal stimulus:** Channeling resources into high-priority sectors like infrastructure and renewable



MURTHY NAIDU PAADAM
Stock Market Analyst
+91 988 555 9709



energy. Tax reforms: Reducing income tax rates and import tariffs to stimulate spending and investment. The appointment of Sanjay Malhotra as RBI Governor has sparked optimism about growth-focused policies. Known for his expertise in fis-

cal management, Malhotra is expected to complement the government's economic agenda. Global Influences and Investor Sentiment India's economy is significantly influenced by global trends. The strengthening U.S. dollar and rising bond yields have

pressured the Indian rupee, making Indian assets less attractive to foreign investors. Foreign portfolio investors (FPIs) have pulled out nearly \$2 billion in January 2025, reflecting concerns over India's slowing growth and global market volatility. However, long-term foreign direct investment (FDI) in technology, e-commerce, and renewable energy remains strong, supported by strategic partnerships with countries like the U.S., Japan, and the UAE.

Opportunities Amid Challenges Despite the headwinds, India presents significant opportunities:

- **Rural markets:** The shift in rural consumption patterns offers growth potential for FMCG and e-commerce sectors.
- **Sustainability:** India's focus on renewable energy and its commitment to net-zero carbon emissions by 2070 are attracting global investments in solar, wind, and electric vehicles.
- **Digital transformation:**

The expanding internet user base is driving growth in fintech, e-learning, and other digital innovations. The Road Ahead India's path forward hinges on its ability to balance domestic and global factors. Policymakers must stimulate growth while maintaining fiscal discipline. Critical reforms in labor laws, land acquisition, and ease of doing business are essential for unlocking the economy's potential.

For businesses, the evolving landscape demands agility. Tapping into rural markets, adopting green technologies, and embracing digital transformation are vital strategies for staying competitive. Conclusion

India's economic journey in 2025 is a story of resilience and transformation. While growth faces temporary challenges, the nation's strategic interventions, emerging opportunities, and global partnerships provide a foundation for optimism. Decisions made today will shape India's economic destiny for years to come.

Retirement Planning with Mutual Fund SIPs

A Journey to Financial Independence

Retirement is a rhapsody of life that everyone dreams of enjoying without financial worries. Achieving this goal requires meticulous planning, especially in an era where inflation can quickly erode the value of your savings. Mutual Fund Systematic Investment Plans (SIPs) provide an excellent way to accumulate wealth steadily over time. Here's a detailed guide to retirement planning with SIPs for different age groups, considering inflation and varying investment returns.



Nagaraju Lingineni, AIIWM, AMFI Reg. Mutual Fund Distributor



The Importance of Retirement Planning Retirement planning isn't just about saving money; it's about ensuring that you can sustain your desired lifestyle even after your working years are over. With rising costs and increasing life expectancy, it is crucial to plan for a retirement corpus that can fund your expenses for at least 25 years post-retirement. Inflation is a critical factor to consider. For example, what costs ₹50,000 per month today could inflate to a much higher amount by the time you retire. Planning with this in mind ensures that your savings retain their purchasing power.

Understanding the Age Factor in Retirement Planning The earlier you start saving, the more time your money has to grow. Here's how retirement planning differs based on when you begin: Starting at Age 30 If you start investing in SIPs at 30, you have 30 years until retirement. This extended timeline allows your investments to benefit from the power of compounding. By investing consistently, you can accumulate a significant corpus with smaller monthly contributions. Starting at Age 40 At 40, you have 20 years to retirement. While this is still a decent time frame, the amount you need to invest each month increases compared to starting at 30. With fewer years for compounding to work its magic, disciplined and higher contributions become essential. Starting at Age 50 Beginning at 50 leaves you with only 10 years to save. In this case, the monthly SIP contributions required to

meet your retirement goals will be significantly higher. It's a challenging but achievable goal if you remain committed. Inflation and Investment Returns Inflation erodes the purchasing power of money, making it crucial to consider while planning for retirement. For example, an expense of ₹50,000 per month today could increase several times by the time you retire, depending on the inflation rate. Similarly, investment returns play a critical role in determining how much you need to invest. SIPs in mutual funds offer the potential for varying returns, depending on the type of funds chosen. For retirement planning, we'll consider average annual returns of 8%, 10%, and 12%. How Much Do You Need to Save? The amount you need to save each month through SIPs depends on your age, the years left until retirement, and your target corpus. Let's break it down: If You're 30: Starting early allows you to save a smaller amount each month while still achieving a significant corpus. At an average return of 12%, you might need to invest around ₹26,000 per month to build a corpus of ₹6.45 crore. If You're 40: With a shorter investment horizon, the monthly SIP required increases. At a 12% return, you would need to save approximately ₹52,000 per month to accumulate ₹3.28 crore. If You're 50: Starting at 50 means only 10 years of investment before retirement. To achieve a corpus of ₹1.66 crore at a 12% return, your SIP contribution would need to be around ₹90,000 per month.

Benefits of Starting Early

The numbers clearly show the advantage of starting early. A 30-year-old investor has more time to grow their money, leading to lower monthly contributions compared to someone starting at 40 or 50. The power of compounding works best over longer durations, allowing early investors to achieve their goals with less financial strain.

Tips for Successful Retirement Planning with SIPs

1. **Start Early:** The earlier you begin, the smaller your contributions need to be, thanks to compounding.
2. **Stay Consistent:** Invest regularly, even during market downturns, to average out costs over time.
3. **Choose the Right Funds:** Opt for mutual funds that align with your risk profile and offer growth potential.
4. **Increase SIP Amounts:** As your income grows, increase your SIP contributions to boost your savings.
5. **Review and Adjust:** Periodically review your portfolio to ensure it remains aligned with your retirement goals.

Conclusion Retirement planning with SIPs is a disciplined and efficient way to secure your financial future. Whether you're 30, 40, or 50 years old, starting today can make a significant difference. The key is to stay consistent, keep inflation in mind, and choose investment options that offer the right balance of risk and return. With proper planning, your retirement years can be as fulfilling and worry-free as you dream them to be.

India's Capital Market Fundraising Expected to Rise 21% in FY25, Says SEBI Chief

Securities and Exchange Board of India (SEBI) Chairperson Madhabi Puri Buch projected a 21% increase in total capital market fundraising for the financial year 2025, estimating it to reach ₹14.7 lakh crore, up from ₹11.8 lakh crore in FY24. Speaking on Friday, Buch highlighted that although fundraising through Infrastructure Investment Trusts (InvITs), Real Estate Investment Trusts (REITs), and municipal bonds is currently low, the potential for raising funds through these instruments is significant in the coming years.



activity. The increased expectations for FY25 reflect growing investor confidence and an expanding range of investment avenues in India's capital markets. SEBI's efforts to streamline regulations and improve market access are expected to play a key role in driving this growth. Additionally, the rise in demand for infrastructure and real estate investments is likely to contribute to the increased use of InvITs and REITs as fundraising tools.

As of December 2024, the domestic capital market had mobilized ₹10.7 lakh crore, with ₹7.3 lakh crore raised through the primary debt market and ₹3.3 lakh crore through equity markets in the first nine months of the fiscal year. This indicates a strong momentum in resource mobilization, contributing to the overall growth in capital market

These trends are seen as a positive indicator for India's financial market development, signaling the potential for diversified sources of capital to support infrastructure, urban development, and other key sectors. The outlook for FY25 underscores a continued strengthening of India's capital markets and a growing shift towards more innovative forms of financing.

Adani Group Raises Rs 4,850 Crore by Selling 13.5% Stake in Adani Wilmar

The Adani Group has successfully raised approximately Rs 4,850 crore by selling 13.5% of its stake in Adani Wilmar, marking a significant move as part of its exit from the company. In December, the group had announced its decision to sell the majority of its stake in Adani Wilmar to a joint venture partner. According to a stock exchange filing, the sale involved 17.54 crore shares (13.5% equity) being sold to non-retail investors on January 12, with the offer to retail investors opening on January 13 at a floor price of Rs 275 per share. The Adani Group, through its subsidiary Adani Commodities LLP, completed the Offer for Sale (OFS), which also included an option to sell up to 8.44 crore additional shares, representing 6.5% equity. The total number of shares up for sale in the transaction could rise to 19.51 crore, representing 15.01% of Adani Wilmar's total issued capital, including an oversubscription option of 1.51%. This transaction reflects the Adani Group's ability to raise capital successfully, regardless of broader market conditions. The group has now raised a total of \$3.15 billion in equity capital this



fiscal year alone. The divestment is also in line with Adani Wilmar's compliance with minimum public shareholding (MPS) regulations, with the promoters now holding 74.37% of the company and the remaining 25.63% held by public shareholders. Earlier, on December 30, the Adani Group revealed its plans to fully exit Adani Wilmar by selling its entire 44% stake, which is expected to raise more than \$2 billion. As part of the deal, Wilmar International Ltd. has agreed to acquire the 31% stake held by Adani flagship companies in the edible oil producer. As of December 27, Adani Wilmar's market capitalization stood at Rs 42,785 crore (\$5 billion). The proceeds from this sale will be directed towards strengthening Adani Enterprises Ltd's core investments in infrastructure sectors, including energy, utilities, transport, logistics, and other primary industries.

iPhone 17 Pro & Pro Max To Feature Upgraded Cameras

According to a tipster on Weibo, Apple's upcoming iPhone 17 Pro and iPhone 17 Pro Max are expected to come with two significant camera upgrades. While the devices are not set to launch until later this year, the leaks and details surrounding their specifications have already started to emerge.

One of the most anticipated changes is the redesigned rear camera island, which will feature a horizontal layout. This design change will distinguish the new iPhones from their predecessors, adding a more modern aesthetic to the rear of the phones.

A significant camera upgrade is expected for both the iPhone 17 Pro and iPhone 17 Pro Max. The handsets are said to be equipped with a 48-megapixel telephoto camera, offering 5x optical zoom. This marks a major improvement over the 12-megapixel telephoto camera found in the iPhone 16 Pro models, which currently offers a maximum of 3x optical zoom. This upgraded telephoto lens will provide users with the ability to zoom in on distant objects without losing image quality, a key feature for photography enthusiasts and professionals.

These camera enhancements could bring the iPhone 17 Pro models closer in line with other high-end flagship smartphones in the market, which have increasingly advanced telephoto capabilities. With the 48-megapixel sensor, users can expect better low-light performance and sharper



images, even when zoomed in.

While other details regarding the specifications of the iPhone 17 Pro and iPhone 17 Pro Max remain under wraps, the camera upgrades are expected to be among the standout features of the devices. Apple's focus on improving the iPhone's photography capabilities continues to be a central theme in its yearly upgrades, ensuring that the devices remain competitive in the highly saturated smartphone market.

As the official release date approaches, more leaks and details are likely to surface, further revealing what Apple has in store for its loyal customer base.

16th-Century Royal Burial Regalia Discovered in Vilnius Cathedral

A remarkable discovery has been made in the Vilnius Cathedral in Lithuania, where royal burial regalia from the 16th century were recovered after being concealed for nearly a century. These invaluable artefacts, including crowns, rings, chains, a sceptre, and coffin plaques, were hidden in a crypt at the onset of World War II. The items, once belonging to influential figures from the Grand Duchy of Lithuania and the Kingdom of Poland, offer significant insight into the region's historical and cultural heritage.



The discovery took place on December 16, 2024, when a team of experts, using an endoscopic camera, explored the cathedral's underground chambers. The artefacts were first uncovered in 1931 during restoration work following a flood that exposed royal sarcophagi. However, in 1939, as World War II loomed, the regalia were hidden for safekeeping to protect them from potential looting or destruction. Among the treasures are burial ornaments associated with Alexander Jagiellon, the Grand Duke of Lithuania and King of Poland, as well as two queens: Elisabeth of Austria and Barbara Radziwiłł.

These artefacts hold immense historical value, particularly since authentic items from this era are scarce in Lithuania. The families

of these royals played a vital role during the Polish Renaissance, contributing to the cultural and political landscape of the time. Mykolas Sotincenka, communications coordinator for the Vilnius Archdiocese, emphasized the rarity and significance of these relics, which offer a glimpse into the past.

Archbishop Gintaras Grušas referred to the regalia as "priceless historical treasures" and praised them for their exceptional craftsmanship in goldsmithing and jewellery. During the recovery, a newspaper from September 1939 was found wrapped around the items, confirming their deliberate concealment during the war. Rita Pauliukevičiūtė, director of the Vilnius Church Heritage Museum, noted that these artefacts symbolize Lithuania's historical strength.

Efforts to document and restore the regalia are underway, with plans to publicly display them later this year, allowing visitors to appreciate these extraordinary pieces of history.

ChatGPT Allowed Custom Nicknames and Professions Before Feature Was Pulled

OpenAI recently introduced several new customization options to its Custom Instructions feature for ChatGPT, offering users more control over how the AI generates responses. However, these options were removed shortly after being spotted by users, sparking speculation that the feature was released prematurely.

The new customization fields allowed users to input details such as their nickname, profession, and personality traits. This expansion of the Custom Instructions feature was briefly available on Thursday, with several users sharing screenshots on X (formerly Twitter) that showcased the new options. These enhancements

aimed to allow for more personalized and tailored responses, further enhancing the user experience.

Custom Instructions have been a key feature for ChatGPT, allowing users to provide specific preferences for how the AI should respond. For example, a user could specify that they prefer concise, formal, and analytical responses, ensuring that the chatbot's answers align with those preferences every time. The addition of the new fields promised even more granular control, making ChatGPT more adaptable to individual needs.

However, shortly after the feature's appearance, OpenAI removed these



new options, which led to speculation that the feature might not have been fully prepared for rollout. This move has left users wondering whether the company plans to revisit these cus-

tomization features in the future.

This development comes amid ongoing improvements to ChatGPT, as OpenAI continues to refine and ex-

plain the AI's capabilities. The company's CEO recently indicated that OpenAI is focusing on enhancing the personalization aspects of the chatbot, a direction that aligns with the recent trial of these new Custom Instruction fields.

While the full extent of the feature's future availability remains unclear, the brief introduction of customizable fields such as profession and nickname highlights OpenAI's commitment to making ChatGPT more responsive to user preferences. It's likely that more refined and fully implemented customization options will be rolled out in the future.

Entrepreneur Suggests Blinkit Introduce ATM-Like Service for Quick Cash Delivery

Harsh Punjabi, founder of Dot Company, recently sparked a conversation on social media by suggesting that Blinkit, a popular quick-commerce platform, introduce an innovative "ATM-like" service that would deliver cash directly to customers' homes within 10 minutes. Punjabi, who is also a content creator, took to X (formerly Twitter) to share the idea, tagging Blinkit's CEO, Albinder Dhindsa.

Punjabi explained that the inspiration behind his idea came from a personal situation. As he was preparing to leave for a trip, he realized he only had Rs 100 in cash and no way to access more quickly. In a world where convenience is key, he saw an opportunity for Blinkit to step in with a service similar to an ATM, delivering cash to customers' doorsteps in exchange for a UPI payment.

Quick-commerce platforms have already revolutionized the way consumers buy daily essentials by enabling fast delivery of groceries and other products within minutes. Blinkit, in particular, has expanded beyond groceries to offer items like electronics, phones, and laptops on demand. This growth has driven many users to think about how services can evolve to meet a broader range of needs, and Punjabi's suggestion fits into this innovative mindset.



The idea of delivering cash within minutes was met with mixed reactions. While some social media users found humor in the suggestion, noting that it's essentially "cash on delivery" for digital payments, others considered its practicality in real-world scenarios. Quick-commerce platforms have already transformed consumer behavior, and the potential for cash delivery could further enhance the sector's convenience and appeal.

Though Blinkit has yet to comment on the proposal, it highlights the ongoing creativity within the industry as platforms strive to stay competitive and cater to customer demands. As the quick-commerce sector continues to grow, more such unconventional ideas may emerge, pushing companies to rethink how they serve their customers in innovative ways.

Paris, We Are Coming: Pakistan International Airlines Ad Misfires, Memes Fly On X

Pakistan International Airlines (PIA) found itself at the center of an unexpected social media storm after posting a promotional message about resuming flights between Islamabad and Paris. What was intended to be a celebratory announcement quickly turned into the subject of memes and criticism when the airline shared an image showing a plane seemingly heading toward Paris, with the Eiffel Tower in the background, accompanied by the caption, "Paris, we are coming today."

The post was meant to mark the relaunch of flights between the two cities on January 10, 2025, following the European Union's decision to lift restrictions on PIA. However, the choice of words and imagery unintentionally evoked memories of one of the most tragic events in modern history: the 9/11 terrorist attacks. Social media users quickly drew comparisons between the promotional message and the infamous phrase "We are coming today" used in the context of the tragic events that unfolded in 2001.

As a result, the post attracted a flurry of memes, jokes, and sharp criticism, with many questioning the tone and timing of the announcement. While PIA likely intended to celebrate its return to European skies after a long hiatus, the execution of the message backfired, prompting online users to make light of the



situation and share their own interpretations.

The airline's social media blunder highlights the risks of using powerful imagery and phrases without considering how they might be perceived by a wider audience. The ad's unintended connection to 9/11 led to a wave of reactions, both humorous and critical, on social media platforms like X (formerly Twitter).

This incident serves as a reminder of how sensitive topics and imagery can evoke unintended associations, especially in the age of social media where even a seemingly harmless post can quickly go viral and spark controversy. Despite the backlash, the attention PIA received also underscores the power of social media in shaping public discourse, for better or worse.

India Eyes Series Victory in Second Women's ODI Against Ireland

Following a dominant performance in the opening match, India will look to seal the three-match series with another clinical display against Ireland in the second women's ODI on Sunday. Despite fielding a relatively inexperienced side, India emerged victorious by six wickets in the first ODI, taking a 1-0 series lead.

Captain Smriti Mandhana continued her fine form, contributing a strong 41 runs to lay the foundation for India's chase. The partnership between Pratika Rawal and Tejal Hasabnis was crucial as they put together a century stand to guide India to victory. Their performances were especially valuable in the absence of regular captain Harmanpreet Kaur, who was rested for the series.



India also missed the services of pace spearhead Renuka Singh, the highest wicket-taker in the previous series against the West Indies. In her absence, young Titas Sadhu impressed by striking early, while Sayali Satghare claimed a wicket. Saima Thakor bowled a disciplined 10-over spell, and spinner Priya Mishra took two quick wickets. Vice-captain Deepti Sharma also made key contributions with the ball.

Mandhana, who had captained India against New Zealand, led the relatively inexperienced squad with poise, and the team management will be pleased with the bench strength, especially with the ODI World Cup looming later this year.

However, India's fielding in the first ODI left room for improvement. They dropped Leah Paul twice, allowing Ireland to recover from a difficult position and post over 200 runs. India's bowlers will aim to execute their plans better in the second ODI, looking to restrict Ireland to under 200 runs and finish the match more comfortably.

For Ireland, captain Gaby Lewis played a fine knock of 92, but lacked support

from the middle order. Leah Paul, benefiting from dropped chances, also scored a half-century. Ireland will need more from their batters to challenge India.

Ireland's bowling attack, apart from Aimee Maguire's three wickets, was ineffective, which allowed India to chase down the target with ease. Ireland, sitting at the bottom of the Women's Championship table, will need a significant performance improvement to secure their first-ever women's ODI win against India.

Squads: India: Smriti Mandhana (C), Deepti Sharma (VC), Pratika Rawal, Harleen Deol, Jemimah Rodrigues, Uma Chetry (wk), Richa Ghosh (wk), Tejal Hasabnis, Raghvi Bist, Minnu Mani, Priya Mishra, Tanuja Kanwer, Titas Sadhu, Saima Thakor, Sayali Satghare.

Ireland: Gaby Lewis (C), Ava Canning, Christina Coulter Reilly, Alana Dalzell, Laura Delany, Georgina Dempsey, Sarah Forbes, Arlene Kelly, Joanna Loughran, Aimee Maguire, Leah Paul, Orla Prendergast, Una Raymond-Hoey, Freya Sargent, Rebecca Stokell.



Former Bangladesh cricket captain Tamim Iqbal has announced his retirement from international cricket, bringing an end to an illustrious career that spanned over 15 years. The 35-year-old made the announcement on Friday through a heartfelt post on Facebook, stating that his chapter in international cricket has come to a close.

In his post, Tamim expressed, "I have been away from international cricket for quite some time, and the distance will not be reduced. My chapter in international cricket is closed." His statement confirmed that he will no longer represent Bangladesh in international matches, marking a significant moment in the country's cricketing history.

Tamim Iqbal, who made his debut for Bangladesh in 2007, has been one of the most prominent figures in the nation's cricketing landscape. Over the years, he established himself as a key player in the team, especially as an opening batsman. Known for his solid technique and ability to anchor innings, Tamim played in numerous memorable matches for Bangladesh and

became the team's all-time leading run-scorer in both Tests and One-Day Internationals (ODIs).

Throughout his career, Tamim achieved significant milestones, including becoming the first Bangladeshi cricketer to score a double century in a Test match. His consistent performances helped elevate Bangladesh's standing in international cricket, and he was widely regarded as a role model for young cricketers in the country.

While his decision to retire came as a surprise to many, it was clear from his post that Tamim felt his time in international cricket had come to an end. Although he has stepped away from international competition, Tamim's contributions to Bangladesh cricket will always be remembered, and he leaves behind a legacy that has inspired many future generations.

As the cricketing world bids farewell to one of Bangladesh's greatest players, fans and colleagues alike will undoubtedly continue to celebrate his remarkable career and the impact he made on the sport in his home country.

Janardhan Reddy Becomes National Carrom Champion

Ends 64-Year Drought for AP with Victory at 29th All India Federation Championship

TPN Correspondent

Visakhapatnam, Jan 12: Ch. Janardhan Reddy, a 35-year-old carrom player from Visakhapatnam, has made history by winning the 29th All India Federation Carrom Championship held in Nellore from January 5 to 8. His remarkable victory ended a 64-year drought for Andhra Pradesh in this prestigious tournament.

Janardhan addressed the media on Saturday as he returned to Visakhapatnam, sharing his journey from humble beginnings. Born to daily laborers Ch. Sairam Reddy and Ch. Mani, Janardhan was inspired by his father's passion for carrom at a local club. Despite facing challenges, including setbacks in transitioning to senior-level competitions, Janardhan's perseverance led him to triumph.

Janardhan's early career saw him secure a sub-junior title in 2005, followed by victories in Junior and Youth State Championships. However, it was through the guidance

and support of mentors like Dr. Neeraj Kumar Sampathy, who also extended financial assistance, that Janardhan found the strength to continue.

In this year's championship, Janardhan showcased exceptional skill, defeating former world champions Abdul Rahman and Prashant More, as well as World No. 3 S. Aditya. He clinched the title with a dominant final performance, outclassing Sandeep Dive with scores of 25-06

and 25-08. Janardhan, who balances his passion for carrom with his work in photostat repairs and teaching at Shiva Shivani School, expressed his ambition: "Winning the national championship is a proud moment, but my dream is to win the World Cup and bring global recognition to Andhra Pradesh."

Abdul Jaleel, Secretary of the Andhra Pradesh Carrom Association, hailed Janardhan's victory as a proud achievement for the state. He emphasized the importance of government support to help Janardhan realize his World Cup aspirations.



Satwiksairaj and Chirag Shetty's Malaysia Super 1000 Journey Ends in Semifinals

Satwiksairaj Rankireddy and Chirag Shetty's impressive run at the Malaysia Super 1000 badminton tournament came to a disappointing end in the semifinals after they were defeated by Korea's Kim Won Ho and Seo Seung Jae. The Indian duo, who were seeded seventh, lost 10-21, 15-21 in a 40-minute match on Saturday in Kuala Lumpur. Last season, Satwik and Chirag had made it to the finals of the same tournament, but this time, they couldn't get past the semifinal hurdle.



ing 6-11 at the break in the opening game, and despite efforts to mount a comeback, the Koreans wrapped up the first game in just 19 minutes. In the second game, Satwik and Chirag showed more intent and controlled the play initially, going into the interval with an 11-8 lead. However, they couldn't sustain the momentum, and Kim and Seo took charge to seal the win.

Kim and Seo, who reunited for the 2025 season, are known for their mixed doubles success. Seo had previously partnered with Kang Min Hyuk to win a world title in 2023, while Kim earned a mixed doubles silver at the Paris Olympics. Satwik acknowledged the duo's exceptional skills, particularly in not giving away easy points.

Looking ahead, Satwik and Chirag are set to lead India's challenge at the India Open Super 750, starting January 14. They will face Malaysia's Wei Chong Man and Kai Wun Tee in the opening round. Satwik expressed excitement for the tournament, saying, "It's our home tournament, and we really want to play well and perform at our best."

"They played really well, and we could have followed our game plan a bit better. Instead, we played some random strokes, but kudos to them for playing a solid game," Satwik said after the match. Reflecting on the game, Satwik mentioned that the pace of play was slower than in previous rounds, which posed a challenge. Despite the loss, he saw it as a valuable learning experience, emphasizing that the journey was long and they still had a lot to work on.

The Asian Games champions found themselves trail-

Sri Lanka Deny New Zealand Clean Sweep with 140-Run Victory in 3rd ODI

In a remarkable display of bowling, Sri Lanka defeated New Zealand by 140 runs in the third and final ODI of their series at Eden Park on Saturday. This victory prevented the hosts from securing a clean sweep, although New Zealand still clinched the series 2-1.

Sri Lanka, led by Charith Asalanka, posted a total of 290/8 in their 50 overs after winning the toss and opting to bat. Pathum Nissanka top-scored for the visitors with 66 runs off 42 balls, including six fours and five sixes. Kusal Mendis contributed 54 runs from 48 balls, while Janith Liyange made 53 runs off 52 balls. Kamindu Mendis also played a solid knock, scoring 46 runs from 71 balls.

For New Zealand, Matt Henry was the standout bowler, taking four wickets for 55 runs in his 10 overs. Mitchell Santner supported with two wickets, and Nathan Smith and Michael Bracewell each claimed one wicket.

Chasing a target of 291 runs, New



Zealand's batting line-up crumbled under pressure. The Blackcaps were bowled out for just 150 runs in 29.4 overs. Mark Chapman was the only significant contributor with the bat, scoring 81 runs off 81 balls, including 10 fours and a six. The rest of the New Zealand batsmen struggled, with Nathan Smith contributing 17 runs and Michael Bracewell adding 13 runs. Matt Henry, usually reliable with the bat, scored 12 runs from just

six balls, but it was not enough to turn the tide. Sri Lanka's bowlers were exceptional in restricting New Zealand. Asitha Fernando, Maheesh Theekshana, and Eshan Malinga each took three wickets. Fernando's figures of 3/26 in 7 overs earned him the Player of the Match award. Theekshana (3/35 in 7.4 overs) and Malinga (3/35 in 7 overs) also delivered crucial spells. Janith Liyange chipped in with one wicket for 16 runs in three overs.

Despite the loss, New Zealand won the series 2-1, with Matt Henry named Player of the Series for his outstanding bowling throughout the three matches.

Brief Score: Sri Lanka 290/8 in 50 overs (Pathum Nissanka 66, Kusal Mendis 54, Matt Henry 4/55) New Zealand 150 all out in 29.4 overs (Mark Chapman 81, Nathan Smith 17, Asitha Fernando 3/26).



Game Changer Shatters Records with Rs. 186 Crore First Day Collections

Ram Charan's much-anticipated film, *Game Changer*, directed by Shankar, has made an explosive debut at the box office, raking in a phenomenal Rs. 186 crore worldwide on its first day. Released as a Sankranti gift, the movie, produced by Dil Raju under the banner of Sri Venkateswara Creations, has taken the box office by storm, earning a spot among the top-grossing Indian films.

The film features Ram Charan in a dual role, set against a gripping political backdrop, which has resonated strongly with audiences. The movie's impressive opening collections have firmly placed it in the ranks of the highest-grossing films on day one, marking it as a true "game changer" in the industry.

Game Changer now joins the prestigious list of films that have achieved remarkable first-day collections, although it still trails behind the top contenders. Allu Arjun's *Pushpa 2: The Rule* holds the top spot with a staggering Rs. 294 crore on its opening day. Rajamouli's magnum opus *RRR* follows closely with Rs. 223 crore, while *Baahubali 2* also made an impressive Rs. 214 crore on its first day.

Despite these giant numbers, the success of *Game Changer* on day one has already turned heads, and it looks set to continue performing well at the box office. The political drama, featuring Ram Charan in a powerful new avatar, has intrigued moviegoers, and the film's strong opening indicates it could maintain its momen-



tum in the days to come.

With its record-breaking start, *Game Changer* is already being hailed as one of the most successful films in recent times, and it will be interesting to see how it continues to perform in the coming weeks, especially during the festive season. The film's success reaffirms the massive star power of Ram Charan and the directorial prowess of Shankar.

Daaku Maharaaj: Gains Strength In Advance Bookings!

With just one day to go until its grand release, *Daaku Maharaaj* is creating a buzz across the industry. Featuring Nandamuri Balakrishna in the lead role, the film's promotional campaign concluded with a successful pre-release event yesterday. Since then, advance bookings have seen a strong uptick, particularly in the B and C centers, where the film is already gaining significant traction.

Balakrishna, known as the "Man of the Masses," is once again set to deliver a high-energy performance, with the action-packed film expected to resonate deeply with his loyal fanbase. Directed by Bobby, a filmmaker renowned for his success with action dramas, *Daaku Maharaaj* taps into the pulse of mass audiences. Both the hero-director duo have proven time and again that their films perform exceedingly well in rural and semi-urban regions, and this movie seems poised to follow suit.

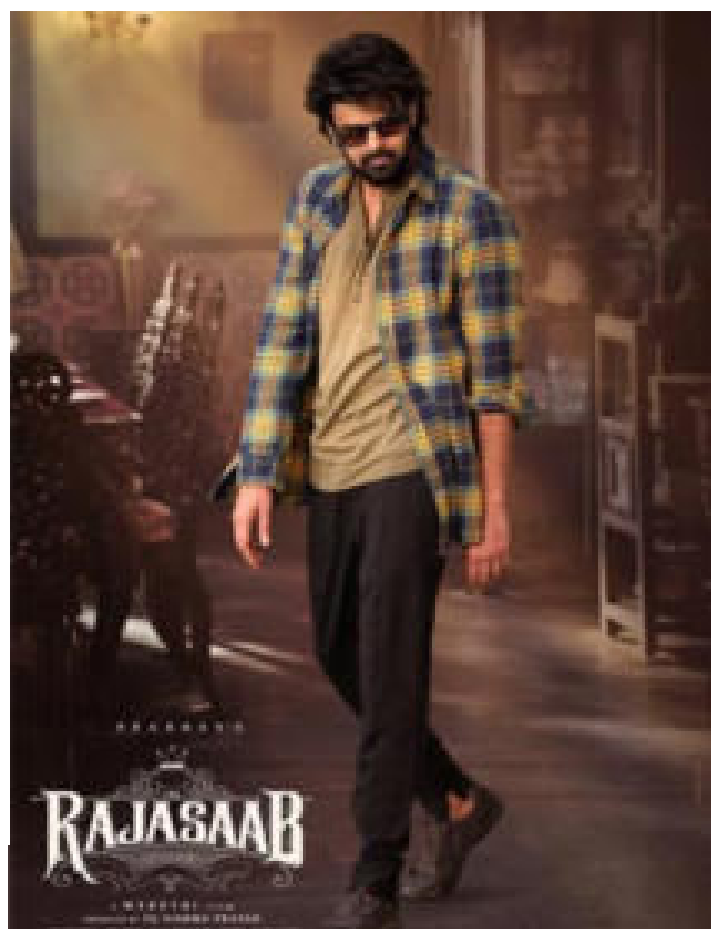
Expectations are high for the film's performance, particularly in the Ceded and Andhra regions, where rural audiences dominate the box office. Balakrishna's previous hits, such as *Akhanda*, *Veera Simha Reddy*, and *Bhagavanth Kesari*, performed remarkably well in these areas, and *Daaku Maharaaj* is anticipated to continue that success. The recently released trailer, packed with intense action sequences, has only added fuel to the excitement, with fans eager to witness the high-



tane drama on the big screen.

Unlike the urban-centric *Game Changer*, which caters to a more metropolitan audience, *Daaku Maharaaj* promises to deliver what the rural masses crave – a thrilling, action-packed spectacle. This strategic positioning is expected to help *Daaku Maharaaj* capture the attention of a wider audience.

As the clock ticks down to its premiere, there's no doubt that *Daaku Maharaaj* is set to make a strong impact at the box office, and early trends indicate the film could emerge victorious in the coming days. Fans are eager, and the excitement is palpable!



Prabhas' The Raja Saab Release Postponed

Prabhas, the biggest pan-India star, was all set to mesmerize his fans with his upcoming film *The Raja Saab*, a horror comedy romantic entertainer directed by Maruthi. Initially slated for release on April 10, 2025, the film is now expected to miss its original release date. While the exact reason for the delay remains unconfirmed, reports suggest that the film is still in its final stages of production and may require a bit more time before it graces the big screen.

According to the latest report from *Pink Villa*, although the film's release has been postponed, fans can expect a special poster to be unveiled during the Sankranti festival, keeping the excitement alive. The buzz around the film intensified recently, especially after the makers of Ajith's *Good Bad Ugly* announced its release on April 10, 2025, prompting speculation that *The Raja Saab* would likely shift its release date. This news has fu-

eled the rumors of the delay, but official confirmation from the film's team is still awaited to clarify the situation.

Starring Prabhas in the lead, *The Raja Saab* also features Malavika Mohanan and Nidhi Agerwal as the female leads. The film is being produced by People Media Factory, with Thaman composing the music, adding to the anticipation for its release. As one of the most highly awaited projects of the year, fans are eager to see Prabhas in a different avatar, and this horror comedy entertainer promises to bring a fresh and exciting blend of genres to the screen.

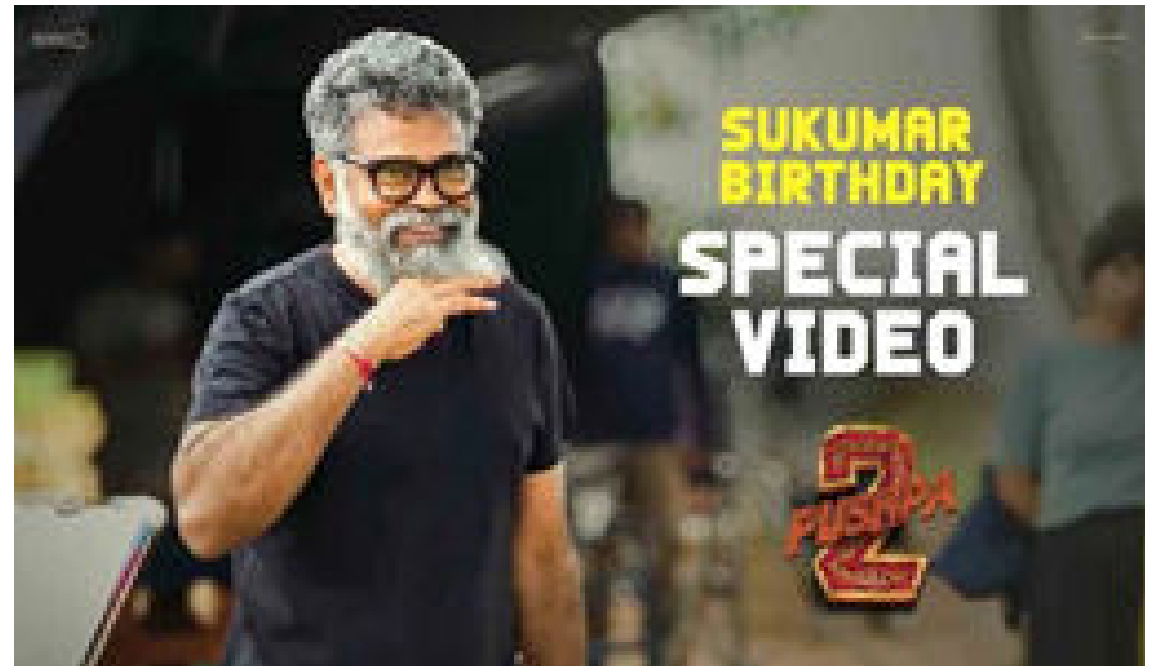
While the release delay might be a disappointment for fans eagerly awaiting the film, the final product promises to be a big-ticket entertainer that will be worth the wait. Official updates are expected soon, and fans can stay hopeful for the eventual release of *The Raja Saab* in theaters.

Sukumar's Birthday Special: A Heartfelt Video Tribute from 'Pushpa 2: The Rule' Team

Today marks the birthday of the talented Tollywood director Sukumar, who is celebrated for his immense contribution to Indian cinema. Sukumar is widely recognized for his innovative storytelling and unique directorial style, and his latest film, *Pushpa 2: The Rule*, is a testament to his cinematic brilliance.

Pushpa 2: The Rule, a sequel to the hugely successful *Pushpa: The Rise*, has taken the box office by storm. Directed by Sukumar, the film features the charismatic Allu Arjun in the lead role, with the beautiful Rashmika Mandanna playing the heroine. The movie, which released on December 5, has not only achieved massive commercial success but has also raked in over ₹1850 crores globally. With such an overwhelming response, the makers are now planning to take the film to international markets, with a release in China on the horizon.

In honor of Sukumar's birthday, the team behind *Pushpa 2* shared a special video tribute, which has quickly gone viral on social media. The video highlights the dedication and hard work Sukumar put into crafting *Pushpa 2*, showcasing his exceptional vision and leadership. The video also features heartfelt messages from the cast, including Allu Arjun, Rashmika Mandanna, Srileela,



and renowned choreographer Ganesh Acharya, who express their gratitude for working with Sukumar and share memorable experiences from the film's journey.

The video is a testament to the mutual respect and admiration between Sukumar and his team, as they reflect on the success of *Pushpa 2* and the director's role in bringing out the best in each actor. As the film con-

tinues to break records, the heartfelt birthday wishes from the cast and crew serve as a reminder of Sukumar's influence and his significant role in the success of the *Pushpa* franchise.

The special video has been warmly received by fans and industry professionals alike, further cementing Sukumar's legacy as one of Tollywood's most respected directors.

NTR-Prashanth Neel Project: Shooting to Begin on January 17

Tollywood's Young Tiger NTR is currently riding high on success, following the blockbuster hit *Devara*, directed by Koratala Siva. The film, which amassed over Rs. 500 crore worldwide, cemented NTR's status as one of the top stars in the industry. Following this success, NTR is set to collaborate with renowned Kannada director Prashanth Neel, famous for his work on the *KGF* franchise and the upcoming film *Salar*. This much-anticipated project, tentatively titled #NTRNeel, is generating a lot of buzz, with fans eagerly awaiting the start of its production.

A recent update has confirmed that the shooting of this high-profile film will begin on January 17, following the Sankranti festival. The first schedule of the shoot is reportedly set to take place in Mangalore, Karnataka, where key scenes featuring NTR will



be filmed. This marks the beginning of an exciting new chapter for the actor and the director, who are both known for their larger-than-life cinematic vision.

The makers of the film have ambitious plans for its production timeline. It is reported that they aim to complete the filming within 7 months, with the goal of releasing the mov-

ie before Sankranti next year. This ambitious schedule reflects the eagerness of both the team and the fans to witness NTR's collaboration with Prashanth Neel, a director known for his cinematic flair and intense storytelling, as seen in the *KGF* films.

While the official title of the film is yet to be confirmed, many are speculating that it could be named *Dragon*, based on the ongoing discussions among fans and industry insiders. The upcoming film is expected to be a major spectacle, with NTR in an intense and powerful role, further raising expectations for this project.

As the excitement builds, fans can look forward to more updates and details about this action-packed collaboration between NTR and Prashanth Neel.