

Wishing you and your family a joyous Sankranti filled with happiness, prosperity, and good health!

Happy Sankranti!

Note: No newspaper on the 14th and 15th. Stay tuned for updates on the 17th!

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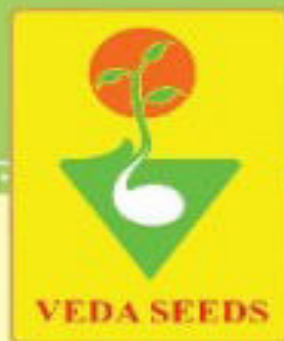
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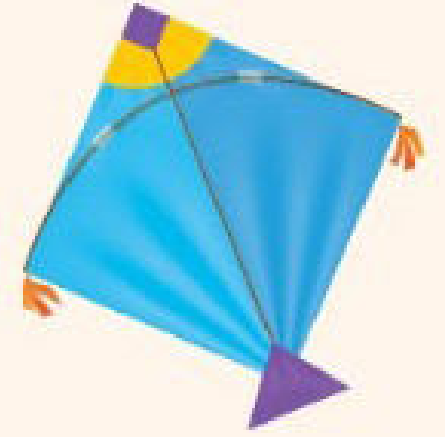
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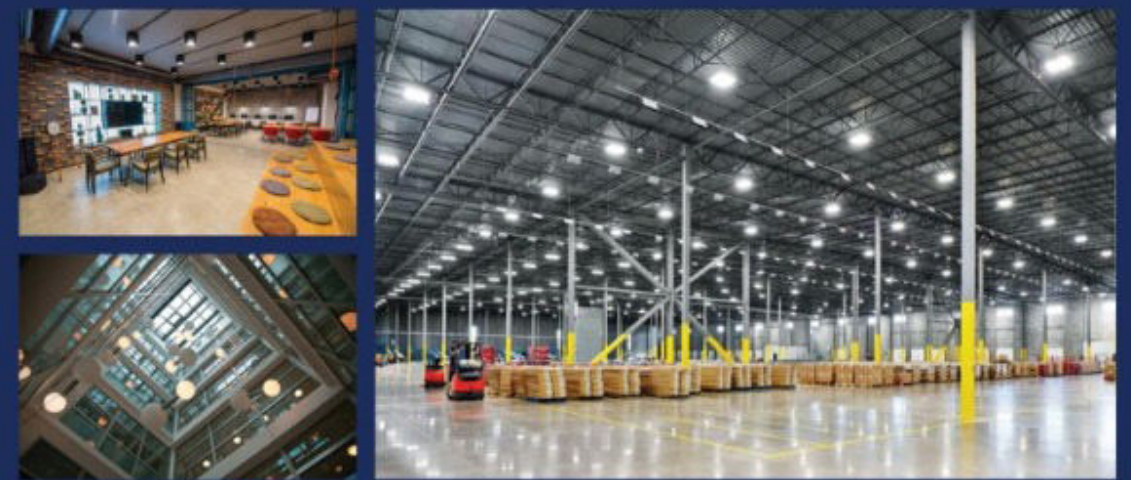
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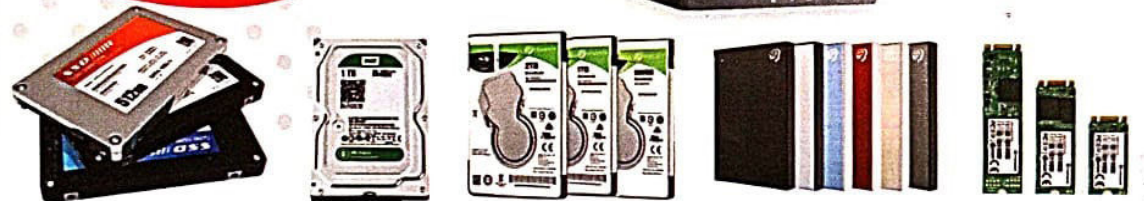
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POINT

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Tuesday, 14th January, 2025 | 12 Pages

Weather Forecast

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

Kishan Reddy's Sankranti Celebrations in Delhi

PM Modi & Actor Chiranjeevi attended as Special Guest

- PM Modi and actor Chiranjeevi attended Kishan Reddy's grand Sankranti celebrations in New Delhi.
- Cultural programs and traditional rituals marked the festive event.
- PM Modi gifted Lord Venkateswara's statue to mark the celebrations.

TPN Correspondent
New Delhi, Jan 14

Union Minister G. Kishan Reddy organized a grand Sankranti celebration at his residence in New Delhi, with Prime Minister Narendra Modi attending as the chief guest and renowned actor Chiranjeevi participating as a special guest.

The event saw the presence of several dignitaries, including Union Ministers, Olympic medalist PV Sindhu, and AIG Hospitals Chairman Dr. Nageshwar Reddy. Chiranjeevi and PM Modi jointly lit the ceremonial lamp to begin the festivities. Kishan Reddy presented a statue of Lord Venkateswara to PM Modi as a token of respect during the event.

The celebrations featured vibrant cultural programs, with popular playback singer Sunitha delighting the audience with her melodious performances. In his message via Twitter, PM Modi expressed his happiness, stating, "Attended Sankranti and Pongal celebrations at the residence of my ministerial colleague, Shri G. Kishan Reddy Garu. Also witnessed an excellent cul-



tural programme. People across India celebrate Sankranti and Pongal with great fervour. It is a celebration of gratitude, abundance, and renewal, deeply rooted in the agricultural traditions of our culture. My best wishes for Sankranti and Pongal. Wishing everyone happiness, good health, and a prosperous harvest season ahead."

CBN's Sankranti Gifts for Naravaaripalle!



TPN Correspondent
Naravaaripalle, Jan 14

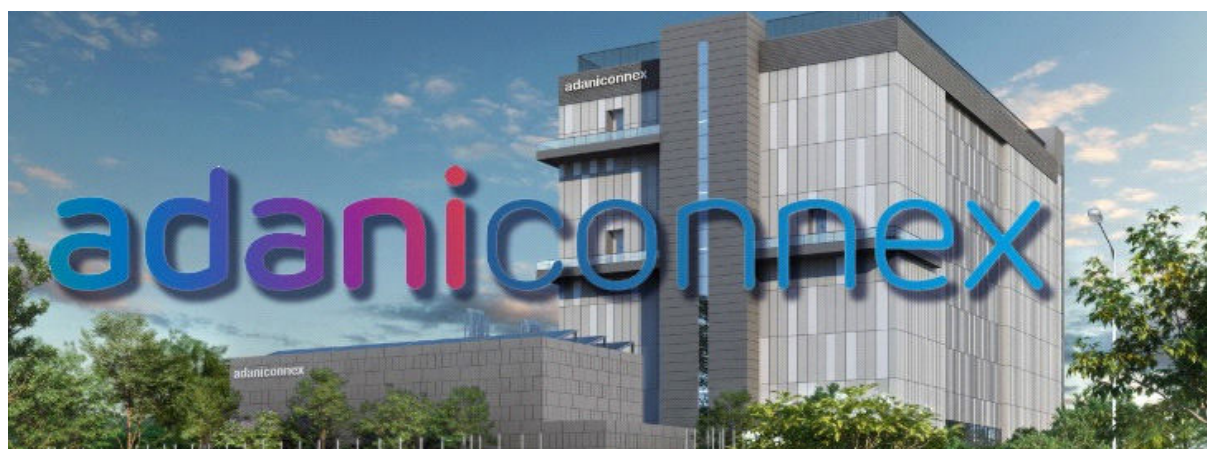
to enable local women's groups to access groceries and other daily essentials online.

Chief Minister Chandrababu Naidu is currently on a tour of his hometown, Naravaaripalle in Chittoor district, where the locals are thrilled with the various benefits announced by the CM this Sankranti. During his visit, Naidu launched a Rs 2 crore road project at Rangampet and participated in the groundbreaking ceremony of a new ZP high school. He also laid the foundation for a Rs 3 crore substation and signed a partnership with Easy Mart

Additionally, Naidu distributed electric autos to women and signed an agreement with the Care and Grow organization to enhance IQ levels among Anganwadi children. A pilot program, including eight Anganwadis, was officially launched. In all, Babu's visit made this Sankranti unforgettable for his village, bringing much-needed development and initiatives to the community.

Finally, Adani Data Center Works Takes Off in Vizag

- Adani Data Center gets environmental clearance, paving the way for development.
- TDP government initiated the project in 2014, with new agreements made under YCP.
- Adani promises 24,990 jobs and an investment of Rs 14,634 crore for the Vizag Tech Park.
- SEIAA mandates a 30 Mt green belt buffer zone.



TPN Correspondent
Vizag, Jan 14

The much-anticipated Adani Data Center project in Vizag has received the necessary clearances from the environment department, paving the way for its development. The land for the center was initially allocated by the former TDP government between 2014 and 2019, but progress stalled under the YSRCP regime. Although a hill in Madhurawada was designated for the project, work did not move forward during this period.

With the change in government, things have taken a positive turn. The new administration is committed to completing the Adani Data Center within six months of taking power. The State Environment Impact Assessment Authority (SEIAA) has now granted the necessary approvals, and construction will commence soon.

While the project was originally approved during the TDP rule, it faced challenges when Jagan's government came to power. The earlier agreement was annulled, and a new one was signed, with the land now leased at a signifi-

cantly reduced rate. The project name was also changed to Vizag Tech Park Limited instead of Adani's name. The groundbreaking ceremony took place on May 3, 2023, but access to the site was blocked by stones, delaying further progress.

Adani has promised a significant investment of Rs 14,634 crore and the creation of 24,990 jobs. The data center will have a capacity of 300 MW, a notable increase from the originally planned 200 MW. The project will also include an IT business park on 28 acres and a skill university on 11 acres.

However, due to the project's location in an environmentally sensitive zone, the SEIAA has mandated that Adani cannot construct a high-rise structure and must develop a 30-meter green belt buffer zone. The company will also need to deposit Rs 10 crore to comply with environmental regulations. The data center will require 2,644 kilo liters of water, with Adani Group planning to source 1,400 kilo liters from GVMC and the remaining amount from a sewage treatment plant it will establish, utilizing recycled water.

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AP Govt Good News to Employees: Long-Pending Dues Released on Sankranti

TPN Correspondent Amaravati, Jan 14

In a major relief to Andhra Pradesh government employees, the state government has released long-pending dues, bringing joy to the workforce just in time for Sankranti. The announcement was made by AP NGO Association General Secretary Vidyasagar, who highlighted that the government has finally addressed several pending payments.



payments, which had been pending for a long time under the YSRCP government, are expected to total approximately Rs. 2,000 crores. Vidyasagar expressed his gratitude towards Chief Minister Nara Chandrababu Naidu, Finance Minister Payyavula Keshav, and the officials for ensuring the release of these dues. He also mentioned that due to the non-payment of stationery charges during the previous government, employees had personally covered these expenses. However, with the latest development, all bills will be cleared by the evening, further uplifting the morale of the employees. This timely release of dues has brought immense relief to employees, who are now celebrating this positive step by the government.



Minister Nara Lokesh Holds Public Meeting on 54th Day at Naravaripalle

C. Sekhar | TPN Naravaripalle, Jan 14

Minister Nara Lokesh conducted a public meeting on the 54th day of his ongoing Naravaripalle tour, during which he listened to the concerns and grievances of the public. Several individuals met with the Minister, submitting petitions regarding the hardships they are facing in their respective areas. Among the petitioners was Gurrām Kokila, the wife of the late Gurrām Ekambaram from the Punganur constituency. She shared her heartbreaking story, claiming that her husband was murdered by relatives of the then Minister Peddireddy during the YSRCP regime. According to Kokila, the murder was falsely portrayed as a road accident. She sought justice for her husband's death. Representatives from the Andhra Pradesh SERP Employees Joint Action Committee (JAC) also met the Minister, requesting that the YSRCP government consider the strike period of the Velugu staff as general leave, grant pending salaries, and provide the stalled annual increments. They further appealed for the provision of compassionate appointments for the family members of employees who had passed away due to health issues while serving at the Tirumala Tirupati Devasthanams, in accordance with their qualifications. Minister Nara Lokesh reviewed all the petitions carefully and assured the attendees that he would take the necessary steps to expedite the resolution of these issues. He promised to work towards ensuring justice and addressing the concerns raised during the meeting.

Tirumala TTD Officials Address Media: Emphasize Transparency and Quality Services

C. Sekhar | TPN Tirupati, Jan 14

TTD Chairman BR Naidu, along with EO J. Shyamala Rao and Additional EO CH Venkaiah Chowdhury, held a media conference at the Annamayya Bhavan on Monday to address recent developments and clarify various issues concerning the Tirumala temple services. TTD Chairman BR Naidu expressed that all decisions regarding the temple's services are being made collectively by the TTD Governing Council to ensure better, stronger, and more transparent services for devotees. He urged the media to refrain from spreading misinformation, especially regarding delays in implementation or alleged conflicts between the Chairman and EO. He assured that the TTD administration is taking all necessary steps to fulfill its promises to the devotees. Addressing the tragic stampede incident in Tirupati, Naidu assured that compensation has already been provided to 31 families, and further compensation will be given to 20 more within the next few days. He expressed that TTD is working with extreme caution to avoid such incidents and is committed to improving services continuously. TTD EO J. Shyamala Rao also appealed to the media and social media not to prop-



agate false news about TTD. She emphasized that there is no misunderstanding between her and the Chairman, and both are working harmoniously to implement decisions from the Governing Council. She highlighted that TTD is addressing key issues, such as improving the quality of prasadam, curbing the broker system, and taking action against online fraud. Further, Shyamala Rao explained the measures being taken for crowd management, including the control of the Vaikuntha Dwara Darshan tokens and other arrangements like queue management, security, and law enforcement in coordination with

the District Magistrate and SP. Additional EO CH Venkaiah Chowdhury spoke about the ongoing reforms, especially in the allocation of accommodation rooms and providing transparent services. He also mentioned plans to make accommodation information available via WhatsApp to ensure a smoother process for devotees. The TTD officials reiterated their commitment to providing high-quality services to every devotee, making efforts to improve transparency, reduce waiting times, and ensure the safety and well-being of all devotees visiting Tirumala.

AP Government Transfers Five IPS Officers

TPN Correspondent Andhra Pradesh, Jan 14

The Andhra Pradesh government has issued orders to transfer five IPS officers, who are currently serving as assault commanders for the Greyhounds. The transfer orders will take effect immediately.

- Transferred as Chintapalli ASP
- Manda Javali Alphons (2022 batch) – Transferred as Nandyal ASP
- Manoj Ramnath Hegde (2022 batch) – Transferred as Rajampet ASP
- Devaraj Manish (2022 batch) – Transferred as Kakinada ASP
- Rohit Kumar Chowdhury (2022 batch) – Transferred as Tadipatri ASP



The transferred officers are:

- Navajyoti Mishra (2021 batch) –

The order, issued in the name of the Chief Secretary, ensures that the transfers come into effect without delay.

Dy CM Pawan Kalyan Extends Heartfelt Sankranti Greetings to Telugu People

TPN Correspondent Amaravati, Jan 14

On the occasion of Sankranti, Deputy Chief Minister Pawan Kalyan extended his warm greetings to the people of Telugu states, celebrating the joy and vibrancy of the festival. Through a heartfelt letter posted on social media, he conveyed his wishes for Bhogi, Sankranti, and Kanuma, emphasizing the importance of the festival for Telugu communities. Pawan Kalyan shared how the villages of Telugu states are adorned with the lively hustle and bustle of Sankranti celebrations, bringing a sense of joy and unity. "Sankranti is a gathering of dances, gobbemmas, gangireddus, haridas, bonfires, and fried dishes," he said, acknowledging the festive spirit that fills the air. He also noted that while many children from villages migrate to cities for employment, it is heartening to see them return home during this time, enriching the celebration with their presence



and performances. He expressed his happiness at witnessing villages come alive with traditional performing arts during Sankranti, a testament to the enduring cultural richness of rural life. He concluded by wishing prosperity and happiness for the villages and people

of the Telugu states, stating, "The village is the happiness... the happiness of the country." Through this message, Pawan Kalyan conveyed a deep sense of pride in the cultural traditions of Telugu people, especially during the festive season of Sankranti.



Shocking Revelations in Srivari Parakamani Gold Theft Case



C. Sekhar | TPN Tirumala, Jan 14

In a shocking turn of events, Penchalayya, a bank contract employee, has confessed to stealing gold biscuits from the Srivari Parakamani in Tirumala not just recently, but also in the past. The 100 grams of gold biscuits that he had stolen were recovered during his arrest. During police interrogation, Penchalayya revealed disturbing details about his past involvement in the thefts from Srivari Parakamani. Authorities discovered that he had previously stolen gold from the same location, adding further complexity to the case. As a result of the investigation, the police seized an additional 555 grams of gold and 157 grams of silver from his possession. The total estimated value of the stolen items is a staggering Rs. 46 lakhs, comprising both the recovered gold and silver. Penchalayya, who had access to the temple's treasures due to his employment as a bank contract worker, used his position to commit these crimes. The case has raised serious concerns about security protocols surrounding the Srivari Parakamani, especially given the involvement of someone with access to sensitive areas. The police are continuing their investigation and further actions are expected as they uncover more details about the extent of the thefts. Authorities have urged the public to remain vigilant and reassured devotees that measures will be strengthened to prevent such incidents in the future.

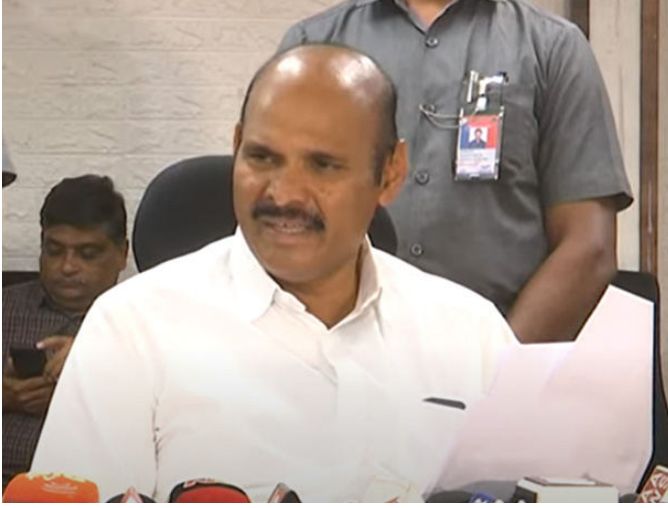
Jagan Should Understand Why the YCP is Losing its Strength - Minister Parthasarathy

TPN Correspondent

Andhra Pradesh, Jan 14

Andhra Pradesh Minister Kolusu Parthasarathy launched a sharp attack on YSRCP chief Y.S. Jagan Mohan Reddy, accusing him of being responsible for his party's declining support. Speaking to the media, the minister said, "Jagan should understand why the YCP is losing its strength. Threats and faction-building during his regime have alienated the people."

Parthasarathy questioned whether Jagan's hopes of returning to power were realistic or merely a "day-dream." He criticized YCP leaders for their remarks about Sankranti, saying, "They claim the festival is only for coalition leaders without understanding its broader significance." He also took aim at former minister Roja, dismissing her statements as "empty rhetoric." Highlighting the coalition government's achievements, Parthasarathy said that initiatives like Anna Canteens are addressing hunger by providing meals at just ₹5.



He added that the repeal of the Land Titling Act has alleviated public concerns, while cement roads are being constructed in villages under the NREGS scheme, led by Deputy Chief Minister Pawan Kalyan.

On the investment front, Parthasarathy drew a stark comparison, stating, "During the YSRCP regime, foreign investments totaled ₹6,679 crores, but in just six months of coalition governance, ₹85,000 crores worth of investments have been secured." He noted that ma-

major companies are showing interest in the state, and permissions have been granted for Compressed Biogas (CBG) plants worth ₹65,000 crores.

Addressing allegations about gravel mining in Nuzvid, Parthasarathy suggested that MLA Yarlagadda Venkat Rao might have been misinformed.

The minister reaffirmed the coalition government's commitment to implementing welfare schemes and attracting investments to ensure the state's progress.

YS Jagan Threatens Pulivendula DSP Murali Nayak Publicly

TPN Correspondent

Pulivendula, Jan 14

In a surprising turn of events, Andhra Pradesh Former Chief Minister Y. S. Jagan Mohan Reddy publicly threatened Pulivendula DSP Murali Nayak following complaints from Yuvajana Sramika Rythu Congress Party (YSRCP) leaders. The incident occurred when Jagan was returning from the funeral of his relative, YS Abhishek Reddy, and stopped at a helipad.

According to sources, some YSRCP leaders had expressed concerns to Jagan about the DSP's aggressive behavior during an investigation. In response, Jagan summoned DSP Murali Nayak to meet him. The DSP, accompanied by two Circle Inspectors, approached Jagan, where the Chief Minister reportedly became angry upon seeing



him.

Jagan issued a stern warning to the DSP, stating, "This government may change in two or four months. Then, you will have your story." The remark was seen as a threat, suggesting potential consequences if there was a change in the ruling party.

The incident centers around DSP Murali Nayak's investigation into Varra Ravinder Reddy, who allegedly made inappropriate posts about Kadapa

MP Avinash Reddy, PA Raghav Reddy, and TDP leaders. Jagan's warning to the DSP has sparked widespread discussion, drawing attention to the tense relations between political leaders and law enforcement. DSP Murali Nayak left the scene without responding to Jagan's comments.

CPM Srinivasa Rao Demands Abolition of Smart Meters, Protests Against Electricity Bill Burden

TPN Correspondent

Vijayawada, Jan 14

CPM State Secretary Srinivasa Rao has called for the complete abolition of smart meters, criticizing the state government for imposing an additional electricity burden on the public. Speaking at a protest in Krishna Lanka, Rao, along with CPM lead-



ers Baburao and Kashinath, condemned the government's policies and alleged mismanagement of public resources.

The protest saw CPM leaders and local residents burning copies of electricity bills in bonfires as a symbolic act against rising electricity charges. Srinivasa Rao noted, "The people voluntarily participated in this protest, expressing their frustration over the electricity burden."

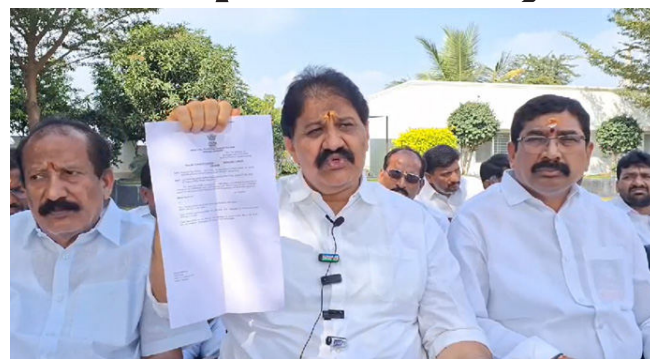
He questioned the role of DISCOMs, asking, "If DISCOMs are in debt, does that mean the people have to pay for it?" Rao further criticized the government for failing to provide essential commodities to the public during the Sankranti festival, accusing it of neglecting the welfare of citizens.

Rao alleged that privatization of public assets, referred to as "P4," is harming the state's economy and benefiting only a select few. He accused former Chief Minister Chandrababu Naidu of favoring policies that "rob the poor to enrich the rich." Referring to industrialist Anil Ambani, Rao remarked, "How can a bankrupt industrialist contribute to investments? Giving incentives to such entities amounts to robbery."

The CPM leader demanded that the government fulfill its election promises and prioritize public welfare over privatization and corporate favoritism. "We will continue to agitate until the government takes meaningful steps to reduce the burden on the common man," he asserted.

The protest highlighted growing dissatisfaction among the people and renewed calls for accountability in governance.

Canceling Municipality Works is Cruel: Former MLA Rachamalla Sivaprasad Reddy



TPN Correspondent

Prodduturu, Jan 14

Former MLA and YSR Congress Party (YSRCP) state spokesperson, Rachamalla Sivaprasad Reddy, strongly criticized the coalition government for canceling two key municipal development projects in Prodduturu. Addressing a press conference on Monday, he demanded the government allocate full funds for the construction of the market, canal modernization, and pipeline projects, ensuring their completion.

Rachamalla displayed a copy of the government order (GO) related to the cancellations and expressed his disappointment. He highlighted that during the previous YSRCP government, hundreds of crores of rupees were secured for Prodduturu's development. He deemed it cruel to now rely on municipal taxes rather than government funds for completing significant projects like the market construction, which had been initiated with great pride.

The former MLA further accused the ruling coalition of neglecting the promises made to Prodduturu's residents. He urged MLA Varadarajula Reddy, who had assured all-round development of the town, to convince the Chief Minister and secure the necessary funds.

Rachamalla emphasized that the current government's actions are a disservice to the people of Prodduturu and warned that this negligence could have long-term consequences for the town's progress. He called on the ruling authorities to prioritize the completion of these critical projects without further delays.

R. Krishnaiah Calls for Constitutional Amendment to Strengthen BC Rights

TPN Correspondent

Hyderabad, Jan 14

Rajya Sabha member and National President of the BC Welfare Association, R. Krishnaiah, emphasized the need for a stronger movement to address the issues faced by Backward Classes (BCs). Speaking at the launch of the Telangana BC Lecturers Association's calendar in Kacheguda, Krishnaiah declared, "The upcoming BC state is BC," underscoring the growing momentum of the BC movement across the country.

Highlighting the challenges faced by BC employees, Krishnaiah expressed concern over the lack of reservations in promotions. "BC employees are suffering significant losses due to the absence of reservation policies in promotions," he stated. He demanded that the Constitution be amended to provide reservations for BCs in promotions and other critical areas. Krishnaiah noted that the BC movement is gaining strength nationwide, with the BC slogan being raised "from the streets to Delhi." He called on BC lecturers and intellectuals to take the lead in the movement, asserting that politicians should not dominate the initiative. "BC intel-



lectuals must spearhead this cause and turn it into an even stronger movement," he urged.

He reiterated the importance of unity among BC communities and stressed the need for proactive measures to ensure social justice. "This is the time for BC lecturers and intellectuals to step forward and demand their rightful place in society," Krishnaiah added.

The event highlighted the growing demand for policy changes to uplift the BC community, with a call for sustained efforts to achieve constitutional amendments that would secure their rights.

Kiran Kumar Reddy: State Bifurcation Was Unstoppable, Even Under YSR's Leadership

TPN Correspondent

Hyderabad, Jan 14

Andhra Pradesh Former Chief Minister Kiran Kumar Reddy made sensational comments about the bifurcation of Andhra Pradesh, suggesting that even the late Former Chief Minister Y.S. Rajasekhara Reddy could not have prevented the division. Speaking on the matter, Kiran Kumar Reddy revealed key details about the Congress party's stance during YS's regime and the events leading up to the state's bifurcation in 2014.

"Many believe that if YS had been alive, he would have stopped the bifurcation, but the reality is different," Kiran Kumar Reddy stated. He disclosed that during Rajasekhara Reddy's tenure, the Congress high command intended to pass a resolution in favor of Telangana. "YS called me and said we should move a resolution in the Assembly supporting the formation of Telangana. I told him it would cost us the elections,"



he revealed.

Kiran Kumar Reddy explained that YS was clear that the decision was beyond his control. "He said, 'Nothing is in my hands. Pranab Mukherjee has decided that the state should be divided,'" Reddy added. The resolution was later altered to read, "We

are not against Telangana," instead of explicitly supporting it.

Reddy emphasized that the bifurcation process, initiated as early as 2009, was ultimately inevitable. "We thought the state would not be divided, but unfortunately, it happened. Even if YS were alive, the division could not have been stopped," he commented.

These remarks by Kiran Kumar Reddy, the last Chief Minister of united Andhra Pradesh, have reignited debates about the political decisions and circumstances surrounding the bifurcation, raising questions about the roles played by both the state and central leadership.

Concerns Raised Over Mini Casino Centers in Vijayawada Disguised as Cockfighting Rings

TPN Correspondent

Vijayawada, Jan 14

Social activist Potina Venkata Mahesh has raised serious concerns about illegal activities in Vijayawada, alleging that mini casino centers are operating under the guise of cockfighting. He highlighted that gambling, including poker and other games



like gundat and loku ekade, has become more prevalent than traditional cockfighting in these rings. Potina Venkata Mahesh pointed out the massive scale of these operations, stating, "If local public representatives and officials are receiving ₹20 to ₹30 lakh for each ring, people can imagine the crores of rupees in business being conducted at these events." He expressed dismay over the apparent disregard for High Court orders banning cockfighting. "The police department has publicly stated that cockfighting is not allowed, yet these activities continue unchecked. Is this not a blatant lie?" he questioned.

He also criticized the role of the co-

alition government, alleging that it is indirectly supporting these illegal gambling activities. "Poker has become rampant in every cockfighting ring. Are we to believe that poker received official approval after the coalition government came to power?" he asked.

Potina Venkata Mahesh expressed deep concern about the cultural implications of these activities, particularly during Sankranti, a festival traditionally associated with cultural and agricultural heritage. "Sankranti seems to have lost its cultural essence, becoming synonymous with cockfighting, poker, and alcohol. It raises doubts about the erosion of our traditions," he remarked.

He called for stricter enforcement of laws to curb these illegal activities and urged the government to focus on preserving the cultural significance of festivals. His remarks have sparked a debate on the need for stricter regulation and protection of cultural values in the state.

Sankranti Splendor Shines Across the State Says MP Kesineni Shivanath



TPN Correspondent
Ibrahimpatnam, Jan 14

The Sankranti festivities are in full swing across the state, with a grandeur not seen in the last five years. Vijayawada MP Kesineni Shivanath (Chinni) highlighted the widespread celebration, noting that the joyous spirit of Sankranti is being felt in both rural and urban areas under the leadership of the NDA coalition government. MP Kesineni Shivanath was the chief guest at the Bhogi celebrations held at the Gollapudi One Center in Ibrahimpatnam mandal on Monday morning. Along with Maillavaram MLA Vasanta Krishna Prasad, MP Kesineni Shivanath paid homage to the statue of TDP founder and former Chief Minister Nandamuri Taraka Rama Rao by garlanding it. They then took part in traditional puja rituals and lit the Bhogi bonfire, extending their Sankranti greetings to the people of the state. The

event also featured Kolata dances and Gangureddu performances, which were enjoyed by the attendees. Speaking at the event, MP Kesineni Shivanath wished that the Bhogi festival would bring happiness to the people and hoped that Sankranti would bring even more light and prosperity into their lives. He expressed his joy seeing people return to their hometowns from various states and abroad to celebrate Sankranti with their families. He also mentioned that Chief Minister Chandrababu Naidu would soon launch the Rythu Bandhu scheme to support farmers. He emphasized that the state government, with the cooperation of Prime Minister Narendra Modi, is committed to state development, farmers' welfare, and job creation for the unemployed. MLA Vasanta Krishna Prasad also addressed the gathering, reiterating that the NDA coalition government, led by Chief Minister Nara Chandrababu Naidu, will continue to serve in line with the people's aspirations.

Tadepalli Super League Cricket Tournament a Success

Jonna Rajesh Thanks to Everyone Who Made TSL a Success

TPN Correspondent
Tadepalli, Jan 14

The Tadepalli Super League Cricket Tournament (TSL) has concluded successfully, thanks to the dedicated efforts of many individuals and organizations. Jana Sena Party Constituency Leader Jonna Rajesh expressed his heartfelt gratitude to everyone involved in making the event a resounding success. In his address, Jonna Rajesh particularly thanked Jana Sena Constituency In-charge and APMSIDC Chairman Chilapalli Srinivasa Rao, as well as State Madiga Corporation Chairperson Undavalli Sridevi, for their significant contributions. He also extended his warm greetings to the people of the constituency and to the leaders and activists of Tadepalli and Mangalagiri in the alliance who supported the tournament. Rajesh took the opportunity to wish everyone a joyous Sankranti, expressing his appreciation for the collaborative efforts that made the cricket tournament possible and a memorable experience for the local community.



Bhogi Festival Celebrated with Enthusiasm in Vijayawada



The Bhogi festival was celebrated with great enthusiasm and grandeur in the Sree Rachandra Nagar and Sri Ram Residency apartment of Vijayawada. The event saw vibrant festivities, with children actively participating in the celebrations. The atmosphere was filled with joy and excitement as the community came together to mark the occasion with traditional customs and fervor. The celebrations were a reflection of the cultural spirit of the region, making it a memorable day for all attendees.



Illegal Cockfighting Betting Flourishes Freely in Jaggayyapet Mandal

TPN Correspondent
Jaggayyapet, Jan 14

Illegal Cockfighting betting activities are continuing unchecked in the rural areas of Jaggayyapet Mandal, with numerous bettors engaging in the illegal practice despite the Andhra Pradesh High Court's clear prohibition. Gangs operating in the upper and lower markets are carrying out these operations openly, with police turning a blind eye to the situation. Reports indicate that bettors are tying knives to Cockfightings and placing bets, further violating the court's orders. The illegal practice has escalated, and by 9 AM, large numbers of individuals gathered

near the Cockfighting betting weights, exchanging large sums of money. Despite the magnitude of this illegal operation, local law enforcement has failed to intervene, raising questions about the effectiveness of policing in the area. With significant financial transactions taking place in plain sight, concerns are growing about the impact of such unregulated activities on the community. Authorities must take immediate action to enforce the law and prevent further violations. The ongoing disregard for the Andhra Pradesh High Court's directive highlights the need for stricter enforcement and greater vigilance in curbing illegal betting in the region.

Helmet Saves Life of Constable in Vijayawada Road Accident



TPN Correspondent
Vijayawada, Jan 14

A constable's quick thinking and the protective gear saved his life during a road accident on the Kanakadurga flyover. Gopala Krishna, a 6th Traffic Constable, was riding his bike when a lorry collided with him from behind, causing him to fall. Thankfully, he was wearing a helmet, which helped him escape without serious injuries. Following the accident, locals immediately came to his aid and rushed him to the hospital for first aid. Authorities stated that if Constable Gopala Krishna had not been wearing a helmet, the outcome could have been much worse, potentially leading to severe injuries or even death. This incident has highlighted the crucial importance of wearing helmets while riding a bike. It serves as a clear reminder to everyone that helmets can save lives, and should be worn at all times for safety.



State-Level Cricket Competitions Continue in Mangalagiri

TPN Correspondent
Mangalagiri, Jan 14

The Premier League cricket competitions, held at the Mangalagiri International Cricket Stadium, are progressing fiercely with enthusiastic support from sports fans. The matches have attracted large crowds, and the competitions are taking place in full swing despite not celebrating the birthday of Minister Nara Lokesh this year. In the match between Vizianagaram and Kurnool, the Vizianagaram team emerged victorious. After Kurnool won the toss and chose to bat, they managed to score 115 runs for 9 wickets in 20 overs. Chasing the target of 116 runs, Vizianagaram comfortably reached the target in just 11.04 overs, losing 3 wickets. Meanwhile, the Anantapur team won a closely contested match against Srikakulam. After Anantapur won the toss and chose to bat, they set a target of 120 runs with 7 wickets down in 20 overs. Srikakulam, chasing the target, fell short by 3 runs, and Anantapur clinched the win. Both matches saw outstanding performances, with players receiving a cash prize of Rs. 10,000 each for being named the Man of the Match,

sponsored by Urban Telugu Youth President Bhogi Vinod and Constituency SC Cell President Kanikalla Chiranjeevi. The event is supported by sponsors Sale, Sakku, Marcoros, Ushodaya, and V Digital, with each match being broadcast live on the Gopi TV YouTube channel. **For the Premier League Season-3, the following cash prizes will be awarded:**

- First Prize: Rs. 3 lakh to Kommareddy Kiran
- Second Prize: Rs. 2 lakh to Katragadda Madhu Sudhan Rao
- Third Prize: Rs. 1 lakh to Palnati Nageswara Rao and Ammireddy Sambasiva Rao
- Additional prizes include:
 - Man of the Series: Rs. 50,000 to Bathula Haridas
 - Best Batsman: Rs. 25,000 to Kasaraneni Jaswanth
 - Best Bowler: Rs. 25,000 to Tadipatri Ajay Kumar
 - Man of the Match: Rs. 10,000, in collaboration with Bhogi Vinod and Kanikalla Chiranjeevi.

The competition continues to captivate cricket lovers in the region with its competitive spirit and the promise of thrilling matches ahead.

NTR's Legacy Lives On: Unveiling of Statue in Ponnur Constituency



TPN Correspondent
Ponnur (Peddapalem), Jan 14

Former Minister and TDP State General Secretary Devineni Umamaheswara Rao lauded the unparalleled contributions of the late Nandamuri Taraka Rama Rao (NTR) during the unveiling of his statue alongside Dhulipala Veeraiah Chowdhury's statue in Peddapalem village of Ponnur constituency. The event was graced

by local MLA Dhulipala Narendra, Guntur District TDP President and MLA Shraavan Kumar, and several other leaders. Speaking on the occasion, Devineni Uma praised NTR's transformative journey from an iconic actor to a legendary leader who redefined the political landscape of Andhra Pradesh. "NTR brought down a 90-year-old political party within nine months, a testament to his connection to the people and his commitment to

public welfare," he said. Highlighting NTR's welfare initiatives, Devineni Uma noted how his pension scheme has now evolved into a ₹4,000 benefit under the leadership of Chief Minister Nara Chandrababu Naidu. He emphasized the ongoing development in Amaravati, with ₹50,000 crore allocated for its growth, and reaffirmed the government's commitment to completing the Polavaram project, which is already 72% finished, within two years. "NTR is more than a leader; for Telugu people, he is Rama and Krishna. His legacy continues to inspire every household," said Uma, reflecting on NTR's lasting impact on cinema and politics. The event also marked the inauguration of newly constructed CC roads and the Rythu Seva Kendra in Peddapalem. Devineni Uma acknowledged the role of TDP leaders like Dhulipala Veeraiah Chow-

Nara Lokesh Celebrates Sankranti in Naravaripalle

Watches 'Daku Maharaj' Movie With Family in Chandragiri



TPN Correspondent, Naravaripalle, Jan 14 : Andhra Pradesh Minister for Education, IT, and Human Resource Development, Nara Lokesh, along with his family, participated in vibrant Sankranti celebrations at his hometown Naravaripalle.

In the morning, Lokesh joined his family and relatives for the Bhogi Mantala program, marking the traditional start of the festival. Later, the minister, accompanied by family members including Nara Brahmani, Visakha MP Bharat, Tejaswini, and Chandragiri

TDP MLA Pulivarthi Nani, enjoyed the Sankranti blockbuster movie Daku Maharaj starring Nandamuri Balakrishna at SV Cinemas in Chandragiri.

During his visit, Lokesh interacted with the residents of Naravaripalle, receiving petitions from locals regarding their issues. He assured them of his commitment to resolving their concerns promptly.

Adding to the festive spirit, Chief Minister Nara Chandrababu Naidu, Nandamuri Bhuvaneshwari, and other fami-

ly members participated in traditional rural games and competitions held in the village. Lokesh's son, Devansh, enthusiastically joined in the games, delighting the crowd.

The visit of the Nara and Nandamuri families brought a festive charm to Naravaripalle, with locals expressing their joy at their presence. The celebrations reflected a mix of tradition, community bonding, and cultural pride, making Sankranti in Naravaripalle truly special this year.



Special Abhishekam at Dakshin Kashi on Arudra Nakshatra

C. Sekhar | TPN, Tiruvannamalai, Jan 14 : A grand special abhishekam was performed at the famous pilgrimage site of Dakshin Kashi in honor of Arudra Nakshatra on Monday. The event, dedicated to Lord Nataraja Swamy, saw a large turnout of devotees and temple officials.

occasion.

As part of the celebrations, Deepa Dhupa Naivedyam was offered, followed by an Akhanda Deeparadhana and Camphor Aarti, which further enlivened the spiritual atmosphere in the temple.

Temple EO Bapireddy, AEO Krishna Reddy, along with several devotees, actively participated in the ceremony, making the event a significant and vibrant religious gathering. The rituals observed on Arudra Nakshatra were a testament to the temple's deep devotion to Lord Nataraja Swamy, reflecting the rich cultural and spiritual heritage of the region.

The sacred rituals began with Kalasthapan Ganapati Puja and Punya Vachana, followed by the offering of flowers to Lord Kalisha. Devotees then performed the abhishekam to Lord Nataraja Swamy using milk, curd, honey, and a variety of spices. The Lord was beautifully decorated with fresh flowers and garlands, enhancing the divine aura of the

Yanam Hosts Bahubali Feast with 470 Dishes for New Son-in-Law

TPN Correspondent, Yanam, Jan 14 : A Bahubali-style feast showcasing 470 varieties of dishes was arranged in Yanam to welcome a new son-in-law during the Sankranti festival. The grand event highlighted the unmatched hospitality and traditions of the Godavari districts, known for their warmth and affection towards relatives.

beautifully decorated. The sight of the spread left the new son-in-law, Saket, speechless.

Expressing his surprise and gratitude, Saket said, "I never expected such an incredible feast at my in-laws' house. I couldn't have imagined so many varieties of vegetarian dishes in one place."

Harinya, the only daughter of Majeti Satyabhaskar and Venkateswari, honorary president of the Union Territory Yanam Trade Association, married Saket, an industrialist from Vijayawada, last year. The couple was invited to celebrate their first Sankranti together at Harinya's family home.

The Godavari districts are renowned for their unique traditions and impeccable hospitality, especially towards newly married couples. This feast exemplifies the region's dedication to upholding these customs with grandeur and style.

The mega feast has become a topic of admiration among locals, showcasing how traditions and relationships are celebrated with unmatched enthusiasm in the Godavari region. The event also served as a testament to the deep respect and love shared within families during festive occasions like Sankranti.

In true Godavari style, an elaborate feast was organized, featuring an incredible 470 varieties of vegetarian dishes, pastries, sweets, fruits, dry fruits, and cold drinks. Each item was meticulously arranged in small cups and



Tirumala Ghat Road Accident: RTC Bus Crashes into Wall, Several Injured



TPN Correspondent, Tirumala, Jan 14 : A major accident occurred on Tirumala's second Ghat Road when an RTC bus lost control and crashed into a protective wall near Harini at the 12th kilometer. The accident left several devotees and employees on board seriously injured and caused a massive traffic jam spanning eight kilometers.

The incident took place amidst heavy rain in Tirumala, which had made the roads slippery due to oil spillage from vehicles. Prelim-

inary reports suggest that the bus lost control when the driver applied the brakes, leading to the crash. The bus hit the protective wall and turned completely across the road, blocking traffic for hours.

TTD vigilance officials and police rushed to the scene and began efforts to remove the bus using a crane to restore traffic flow. The injured passengers were immediately transported to Ruia Hospital in Tirupati for treatment. Among the injured, those sitting in the

front rows sustained serious injuries, while passengers at the back suffered minor injuries. The bus driver also sustained injuries in the accident.

Passengers alleged that the accident occurred due to the driver's negligence and excessive speed. However, authorities have yet to officially confirm the cause of the accident. Initial assessments suggest brake failure might have played a role.

Eyewitnesses reported that several passengers were injured on their faces as they collided with rods inside the bus due to the sudden braking. The incident has raised concerns about road safety and vehicle maintenance on the Tirumala Ghat Roads, which witness heavy traffic, especially during the festive season.

Efforts are underway to investigate the full details of the accident and take necessary preventive measures to ensure such incidents do not recur.

Mahindra Thar Offered as Prize for Cockfighting Winners During Sankranti

TPN Correspondent, Kakinada, Jan 14 : Cockfighting, a popular but controversial tradition during the Sankranti festival, has reached new heights in the Godavari, Konaseema, Kakinada, and Krishna districts. This year, organizers in the Karapa Mandal of Kakinada district have introduced a bumper prize to attract participants and spectators—a brand-new Mahindra Thar, worth approximately ₹25 lakhs, for the winners.

The tradition of cockfighting, which involves tying swords to the legs of roosters and placing massive bets, continues to thrive despite legal restrictions. In some areas, the practice is slightly modified with "dinky bets," where swords are not used. However, the excitement and the stakes remain high. In Karapa, the announcement of a Mahindra Thar as a prize has created a buzz. The vehicle is being prominently displayed at the cockfighting ring, adding to the thrill for participants and spectators alike. A video showcasing the vehicle at the event has gone viral on social media, capturing the attention of netizens and sparking widespread discussion. Crores of rupees are exchanged in these cockfighting events across the region, drawing enthusiasts from far and wide. Despite its controversial nature, the inclusion of such a lavish prize highlights the growing scale and allure of the practice.

While cockfighting remains a contentious issue, particularly due to legal and ethical concerns, its cultural significance during Sankranti and the community's enthusiasm around it are undeniable. Authorities have yet to comment on the legality of the ongoing events and the extravagant prizes being offered.

Fire Breaks Out at Tirumala Laddu Counter, Causes Panic Among Devotees

TPN Correspondent, Tirumala, Jan 14 : A fire broke out at counter number 47, where laddu prasadam is served in Tirumala, leading to panic among devotees in the crowded area. The incident occurred due to a short circuit in the UPS connected to the computer system at the counter.

avoid such occurrences in the future.

Devotees expressed relief that the situation was brought under control quickly and no one was harmed. However, they also urged the management to ensure better safety mea-



The fire sparked chaos as devotees, startled by the flames, fled the area in fear. However, staff members responded swiftly upon noticing the fire and took immediate action to control it, preventing any major disaster.

The laddu counters in Tirumala are always bustling with devotees, making the situation more alarming. Thankfully, no injuries were reported in the incident, and the fire was contained before it could cause significant damage. This incident has raised concerns about fire safety protocols at the popular pilgrimage site. Authorities have initiated an investigation to determine the exact cause of the short circuit and are expected to implement stronger preventive measures to

asures in high-traffic areas to protect visitors.

Tirumala, being one of the most visited pilgrimage destinations in the country, sees thousands of devotees daily, and the importance of stringent safety standards cannot be overstated. This incident serves as a reminder to prioritize safety alongside spiritual services.

Authorities assured the public that necessary steps would be taken to enhance safety measures and avoid such incidents in the future.

Transparency Needed in Temple Management

- **Transparency Boards at Temples:** Display details of assets, revenue, and leaseholders on-site.
- **Public Feedback Mechanism:** Introduce a compliments box at every temple.
- **Online Financial Disclosure:** Develop district-level websites to share temple financial details.
- **Supplier and Staff Details:** Disclose contracts and employee information to ensure accountability.

There is a pressing need for enhanced transparency within the endowments department, particularly in the context of managing Hindu temples and their associated assets. To foster trust and accountability among devotees and the broader community, each temple should take proactive steps to ensure that its financial and operational details are readily accessible and clearly communicated. One effective measure would be to prominently display a comprehensive information board at each temple. This board should serve as a central repository of vital information, outlining the specifics of the temple's properties, assets, and jewelry. By making this information visible, temples can demystify their financial operations and reassure devotees that their contributions are being managed responsibly.



By Dr. Buragadda Srinadh

In addition to detailing the physical assets, the board should also include crucial information regarding the revenue generated from land owned by the temple. This could encompass rental income, agricultural profits, or any other sources of revenue, providing a clearer picture of the temple's financial health. Furthermore, transparency regarding the names of leaseholders who utilize temple land is essential. This information not only promotes accountability but also allows the community to understand who is

benefiting from these resources. Moreover, the board should outline the contracts with suppliers of essential commodities, such as food, materials for rituals, and maintenance services. By disclosing these contracts, temples can demonstrate their commitment to fair practices and ethical sourcing, while also allowing devotees to see how funds are allocated and spent. Lastly, including the names of employees associated with the temple on this board would further enhance transparency. This could cover a range of roles, from

administrative staff to priests and maintenance workers. By recognizing the individuals who contribute to the temple's operations, the community can foster a sense of connection and appreciation for the work being done behind the scenes. In addition to on-site transparency, a public feedback mechanism, such as a compliments box, should be introduced at every temple. This would allow devotees to express their concerns, suggestions, or appreciation directly, creating an open channel of communication between the temple administration and the community.

Furthermore, every district must develop a dedicated website to host vital financial and operational information of all temples in that district. By making this data accessible online, devotees and stakeholders can stay informed about how temple resources are managed. In summary, implementing a transparency board at each Hindu temple and leveraging online platforms for disclosure would not only provide essential information to the community but also promote trust, accountability, and a sense of shared responsibility in the management of temple resources. This initiative could serve as a model for other religious institutions, encouraging a culture of openness and integrity in the stewardship of communal assets.



The Rise of Ultra-Wealthy Individuals in Politics: Musk's Influence and the Threat to Democracy

Fair Financial Devolution: Addressing the Allegations Against the Modi Government

In recent months, several opposition-ruled states have raised concerns about receiving an unfair share of the Centre's divisible tax pool, claiming their contribution to tax collections is not being proportionately reflected in their share of revenues. These states have leveled allegations, accusing the Modi government of injustice in the financial devolution process. However, such claims are both unfounded and misleading.

The key question arises: has the Modi government been unfair? The answer is unequivocally no. In fact, under Prime Minister Narendra Modi's leadership, India's system of cooperative federalism has flourished, with a focus on equitable treatment for all states, regardless of political affiliation.

To understand the matter better, we must refer to the Indian Constitution, specifically Article 270, which governs the distribution of net tax proceeds between the Centre and states. Taxes that are shared between the two include corporation tax, personal income tax, Central GST, and the Centre's portion of the Integrated Goods and Services Tax (IGST). This distribution is not arbitrary; it follows the recommendations of the Finance Commission (FC), a constitutional body established under Article 280, which is tasked with reviewing and suggesting equitable devolution of financial resources every five years.

The Finance Commission takes into account various factors, such as the population size, poverty levels, and infrastructure needs of each state, to ensure a fair and just allocation of funds. Therefore, any disparity in the share of tax revenue is not due to the Centre's unfair practices but is the result of the recommendations made by the Finance Commission.

Congress: The Emperor Is Without Clothes



The Congress, once a dominant force in Indian politics, is now facing increasing challenges within the INDIA opposition alliance, as regional parties begin to question its leadership role. Recent remarks by Rashtriya Janata Dal (RJD) leader Tejaswi Yadav, who stated that the INDIA alliance was only relevant for the Lok Sabha elections, have signaled the potential unraveling of the opposition bloc. His statement, whether intentional or not, has cast a shadow over the Congress's place in the alliance, even as it celebrates its gains from the 2024 Lok Sabha elections.

Regional parties have begun to express dissatisfaction with the Congress, especially in the wake of the party's poor performance in key state elections like in Haryana and Maharashtra. Once considered the backbone of the INDIA grouping, the Congress is now seen by some as a hindrance to the alliance's unity. These parties, which once looked to the Congress for leadership, are growing increasingly disillusioned with its inability to solidify a credible organizational structure.

One notable challenge comes from Arvind Kejriwal's Aam Aadmi Party (AAP), which has openly declared its preference for sidelining the Congress in Delhi. As Kejriwal faces pressure from the Bharatiya Janata Party (BJP) in the national capital, his comments highlight the shifting dynamics within the opposition. The message from regional parties is clear: the Congress must earn its place in the alliance, as political respect cannot be claimed solely based on past achievements.

For Congress, this crisis points to deeper structural issues. Rahul Gandhi's efforts with the Bharat Jodo Yatra and Nyay Yatra have failed to translate into sustained organizational growth. While the party continues to struggle with internal cohesion, the BJP, under its strategic leadership, has solidified its position in key states like Maharashtra. In contrast, regional parties such as the Samajwadi Party (SP) and RJD are increasingly cautious about Congress's growing demands for a larger share of influence in Uttar Pradesh and Bihar, fearing it may undermine their own political standing.

The Congress's historical baggage, including Rahul Gandhi's controversial actions that have alienated leaders like Lalu Yadav in Bihar, further exacerbates the party's credibility issues. The absence of a clear political strategy and internal discord within the Congress is leaving it vulnerable to losing key allies, while the BJP, despite initial setbacks, continues to expand its reach.

Ultimately, the future of the INDIA alliance hinges on how the Congress manages its relations with regional players. As the opposition continues to fracture, the need for strong, unified leadership becomes more critical than ever. The Congress must address its internal weaknesses and rebuild trust among its allies, or risk being relegated to the sidelines in India's political landscape.

Novak Djokovic: A Champion on the Brink of History



Novak Djokovic's journey in tennis has been nothing short of legendary, and for many, his first Grand Slam win in 2008 is a moment etched in history. At just 21, Djokovic beat Jo-Wilfried Tsonga to become the Australian Open men's singles champion, a moment that set the stage for his rise to tennis supremacy. Fast forward to today, and Djokovic is on the verge of becoming the greatest of all time, holding 24 Grand Slam singles titles, including a record 10 Australian Open trophies. His dominance in Melbourne is unmatched, and his stats are astounding, including the most titles and all-time match wins at the Australian Open.

However, 2024 marked a turning point in Djokovic's career. For the first time, he lost a semi-final at the Australian Open, his streak of 33 unbeaten matches at the tournament coming to an end. It was a stark reminder that time catches up with every athlete. At 37, Djokovic faces a new challenge—his physical limitations, especially after undergoing knee surgery. His rivals, younger players like Jan-nik Sinner and Carlos Alcaraz, are now pushing him to the limits. Djokovic also enters 2025 with the reality that he did not win a single Grand Slam last year.

Despite these challenges, Djokovic is determined to make one last push for glory, with the goal of winning a 25th Slam. The Australian Open remains his best chance, and although his aura of invincibility has diminished, he remains a force to be reckoned with. His rivalry with Alcaraz, who has dominated recent Wimbledon finals, is one to watch. Djokovic will have to rely on his experience and fitness to overcome the challenges and continue his pursuit of tennis history.

In a surprising move, Djokovic has enlisted Andy Murray, a long-time rival, as his coach. Murray's recent retirement gives him valuable insights into the tour's current top players. While Djokovic doesn't need coaching on technique, he requires information and motivation—two qualities Murray can provide. The partnership adds a unique twist to Djokovic's quest for another Grand Slam title.

As Djokovic's career winds down, the question remains: can he defy the odds and disrupt once again? Only time will tell, but don't be surprised if the Australian Open sees one last incredible flourish from the Serbian legend.

J&K Becoming Hub Of Tunnels, Bridges, Ropeways: PM Modi Inaugurates Sonmarg Tunnel

TPN Correspondent
J&K, Jan 14

Prime Minister Narendra Modi on Monday inaugurated the Z-Morh tunnel in Sonamarg, Jammu and Kashmir, marking a significant milestone in the region's infrastructure development. During his address, he emphasized how Jammu and Kashmir is rapidly evolving into a hub for tunnels, bridges, and ropeways, with the world's highest tunnel, railroad bridge, and rail lines being constructed in the region.

"The world is in awe of the Chenab Bridge's engineering marvel," said Modi, praising the cutting-edge infrastructure projects underway. He stressed that these developments, including the highest railroad bridge and rail lines, are part of the region's transformation.

PM Modi expressed his commitment to fulfilling long-pending promises to the people of Jammu and Kashmir, mentioning his past visits to the region as a BJP worker, where he would often travel long distances on foot in harsh conditions. "Today, I am here as a 'sevak,'" he remarked, underscoring his dedication to serving the people. The Sonamarg tunnel, he added, would ease the lives of the people of Kargil and Leh, reducing hardships and improving accessibility. The Prime Minister noted that the tunnel



is expected to boost tourism in the region, particularly in Sonamarg, a popular destination now accessible year-round. "This tunnel will bring new opportunities for tourism, especially in winter, boosting adventure sports and local livelihoods," he said.

The 12 km Sonamarg tunnel, constructed at a cost of Rs 2,700 crore, will improve all-weather connectivity between Srinagar and Sonamarg, bypassing hazardous avalanche-prone routes. Located over 8,650

feet above sea level, the tunnel will provide safer access to Ladakh, enhancing both civilian and military transportation.

PM Modi concluded by highlighting the broader vision of developing every part of India, ensuring no region is left behind in the race for progress. The Sonamarg tunnel, along with the upcoming Zojila Tunnel, is expected to significantly improve connectivity, reduce travel time, and stimulate economic and social growth in Jammu, Kashmir, and Ladakh.

India Now Among Top 25 Global Arms Exporters: Nirmala Sitharaman

TPN Correspondent
Gandhinagar, Jan 14



Union Finance Minister Nirmala Sitharaman announced that India has now positioned itself among the top 25 global arms exporters, a significant achievement for the country. She shared this milestone during her address at the 4th Convocation Ceremony of Rashtriya Raksha University in Gandhinagar, Gujarat on Monday.

India's transformation from being the world's second-largest arms importer between 2015 and 2019 to a prominent arms exporter marks a pivotal shift in the nation's defence strategy. Sitharaman highlighted that India's defence exports now include high-tech products such as BrahMos missiles, Pinaka rocket systems, and Dornier aircrafts.

The Finance Minister also spotlighted India's remarkable progress in indigenous defence production. In the financial year 2023-24, India's defence production reached a record value of Rs 1.27 lakh crore, which represents a 2.7-fold increase from 2014-15. Defence exports, too, saw an unprecedented rise, reaching Rs 21,083 crore in 2023-24—up from a mere Rs 686 crore in 2013-14. This 30-fold increase in just a decade underscores India's growing capability in the defence sector.

Attributing these achievements to robust policy support and investments under Prime Minister Narendra Modi's leadership, Sitharaman emphasized India's growing role as a net exporter of defence components. She noted that the focus on domestic defence production has shifted India from being one of the largest importers of arms to a significant exporter.

Sitharaman also stressed the importance of coastal security and maritime trade for national security. She praised the Rashtriya Raksha University for its contribution to training India's coastal security forces, noting that over 80% of global goods trade is conducted by sea. Furthermore, she acknowledged the doubling of India's port capacity over the last decade, reinforcing the government's commitment to enhancing maritime security.

India's progress in defence production and export highlights its increasing self-reliance and recognition as a key player in the global arms market.

60% Terrorists Killed In 2024 Were Pakistani: Army Chief On J&K Situation

TPN Correspondent
New Delhi, Jan 14

Army Chief General Upendra Dwivedi revealed today that about 60 percent of the terrorists killed in Jammu and Kashmir (J&K) in 2024 were of Pakistani origin. He further emphasized that approximately 80 percent of the terrorists still active in the region are also Pakistanis.



In a media briefing, Gen Dwivedi assured that the situation in J&K remains "firmly under control," with the ceasefire along the Line of Control (LoC), which has been in effect since February 2021, holding steady. However, he cautioned that terror infrastructure across the border remains intact, and infiltration attempts, including from the International Border (IB) sector, continue. Additionally, drone activities aimed at

smuggling weapons and narcotics are ongoing. Gen Dwivedi also addressed the recent increase in terrorist activities, particularly in North Kashmir and the Doda-Kishtwar belt, though he assured that overall violence levels are "under control." He noted the peaceful conduct of over five lakh pilgrims during the Amarnath Yatra and the smooth execution of the Lok Sabha and Assembly elections, both indicators of positive change

in the region. "The theme of terrorism to tourism is gradually taking shape," he said, highlighting the shift towards stability and development.

Turning to the situation along the Line of Actual Control (LAC), Gen Dwivedi stated that while the situation is "stable," it remains "sensitive." This comes after Indian and Chinese military forces disengaged from the last two friction points in eastern Ladakh. He confirmed that patrolling and grazing activities have resumed in the traditional areas of Depsang and Demchok in eastern Ladakh. Gen Dwivedi reassured that the Indian Army remains vigilant, with a "balanced and robust" deployment along the borders, focusing on enhancing border infrastructure and capability development. He concluded by emphasizing the Army's readiness to handle any emerging situations.

My chair not vacant, says CM Siddaramaiah

TPN Correspondent
Bengaluru, Jan 14



Karnataka Chief Minister Siddaramaiah on Sunday rejected media reports speculating about a change of leadership in the state, asserting that his position is not vacant. Referring to rumors about his deputy, D.K. Shivakumar, potentially replacing him, Siddaramaiah criticized what he described as "speculative journalism."

Addressing the issue at the Press Club of Bangalore Award-2024, Siddaramaiah expressed his frustration with the media's persistent reporting on the matter. "We don't have any confusion amongst us, but journalists are still

writing that 'the CM will be changed,'" he said, adding that such reports were based on assumptions rather than facts. "My chair is not vacant, but they still say that the CM will be changed."

Siddaramaiah also pointed to the tendency of the media to sensationalize trivial matters, often based on speculation. He took a jab at the media's approach by referencing the dinner meetings held by ministers, which have recently become a subject of widespread gossip. "If people gather for dinner, then it becomes news based on speculation that such discussions would have happened, though we would have discussed something else and not what is reported there,"

he said.

The Chief Minister's remarks come in response to ongoing media narratives that have fueled speculation about a leadership change in the state. Despite these reports, Siddaramaiah's comments underscore that there is no internal conflict regarding his position and that the speculations are unfounded.

While political discussions about the state's leadership continue to surface, Siddaramaiah's comments suggest that such matters are often blown out of proportion, leaving little room for speculation about his tenure as Chief Minister.

Maha Kumbh: Happy to see Prayagraj abuzz: PM Modi

TPN Correspondent
New Delhi, Jan 14

As the Maha Kumbh Mela began in Prayagraj on Monday, Prime Minister Narendra Modi marked the occasion as a significant event for millions who value Indian traditions and culture. In a message shared on X (formerly Twitter), the Prime Minister emphasized that the event is a testament to India's enduring spiritual legacy.

"A very special day for crores of people who cherish Bharatiya values and culture! Maha Kumbh 2025 commences in Prayagraj, bringing together count-

less people in a sacred confluence of faith, devotion and culture. The Maha Kumbh embodies India's timeless spiritual heritage and celebrates faith and harmony," Modi wrote.

The Prime Minister expressed his delight at seeing Prayagraj teeming with pilgrims, with people flocking to the city to take part in the holy dip and seek blessings. His message highlighted the unity and devotion that the Kumbh Mela brings, fostering a sense of collective spirituality and national pride.

PM Modi also wished a peaceful and fulfilling journey to all the pilgrims

and tourists attending the grand religious gathering. The Maha Kumbh Mela is one of the largest spiritual congregations in the world, drawing millions of devotees from across the globe, and this year's event promises to be no different.

The Prime Minister's message reflected the cultural and religious significance of the Kumbh Mela, which is celebrated as a major spiritual event, symbolizing India's unity, faith, and harmony. With the ongoing celebrations, Prayagraj is set to remain a hub for devout pilgrims and tourists seeking to connect with India's rich spiritual heritage.



Violent Capitol Rioters Don't Deserve Pardons: JD Vance On Trump's Decision

US President-elect Donald Trump and his running mate, JD Vance, appear to be at odds over the fate of those involved in the January 6 Capitol riot. While Trump has expressed intentions to use his clemency powers to pardon individuals involved in the attempted insurrection, Vance takes a more cautious approach, drawing a distinction between peaceful protesters and those who committed violent acts.

In an interview on "Fox News Sunday," Vance stated, "If you protested peacefully on January 6th, and you had Merrick Garland's Department of Justice treat you like a gang member, you should be pardoned." He further clarified that individuals who resorted to violence during the riot "obviously" should not receive pardons. Vance acknowledged a "grey area" for some, implying that not all cases are clear-cut.

Vance, set to be sworn in as Vice President on January 20, emphasized that the incoming Trump administration is dedicated to ensuring "the equal administration of law" and rectifying what he perceives as unfair prosecutions follow-



ing the Capitol attack. His comments reflected a broader sentiment among certain conservatives that the justice system's treatment of January 6 participants, particularly those not involved in violence, was unjust.

However, Vance's stance drew criticism from supporters of the Capitol rioters. They accused him of not fully supporting those who were involved in the uprising. In response to the backlash,

Vance took to social media platform X to defend his position, stating, "I've been defending these guys for years."

As the new administration prepares to take office, the debate over how to address the January 6 rioters remains a contentious issue. Trump's approach to granting pardons contrasts with Vance's more measured stance, leaving the fate of the Capitol riot prisoners uncertain as the political landscape shifts.

Imran Khan's Corruption Case Verdict Delayed Again, New Date Set for January 17



The Islamabad anti-corruption court has postponed the announcement of the verdict in the high-profile Al-Qadir Trust corruption case involving former Prime Minister Imran Khan and his wife Bushra Bibi for the third time. Originally scheduled for January 6, the verdict will now be delivered on January 17.

Judge Nasir Javed Rana, who had completed hearings in the case by December 18, had initially reserved the judgment

until December 23. However, the announcement was delayed to January 6, only for it to be postponed once again due to the judge's leave. The latest delay has been attributed to the absence of the accused couple from court.

The case, filed by the National Accountability Bureau (NAB) in December 2023, accuses Khan, his wife, and six others of causing a loss of approximately 190 million pounds (about 50 billion Pakistani

rupees) to the national exchequer. The allegations center on funds returned to Pakistan by the UK's National Crime Agency following a settlement with a property tycoon. The money, which was meant for the national treasury, is said to have been misused for personal benefit, including funding the establishment of Al-Qadir University in Jhelum, which is linked to the couple.

Bushra Bibi, as a trustee of the Al-Qadir Trust, is accused of benefiting from the misused funds, with allegations that she acquired 458 kanals of land for the university. The case has drawn significant attention due to its political and financial implications, with both Khan and Bibi at the center of the controversy.

The postponement of the verdict comes at a sensitive time, as negotiations between Khan's Pakistan Tehreek-e-Insaf (PTI) party and the government continue in an effort to address the ongoing political instability caused by Khan's imprisonment. Two rounds of talks have taken place, and another is expected this week, though it remains unclear whether the delayed verdict will affect the discussions.

South Korea's Suspended President Yoon Gets Salary Hike Despite Impeachment



Despite his suspension following an attempted martial law declaration, South Korean President Yoon Suk Yeol will receive a salary increase for 2025. The South Korean government has confirmed a 3 percent hike, raising his annual salary to 262.6 million won (\$179,000) from 254.9 million won (\$170,000) last year. This means Yoon will continue to be paid 21.8 million won per month before taxes, even though he has been off duty since mid-December 2024.

According to South Korea's Ministry of

Personnel Management, the salary increase for the impeached president is in line with the standard government official salary review process. Despite his suspension during the ongoing impeachment trial, Yoon will receive approximately 130 million won over the next six months. This payment is made despite his suspension from presidential duties.

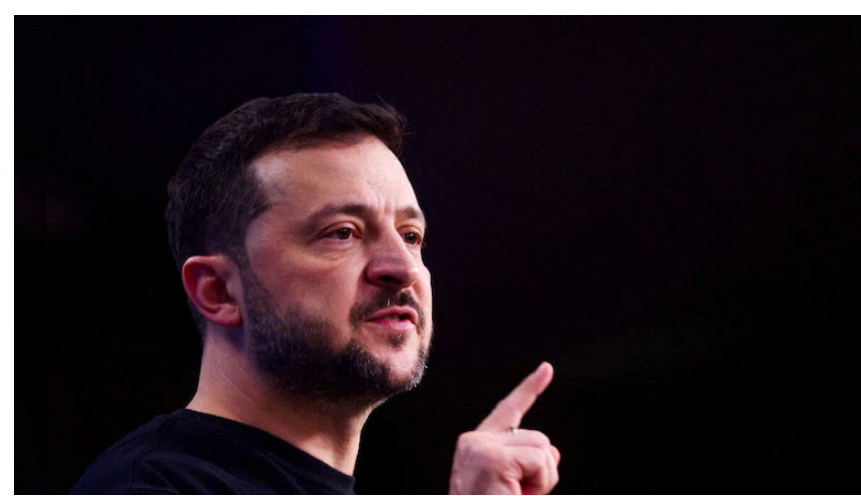
This pay increase also applies to Prime Minister Han Duck-soo, who was suspended after impeachment by the Na-

tional Assembly. Han will receive an annual salary of 235.5 million won following the same 3 percent salary hike.

The payment of full salaries to both Yoon and Han, despite their suspensions, raises questions about South Korea's "no work, no pay" principle. However, the issue remains legally unclear, as there is no regulation specifically addressing the payment of salaries to impeached public officials.

Yoon was impeached on December 14, 2024, after a brief attempt to impose martial law on December 3. While stripped of his powers as head of state, he remains president until the Constitutional Court makes a ruling on his fate. Under South Korea's Constitutional Court Act, a decision must be made within 180 days, though this is not legally binding.

During his suspension, Yoon's constitutional powers have been transferred to acting President Choi Sang-mok, including military command and the power to declare martial law. However, Yoon still retains his presidential title, residence, motorcade, and security. If removed from office, Yoon will lose benefits such as a pension and staff.



Zelensky Offers to Exchange Captured North Korean Soldiers for Ukrainian POWs

Ukrainian President Volodymyr Zelensky has proposed exchanging captured North Korean soldiers for Ukrainian prisoners of war (POWs) held by Russia. The offer came after confirmation from South Korea's National Intelligence Service (NIS) that two North Korean soldiers had been captured by Ukraine in the Kursk region of Russia on January 9. The soldiers were reportedly wounded while fighting alongside Russian forces, though their nationality was only confirmed after the Ukrainian announcement.

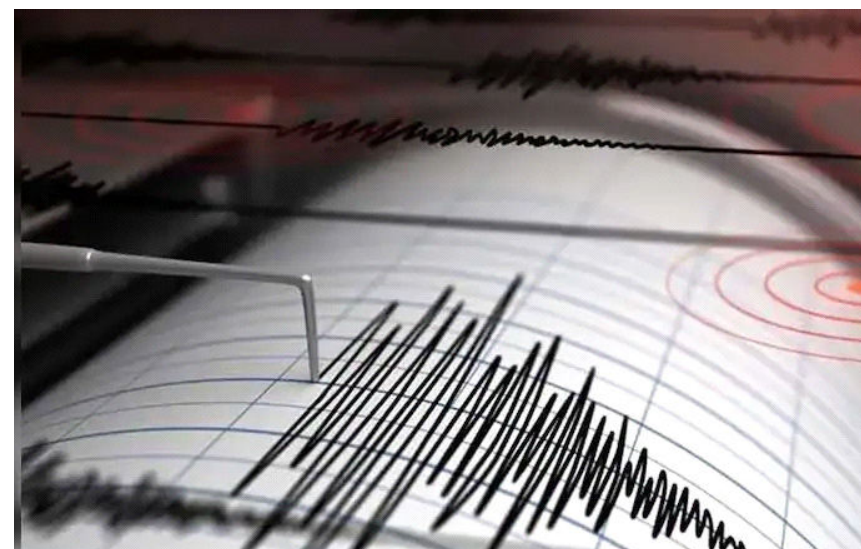
In a post on X, Zelensky stated, "Ukraine is ready to hand over Kim Jong Un's soldiers to him if he can organize their exchange for our warriors who are being held captive in Russia." He also suggested that more North Korean soldiers could be captured in the future and added that those who do not wish to return to North Korea could have "other options," including sharing the truth about the war.

The involvement of North Korean troops in Russia's war against Ukraine has been a point of international concern. Ukraine, the United States, and South Korea have accused North Korea of sending over 10,000 soldiers to support Russian forces. Neither Moscow nor Pyongyang have officially acknowledged the deployment of North Korean soldiers in Ukraine, though relations between Russia and North Korea have grown closer since the Russian invasion in 2022.

Zelensky emphasized that the world should have no doubt about Russia's reliance on North Korean military support. He also released a video showing the interrogation of the two captured soldiers, where one of them stated that he was unaware he would be sent to fight in Ukraine, initially believing he was only attending military training in Russia.

The NIS confirmed the soldiers' training by Russian forces in November and revealed that North Korean troops had sustained significant losses in battle. The agency also mentioned that North Korea is preparing for further deployments due to the high casualties among its forces.

Japan Issues Tsunami Advisory After 6.8 Magnitude Earthquake



A 6.8-magnitude earthquake struck southwestern Japan late on Monday, causing two small tsunamis but no significant damage or injuries. The earthquake hit at a depth of 36 kilometers, about 18 kilometers off the coast of Miyazaki Prefecture in the Kyushu region at approximately 21:19 local time (1219 GMT), according to the U.S. Geological Survey.

In response to the quake, the Japan Meteorological Agency (JMA) issued a tsunami advisory, warning of potential waves of up to one meter (three feet) and urging the public to avoid coastal areas. "Tsunami can strike repeatedly. Please do not enter the sea or go near coastal areas," the JMA cautioned on X (formerly Twitter).

Two small tsunamis, measuring around 20 centimeters, were recorded at two ports in the affected region. However, local media reports and live broadcasts from the public broadcaster NHK showed no visible damage, with calm seas and normal operations at ports and along local roads.

Japan, located along the Pacific "Ring of Fire," is one of the most seismically active countries in the world. It experiences around 1,500 earthquakes annually, most of which are mild but can vary significantly in terms of their impact. The country is particularly vulnerable to large earthquakes and tsunamis due to its position on the Pacific tectonic plate boundary.

This latest earthquake follows a 7.5-magnitude tremor that struck the Noto Peninsula on New Year's Day, causing nearly 470 deaths. Japan remains on high alert for potential aftershocks and continues to refine its disaster preparedness measures, including strict building codes and regular emergency drills.

Investor Confusion Amid Market Downturn and External Pressures

Sensex falls by over 1000 points, Nifty drops 345 points amid global economic uncertainty

The Indian stock market continues its downward trend, with domestic indices facing significant losses on Monday. The BSE Sensex opened at 76,629, down from the previous close of 77,378, and reached an intraday low of 76,249. It recovered slightly but ended the day at 76,330, down 1,048 points. The NSE Nifty also followed suit, opening at 23,193 and falling to a low of 23,047, closing at 23,085 after a 345-point drop. The Nifty Bank experienced a sharp decline, falling 692 points to settle at 48,041.

Market sentiment remains bearish as negative signals from global markets continue to impact investor confidence. The strong U.S. job data has led to expectations that the Federal Reserve may limit interest rate cuts to two in 2025. This has resulted in higher bond yields and a stronger dollar, making emerging markets less attractive. Additionally, foreign institutional investors are withdrawing their investments, while domestic investors remain hesitant to buy into the market. The market breadth on the NSE showed



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a clear shift towards sell-offs, with only 326 stocks gaining out of 2,935 traded. In contrast, 2,525 stocks lost value, and 429 stocks reached 52-week lows. Sectoral indices took a hit across the board, with auto, media, metal, pharma, PSU bank, realty, healthcare, and oil and gas sectors losing between 3% to 6%. The rupee's weakness added further pressure, closing at 86.59 against the dollar, marking a historical low after a drop of 61 paise. The Fear Index (India Vix) surged 7.25 points, reflecting increased uncertainty in the market. In corporate news, Justdial reported

a 42.7% increase in net profit for Q3, reaching Rs 131 crore, while revenue grew 8.4% to Rs 287 crore. Zomato shares fell for the seventh consecutive day, and Paytm saw a 6% drop, taking its five-day loss to 20%. In the IPO market, the Lakshmi Dental IPO was oversubscribed by 4.14 times on its first day. Adani Wilmar's promoters are selling an additional 1.5% through an offer for sale, while Swiggy shares continued their downward spiral. Amid these developments, Bernstein upgraded DMart with a target price of Rs 5,800, and Goldman Sachs maintained a neutral outlook on the BSE.

China, India refiners scour the world for oil supplies as US sanctions to curb Russian supply

Chinese and Indian refiners are intensifying their search for crude oil supplies globally following fresh U.S. sanctions on Russian oil producers and tankers, which have impacted shipments to Moscow's top customers, traders reported.



On Friday, the U.S. Treasury imposed sanctions on two major Russian oil producers, Gazprom Neft and Surgutneftegas, as well as 183 vessels that have been involved in transporting Russian oil. These sanctions are part of a broader effort by the U.S. to cut off revenues that Russia uses to finance its ongoing war with Ukraine.

The majority of these sanctioned tankers had been used to transport oil to India and China. As Western sanctions and a price cap on Russian oil, imposed by the Group of Seven (G7) countries in 2022, diverted the flow of Russian oil from Europe to Asia, these two countries have become significant buyers of Russian crude. Some of these tankers have also carried oil from Iran, which is similarly subject to international sanctions.

In response to the latest U.S. actions, China reiterated its oppo-

sition to unilateral sanctions imposed by the United States. Beijing continues to reject foreign interference in its energy trade, maintaining its stance that sanctions are unlawful and undermine the international order.

The latest sanctions on Russian oil are expected to further complicate the energy market, pushing Chinese and Indian refiners to seek alternative crude supplies, including from other sanctioned nations or smaller oil producers. These developments underscore the growing geopolitical tensions surrounding global energy trade and the impact of sanctions on major oil-producing countries.

As the situation evolves, both China and India will likely continue to look for ways to navigate these challenges while securing the energy supplies needed to fuel their large economies.

Indian Pharma Market Faces Decline in Volume Growth Amid Strong Pricing and New Launches



The Indian pharmaceutical market (IPM) has experienced a setback in volume growth during Q3FY25, returning to negative growth after two quarters of modest positive results, according to a Goldman Sachs report. Despite this decline, the market has been buoyed by strong pricing growth (+5.3% YoY) and the introduction of new products from recent patent expiries (+2.6% YoY), which have continued to support overall market performance.

Management from leading pharmaceutical companies indicates that volume growth may be better than what secondary market data reflects, although still below historical levels. Goldman Sachs projects that IPM volume growth will stabilize at low single digits in the upcoming quarters. However, pricing benefits are expected to moderate in 2024, with the Wholesale Price Index (WPI) forecasted to be under 2%.

In the U.S. generics market, the report notes that price erosion has slowed since March 2023. Nonetheless, Goldman Sachs warns that this trend is temporary and not structural. The firm anticipates that price erosion will normalize and stabilize at mid-to-high single digits in the medium term.

On the margin front, Indian pharmaceutical companies are expected to maintain strong gross margins, supported by favorable pricing in the U.S., lower input costs, and currency depreciation. The report notes that these factors will continue to contribute to strong gross margins for India Pharma in the near future.

However, the report cautions about potential input cost increases, especially concerning freight and transportation in the Middle East. Rising R&D expenses and higher API prices could offset some gains, though margins for FY25 are projected to remain healthy.

Capital allocation has become a key focus for companies with substantial cash reserves. The report highlights a shift in strategy, as high valuations in India are prompting companies to explore options such as share buybacks, international acquisitions, and investments in capacity building within the CRDMO space.

India's Retail Inflation Eases to 5.22% in December Amid Falling Food Prices

India's retail inflation slowed to a four-month low of 5.22% in December, down from 5.48% in November, driven primarily by a moderation in food prices. A Reuters poll had predicted a slightly higher inflation rate of 5.3% for December, making the actual figure a positive surprise.

The easing of inflation comes as food prices, which are a major contributor to India's overall price rise, showed signs of cooling. However, despite the recent decline, inflation remains above the central bank's targeted 4% medium-term goal. A separate Reuters poll forecasts that inflation will not return to this 4% target until at least the second half of 2026.

The Reserve Bank of India (RBI) has been actively managing inflation through monetary policy measures, including interest rate hikes, aimed at curbing excessive price rises. While inflation has shown some moderation, it remains a concern for policymakers, especially with core inflation—excluding food and fuel—remaining relatively high.

India's inflation has been fluctuating in recent months, with the food price component continuing to play a pivotal role. The government and the RBI are expected to monitor these trends closely, as they influence the broader economic outlook, particularly regarding consumer spending and economic growth.

In the near term, inflationary pressures are expected to



persist, although at a more moderate pace. Factors such as global commodity prices, domestic supply chain dynamics, and demand patterns will play critical roles in determining the inflation trajectory over the next few quarters.

Despite the current moderation, inflation remains a key challenge for India's economy, and experts believe that achieving the RBI's 4% target may take longer than anticipated due to a range of structural factors affecting price stability.

HCLTech Reports 5.54% Profit Growth in Q3FY25, Announces Rs 18 Dividend

HCLTech has announced a 5.54% increase in its consolidated net profit for the third quarter of the financial year 2024-25, reaching Rs 4,591 crore. This growth is compared to Rs 4,350 crore reported in the same quarter last year. The company's revenue for the January-March 2025 period stood at Rs 29,890 crore, marking a 5.07% rise from Rs 28,446 crore in the previous year.



On a sequential basis, HCLTech saw an 8.4% increase in profit and a 3.56% growth in revenue, showcasing the company's resilience and consistent performance. The growth trajectory reflects the company's ability to adapt to market dynamics and effectively manage its operations.

In addition to the financial perfor-

mance, HCLTech's Board of Directors has declared a 4th interim dividend of Rs 18 per share, which includes a special dividend of Rs 6 per share to commemorate the company's 25th anniversary of being listed publicly. The interim dividend will be paid on the company's equity shares of Rs 2 each.

The company's performance in Q3FY25 highlights its steady growth in the IT services sector and its commitment to delivering value to its shareholders. As HCLTech celebrates a significant milestone in its public listing journey, the strong financial results and the special dividend serve as a testament to its long-term success and robust financial health.

HCLTech continues to focus on innovation, operational efficiency, and strategic growth initiatives to further strengthen its position in the global IT landscape. The company remains optimistic about maintaining its growth momentum in the upcoming quarters, driven by both organic growth and strategic business partnerships.

Flying Kites on Makar Sankranti is More Than Just Fun: Its Health and Spiritual Benefits

Makar Sankranti, an important harvest festival dedicated to the sun god, signifies the arrival of spring and marks a major shift in astronomical and agricultural cycles. The festival, celebrated across India, is a time for joy, gratitude, and community bonding. This year, Makar Sankranti will be celebrated on Tuesday, January 14, 2025, with the festivities ranging from flying kites to indulging in traditional sweets, and even taking holy dips in rivers.



tude towards the divine.

According to Drik Panchang, the auspicious period for Makar Sankranti. The best time for bathing and performing charitable deeds is from 9:03 AM to 10:48 AM. These timings are believed to bring prosperity and well-being to those who participate in the rituals.

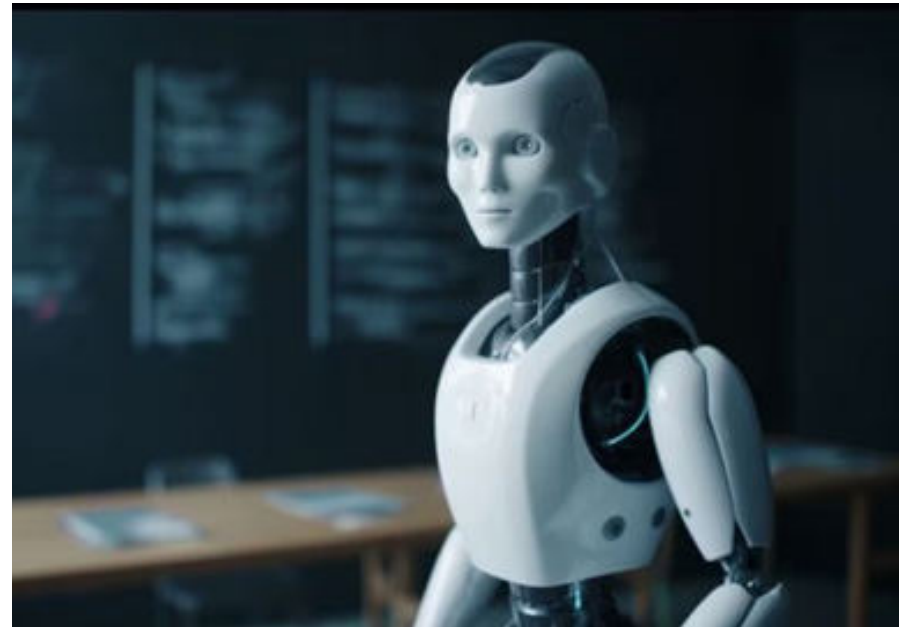
One of the most iconic customs of Makar Sankranti is kite flying. The vibrant kites that fill the skies symbolize the welcoming of the sun's rays, which are believed to be healing and beneficial for health, particularly for curing winter ailments and skin disorders. The tradition of flying kites dates back to ancient times, with the sun's rays thought to promote wellness by offering a natural source of Vitamin D. Additionally, the act of flying kites is seen as an expression of grati-

Makar Sankranti is celebrated in various ways across different parts of India. In Gujarat and Rajasthan, kite flying takes center stage, with large-scale events like the International Kite Festival held in Gujarat. Other regions have their unique celebrations, such as Pongal in Tamil Nadu, Magh Bihu in Assam, Makara Chaula in Odisha, and Makaravilakku in Kerala. Each state infuses its own cultural flair, from feasting on traditional sweets like tilgul to taking holy dips in rivers.

Makar Sankranti is not only a time to celebrate the harvest but also a day for people to come together in the spirit of joy and gratitude for the blessings of the sun and nature.

US psychologists raise concerns over AI therapy chatbots

The American Psychological Association (APA) has raised concerns about AI companies, specifically Character AI, rolling out chatbots that mimic the role of psychologists or mental health professionals. In a formal letter addressed to the U.S. Federal Trade Commission (FTC), the APA urged the commission to investigate the deceptive practices surrounding these AI platforms.



The letter cites a lawsuit that revealed troubling allegations: teenagers had engaged in conversations with an AI chatbot on Character AI, which claimed to be a psychologist. This raises significant ethical concerns regarding the potential harm these AI systems could cause to vulnerable users, particularly those seeking mental health support.

The APA's letter emphasized the risks associated with AI chatbots masquerading as qualified mental health professionals. The organization expressed alarm over the possibility that users, especially teenagers, might rely on these systems for psychological advice or therapy, which could lead to harmful consequences in the absence of proper clinical oversight.

Character AI, a chatbot platform, has become increasingly popular for offering users per-

sonalized interactions. However, this innovation has also sparked growing concerns about the authenticity and safety of the advice provided by AI bots, especially when it comes to sensitive topics like mental health.

The APA's call for an investigation underscores the importance of safeguarding public trust in mental health services, especially as AI continues to play a larger role in various industries. It is crucial that users have access to accurate, reliable, and professional care, particularly when it comes to emotional and psychological well-being.

With this move, the APA is hoping to draw attention to the emerging risks in the AI space and ensure that appropriate regulations are in place to protect individuals from deceptive practices in mental health support.

Mysterious Shortage Of Doughnuts Reported Across Dunkin' Stores In US, Internet Reacts



Customers visiting Dunkin' locations across Nebraska and New Mexico have been greeted with an unexpected shortage of doughnuts, a signature offering from the chain. Despite the company's name change from Dunkin' Donuts to Dunkin' in 2018, the doughnut remains a staple product, and its sudden unavailability has left many puzzled.

According to reports, Dunkin' stores in Omaha, Lincoln, and Grand Island displayed signs informing customers that the beloved doughnuts were unavailable "due to a manufacturing error." When asked about the specifics of the "manufacturing error," a manager at a west Omaha Dunkin' location refrained from providing further details, citing directives from the company's headquarters. However, she did confirm that the shortage was not limited to Nebraska and New Mexico, with other states also reporting empty doughnut displays.

This isn't the first time Dunkin' has encountered supply issues related to its doughnuts. A similar shortage occurred in 2021, but this current issue appears to be more widespread. Dunkin' is yet to issue an official statement explaining the full extent of the situation.

Social media users quickly took notice of the bizarre shortage, sharing their disbelief over Dunkin' not making doughnuts at its stores. Some even speculated on the cause of the shortage, with one user suggesting that there could have been a large batch of doughnuts shipped to affected stores that had to be pulled for safety reasons.

As one of the largest coffee and doughnut chains globally, Dunkin' has over 13,200 locations. Founded in 1950 in Massachusetts, Dunkin' has become an iconic brand in the United States. In 2020, it was acquired for \$11.3 billion by Inspire Brands, a private equity firm that also owns Arby's and Buffalo Wild Wings. The doughnut shortage is likely to raise questions about the company's supply chain management and the impact it may have on its reputation.

Britannia's Eco-Friendly Billboard Campaign: A Stunning Tribute to Nature

Britannia Industries, a leading name in the food products sector, has garnered widespread attention for its innovative outdoor advertising campaign, "Nature Shapes Britannia." This eco-conscious initiative deviates from traditional billboard designs, showcasing an inventive approach that blends marketing with environmental preservation.

The campaign features billboards crafted to complement the natural shapes of trees in four cities: Hyderabad, Kolkata, Meerut, and Pune. Instead of altering the landscape, Britannia's billboards harmonize with the local flora, highlighting the company's commitment to sustainability. The designs were meticulously tailored to mirror the growth patterns of specific tree species such as Nag Kesar, Neem, Mango, and Peepal, offering a visually striking and environmentally responsible advertisement.

Britannia's creative outdoor strategy has earned widespread acclaim on social media, with users sharing images of the billboards and expressing their admiration for the brand's responsible approach to marketing. One user on X (formerly Twitter) shared their amazement, saying, "THIS BLEW MY MIND! I was confused when I came across this weird billboard. It took me a moment to realise it was designed according to the tree's shape. Love this initiative by Britannia."



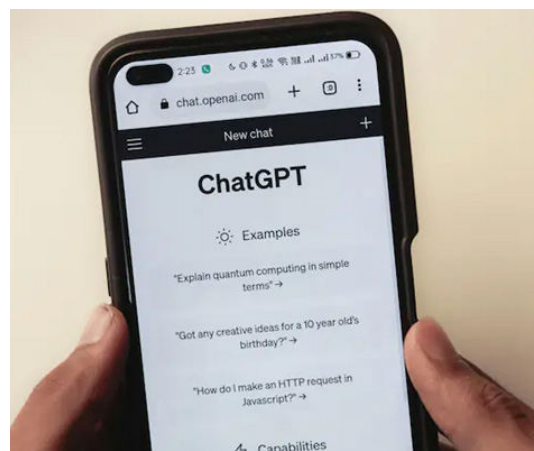
Another user praised the effort to maintain environmental balance, writing, "It's very thoughtful to shape their billboards according to the tree without cutting them."

By choosing to design billboards that respect and align with nature, Britannia has managed to create a memorable and meaningful marketing campaign. This innovative effort not only promotes the company's products but also reinforces its commitment to sustainability. The "Nature Shapes Britannia" initiative serves as a powerful reminder that businesses can engage in creative advertising while preserving and honoring the environment.

UK Supports ChatGPT for Homework, Sees AI as a Tool to Boost Learning

UK Science and Technology Secretary, Peter Kyle, has voiced his support for allowing children to use ChatGPT for homework, calling the AI technology a valuable tool that could enhance learning. In a recent interview on BBC, Kyle was asked if it was acceptable for students to use ChatGPT to assist with their studies. He responded affirmatively, with the condition that it should be used under supervision and in the right way.

Kyle explained that ChatGPT, along with other AI-driven language technologies, is already a significant part of various industries. He likened it to past debates about calculators, emphasizing the need for children and young people to learn how to integrate such technology into their educational development. He believes that, when used properly, AI could have a positive impact on students' learning experiences.



The rapid rise of AI chatbots like ChatGPT has sparked debates about the future of education, with some concerned that students may rely too heavily on these tools for completing homework and passing exams. However, Kyle argued that for talented students, AI could act as a catalyst for further intellectual growth. He said,

"There are kids with real outlier talents. Using ChatGPT and other AI assistance could really turbo-charge [them] and give them a challenge they're not getting in other places."

The UK government, under Prime Minister Keir Starmer, is preparing to unveil its AI Action Plan, which aims to embrace AI technology for economic growth. Starmer's administration believes AI could contribute £47 billion to the economy annually, with private sector investments set to add £14 billion and create thousands of jobs.

In contrast to previous government approaches, Kyle suggested that the Labour administration would take a more balanced approach to AI safety, ensuring its benefits are fully realized without overwhelming the public with concerns.

India's Champions Trophy Squad: Sunil Gavaskar, Irfan Pathan Announce Their Team

As the cricket world eagerly anticipates the official announcement of India's squad for the ICC Champions Trophy 2025, former cricketers Sunil Gavaskar and Irfan Pathan have made their preferences known, including several surprising omissions and inclusions. While the BCCI's official squad announcement is expected on January 19, Gavaskar and Pathan have already made their bold calls.

Gavaskar has been vocal about backing players who have shown consistent form in recent times. He firmly believes that Shreyas Iyer and KL Rahul must be part of the squad, especially after their impactful performances in the 50-over format. "Iyer had a great World Cup, and KL Rahul had an outstanding tournament. They deserve backing," Gavaskar said during a Star Sports discussion. He also mentioned that Sanju Samson, having scored several centuries for India, cannot be overlooked, while Rishabh Pant is a certainty in the squad. According to Gavaskar, Iyer should be slotted at No. 4, Rahul at No. 5, and Pant at No. 6 in the middle order.



On the bowling side, Irfan Pathan highlighted Ravindra Jadeja and Kuldeep Yadav as his preferred spin pair, with Mohammed Siraj being the third-choice pacer. Pathan stressed the importance of having a fast-bowling all-rounder as a backup option, and he expressed hope for Jasprit Bumrah's recovery from injury. Mohammed Shami and Bumrah, according to Irfan, would be the first-choice pacers.

The squads picked by Gavaskar and Pathan are as follows:
Rohit Sharma

Yashasvi Jaiswal
Virat Kohli
KL Rahul
Shreyas Iyer
Rishabh Pant
Hardik Pandya
Ravindra Jadeja
Kuldeep Yadav
Mohammed Shami
Jasprit Bumrah
Shubman Gill
Sanju Samson
Mohammed Siraj
Nitish Kumar Reddy
Interestingly, high-profile players like Suryakumar Yadav, Axar Patel, Ravi Bishnoi, and Yuzvendra Chahal were left out of both squads, adding further intrigue to the upcoming official selection.

Coco Gauff starts Australian Open with straight-sets win over Sofia Kenin

Coco Gauff had a strong start to her 2025 Australian Open campaign, securing a 6-3, 6-3 victory over 2020 champion Sofia Kenin in the first round. Despite a shaky start and difficulty adjusting to the sun on one end of Rod Laver Arena, Gauff quickly found her rhythm and closed out the match in 1 hour and 20 minutes.

The third-seeded Gauff, who won the WTA Finals in November and helped the US clinch the United Cup earlier this season, is eyeing the top spot in the rankings. Wearing a Marvel-inspired outfit, she exuded confidence as she handled the challenge from Kenin, who, despite her No. 81 ranking, proved to be a formidable opponent.

"I knew going in it was going to be difficult, but I'm happy with how I played," Gauff said after the win. "I could serve better, but I managed to adjust to the sun and played through it." Gauff faced some early struggles, notably dropping her service game, but she managed to convert an early break and regained control to win four of the next five games.

Throughout the match, Gauff showcased her powerful game, recording 12 aces and 28 winners, including some impressive backhands during key moments in the second set. She also saved



seven out of eight breakpoints faced. Despite Kenin's efforts, Gauff's strength and determination proved too much for the American to handle.

The victory extends Gauff's streak of 33 straight wins against players ranked outside the Top 50 and sets up a second-round clash with Britain's Jodie Burrage.

The Australian Open's second day also saw other top players in action, including defending champion Jannik Sinner, Carlos Alcaraz, and women's No. 2 Iga Swiatek.

India gears up for Kho Kho World Cup 2025 in New Delhi

India has announced its 15-member squads for both the men's and women's teams ahead of the Kho Kho World Cup 2025, set to begin at the Indira Gandhi Indoor Stadium in New Delhi on January 15. The tournament, backed by the Indian Olympic Association (IOA), will feature 20 men's teams and 19 women's teams from across the globe.

The Indian men's team, placed in Group A, will compete alongside Nepal, Peru, Brazil, and Bhutan, while the women's team is also in Group A, facing the Islamic Republic of Iran, Malaysia, and the Republic of Korea. The top two teams from each group will advance to the quarter-finals.

The Indian men's team, led by Pratik Waikar, will start their campaign against Nepal on January 15, following the opening ceremony. Waikar, who made his international debut in 2016, is also the captain of the Telugu Yoddhas in the Ultimate Kho Kho League, guiding the team to the finals in



2022 and the semi-finals in 2023. The team will be coached by Ashwani Kumar Sharma, a veteran with over 50 years of experience. On the women's side, the team will be captained by Priyanka Ingle, an all-rounder, under the guidance of head coach Sumit Bhatia. The women's team will face South Korea on January 16.

Both teams were selected after an extensive training camp held in December at the Jawaharlal Nehru Stadium in Delhi. The tournament will kick off with the group stages, followed by knockout rounds, with the finals scheduled for January 19.

Kho Kho, alongside other indigenous Indian sports like kabaddi and mallakhamb, has a rich history, having been first demonstrated at the 1936 Berlin Olympics. The Kho Kho World Cup 2025 marks an important milestone in promoting and celebrating this traditional Indian sport on the global stage.

Maryul Spamo Retain Ice Hockey League Women's Title with Dramatic Comeback

Maryul Spamo successfully defended their title in the women's category of the Ice Hockey League Season 2, completing a thrilling 3-2 comeback victory over Changla Lamos. Captain Padma Chorol played a pivotal role in her team's triumph, scoring a hat-trick that overturned a 0-2 deficit to help Spamo lift the winner's trophy. Changla Lamos, though valiant in defeat, were awarded the runner-up trophy for their efforts.



nor penalty against Sonam Angmo, benched for foul play, gave Spamo a glimmer of hope.

In the second period, Maryul Spamo mounted a fierce comeback. Padma Chorol, leading by example, reduced the deficit with a stunning goal in the 27th minute, making it 2-1. The energy on the rink surged, with both teams playing aggressively. By the 35th minute, Chorol scored again, completing her double and leveling the score at 2-2, setting the stage for a thrilling final period.

The final, held at the Nawang Dorjay Stobdan (NDS) Stadium in Leh, was a highly anticipated clash, with spectators showing immense support for both teams. The match began with Changla Lamos seizing an early advantage. In the 4th minute, Lamos' captain Tsewang Chuskit fired a brilliant wrist shot to give her team a 1-0 lead. Despite multiple chances, Maryul Spamo couldn't convert their attempts into goals in the opening period. In the 11th minute, Disket C Angmo set up Chuskit for a second goal, doubling the lead for Lamos at 2-0. However, a mi-

The third period saw Maryul Spamo continue their momentum. Chorol completed her hat-trick in the 48th minute, securing a 3-2 lead and ultimately the victory for her team. As the Ice Hockey League Season 2 nears its grand finale, all eyes are now on the men's championship, where defending champions Kang Sings will face last year's runners-up, Changthang Shans. The event is organized in partnership with the UT Administration of Ladakh and the Ice Hockey Association of Ladakh.

Djokovic Advances, Kyrgios Out in Australian Open; Alcaraz, Sinner Shine

Novak Djokovic survived an early scare to advance to the second round of the Australian Open, joining top players Carlos Alcaraz and defending champion Jannik Sinner. Meanwhile, home favorite Nick Kyrgios faced disappointment as he exited in the first round.

Djokovic, aiming for his 11th Australian Open title and 25th Grand Slam singles win, was initially stunned by 107th-ranked American Nishesh Basavareddy, losing the first set 4-6. However, the Serbian legend quickly found his rhythm, winning the next three sets 6-3, 6-4, 6-2 to secure a 4-6, 6-3, 6-4, 6-2 victory. Despite the win, Djokovic struggled to hide his frustration and was visibly animated at the end of the match.

Jannik Sinner, the world number one, faced some controversy following a doping case, but was cleared by tennis authorities. He showed no signs of trouble on court, defeating Chile's Nicolas Jarry 7-6 (7/2), 7-6 (7/5), 6-1 in a solid performance, which extended his undefeated streak since October.

Carlos Alcaraz, a four-time Grand Slam champion but still seeking his first Australian Open title, had a slightly tougher challenge. He overcame Kazakhstan's Alexander Shevchenko 6-1, 7-5, 6-1. The 21-year-old Spaniard is determined to win in Melbourne, saying, "This is a tourna-



ment I really want to win one day, hopefully this year."

In a major upset, Nick Kyrgios, making his return after 18 months out with injury, lost in straight sets 7-6 (7/3), 6-3, 7-6 (7/2) to Britain's Jacob Fearnley. Kyrgios visibly struggled with pain during the match, speaking to physios and expressing frustration.

Meanwhile, in the women's draw, Coco Gauff dispatched Sofia Kenin 6-3, 6-3 in a dominant performance, and world number two Iga Swiatek overcame Katerina Siniakova 6-3, 6-4.



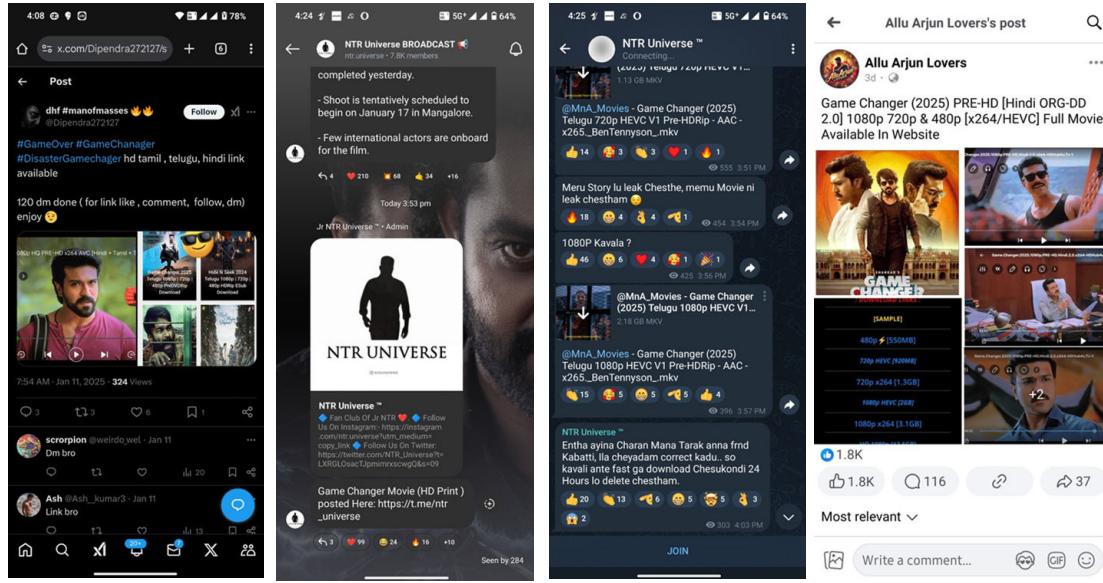
'Game Changer' HD print leaked... Team complains to police alleging conspiracy

Film's makers file a complaint with Cyber Crime Police after pirated print leaks online.

- 'Game Changer' HD print leaked on release day.
- Film team files complaint against 45 people for leaking print and spreading misinformation.

The much-awaited film Game Changer, starring Ram Charan and directed by Shankar, has found itself at the center of a controversy with the leak of a pirated HD print online on its release day. The makers of the film, including producers Dil Raju and Sirish, are alleging that a gang of 45 individuals is behind the leak, causing significant damage to the movie's release during Sankranti.

Before the film's release, key members of the team, including the producers, were reportedly threatened by an online gang through social media and WhatsApp. These individuals allegedly demanded money under threat of leaking a pirated version of the film. Additionally, they shared key plot twists and spoilers on social media platforms, diminishing the audience's experience before the film's official release. After the film was released, the pirated HD print was not only leaked



but also circulated widely on Telegram and various social media channels.

In response, the Game Changer team has filed a complaint with the Cyber Crime Police, providing evidence against the 45 people believed to be responsible for the piracy and online conspiracy. The police have already registered a case and launched an investigation. The makers have also raised concerns about the spreading of misinformation and spoilers on various social media platforms, urging action against the guilty accounts.

Rajinikanth's Jailer Sequel Announcement: Muthuvel Pandian's Hunt Begins

Superstar Rajinikanth, in collaboration with director Nelson, delivered one of his most impactful performances in their first film together, Jailer. Rajinikanth's portrayal of the retired prison guard Muthuvel Pandian helped the film become the second-highest-grossing movie of his career. After a series of disappointments in recent years, Jailer marked a comeback for the star, reigniting his popularity among fans and critics alike.



In a further effort to keep fans engaged, the Jailer team is preparing to release two special promos today. The first promo runs for 4 minutes and 30 seconds, while the second is 2 minutes and 23 seconds long. These teasers are expected to build anticipation for the sequel and give fans a glimpse into the direction of the new project.

Rajinikanth's previous films like Vettaiyaan and Coolie didn't live up to the hype, but the announcement of Jailer 2 is expected to rejuvenate his market and reignite hope for future successes. Additionally, Anirudh's musical contributions were a standout feature of Jailer, and fans are eagerly awaiting his next sonic creations for the sequel, which are expected to elevate the film even further.

The highly anticipated announcement of Jailer 2 is set to be made tomorrow, sending excitement through the fanbase. The success of the first film, where Rajinikanth's signature style shone through, had fans clamoring for more. Jailer also saw special appearances by Shivaraj Kumar and Mohanlal, which added another layer of appeal and further boosted the film's popularity. Director Nelson's ability to utilize Rajinikanth's iconic persona was one of the key elements that contributed to the film's massive success.

With the announcement of Jailer 2, Rajinikanth's legacy continues to dominate the Indian film industry, and the expectations for his next venture are higher than ever.



Nagabandham First Look: Virat Karanna Faces Fierce Battle in Adventure Thriller

Nagabandham, the highly anticipated adventure thriller, is gearing up for a grand release in 2025. Directed by Abhishek Nama, the film stars Virat Karanna, known for his role in Peddha Kapu, in the lead role. Produced under the banner of Abhishek Pictures in association with NIK Studios, the film promises an epic cinematic experience with high-stakes action and gripping storytelling.

Virat Karanna's physical transformation for the role is evident, with his chiselled 6-pack abs showcased in the poster. The first look teases an underwater action sequence, promising a thrilling experience that will keep audiences on the edge of their seats.

After teasing fans with a pre-look poster, the film's first-look poster was unveiled by actor Rana Daggubati. The striking image introduces Virat Karanna in a powerful new avatar that perfectly captures the essence of the film's epic battle. Standing boldly in the open sea, Karanna is shown gripping the jaws of a monstrous crocodile with nothing but his bare hands and a thin thread. This fearless display of raw strength hints at the intense showdown to come, setting the tone for the film's action-packed sequences.

The film's tagline, The Secret Treasure, gives a glimpse into the plot, revolving around the mythical Nagabandham and a hidden treasure scattered across 108 Vishnu temples across India. The film will also feature two talented actresses, Nabha Natesh and Iswarya Menon, playing the female leads. Cinematography is handled by Soundar Rajan S, and music is composed by Abhe, ensuring a visually stunning and musically rich experience.

Currently, the film is in the midst of production, with plans for a 2025 release. With its larger-than-life action, mythological intrigue, and star-studded cast, Nagabandham is set to be a major player in the Pan-India film industry.

Dhanush's 'Idly Kadai' Pongal Posters Create Buzz

Kollywood superstar Dhanush is keeping fans on their toes with a string of upcoming films. One highly anticipated project is Idly Kadai, a movie that Dhanush is not only starring in but also directing. The film, which is being helmed by debutant Akash, is also referred to as DD4. The recently released posters have been making waves on social media, with fans eagerly discussing the intriguing visuals.

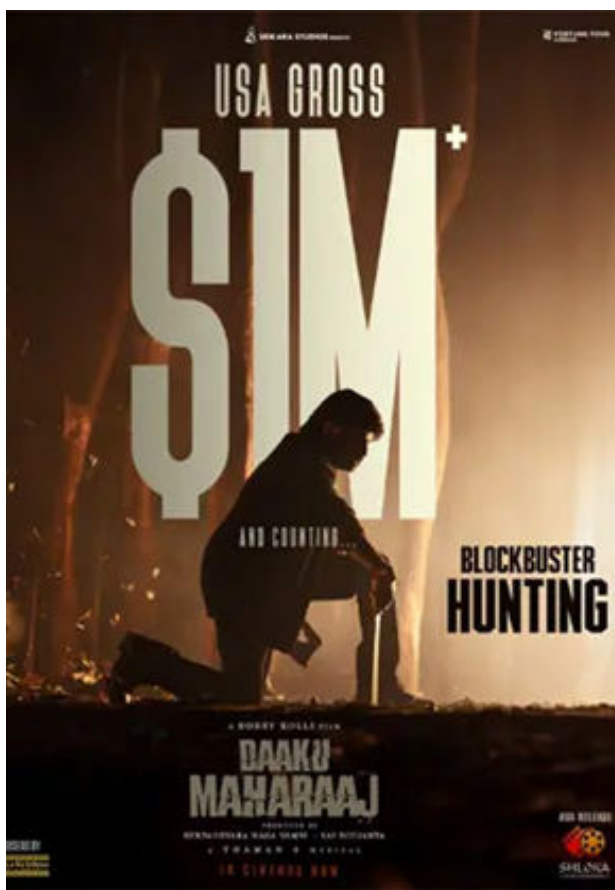


Dhanush and Nithya Menon has already garnered attention, especially after their successful outing in Thiru, and fans are eager to see their chemistry on screen again. The movie also features an impressive cast, including Arun Vijay, Sathyaraj, Ashok Selvan, and Rajkiran, each of whom plays pivotal roles. Music for the film is being composed by GV Prakash Kumar, whose work has always added a special touch to Dhanush's films.

As a special Pongal gift, Dhanush and the team unveiled fresh posters, adding to the excitement surrounding the film. In one striking poster, Dhanush is seen sharing a passionate kiss with actress Nithya Menon in the rain, while in another, he sits beneath a banyan tree in a white shirt and lungi, holding a calf, radiating rustic charm. These images provide a glimpse of the film's vibe, generating a mix of curiosity and anticipation about what the story holds.

Apart from Idly Kadai, Dhanush is also busy with other projects. He is currently shooting for Kubera, a film directed by Shekhar Kammula. In addition, Dhanush is involved in Tere Ishk Mein, a Hindi film directed by Anand L. Rai, following his successful collaborations in Ram Jana and At-rangi Re.

With such an exciting lineup of films, Dhanush continues to be one of the most sought-after stars in Indian cinema, and Idly Kadai is sure to be a much-talked-about release.



Nandamuri Balakrishna's latest film, Daaku Maharaaj, has made an impressive debut at the box office, opening to widespread positive reviews and a remarkable collection. Directed by KS Ravindra, the film has introduced a refreshing approach to the commercial entertainer genre, captivating audiences both in India and internationally.

On its release day, Daaku Maharaaj grossed over \$1 million in the USA, a significant achievement for the star. This marks a major milestone for Balakrishna, as it is his first film to cross the \$1 million mark on a single day in the

US. The film's success at the box office is also attributed to the well-executed pre-release promotions, which included a special event in the USA featuring Balakrishna himself. These efforts contributed to the large turnout at screenings and further fueled the buzz surrounding the movie.

In addition to the strong box office performance, Daaku Maharaaj has received unanimous positive feedback for its engaging storyline, vibrant performances, and energetic direction. The film has resonated well with audiences, keeping them engaged from start to finish.

Daaku Maharaaj Surpasses \$1 Million on Release Day, Setting New Box Office Milestone

Joining Balakrishna in key roles are Pragya Jaiswal, Shraddha Srinath, and Urvashi Rautela, all of whom have received praise for their performances. The film's success on day one further solidifies its potential to become a significant hit as it continues its theatrical run.

Daaku Maharaaj has set the bar high for future commercial entertainers, and with its strong opening day numbers, the film is expected to continue its box office dominance in the coming days.