

POINT

Published from : Vijayawada - Hyderabad

Sunday, 19th January, 2025 | 12 Pages

Weather Forecast

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

A SWEET WARNING...?



TPN Correspondent Amaravati, Jan 19

As per a buzz, the Minister for Home Affairs, Mr. Amit Shah, has given a sweet warning to the Alliance Government. In a meeting held at the home of Mr. Naidu, the Chief Minister of Andhra Pradesh, along with Deputy CM Mr. Pawan Kalyan, Mr. Shah reportedly mentioned the corrupt and illegal activities of MLAs, with details as per the buzz. Officially, no details have been released about the agenda of the meeting. However, immediately after the meeting, rumors began circulating that Mr. Shah had raised concerns about ongoing activities in the state and warned Mr. Naidu that it could damage the image of the Alliance among the public of Andhra Pradesh, leading to political harm.

As per the buzz, Mr. Amit Shah has gathered comprehensive data about the state. According to intelligence reports, people in Andhra Pradesh are discussing illegal activities by MLAs, such as the sand, liquor, and ration mafia. The two leaders also reportedly discussed the internal rift between Mr. Pawan Kalyan and Mr. Lokesh Nara, along with the latest buzz of making Lokesh the Deputy CM to reduce the influence of Mr. Pawan Kalyan. This discussion is said to have taken place in the presence of Mr. Pawan Kalyan.

It is learned that Mr. Naidu is under immense pressure from TDP circles to make Lokesh the Deputy CM. Every-

one, including Mr. Naidu, knows that Mr. Pawan Kalyan will not tolerate such a situation. According to the buzz, these issues were already discussed with Mr. Amit Shah by Mr. Pawan Kalyan. The rift became evident when Rajya Sabha MPs were finalized, skipping Mr. Nagababu, followed by the proposal for a ministry position for him. Mr. Amit Shah also discussed the points raised by Mr. Pawan Kalyan with Mr. Naidu. However, the conclusion regarding making Mr. Lokesh the Deputy CM remains suspenseful. What is clear, though, is that Mr. Amit Shah pointed out the illegal and corrupt activities of MLAs, as well as the backing of Mr. Lokesh Nara to those MLAs. Even the mismanagement that took place in TTD under both the previous and current governments seems to have been discussed between the two leaders. We will have to wait and watch the outcome of the meeting between Mr. Shah, Mr. Naidu, and Mr. Pawan Kalyan.

Actually, the meeting was officially scheduled only between Mr. Naidu and Mr. Amit Shah. There was no official invitation for Mr. Pawan Kalyan to attend the meeting at Mr. Naidu's home. However, as per the buzz, Mr. Amit Shah instructed Pawan to attend the meeting. The meeting was held between Mr. Shah, Mr. Naidu, and Mr. Pawan Kalyan only. Although BJP MP Purandeswari, Minister Nara Lokesh, and Minister Nadendla Manohar were present, the serious discussions were limited to Mr. Shah, Mr. Naidu, and Mr. Pawan Kalyan.



CM Chandrababu Takes Green Walk with Sanitation Workers

CM EMPHASIZES ON TDP'S ROLE RAYALASEEMA DEVELOPMENT

2 PAGE

Union Home Ministry Steps into Action on Tirumala Incidents

Sanjeev Kumar Jindal, Additional Secretary of the Union Home Ministry, will visit Tirumala Today

TPN Correspondent Tirumala, Jan 19

The Union Home Ministry has taken serious note of recent developments surrounding the Tirumala spiritual shrine. The tragic stampede that occurred at the token issuance centers in Tirupati, resulting in the deaths of six devotees and injuring many others, has raised alarms. In addition, a fire broke out at a laddu counter in Tirumala, further heightening concerns regarding the safety and management of one of India's most revered pilgrimage sites. In response, the Union Home Ministry has decided to investigate the reasons behind these incidents. Sanjeev Kumar Jindal, Additional Secretary of the Union Home Ministry, will visit Tirumala on January 19 and 20. Jindal's visit will include meetings with officials from the Tirumala Tirupati Devasthanams (TTD), the body responsible for the shrine's administration, in order to gather detailed information on the stampede and fire. A comprehensive report will be submitted to the Union Home Ministry following his visit.



In the midst of these developments, Union Home Minister Amit Shah, during his visit to Andhra Pradesh, met with Chief Minister Chandrababu Naidu and Dy CM Pawan Kalyan. During this meeting, discussions were held not only about the political scenario but also regarding the management of the Tirumala temple, under both the previous and current governments.

2 PAGE

Pawan Kalyan Leads 'Swachh Andhra Swachh Diwas' in Namburu Village

Deputy CM Drives Garbage Collection Vehicle, Honors Sanitation Workers



State Deputy Chief Minister Pawan Kalyan participated in the 'Swachh Andhra Swachh Diwas' program today in Namburu village, Pedakakani mandal, Guntur district. As part of the initiative, he inspected the solid waste management center in the village and launched the garbage collection vehicles, even driving one himself.

- Pawan Kalyan Launches and Drives Garbage Collection Vehicle
- Inspects Solid Waste Management Center and Reviews Recycling Processes
- 35 Sanitation Workers Honored for Their Dedication

During the event, Pawan Kalyan initiated the first phase of the program by removing years of accumulated garbage from the village. He also visited various sections of the waste management system, including the fruit and vegetable waste management,

2 PAGE

Drone Incident Stirs Concern at Pawan Kalyan's Mangalagiri Camp Office

Suspicious Drone Raises Safety Concerns for AP Deputy CM

2 PAGE



Nara Lokesh Expresses Dissatisfaction Over NTR Ghat Management

Lokesh Orders Repairs with Personal Funds

TPN Correspondent
Hyderabad, Jan 19

Andhra Pradesh Minister Nara Lokesh expressed his displeasure over the poor maintenance of NTR Ghat in Hyderabad during his visit on the occasion of the 29th death anniversary of Telugu Desam Party (TDP) founder Nandamuri Taraka Rama Rao (NTR).

During his visit to pay tributes to the iconic leader, Lokesh observed that the walls and roof of the Ghat were peeling, and the garden lights were broken, leaving the premises in a neglected state. Disheartened by the condition of the memorial, Lokesh announced his decision to personally fund the repairs and instructed his staff to begin the work immediately after obtaining the necessary permissions.

"NTR Ghat is a symbol of NTR's legacy, and its proper maintenance is a matter of respect and pride for millions of his followers," Lokesh said. He also expressed frustration at the Hyderabad Metropolitan Development Authority (HMDA), which is responsible for the upkeep of the Ghat, for their apparent negligence.

Lokesh stated that he had previously appealed to the Telangana government to transfer the responsibility of managing NTR Ghat to the NTR Trust, but no ac-



tion was taken. NTR fans and supporters echoed Lokesh's sentiments, criticizing the authorities for failing to maintain the memorial of a leader who made an indelible mark on Indian politics and society. The repairs, initiated under Lokesh's directive, aim to restore the dignity and

grandeur of the Ghat, ensuring it remains a fitting tribute to NTR's contributions. The initiative has been welcomed by NTR's admirers, who hope it serves as a wake-up call for the authorities to prioritize the upkeep of such significant landmarks.

Drone Incident Stirs Concern at Pawan Kalyan's Mangalagiri Camp Office

Suspicious Drone Raises Safety Concerns for AP Deputy CM

TPN Correspondent
Mangalagiri, Jan 19



A drone flying over the camp office of Andhra Pradesh Deputy CM Pawan Kalyan in Mangalagiri has raised alarms, leading to swift action by his staff and local authorities. The drone was spotted flying for approximately 20 minutes after 1:30 pm on Saturday, triggering immediate concerns for Pawan Kalyan's safety.

- Drone Flies Over Pawan Kalyan's Camp Office for 20 Minutes
- Immediate Complaint Filed with DGP, District Collector, and SP
- Police Begin Investigation, Analyzing CCTV Footage

Sources from Pawan's camp office promptly alerted authorities, including the DGP, District Collector, and the SP. The police have launched an investigation, reviewing CCTV footage around the camp office to identify any potential threat or source of the drone. The incident has created a stir in the local community, with many questioning the intent behind the unauthorized drone flight. The situation remains under investigation, with authorities taking the matter very seriously.

Polavaram Project: Construction of Crucial Diaphragm Wall Commences



TPN Correspondent
Polavaram, Jan 19

The construction of the critical diaphragm wall for the Polavaram Project has officially commenced, marking a significant milestone in the development of the mega irrigation project. The contracting company has initiated the work on this crucial

component, which is essential for the project's structural stability.

Key Details of the Diaphragm Wall:

- **Length: 1.396 kilometers**
- **Thickness: 1.5 meters**
- **Location: Constructed underground along the river flow path**
- **Cost: ₹990 crore**

A new diaphragm wall will be construct-

ed six meters above the old one, ensuring enhanced strength and stability for the project. According to the action schedule issued by the government, once half of the new diaphragm wall is completed, the construction of an earth-cum-rock fill dam atop the wall will begin.

Significance of the Diaphragm Wall:

The diaphragm wall is a critical component of the Polavaram Project, acting as a barrier to prevent seepage and provide support to the main dam. Its successful construction is pivotal for the project's overall effectiveness in managing water flow and ensuring its long-term stability. The Polavaram Project, which aims to meet the irrigation, water supply, and hydroelectric needs of Andhra Pradesh, has faced multiple delays in the past. However, the commencement of this phase reflects the government's commitment to accelerating progress and completing the project within the stipulated timeline. With ₹990 crore allocated for the construction of the new diaphragm wall, the Polavaram Project is poised to move closer to becoming a transformative force for the state's irrigation and water management.

CM Chandrababu Takes Green Walk with Sanitation Workers

TPN Correspondent
Kadapa, Jan 19

Andhra Pradesh Chief Minister N. Chandrababu Naidu launched the 'Swachh Andhra Swachh Divas' program in Maidukuru, YSR district today. As part of the event, he participated in a green walk alongside sanitation workers, walking from Rayala Center to ZP High School in Maidukuru. During the event, he also laid the foundation stone for a sewage treatment scheme at the ZP High School.

- **CM Chandrababu Launches Swachh Andhra Swachh Divas in Maidukuru**
- **Emphasizes TDP's Role in Rayalaseema's Transformation**
- **Announces Progress on Polavaram and Micro Irrigation Projects**

Speaking at the event, CM Chandrababu highlighted the achievements of the Telugu Desam Party (TDP) and its commitment to improving the lives of people in Rayalaseema. He stressed that a poverty-free society could only be achieved through the TDP. He recalled the contributions of NTR, particularly in transforming Anantapur district from a desert into a fertile region. Chandrababu explained that key projects such as Telugu Ganga, Handreeniva, and Galeru-Nagari laid the groundwork for Rayalaseema's progress.

He also criticized the YSRCP government for removing the 90% subsidy on micro-irrigation systems in the region but assured that the coalition government has restored it, benefiting farmers in Rayalaseema.

Further, the Chief Minister emphasized the importance of the Polavaram project, describing it as the lifeblood of the state. He noted that an additional Rs. 85,000 crore is required to complete the project, which, he claimed, would transform Rayalaseema into a "land of gems" with the influx of 300 TMCs of water.

Chandrababu, proud of his Rayalaseema roots, reiterated his commitment to the region's development, including the Rajoli Banda project, which will irrigate 90,000 acres of land. He also promised to continue improving infrastructure, such as railway projects and road repairs, across the state.

Additionally, Chandrababu proudly announced that the Telugu Desam Party has achieved a historic milestone of one crore memberships and introduced an insurance scheme of Rs. 5 lakh for members in case of death. He concluded his speech by reaffirming his faith in technology and AI to deliver better governance and services to the people.

Pawan Kalyan Leads 'Swachh Andhra Swachh Diwas' in Namburu Village

Continued from page 1

plastic recycling, and vermicomposting processes.

The officials demonstrated the three types of baskets used for garbage collection from homes. These baskets are provided to each household to separate wet garbage, dry garbage, and toxic waste. Pawan Kalyan inquired about

the performance of the different machinery used in garbage management and reviewed the villages where the wealth creation program, powered by waste management, is being successfully implemented. He also observed the exhibition of fruits and vegetables cultivated with the help of these wealth creation centers.

The program, which began statewide on Saturday, was launched by Chief

Minister Chandrababu Naidu to be held on the third Saturday of every month. Minister Nadendla Manohar and Ponnur MLA Dhulipalla Narendra joined Pawan Kalyan in the event.

Pawan Kalyan also honored 35 sanitation workers who contributed significantly during the recent Vijayawada floods, presenting them with shawls, new clothes, and fruits in recognition of their hard work.

Union Home Ministry Steps into Action on Tirumala Incidents

Continued from page 1

The ongoing challenges in safeguarding temples have become a growing concern, and the outcome of these discussions could be pivotal in shaping future actions.

Dr. Buragadda Srinadh's 2022 Letter Calls for Urgent Reforms

The tragic incidents in Tirumala have once again highlighted the need for urgent reforms in the management of temples across India. Dr. Buragadda

Srinadh, President of the Vishva Hindu Parishad in Krishna District, Andhra Pradesh, had raised similar concerns in a detailed letter to the President and Prime Minister back in 2022. In his letter, Dr. Srinadh stressed the growing issue of temple mismanagement, corruption, and the plundering of temple funds by state governments. Dr. Srinadh argued that many temples, particularly ancient ones with rich cultural and architectural heritage, are being neglected, leading to a decline in their ability to carry out

even basic rituals. He pointed to the huge misappropriation of funds and the lack of accountability in the management of temple resources, urging the government to establish a National Commission for the Reform and Protection of Hindu Religious Institutions and Properties.

The Plundering of Temple Funds

Dr. Srinadh's letter emphasized the fact that temple funds, collected from devotees with reverence, are often

diverted to non-religious activities, including vote-catching schemes. He argued that such funds are being used to secure political gains, rather than being reinvested into temple upkeep or religious functions.

He provided historical examples to highlight the growing trend of temple mismanagement. In Kerala, the Communist government's 2007 ordinance, which allowed the state to seize control over temple funds, was a prime example. Similarly, he recalled the 2006 Andhra Pradesh Congress

government's attempts to take over land from the Tirumala Temple and allocate it for non-religious purposes, including tourism, churches, and mosques.

Dr. Srinadh also raised concerns about the diversion of temple funds in states like Karnataka, where money raised from temples is directed towards non-Hindu religious activities, and in Tamil Nadu, where temple funds have been systematically misappropriated, leaving temples unable to conduct regular rituals.

TDP High Command Summons MLA Kolikapudi Srinivas Over Allegations

TPN Correspondent
Amaravati, Jan 19

The Telugu Desam Party (TDP) high command has taken serious note of the allegations against Thiruvuru MLA Kolikapudi Srinivas and is preparing to take disciplinary action. The MLA has been directed to appear before the party's disciplinary committee on Monday to provide an explanation regarding the recent controversies surrounding him.

On January 11, Kolikapudi Srinivas allegedly attacked an ST woman from Gopalapuram village in A. Kondur mandal of NTR district. The incident, which reportedly led the woman to attempt suicide by consuming insecticide, has caused widespread criticism and backlash. The woman, who claimed her family was attacked, was rushed to the hospital for treatment.

The incident occurred after Kolikapudi visited Gopalapuram to attend a private function. While there, he reportedly went to resolve a land dispute involving his brothers but allegedly abused and attacked the woman instead of resolving the matter peacefully.

Chief Minister Chandrababu Naidu expressed deep dissatisfaction with the incident, describing it as unacceptable behavior for a public representative. The TDP high command has ordered a detailed inquiry into the matter. The disciplinary committee will review Kolikapudi's explanation and submit its findings to the leadership, which will then decide on the course of action.



Adding to the controversy, the MLA had previously faced criticism for remarks suggesting he used personal funds to clear silt from crop canals, while accusing farmers of lacking trust. His comments, "Even dogs have faith, but farmers don't," sparked outrage among the farming community and party leaders. With such incidents tarnishing the party's image, the TDP high command has made it clear that it will not tolerate actions that harm the party's reputation. Based on the disciplinary committee's report, further action is expected against Kolikapudi Srinivas.

Madhavi Latha Alleges Misbehavior by JC Prabhakar Reddy, Files Formal Complaint



TPN Correspondent
Hyderabad, Jan 19

Tollywood actress Madhavi Latha has accused politician and businessman JC Prabhakar Reddy of making demeaning remarks and has filed a formal complaint against him with her association. Expressing her distress, Madhavi Latha stated that the comments were insulting to women in the film industry and hurt her personally and professionally.

Speaking to the media, Madhavi Latha criticized JC Prabhakar Reddy, claiming that he had chosen to associate with the wrong individuals. Referring to her Rayalaseema roots, she said, "I grew up eating ragi sangati and nattu kodi," and issued a stern warning to him in her statement.

Following the filing of her complaint, Madhavi Latha highlighted that JC Prabhakar Reddy's remarks were not only offensive but also disrespectful toward women in the entertainment sector. She reiterated that she entered the film industry out of passion for acting, not compulsion, and that such remarks undermine the dignity of women working in the field.

The actress also announced her intention to take legal action against JC Prabhakar Reddy, emphasizing that she would not tolerate such behavior. "I will ensure that justice is served," she said, urging others in the industry to stand against similar acts of disrespect.

The incident has sparked a debate over the treatment of women in public life, with many supporting Madhavi Latha's decision to confront the issue head-on. Further developments in the case are awaited as the association reviews her complaint and legal proceedings are initiated.

YS Sharmila Demands Amit Shah Apology Over Insulted Ambedkar

Amit Shah Has No Right to Enter Andhra Pradesh

TPN Correspondent
Andhra Pradesh, Jan 19

Andhra Pradesh Congress President YS Sharmila has launched a scathing attack on Union Home Minister Amit Shah, accusing him of insulting Dr. BR Ambedkar, the architect of the Indian Constitution. Sharmila stated that Amit Shah has no right to enter Andhra Pradesh and demanded a public apology for his alleged remarks.

Addressing the issue on social media platform X, Sharmila called for state-wide protests at Ambedkar statues. She urged the Congress party leadership to organize large-scale demonstrations, condemning Amit Shah's attitude. Sharmila declared that insulting Dr. Ambedkar, a symbol of equality and justice, is akin to treason, and called for Amit Shah's immediate resignation from his post. She criticized Amit Shah for allegedly mocking Ambedkar during a public session, branding him a "traitor." Sharmila accused political parties that remain silent on the issue of betraying the people of the country. She demanded that alliance partners TDP, Janaseena, and even YSRCP publicly condemn Amit Shah's statements and issue apologies if they respect the sentiments of Dalit, Bahujan, Adivasi, and minority communities.



In a separate comment, Sharmila questioned the central government's financial package of ₹11,440 crore for the Visakhapatnam Steel Plant. She argued that the package merely offers temporary relief and fails to address the plant's long-term financial woes. Highlighting the plant's inability to overcome its debts, she demanded a permanent solution, which includes merging the plant with SAIL and allocating captive mines to reduce costs. Sharmila accused the central government of misleading Andhra Pradesh residents by making empty promises about making the Vizag Steel Plant the best in the country within two years. She stated that such claims fail to respect the self-esteem of Andhra people and called for concrete steps to ensure the plant's survival and success. The Congress party is expected to intensify its protests against Amit Shah and the Centre's approach toward Visakhapatnam Steel Plant in the coming days.

Vizag Steel Plant Privatization Stopped Due to YCP's Efforts Says Gudivada Amarnath

TPN Correspondent
Visakhapatnam, Jan 19

Former Minister Gudivada Amarnath credited the YSR Congress Party (YCP) for stopping the privatization of the Vizag Steel Plant. Speaking to the media, Amarnath emphasized that Former Chief Minister YS Jagan Mohan Reddy and the YCP were steadfast in their opposition to the privatization since the beginning. He highlighted that the party consistently stood in support of the steel plant workers and their concerns.

Amarnath pointed out that the Vizag Steel Plant is currently in a dire financial situation, unable to even clear its debts. He stated that the YCP-led government passed a resolution in the Andhra Pradesh Assembly against the privatization and forwarded it to the central government, showcasing its commitment to protecting the plant. He criticized the package announced by the central government, claiming it was insufficient and only enough to cover the steel plant's existing debts. He questioned why Prime Minister Narendra Modi did not announce a comprehensive package during his visit to Visakhapatnam. Amarnath demanded clarity on the purpose of the package and called for meaningful support measures for the steel



plant. The former minister further demanded that the central government grant a tax holiday to the Vizag Steel Plant to help it recover from its financial difficulties. He also called for the allocation of captive mines to the plant, which would enable it to reduce raw material costs. Additionally, Amarnath urged the government to merge the Vizag Steel Plant with the Steel Authority of India Limited (SAIL) to ensure its sustainability and future growth. Amarnath concluded by reaffirming YCP's commitment to protecting the Vizag Steel Plant and its workers, calling on the central government to take decisive steps to revive the plant.

YSRCP Leader Kanumuri Ravi Chandra Reddy Joins BJP

TPN Correspondent
Andhra Pradesh, Jan 19

In a significant political shift in Andhra Pradesh, YSR Congress Party (YSRCP) leader Kanumuri Ravi Chandra Reddy has joined the Bharatiya Janata Party (BJP). The defection took place on Saturday, as Ravi Chandra Reddy was inducted into the BJP by the party's MP and Andhra Pradesh President, Purandeswari, in the presence of Minister Satyakumar Yadav. Ravi Chandra Reddy, a prominent leader from the YSRCP, expressed his admiration for the principles and ide-



ologies of the BJP, which led him to make the decision to join the party. This marks another blow for the YSRCP as another key leader shifts allegiance to the BJP.

Central Govt's ₹11,440 Crore Package for Vizag Steel Plant is Insufficient - JT Rama Rao

TPN Correspondent
Visakhapatnam, Jan 19

AP Praja Sangham JAC President and Congress leader JT Rama Rao criticized the central government's ₹11,440 crore financial package for the Visakhapatnam Steel Plant, stating it falls short of addressing the plant's dire needs. He emphasized that the movement against the plant's privatization will continue until Parliament formally announces its cancellation.



Rama Rao questioned the central government's intent, pointing out that the package does not address critical issues like granting a five-year tax holiday, allocating captive mines, or merging the company with SAIL, which are essential for the steel plant's survival and growth. He added that imports from China should be stopped immediately to protect domestic steel production, and the controversial agreement with POSCO should be canceled, as it raises suspicions of a larger conspiracy. He further expressed skepticism about the government's motives, citing the issuance of permissions to 15 private steel companies in the state while neglecting the Visakhapatnam Steel Plant. "Why is the government

prioritizing private companies over a public sector entity that holds significant value for the people of Andhra Pradesh?" he questioned.

Rama Rao criticized the central government's delayed response, stating that it only reacted nine days after activists and agitators raised their voices. "This response is a victory for the rights activists of Visakhapatnam Uku-Andhra," he said, adding that the pre-emptive arrests of

activists ahead of the Prime Minister's visit on January 8 further exposed the government's insensitivity. He also questioned the coalition government's earlier announcement of ₹15,000 crore for Amaravati's development, highlighting the lack of clarity on whether the amount was a grant or a loan and the absence of fund disbursement so far. Rama Rao concluded by stating that only a public announcement by the Prime Minister in Visakhapatnam would have given the people of Uttarandhra confidence in the government's promises. He reiterated that the fight for the steel plant's future will continue, demanding tangible solutions and transparency.

Lakshmi Parvathi Slams Political Conspiracies, Accuses Chandrababu of Destroying Her Life

TPN Correspondent
Hyderabad, Jan 19

On the occasion of the 29th death anniversary of legendary actor and former Chief Minister NTR, Lakshmi Parvathi, who was NTR's second wife, paid her respects at the NTR Ghat and made explosive comments about the struggles she has faced since his death. In an emotional outburst, Lakshmi Parvathi revealed that she had been living in pain for the last 29 years, haunted by the conspiracies and manipulation that led to NTR's demise.

She expressed frustration over not knowing what wrong she had committed, asserting that she had worked selflessly without any personal gain. Lakshmi Parvathi also emphasized that NTR had married her in front of everyone, and despite her efforts, falsehoods were being spread to destroy her life. Her comments,



directed at Chandrababu Naidu, accused him of continuing to tarnish her reputation and attempting to ruin her life through malicious actions.

Free Medical and Eye Camp Held in Nandigama for National Road Safety Month



TPN Correspondent | Nandigama | Jan 19 :

In observance of National Road Safety Month, a free medical and eye camp was organized on Saturday at the Regional Transport Department (RTO) Office in Nandigama. The event, held under the auspices of the Government Area Hospital, Swara Hospital, and K.M.R Hospital, aimed to promote road safety awareness and preventive health measures for drivers.

Speaking at the event, RTO Smt. Y. Padmavati emphasized the importance of regular health check-ups for drivers. "If drivers get their eyesight, blood pressure, and sugar levels checked every six months and take appropriate precau-

tions, road accidents can be significantly reduced," she said.

Assistant Motor Vehicle Inspector K. Jayachandra highlighted the importance of adhering to traffic regulations, such as avoiding overspeeding, wearing uniforms, maintaining valid vehicle documents, and refraining from driving under the influence of alcohol.

Dr. Mahesh from K.M.R Hospital stressed the critical role of the "golden hour" in saving accident victims. "The first 60 minutes after an accident are crucial in reducing the severity of injuries and preventing fatalities. Good Samaritans who help accident victims by taking them to the hospital will be recognized and re-

warded ₹5,000 as a token of respect by the District Collector," he added. The camp provided free medical and eye check-ups to drivers, with services offered by Government Area Hospital Dr. Maunish, Eye Specialist Dr. Y. Seskumari, and other doctors from Swara and K.M.R Hospitals. Students from Annapurna Driving School and PSC Bose Driving School also participated, along with RTO office staff and medical professionals.

The initiative aimed to raise awareness about road safety and encourage drivers to adopt safe driving practices while maintaining their health. The event concluded with a commitment from all participants to prioritize road safety and protect lives on the road.

Employees' Participation Key to Green Initiatives: District Collector G. Lakshmi Sha



TPN Correspondent | NTR Dist | Jan 19 :

District Collector Dr. G. Lakshmi Sha has emphasized the importance of employees' active participation in maintaining greenery and cleanliness, particularly in government offices. Addressing officials during a Swachh Andhra - Swachh Divas program organized by the Information and Public Relations Department at the State Guest Premises on Saturday, she stressed the need for collective efforts to ensure clean and green surroundings. The event, which included sanitation work and sapling plantation, highlighted the district's ongoing initiatives under the Swachh Andhra - Swachh Divas program. The program is observed on the third Saturday of every month, promoting large-scale green cleanliness activities across villages, municipalities, and government offices.

Speaking at the program, Collector Lakshmi Sha said, "Greenery cleanliness programs are being organized across the district to sensitize people about environmental cleanliness. Households are being educated to segregate wet and dry waste and dispose of it properly in designated dustbins. The collected waste is sent

to wealth creation centers, where vermicompost is produced and sold to farmers at affordable prices." She urged individuals to recognize the importance of maintaining clean surroundings as much as their homes, as this would help reduce public littering and prevent infectious diseases. The Collector directed officials to remove accumulated waste in government office premises within a week and involve employees in cleanliness activities. She also announced plans to conduct surprise inspections of government offices to ensure compliance and warned that action would be taken against offices lacking a clean and pleasant environment.

The program saw participation from District Information and Public Relations Officer U. Surendranath, Forest Settlement Officer A. Ravindra Rao, NTR Vaidya Seva Trust Coordinator J. Suman, Gurukul School DEO K. Rajeshwari, District Minority Welfare Officer Abdul Rabbani, Land Acquisition Court Registrar N. Suryanarayana, and several other officials. The initiative underscores the commitment to a cleaner, greener environment, aligning with the state's broader Swachh Andhra goals.

TDP Leader Buddha Venkanna Pays Tribute to NTR on His Death Anniversary

TPN Correspondent | Vijayawada | Jan 19

Telugu Desam Party (TDP) leader Buddha Venkanna paid rich tributes to the late Nandamuri Taraka Rama Rao (NTR) on his death anniversary. Speaking on the occasion, Venkanna highlighted NTR's contributions to uplifting the poor and weaker sections, crediting him with laying the foundation for a party that continues to serve marginalized communities. "NTR founded TDP with the goal of empowering the poor and weaker sections. He gave them political opportunities and encouraged their participation in governance. From then to on Saturday, these groups remain the backbone of the TDP," Venkanna said.

He praised TDP chief Chandrababu Naidu for carrying forward NTR's vision. "Chandrababu Garu is the true successor of NTR, and Nara Lokesh is his political heir. Together, they are ensuring the party remains committed to NTR's ideals," he stated.

Venkanna also acknowledged NTR's significant contribution to social reforms, particularly in ensuring equal property rights for women. He strongly con-



demned recent comments by Lakshmi Sha Parvathi, criticizing her remarks against TDP leaders. "Chandrababu has never even mentioned Lakshmi Sha Parvathi's name. If she claims to be a part of NTR's family, why was she never in TDP? How can she criticize Chandrababu while being part of Jagan's party, which has always opposed NTR's legacy?" he questioned.

Buddha Venkanna credited Chandrababu with not only sustaining the party but also ensuring its continued growth.

"While NTR founded TDP, Chandrababu ensured its survival and success. Under the leadership of Chandrababu and Nara Lokesh, the party will continue to gain popularity with the support of the people. Nara Lokesh will lead the party into the future and uphold NTR's legacy," he concluded.

The event was attended by TDP leaders and cadres who paid homage to NTR and pledged their commitment to his ideals.

NTR Remembered as a Pioneer for the Poor on His 29th Death Anniversary



TPN Correspondent | Reddygudem | Jan 19 :

The 29th death anniversary of the late Telugu Desam Party (TDP) founder and former Chief Minister Nandamuri Taraka Rama Rao (NTR) was observed with reverence in Reddygudem on Saturday. Mylavaram MLA Sri Vasanth Venkata Krishna Prasad paid rich tributes to NTR, hailing him as a pioneer for the welfare of the poor.

The event began with floral garlands placed at NTR's statue, followed by a grand tribute ceremony. Speaking on the occasion, MLA Krishna Prasad said, "Though NTR garu is no longer with us, he remains eternal in the hearts of the people. His reforms and policies have set a benchmark for other states, showcasing his vision for social welfare." As part of the event, blankets were distributed to elderly citizens, and a food distribution program was organized to honor NTR's legacy of service to the underprivileged.

Additionally, a rally was conducted under the Swachh Andhra-Swachh Diwas program, emphasizing the importance of

cleanliness and environmental responsibility. MLA Krishna Prasad urged participants to maintain hygiene, avoid littering, and reduce the use of plastic. The event saw participation from key leaders, including Mylavaram constituency Jana Sena Party In-charge Sri Akkala Ramohan Rao (Gandhi), BJP Myla-



varam constituency In-charge Nutulapati Balakoteswara Rao (Bala), Telugu Desam Party members, alliance leaders, and others. The gathering celebrated NTR's vision and dedication to uplifting the poor, reflecting his enduring influence on Andhra Pradesh's politics and social policies. The leaders called upon the community to continue striving for NTR's ideals of welfare and progress.

Vijayawada Municipal Corporation Conducts Swachh Divas Campaign Across 64 Wards

TPN Correspondent | Vijayawada | Jan 19

The Vijayawada Municipal Corporation (VMC) successfully conducted the Swachh Divas campaign on Saturday across all 64 wards, promoting cleanliness and civic responsibility throughout the city. The large-scale initiative, directed by Honorable Andhra Pradesh Chief Minister Nara Chandrababu Naidu and overseen by NTR District Collector Lakshmi Sha, was spearheaded by VMC In-Charge Commissioner Dr. D. Chandrasekhar.

Prominent leaders actively participated in the campaign, including Central Constituency MLA Bonda Umamaheswara Rao, Mayor Rayana BhagyaLakshmi Sha in Bhimanavaripeta (West Constituency), and Eastern Constituency MLA Gadde Ramamohan Rao in Maruti Cooperative Colony.

Leadership Highlights:

- MLA Bonda Umamaheswara Rao emphasized the transformative power of collective action, urging citizens to pledge their commitment to a cleaner Vijayawada. He highlighted the importance of public awareness and personal accountability in achieving citywide cleanliness.
- Mayor Rayana BhagyaLakshmi Sha reiterated that cleanliness is a shared responsibility and encouraged residents to



use designated waste bins and maintain their surroundings.

- MLA Gadde Ramamohan Rao stressed the health benefits of a clean environment and the need to make cleanliness a daily habit, stating that a clean city is the greatest gift for future generations.

Campaign Activities:

- Dr. D. Chandrasekhar noted that the Swachh Divas initiative extended to 64 wards and 286 secretariats, with activities including:
 - Cleaning waste-prone areas and beautifying them.
 - Removing silt and ensuring unobstructed drainage.
 - Addressing debris and tree waste with public participation.

- Using drone technology to spray mosquito control oil in the Eluru Canal.

The campaign transformed neglected areas into vibrant spaces and fostered community involvement. Participants included Sub-Collector Chaitanya Kumar, Corporator Devineni Aparna, Zonal Commissioner Prabhudas, Project Officer Venkata Narayana, Assistant Medical Health Officer Dr. Babu Srinivas, and Executive Engineer G. Samrajyam.

The Swachh Divas campaign stands as a testament to the power of collaboration between citizens and leaders, reinforcing the importance of cleanliness in building a healthier, more beautiful Vijayawada.

Launch of Nandivelugu Co-operative Credit Society 2025 Diary and Calendar

Union Minister Dr. Pemmasani Chandrasekhar graced the occasion



TPN Correspondent | Tenali|Jan 19: On Saturday, Union Minister Dr. Pemmasani Chandrasekhar graced the occasion as chief guests for the launch of the 2025 Diary and Calendar by Nandivelugu Co-operative Credit Society Limited. The event, which was held with much fanfare, marked a significant milestone for the society as it unveiled its upcoming year's calendar and diary, aimed at serving as both a functional and promotional tool for its members. The event saw the presence of key figures, including Thota Lakshmi Koteswar Rao, Chairman of the society, and other distinguished members of the Governing Body. Both Rao and the leadership team played a pivotal role in the establishment and expansion of the

society, with the launch underscoring their efforts toward its continued growth and success. The Nandivelugu Co-operative Credit Society operates across multiple regions, with established branches in Guntur 1, Guntur 2, Vijayawada, and Mangalagiri. These branches are crucial in extending the society's services, offering financial products and cooperative opportunities to a wide range of members across the state. The launch event provided a platform for discussions on the society's contributions to the local economy, with an emphasis on its role in supporting rural and urban communities alike through various financial services. Both Dr. Pemmasani Chandrasekhar expressed their sup-



port for the society's initiatives and praised the leadership for its commitment to serving the people of Andhra Pradesh. With the launch of the 2025 Diary and Calendar, Nandivelugu Co-operative Credit Society Limited aims to continue its efforts in fostering economic stability and growth in the state. The event was a testament to the society's commitment to improving the lives of its members, providing them with the resources and tools necessary to thrive in the coming year.

Sri Srinivasa Kalyanam Celebrated in Grandeur at Maha Kumbh Mela

C Shekar | TPN Prayagraj| Jan 19: On Saturday morning, the sacred wedding of Sri Srinivasa Kalyanam was held with great grandeur at the Srivari Model Temple in Prayagraj, Uttar Pradesh, as part of the Maha Kumbh Mela celebrations. The ceremony was conducted by a team of priests led by the Chief Priest of Tirumala Srivari Temple, Sri Venugopal Dikshitulu.



The procession began with the priests bringing the divine guests, Sri Swamy, along with Sri Devi and Bhu Devi, to the wedding venue. The event, which took place between 11 am and 12 noon, followed traditional rituals, including the chanting of Vedic mantras and the playing of auspicious instruments. The ceremony included several sacred rituals such as Sri Vishwakshenaradhana, Punyahavachanam, the wearing of bracelets, installation of fire, and the offering of Mangala Sutra to the

divine couple. The grand event concluded with the Nakshatra Aarti and Mangala Aarti, offering divine blessings to Sri Swamy Ammavar. Devotees who gathered to witness the sacred wedding were filled with immense devotion and joy.

The ceremony saw the participation of Srivari Temple Chief Priest Sri Gopinath Dikshitulu, HDPP Secretary Sri Sriram Raghunath, Deputy EO Sri Gunabhusan Reddy, and other key officials, making it a truly memorable occasion for all.

CM Chandrababu Naidu Meets Hotel Industry Leaders

RV Swamy, President of Andhra Pradesh Hotels, discusses excise policy, electricity rates, and municipal taxes.



TPN Correspondent | Amaravati| Jan 19: On Saturday, Honorable Chief Minister of Andhra Pradesh, Shri Nara Chandrababu Naidu, met with several prominent hotel industry leaders at his residence. Among the attendees were RV Swamy, President of Andhra Pradesh Hotels, along with Senior Hotelier Rajaiah, Taj Gateway's Murali Fortuner, and Muttavarapu Murali. The meeting lasted for about 15 minutes, starting at 9:00 PM. The hotel industry leaders presented the excise fee issue, highlighting that Andhra Pradesh's star hotels face an annual excise fee of 68 lakhs.

They referred to similar government orders (GOs) implemented in neighboring states like Telangana, Tamil Nadu, Kerala, Karnataka, and Maharashtra, expressing surprise at the substantial fee in Andhra Pradesh. The hotel leaders requested the implementation of a more streamlined excise policy without significant burdens. RV Swamy also raised concerns about the electricity rates and municipal taxes, suggesting a reduction for hotels that are operating under the industry framework. However, CM Naidu did not agree to this request during the meeting.

Swachh Andhra - Swachh Divas Launched at Kanipakam Temple

C Shekar | TPN Tirupati, Jan 19: At the Kanipakam Swayambhu Sri Varasiddhi Vinayaka Swamy Temple, a new initiative called "Swachh Andhra - Swachh Divas" was launched today, in line with the Andhra Pradesh State Government's cleanliness drive. This program, aimed at maintaining cleanliness and hygiene, will be held on the third Saturday of every month. Sri Penchala Kishore, the Executive

Officer of the temple bus stand, along with temple officials, took the lead in the drive, using brooms to clean the bus stand area. The event saw the active participation of Sanitation AEO Dhananjaya, Sanitary Inspector Tirumalagiri Babu, and several other temple staff. This initiative is part of the state's ongoing efforts to promote sanitation and cleanliness across all public spaces, encouraging both officials and dev-

otees to contribute to a cleaner environment.



Tributes Paid to Nandamuri Taraka Rama Rao on 29th Death Anniversary

Leaders and activists across AP remember the legendary leader and founder of Telugu Desam Party.

TPN Correspondent | Andhra Pradesh,| Jan 19: On the 29th death anniversary of Sri Nandamuri Taraka Rama Rao (NTR), leaders and activists from the Bangarupalyam Mandal of the Telugu Desam Party (TDP) gathered to pay their respects. A portrait of NTR was ceremoniously garlanded, followed by chants of "Johar NTR," emphasizing his lasting legacy in Andhra Pradesh. In honor of the occasion, TDP leaders, under the leadership of Puthalapattu constituency MLA Kalikiri Muralimohan, organized a food distribution program for the public. The event was well-attended by a large number of Bangarupalyam TDP leaders and party workers.



In a display of NTR's enduring impact, the program also featured a substantial welfare initiative, where cheques totaling nearly 11 lakh rupees were distributed to deserving individuals across Srikalahasti town and surrounding mandals, including Yerpedu, Srikalahasti rural, Thottambedu, and Renigunta. Additionally, the "Swachh Andhra Swachh Divas" cleanliness drive took place in Ward 20, where saplings were planted to promote environmental awareness. During the event, Bojjala Brindamma and town president Vijayakumar reflected on NTR's revolutionary contributions, praising his focus on empowering the Telugu people, prioritizing women's representation, and improving the welfare of the poor. They emphasized that NTR's vision for Andhra Pradesh continues to inspire the state's progress.

fare Icon In Tirupati district, a large gathering paid tribute to NTR's portrait, acknowledging his pioneering welfare schemes that benefited the underprivileged. Speakers highlighted NTR's introduction of the mandal system, which brought governance closer to the people, and his monumental efforts to ensure equal rights for women, particularly in property ownership. The attendees emphasized that NTR's legacy of welfare-oriented governance is being followed by the current administration. Later, a food distribution program was organized for party workers and the public, showcasing NTR's enduring influence on the people of the state. TDP leaders and workers participated actively in the event.

Visakhapatnam Beach Road & TDP Office: A Grand Tribute

On the 29th death anniversary of Shri Nandamuri Taraka Rama Rao (NTR), tributes were paid at Visakhapatnam Beach Road and the TDP office. Visakhapatnam MP M Sri Bharat, the chief guest, praised NTR's pivotal role in forming the Telugu Desam Party and his contributions to the poor, BCS, and SCS. He highlighted how NTR



empowered people from downtrodden communities to become ministers and MLAs. Visakhapatnam District TDP President Sri Gandhi Babji acknowledged NTR's welfare initiatives, providing shelter, clothing, and support to the poor. The TDP celebrated the achievement of securing 1 crore 55 thousand memberships under the leadership of TDP National General Secretary Sri Nara Lokesh. The event featured the distribution of clothes, fruits, and a blood donation camp. Prominent leaders like Bhimili MLA Sri Ganta Srinivasa Rao and MLC Chiranjeevi Rao participated.

Vizianagaram: Honoring NTR's Contributions

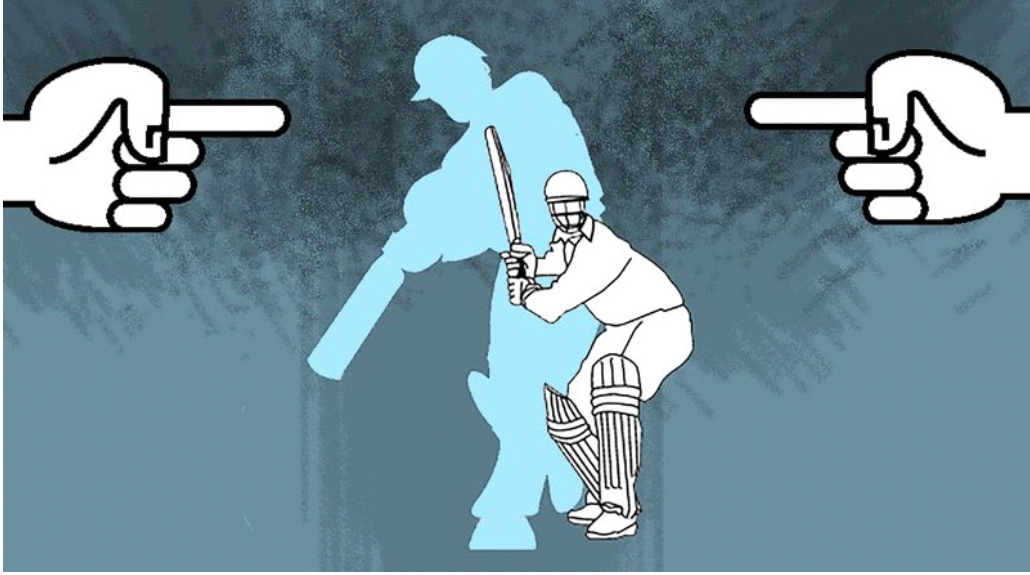
In Vizianagaram, tributes were paid to NTR's statue at Kota Junction. TDP Politburo member Pusapati Ashok Gajapathi Raju spoke of NTR's efforts



to uplift marginalized communities and his vision for social equality. He highlighted NTR's transformative impact on governance. The event included the distribution of ₹2,000 checks to top Class 10 achievers from government schools and honoring 12 IIT-bound students. Leaders urged the youth to excel in education, reflecting NTR's commitment to empowering future generations. NTR's death anniversary was marked by tributes and celebrations in Visakhapatnam and Vizianagaram, with his lasting legacy inspiring the people of Andhra Pradesh.

Tirupati District: A Tribute to the Wel-

BCCI Imposes Strict Guidelines to Reinforce Discipline and Unity in Indian Cricket Team



Indian cricketers, particularly the male players, have long enjoyed a lifestyle of luxury and adulation, with fame and fortune accompanying their performances both on and off the field. Their popularity rivals that of Bollywood stars, and in recent years, they have delivered strong performances in international cricket, including winning the T20 World Cup in 2024 and reaching the finals of both the ODI World Cup and the World Test Championship in 2023. However, recent back-to-back losses in Test series against New Zealand and Australia have led to growing criticism and calls for accountability.

In response to these disappointing results, the Board of Control for Cricket in India (BCCI) has issued a set of strict guidelines aimed at improving the discipline and cohesion of the senior men's cricket squad. These measures are designed to streamline the logistics of domestic and international tours while fostering a sense of unity among the players.

One of the most significant changes is the new travel policy, which mandates that players travel with the team for all matches and practice sessions. This move is intended to ensure that the squad remains focused and aligned, rather than allowing players to take independent trips. Along with travel rules, the BCCI has set up stringent baggage norms for players. Additionally, a new family travel policy has been introduced. While it is meant to support players' well-being by allowing family visits during tours, the policy is also designed to minimize distractions and encourage a more professional approach to the game, especially on foreign tours.

The changes are seen as part of a larger push by the team's head coach, Gautam Gambhir, who is known for his no-nonsense approach to cricket. As part of the new regulations, players will now be required to participate in domestic cricket matches in order to remain eligible for selection in the national team and retain their central contracts. Non-compliance with these new policies could result in players being excluded from lucrative opportunities such as the Indian Premier League (IPL).

While the BCCI's decision may be seen as a bold move, it reflects an increasing desire to push players out of their comfort zones and encourage greater professionalism. How the players adapt to these changes will be crucial to their continued success and performance in international cricket.

Organizing the Maha Kumbh 2025: A Blueprint for Mega Event Management



Organizing a mega event like the Maha Kumbh 2025 in Prayagraj requires meticulous planning and an unwavering commitment to ensuring a smooth and safe experience for millions of devotees. With an expected footfall of over 42 crore (420 million) people over 45 days, the Uttar Pradesh government has demonstrated exceptional organization and leadership under Chief Minister Yogi Adityanath's guidance. The planning and execution of such a grand event set a benchmark in large-scale event management, one that will likely be studied in management circles worldwide.

The scale of the Maha Kumbh demands comprehensive coordination, a task that cannot rely on ad hoc measures. Infrastructure, logistics, and coordination across numerous departments are fundamental for success. The Uttar Pradesh government has declared the event area as a separate district, ensuring that the challenges of the Kumbh do not spill over into the daily life of Prayagraj city.

This district is divided into 25 sectors, each responsible for a range of essential services, including law enforcement, fire services, food supply, medical facilities, and transportation.

A key player in managing this operation is the Mela Authority, which oversees the cleanliness, safety, and maintenance of the venue. Accommodation for pilgrims, officials, and support staff is arranged through tentage contracts, with various options available based on comfort and budget. Hygiene is a priority, with food safety being closely monitored across all service areas.

Water, sanitation, and waste management are other critical aspects of the event. With a large number of people attending, maintaining access to clean drinking water and sanitation facilities is vital to prevent the spread of disease, especially in the post-COVID era. Crowd management is another challenge. Routes are designed for optimal movement, with clear signage and

separate pathways for pedestrians, logistics, and emergency services. Multiple access points, including nine railway stations, help manage the influx of devotees.

The National Disaster Management Authority (NDMA) and the State Disaster Management Authority (SDMA) collaborate closely to prepare for potential threats, conducting tabletop exercises and mock drills to ensure readiness. Key risks include stampedes, fires, and drowning, with strategies like AI-powered crowd monitoring and swift emergency response systems in place.

With robust security and communication systems, including an Integrated Command, Control, and Communication (I3C) facility, the event aims to provide a safe and fulfilling experience for all attendees. The Uttar Pradesh government's dedication to this monumental event highlights the complexities of organizing such large-scale gatherings and serves as a model for future mega events worldwide.

The Banyan Tree Syndrome: Why Corporate India Struggles with Leadership Transitions



Indian corporate leadership often mirrors the world of cricket and Bollywood, where legendary figures find it challenging to step aside, even as the audience—or shareholders—begin to question their relevance. Recent discussions around Virat Kohli's captaincy serve as a reminder of how quickly public opinion shifts when performance declines, regardless of past achievements. Corporate India must learn this crucial lesson: no matter how distinguished your career, knowing when to step down is just as important as knowing how to lead.

In the world of sports, retirement is a stark reality that athletes must face far earlier than corporate leaders. Most star athletes retire between the ages of 30 and 40, leaving behind not just their fame and glory but also the structure and discipline that define their lives. Unlike CEOs, who often work well into their sixties or beyond, athletes' careers are typically short-lived, and their window for success is much more limited.

Despite the early retirement, athletes put in their all during their prime, aware that their best years are fleeting and that the future will soon demand a transition to life beyond the sport. Their time at the top provides them with skills like discipline, resilience, and teamwork, which are transferable

to other aspects of life. However, many athletes struggle with the difficult leap into "normal life" post-retirement, something that most CEOs can never truly relate to. Corporate CEOs, on the other hand, have the luxury of time. They can plan their exit and groom successors over a period of years, yet many seem reluctant to let go of the power and influence they have accumulated. The reluctance to step aside often leads to extended tenures, even when it's clear that their time at the helm is past. In family-owned businesses, which account for nearly 80% of India's companies—from large conglomerates to small and medium-sized enterprises (SMEs) and even kiranans—the "banyan tree syndrome" is prevalent. Patriarchs often hold onto power well beyond their prime, casting long shadows that stifle the growth of potential successors and, ultimately, the company itself.

This resistance to change can be detrimental to organizations in the long term. Just as athletes must recognize when it's time to retire, CEOs need to understand that stepping aside, with grace and foresight, can allow for new leadership and growth opportunities. Corporate India would benefit from embracing this mindset, ensuring that the next generation of leaders can flourish in an environment free from the weight of outdated legacies.⁴

Saif Ali Khan's Reflections on India's Contradictions Revisited After the Attack

In 2017, Saif Ali Khan offered a profound reflection on the evolving social and political landscape of India during his appearance at The Indian Express adda. Drawing from the history of Hindi cinema, he explored the shifting dynamics of inequality and oppression in the country. "Earlier the villain was the feudal system, then money, followed by parents and later, yourself," he said, capturing the progression of societal conflicts. Khan also remarked on the dual nature of India's growth: "There are two Indias in schizophrenic growth at the moment. One has energy and intelligence while the other is the same old villains weighing us down." These words, delivered years ago, seem even more relevant today.



etal injustice.

The recent brutal attack on Saif Ali Khan at his residence in Bandra West, a locality symbolic of both aspiration and success, brings to light two of the "same old villains" that he spoke of. The attack, which occurred in a neighborhood known for its posh streets and affluent residents, has forced a reevaluation of the persistent threats that continue to plague both the privileged and the underprivileged in Indian society.

First, the issue of unchecked power and entitlement continues to haunt the Indian psyche. Whether through corruption or influence, this villain operates at both societal and governmental levels. It is not just the rich and powerful who suffer from its effects, but also the common man, as it breeds inequality and hinders progress. The attack on Khan, a figure of success and privilege, starkly highlights how even those who appear immune to hardship are vulnerable to the darker sides of soci-

Second, there is the villain of lawlessness and impunity. Despite advancements in technology and modernity, India's criminal justice system is often slow, inconsistent, and riddled with inefficiencies. The inability to deliver justice swiftly and fairly allows such acts of violence to continue unchecked. As Khan himself pointed out years ago, while some parts of India thrive on energy and intelligence, others remain trapped under the weight of systemic failures.

In the aftermath of this attack, Khan's earlier observations about the growing contradictions in India are underscored. The country's rapid advancements coexist with persistent, deeply rooted societal issues, proving that the battle against oppression and inequality is far from over. The attack serves as a grim reminder that, despite progress, the same old villains continue to plague India's growth.

Court Convicts Sanjay Roy in RG Kar Rape-Murder Case

Accused claims innocence, alleges being framed



TPN Correspondent | Kolkata

The Sealdah court on Saturday convicted Sanjay Roy in the heinous rape and murder of an on-duty doctor at the state-run RG Kar Medical College and Hospital. The judgment, delivered nearly two months after the trial began, brought partial closure to a case that shook the nation on August 9, 2024.

While the victim's family welcomed the conviction, they insisted that others involved in the crime remain at large. "Sanjay's guilt was proven through biological evidence. However, he was not alone. Justice is incomplete until all the culprits are punished," the victim's mother said, citing DNA reports that confirmed the presence of four men and a woman at the crime scene.

Sanjay Roy was found guilty under Sections 64 of the Bharatiya Nyaya Sanhita for rape, and Sections 66 and 103 (I), which deal with murder and capital punishment. The maximum

penalty includes death or life imprisonment. The sentencing is scheduled for Monday, allowing Roy a chance to present his statement before the final judgment.

As he was escorted out of the courtroom, Roy claimed innocence and alleged he was being framed. "I haven't committed this crime. The real culprits are free, and an IPS officer knows everything," he said. Roy also questioned the evidence, adding, "I always wear a rudraksha chain. If I had committed the crime, it would have been broken at the scene."

The victim's parents vowed to continue their fight for justice, demanding accountability for all perpetrators. "Until everyone involved is punished, we cannot sleep peacefully. We will keep knocking on the court's doors and seeking public support," the father said. The case, which saw an in-camera trial beginning in November, has reignited debates over safety in public institutions and the need for systemic reforms to ensure timely justice.



Suspect Detained in Saif Ali Khan Stabbing Case

Actor recovering after surgery; suspect apprehended in Chhattisgarh

TPN Correspondent | Mumbai

A suspect linked to the stabbing of Bollywood actor Saif Ali Khan has been detained at Durg railway station in Chhattisgarh. The incident occurred early Thursday when an intruder attacked the 54-year-old actor in his Bandra home, leaving him with multiple stab wounds, including on his neck and near the spine.

The suspect, identified as 31-year-old Aakash Kailash Kannoja, was apprehended by the Railway Protection Force (RPF) based on leads from Mumbai Police. He was reportedly caught aboard the Mumbai-Howrah Jnaneswari Express and detained upon disembarking at Durg. Authorities confirmed his identity through a video call with Mumbai Police, and a team is on its way to Chhattisgarh to verify his involvement. Saif Ali Khan underwent emergency surgery at Lilavati Hospital, where doctors removed a 2.5-inch blade fragment lodged near his spine. The actor,

stabbed six times, is said to be recovering well. His wife, actress Kareena Kapoor Khan, recounted the harrowing attack, stating that the assailant appeared aggressive and fled without stealing any valuables.

CCTV footage captured the intruder entering and fleeing the building. Wearing a red scarf and carrying a backpack, he was later spotted at Bandra and Dadar railway stations before fleeing the city by train.

In a significant effort to capture the attacker, over 30 police teams were formed. Earlier reports suggested the detention of a carpenter who had worked at Saif's residence days before the incident, but authorities confirmed he was not the culprit.

Maharashtra's Minister of State for Home (Urban), Yogesh Kadam, stated that the motive was robbery and ruled out underworld involvement. The investigation continues as Mumbai Police work to confirm the detained suspect's role in the attack.

ISKCON partners with Adani Group Providing meals to nearly one lakh devotees at Maha Kumbh



TPN Correspondent | Prayagraj: ISKCON, in partnership with the Adani Group, is serving meals to nearly one lakh devotees daily at the Maha Kumbh. At their camp on Harshvardhan Marg, one kitchen prepares food for 30,000-35,000 people per session, with three sessions a day. The meals, which include dal, vegetables, rice, roti, and sweets like halwa or boondi laddu, are prepared using traditional clay stoves and a fire fueled by wood and cow dung cakes, enhancing the flavor. ISKCON's Director (CSR), Madhukant Das, shared that the food is balanced and prepared with care, catering to the spiritual community at the event.



'Caste Survey Under Nitish Kumar Was To Fool People Of Bihar'

TPN Correspondent | Patna

Congress leader Rahul Gandhi on Saturday criticized the caste survey conducted by the Nitish Kumar-led government in Bihar, calling it an exercise aimed at deceiving the people. Addressing the 'Samvidhan Suraksha Sammelan' at Babu Sabhagar in Patna, Gandhi reaffirmed his party's demand for a nationwide caste census, describing it as essential for shaping development policies that are inclusive of marginalized communities. Gandhi, the leader of the opposition in the Lok Sabha, accused the BJP and the RSS of undermining the Constitution and neglecting Dalits, minorities, and other socially marginalized groups in India. He emphasized that these communities constitute 90 percent of the country's population but remain largely excluded from the system. The Congress leader reiterated that a caste census would help in understanding their participation in the nation's wealth and sectors like bureaucracy, making it vital for equitable development.

"The exercise the Bihar government undertook was just to fool people. We do not want such a caste survey," Gandhi stated. He also pointed out that the current 50 percent cap on reservations for Scheduled Castes (SC), Scheduled Tribes (ST), and Other Backward Classes (OBC) was insufficient and promised that Congress would work to raise this limit for the benefit of the majority population. Furthermore, Gandhi took issue with RSS chief Mohan Bhagwat's recent remark regarding the true independence of India post the Ram temple consecration, calling it a direct contradiction to the principles outlined in the Constitution. He accused the BJP and the RSS of spreading hatred and undermining constitutional values, framing the ongoing political struggle as a fight between those seeking to protect the Constitution and those fostering division.

Rajnath Singh Participates in Maha Kumbh, Takes Holy Dip at Triveni Sangam



TPN Correspondent | Prayagraj

Defence Minister Rajnath Singh visited Prayagraj on Saturday to participate in the Maha Kumbh Mela, one of the largest religious gatherings in the world. He began his visit by taking a holy dip at the Triveni Sangam, the sacred confluence of the Ganga, Yamuna, and the mythical Saraswati rivers. During his visit, Rajnath Singh is set to perform religious rituals at prominent sites, including Akshaya Vat, Patalpuri Temple, Saraswati Kund, and Hanuman Temple. The Maha Kumbh, which started on January 13, will continue until February 26, 2025, drawing millions of devotees. The event's sixth day saw a massive

turnout for the auspicious Amrit Snan, a sacred bathing ritual believed to offer spiritual cleansing. This year, the first Amrit Snan occurred on January 14 (Makar Sankranti), with the next two scheduled for January 29 (Mauni Amavasya) and February 3 (Basant Panchami). The Uttar Pradesh government, under Chief Minister Yogi Adityanath, is taking extensive measures to ensure the safety and comfort of pilgrims. Security arrangements include 220 expert divers from the National and State Disaster Response Forces (NDRF and SDRF) supported by 700 boats, alongside personnel from the PAC, water police, and health-care teams.

Wanted Alliance With AAP in Delhi, But...

Ajay Maken's personal view on alliance with AAP in Delhi

TPN Correspondent | New Delhi

Congress leader Ajay Maken on Saturday made significant remarks about the future of the party's relationship with the Aam Aadmi Party (AAP) in Delhi, stating that he personally opposes any alliance with AAP. "It is my personal view that there should be no alliance with AAP," Maken said during a press conference at the new Congress headquarters. He emphasized that this viewpoint extended to previous years as well, particularly criticizing the Congress's support to AAP in 2013 and its alignment with the party in 2024 for the Lok Sabha elections. Maken reiterated his earlier remark about Delhi Chief Minister Arvind Kejriwal, calling him "anti-national" and maintaining that the growth of AAP in

Delhi could aid the Bharatiya Janata Party (BJP). On the question of whether Congress would support AAP post-Delhi Assembly elections, Maken remained firm, clarifying that strengthening Congress at the national level was crucial to effectively challenging the BJP. He pointed out that a divided opposition, with AAP's increasing prominence in Delhi, inadvertently helped the BJP. Maken also revealed that Congress had initially wanted an alliance with AAP both in Delhi and Haryana, but the discussions were abruptly ended by Kejriwal's announcement that AAP would contest Haryana's Assembly elections alone. Similarly, after the 2019 Lok Sabha polls, Kejriwal confirmed AAP's intention to fight Delhi's elections independently.

GAZA CEASEFIRE BEGINS AT NOON TODAY



TPN Correspondent | International Desk: A ceasefire in Gaza starts at 12 noon IST, marking a pause in hostilities after prolonged negotiations. As part of Stage 1, hundreds of Israelis kidnapped during the October 7 attack will be released from Gaza, some held for over 15 months, in exchange for Palestinian prisoners held by Israel. The truce aims to halt violence and address the region's humanitarian crisis.

No Contradiction in Army Chief's Remarks on China Standoff: MEA

Army, MEA Aligned on Eastern Ladakh Situation

TPN Correspondent | New Delhi

The Ministry of External Affairs (MEA) on Friday dismissed claims of conflicting positions regarding the Line of Actual Control (LAC) situation in eastern Ladakh. The response came after Army Chief Gen Upendra Dwivedi remarked on the ongoing "degree" of standoff between Indian and Chinese forces in the region.

- MEA assures alignment between Army Chief's statements and official position.
- Recent disengagement at Demchok and Depsang seen as progress.
- Talks on de-escalation remain a priority for both nations.

"We do not see any contradiction between what the Army Chief has said and the position we have taken," MEA spokesperson Randhir Jaiswal clarified. His statement followed Gen Dwivedi's comments that highlighted the need for broader mutual understanding to restore trust and calm along the border. Recent Developments in LAC Situation

On October 21, both nations completed troop disengagement at the remaining friction points of Demchok and Depsang, marking a milestone



in ongoing de-escalation efforts. The disengagement followed high-level discussions between Prime Minister Narendra Modi and Chinese President Xi Jinping during the BRICS Summit in Russia on October 23, where both leaders agreed to revive bilateral dialogue mechanisms.

Last month, NSA Ajit Doval traveled to Beijing and engaged in boundary talks with Chinese Foreign Minister Wang Yi, further emphasizing India's commitment to resolving disputes peacefully.

At a press conference earlier this week, Gen Dwivedi described the situation as "sensitive but stable," acknowledging the presence of a "degree" of standoff. He underscored the need for continued dialogue to address minor frictions, particularly those related to patrolling and

grazing rights, to prevent escalation. Addressing concerns over buffer zones, Gen Dwivedi clarified, "There is no such thing as buffer zones; these are temporary moratoriums on patrolling to avoid violence."

Reiterating External Affairs Minister S. Jaishankar's statement in Parliament, Jaiswal noted, "Our objective remains ensuring patrolling to relevant points and resumption of civilian grazing as per longstanding practices. The disengagement terms reached in October 2024 continue to hold." Jaiswal also emphasized that the task of de-escalation remains unfulfilled but remains a shared goal. "There is absolutely no contradiction between the positions taken by the Army and the MEA," he affirmed. Both the Army and MEA are looking forward to the next round of Special Representatives talks on the boundary question, alongside consultations under the Working Mechanism for Consultation and Coordination (WMCC). Gen Dwivedi remarked that these meetings would provide essential guidance for future actions. With diplomatic and military channels active, India and China are focused on resolving the standoff while ensuring stability in the region.

"Frankly Impressed": Bill Gates on Dinner with Donald Trump

The billionaire praised Trump's energy and focus on innovation.



TPN Correspondent | Washington

Bill Gates shared insights from a three-hour dinner with Donald Trump before his January 20 inauguration, describing the meeting as "intriguing" and praising Trump's energy and interest in innovation.

The discussion covered HIV, polio, and vaccine development, with Gates highlighting his foundation's HIV research and drawing parallels to the accelerated COVID-19 vaccine efforts during Trump's term. Gates noted Trump's enthusiasm for addressing these global health issues, particularly achieving milestones in the fight against polio.

Gates, impressed by Trump's engagement, said, "I felt like he was energized and looking forward to driving innovation."

The dinner, held at Mar-a-Lago, was also attended by incoming White House Chief of Staff Susie Wiles. Trump hinted at the meeting on Truth Social, calling Mar-a-Lago the "Center of the Universe." The interaction underscores Trump's outreach to prominent business leaders, including Mark Zuckerberg and Jeff Bezos, ahead of his presidency. Gates had previously met Trump during his 2016 term.

Delhi ranked 8th best cultural destination globally by Tripadvisor

TPN Correspondent | New Delhi

New Delhi has been ranked 8th among the world's top cultural destinations for 2025, as per Tripadvisor's Travellers' Choice Awards. The city is the only Indian destination featured in the top 10 across all categories. The rankings celebrate destinations that showcase rich heritage and vibrant cultural experiences. The global top 10 cultural destinations list is led by Bali, Indonesia, followed by Hanoi, Vietnam, and London, UK. Delhi's inclusion highlights its iconic landmarks such as the Red Fort, Qutub Minar, and Humayun's Tomb, alongside its bustling markets and diverse traditions that attract millions of visitors each year.

Top 10 cultural destinations for 2025:

- Bali, Indonesia
- Hanoi, Vietnam
- London, UK
- Marrakech, Morocco
- Rome, Italy
- Cusco, Peru
- Kathmandu, Nepal
- New Delhi, India
- Crete, Greece
- Siem Reap, Cambodia



12 Indians fighting for Russian army in Ukraine killed, 16 missing

India seeks repatriation of nationals misled into Russian combat roles.

TPN Correspondent | New Delhi

Twelve Indian nationals have died fighting for the Russian Army in Ukraine, while 16 others are missing, the Ministry of External Affairs (MEA) confirmed. Among 126 Indians misled into joining the Russian Army, 96 have been repatriated, and 18 remain in combat, with efforts ongoing to ensure their release.

Prime Minister Narendra Modi raised the issue with Russian President Vladimir Putin during meetings last year, receiving assurances of the early discharge of Indian nationals.

Investigations revealed a human trafficking network lured victims to Russia under false pretenses, confiscated their passports, and deployed them on the battlefield. Police have arrested four individuals linked to the racket, while the government continues to



address cases brought to its attention. Foreign Minister S. Jaishankar strongly condemned the exploitation, emphasizing India's commitment to protecting its citizens. "It is unacceptable that any Indian is coerced into conflict roles," he stated. Efforts are underway to bring back the remaining trapped individuals and take strict legal action against those responsible for this trafficking network.

Chris Martin and Dakota Johnson at Babulnath temple

The couple embraces Indian traditions as Coldplay gears up for their India tour.

TPN Correspondent | Mumbai

Coldplay's Chris Martin and actress Dakota Johnson sought blessings at Mumbai's Babulnath temple ahead of the band's highly anticipated concert. The couple, dating since 2017, were seen participating in traditional rituals, with Chris wearing a powder blue kurta and Dakota donning a printed kurti and dupatta.

The visit came as part of Coldplay's "Music of the Spheres" World Tour, with performances scheduled at Mumbai's DY Patil Stadium on January 18 and 19, and at Ahmedabad's Narendra Modi Stadium on January 25 and 26.

Adding excitement to the event, singer Jasleen Royal will become the first Indian artist to open for Coldplay, marking a significant milestone in her career.

Coldplay, known for iconic tracks like Yellow, Fix You, and Paradise, continues to captivate audiences worldwide, blending music with cultural appreciation.



"Suffering, Everything Burned": Sheikh Hasina

TPN Correspondent | New Delhi/Dhaka

Former Bangladesh Prime Minister Sheikh Hasina, in an emotional audio note shared by the Awami League, described how she narrowly escaped death when fleeing her country last August. The 77-year-old leader, now residing in India, accused her political opponents of conspiring against her and thanked Allah for saving her life.

- Sheikh Hasina claims she fled Bangladesh minutes before her home was ransacked.
- Accuses political rivals of orchestrating multiple assassination attempts.
- India confirms receiving an extradition request from Bangladesh.

Sheikh Hasina fled Dhaka on August 5, 2024, with her sister Rehana, moments before a mob attacked her residence. "We escaped death by just 20-25 minutes. Allah must have a will for me, or I wouldn't have survived," she said in Bangla, referencing earlier assassination attempts, including the 2004 grenade attack and the 2000 Kotalipara bomb plot.

She tearfully added, "I am suffering, I am without my country, my home. Everything has been burned." Ms. Hasina accused her adversaries of a deliberate campaign to eliminate her. "The world has seen their conspiracy to kill me. I survived because Allah wants me to fulfill a purpose," she asserted. The political turmoil leading to her resignation stemmed from a violent student movement. Shortly after she stepped down, her bungalow was ransacked, looted, and vandalized by an angry mob. The crisis, which included attacks on Hindu minorities and clashes involving her allies, strained India-Bangladesh relations.

Beneath the Surface

The Hidden Cracks in India's Consumption Story

India's economic growth narrative has often been driven by its thriving consumer market. With a population exceeding 1.4 billion and a demographic advantage of a young workforce, the country has been a beacon of hope for global businesses and policymakers. However, the celebrated story of India's consumption-driven economy has underlying vulnerabilities that threaten its long-term sustainability. Beneath the surface of rapid urbanization, e-commerce growth, and increasing smartphone penetration lie deep-seated structural challenges that must be addressed for the narrative to hold true.

Urban vs. Rural Divide: The Twin Realities

India's economy tells two distinct tales: one of thriving urban centers and another of struggling rural hinterlands. Urban India accounts for the bulk of discretionary spending, with high-income households fueling demand for electronics, automobiles, and luxury goods. On the other hand, rural India, home to more than 65% of the population, remains heavily reliant on agriculture.

Agricultural incomes have remained stagnant due to low productivity, unpredictable monsoons, and a lack of modern farming techniques. Rural households often prioritize basic needs like food and healthcare, leaving little room for discretionary

spending. The increasing penetration of e-commerce in rural areas has brought some relief, but the purchasing power gap between urban and rural India continues to widen.

Stagnating Middle-Class Incomes

The middle class has traditionally been the engine of India's consumption story. This demographic not only aspires for upward mobility but also drives demand across sectors like real estate, education, healthcare, and consumer goods. Yet, wage stagnation over the last decade has hindered its growth.

Manufacturing, which was expected to generate millions of jobs under initiatives like "Make in India," has underperformed. Meanwhile, the service sector, though expanding, has seen a shift towards contractual and gig-based employment. These trends have dampened job security and suppressed salary growth, reducing disposable income for middle-class households.

Rising Inflation and Its Impact on Households

Inflation has eroded the purchasing power of Indian households, particularly in the lower-income segments. Rising prices of essentials like food, fuel, and healthcare have forced families to prioritize their

spending.

Youth Unemployment: A Ticking Time Bomb

India's demographic dividend is often touted as its biggest strength. However, the reality is that this advantage can quickly turn into a liability if young people remain unemployed or underemployed. While over 12 million individuals enter the workforce annually, the economy has struggled to generate enough quality jobs to absorb this influx.

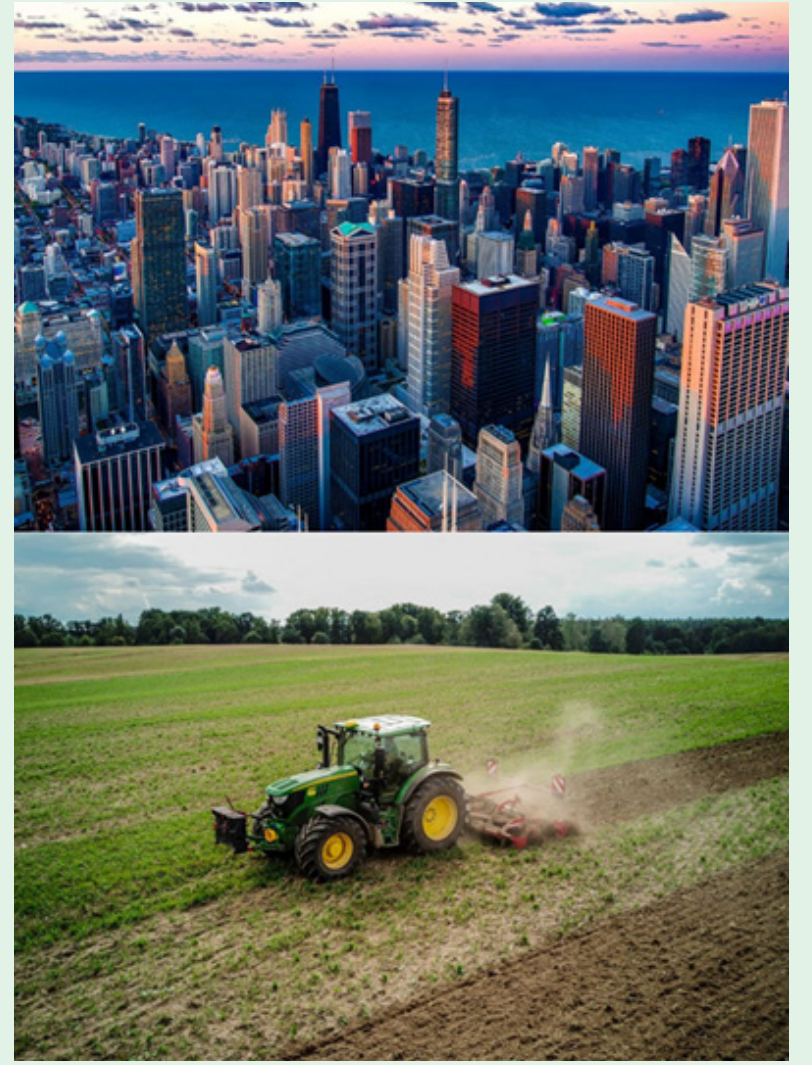
The mismatch between aspirations and opportunities is glaring. Young graduates are often underemployed in roles that do not match their skills or education levels. This underemployment not only limits their disposable income but also restricts their ability to contribute to long-term economic growth through investments or spending on durable goods.

E-Commerce: A Double-Edged Sword

The rise of e-commerce platforms has transformed India's retail landscape. Companies like Amazon and Flipkart have brought goods to the doorsteps of millions, even in remote areas. However, the rapid growth of online shopping has also



MURTHY NAIDU PAADAM
Stock Market Analyst
+91 988 555 9709



India's Economic Growth Set to Rebound: RBI Bulletin

India's economy is on track to rebound, with domestic demand gaining strength, according to the latest bulletin from the Reserve Bank of India (RBI) released on Friday. The bulletin highlighted that rural demand continues to show growth, reflecting resilience in consumption patterns despite challenges.



Office (NSO).

The article, titled "State of the Economy," published in the January edition of the RBI Bulletin, notes that India's economic growth is expected to accelerate in the second half of 2024-25. The article supports the projected pick-up in real GDP growth based on the first advance estimates from the National Statistical

Office (NSO). However, the RBI also pointed to persistent concerns about food inflation, which remains sticky and requires close attention due to potential second-order effects. Although headline inflation eased for the second consecutive month in December, food prices continue to show significant volatility, which could affect overall economic stability.

The global economic outlook for 2025 shows mixed trends, with slower growth anticipated in major economies. While the US is expected to experience a loss of momentum, Europe and Japan are likely to see weak recoveries. Emerging markets and developing countries, including India, are projected to maintain more moderate growth profiles, while disinflation is expected to be more gradual compared to advanced economies.

Despite these global challenges, the RBI remains optimistic about India's growth prospects, largely driven by domestic demand. The bulletin emphasizes that high-frequency economic indicators show a strong upward trend in the second half of the financial year, confirming that India is on track for a stronger economic performance in the coming months.

The article was authored by a team led by Michael Patra, who recently demitted his role as RBI Deputy Governor.

India's Forex Reserves Fall by \$8.7 Billion to \$625.87 Billion Amid Market Volatility

India's foreign exchange reserves have experienced a significant drop, declining by USD 8.74 billion to stand at USD 625.87 billion in the week ending January 10, according to the Reserve Bank of India (RBI). This comes after a previous dip of USD 5.693 billion in the week ending January 3, when the reserves were recorded at USD 634.585 billion. The decline in India's forex reserves has been attributed to a combination of factors, including revaluation and interventions by the RBI in the foreign exchange market. These interventions are aimed at reducing the volatility of the Indian rupee, which has been facing pressures in recent weeks. The RBI has been active in stabilizing the rupee, a move that often requires drawing from the country's forex reserves.



The drop in reserves marks a continuing downward trend, reflecting broader global financial dynamics. The nation's forex reserves had previously surged to a record high of USD 704.885 billion at the end of September 2021, driven by a combination of robust capital inflows, foreign investments, and remittances. Since then, the reserves have been gradually declining, with market interventions and the impact of global un-

certainties contributing to the fluctuations. Despite the recent fall, India's forex reserves remain at a comfortable level, providing a buffer against potential external shocks and enabling the country to meet its international payment obligations. Analysts remain watchful of further developments in the foreign exchange market, particularly given global economic factors and domestic challenges.

The decline in reserves underscores the importance of closely monitoring external factors such as global interest rates, oil prices, and geopolitical events that influence currency values and international trade dynamics. As India continues to navigate these challenges, its forex reserves remain a critical tool in ensuring economic stability.

Budget 2025: Key Income Tax Changes Expected on February 1

As India prepares for the Union Budget 2025, taxpayers and industry stakeholders are eagerly awaiting announcements that could ease financial pressures and boost economic growth. With global uncertainties and domestic challenges shaping the current economic landscape, this year's budget is expected to find a delicate balance between fiscal prudence and growth-centric reforms.

Among the most anticipated areas of focus are income tax changes, which could significantly impact the financial flexibility of households across the country.

Here are five key income tax changes expected to be announced in Budget 2025:

Increase in Basic Exemption Limit
One of the most anticipated changes is a rise in the basic income tax exemption limit. It is widely expected that the government will increase the current threshold of Rs 3

lakh to Rs 5 lakh, providing much-needed relief to taxpayers, especially the middle class. This move would ease the financial burden on low-income earners and improve disposable income for a large section of the population.

Reduction in Tax Slabs

There is a growing expectation that tax slabs could be revised to lower the effective tax rates for individuals. A reduction in tax rates would provide increased financial flexibility for households and encourage greater spending and investment, which could positively impact economic growth.

Tax Benefits for Homebuyers

With the real estate sector being a significant contributor to India's economy, the government is likely to offer additional tax incentives for homebuyers. This could include higher deductions on home loan interest and principal repayment, helping middle-class families realize their dreams

of owning a home.

Incentives for Savings and Investments

The budget could introduce further tax benefits for individuals who invest in retirement funds, health insurance, and other savings instruments. Such measures would encourage long-term financial planning and boost investments in key sectors.

Enhanced Tax Rebates for the Middle Class

To support the middle-income group, the budget may introduce enhanced tax rebates, making it easier for households to manage day-to-day expenses while maintaining savings and investments.

As Budget 2025 approaches, the Indian government's focus on enhancing financial flexibility for taxpayers, boosting consumption, and stimulating job creation remains a priority for both policymakers and the general public.

NITI Aayog's Virmani revises FY'25 GDP growth projection for India amidst global uncertainty

NITI Aayog member and renowned economist Arvind Virmani has revised his GDP growth projection for India for FY'25, adjusting it to a range of 6.4-7 percent. This revision comes in light of growing global uncertainties, particularly from political and economic challenges in the United States and China.

Earlier, Virmani had predicted India's GDP growth in the range of 6.5-7.5 percent, but now has lowered the projection to 6.5-7 percent, with a high likelihood that the growth rate may be sub-7 percent. The primary factors contributing to this revision are the rising political risks and uncertainties, especially surrounding the upcoming US elections, which

have the potential to disrupt global markets.

Virmani explained that his initial forecast had anticipated a growth rate of around 7 percent, with a margin of plus or minus 0.5 percent. However, he acknowledged that the uncertainty generated by the US elections has turned out to be more significant than previously expected. According to Virmani, the political instability in the US has a domino effect on other regions, including Europe, China, and indirectly India.

One of the major global concerns impacting India's growth prospects is the ongoing slowdown in China's economy. Virmani criticized

China's capacity-building approach, describing it as "irrational" given the country's reduced capacity utilization. The slowdown in China, which is India's key trade partner, has further contributed to a cautious outlook for India's economic performance in the coming year.

Virmani's revised projection comes as global economic challenges, such as geopolitical risks and slowing growth in major economies, weigh on market sentiments. Despite these uncertainties, India's economy is expected to continue its resilient growth, though at a more cautious pace than initially anticipated.



How Junk Food Impacts Children's Dental Health

Junk food, while convenient and often appealing, can have a significant negative impact on children's overall health, including their dental well-being. These foods are typically high in sugar, unhealthy fats, and salt, yet low in essential nutrients like vitamins, minerals, and fiber. While regular consumption of junk food can contribute to obesity and various health problems, it also poses a serious threat to children's dental health, increasing the risk of tooth decay, gum disease, and other oral issues. Here's how junk food affects your child's teeth:

Tooth Decay

Sugary snacks like candies and chocolates leave sugar behind on teeth, which bacteria break down to produce acids. These acids can erode tooth enamel, leading to cavities and decay.

Weakened Tooth Enamel

Acidic junk foods, such as sodas and citrus-flavored snacks, wear down enamel, making teeth more vulnerable to decay and sensitivity.

Plaque Build-up

Sticky treats like caramel and gummy candies stick to the teeth, providing a breeding ground for bacteria. This promotes plaque formation, which can lead to gum infections.

Gum Disease

Consuming junk food regularly can irritate the gums, causing inflam-



mation and increasing the risk of gingivitis (gum disease), which can lead to redness, swelling, and bleeding.

Bacterial Growth

Junk foods rich in refined carbohydrates, like chips and cookies, break down into sugars that fuel harmful bacteria in the mouth, exacerbating

oral health problems.

Tooth Erosion

Acidic foods and drinks, such as soda, lower the pH in the mouth and erode tooth enamel over time, weakening teeth and making them more prone to damage.

Dry Mouth

Many junk foods contain high salt levels, which can lead to dehydration and a dry mouth, reducing the production of saliva that helps cleanse the mouth and neutralize acids.

Jaw Development Issues

Junk foods are often soft and lack the texture needed to promote proper jaw muscle development and alignment, which are important for healthy teeth and jawbones.

Teeth Staining

Brightly colored junk foods, like candies and sodas, can stain teeth over time. These stains are often difficult to remove without professional cleaning.

Delayed Oral Recovery

Lack of nutrients like calcium and vitamin D in junk food can slow down recovery from dental problems like cavities and gum disease.

To protect your child's teeth, it's crucial to limit junk food intake and encourage a balanced diet along with good oral hygiene practices.

Little Pizza Boi: Internet Cannot Get Over Toddler Preparing Pizza Pie

Pizza lovers, prepare to have your hearts melted. A viral Instagram video featuring a 19-month-old toddler making pizza with his mother has captured the internet's attention for all the right reasons. While pizza is a beloved dish for many, watching a little one prepare it with such enthusiasm and cuteness adds an extra layer of joy to the experience.



The video begins in a cozy kitchen, where the toddler, dressed in an adorable chequered apron, is seen standing at the table surrounded by pizza-making ingredients: flour dough, grated cheese, fresh basil leaves, and tomato sauce. The toddler first plays with a rolling pin before getting down to business. He sprinkles flour on the board and carefully rolls out the dough with his tiny hands. His excitement is palpable as he helps his mother place the dough on a tray, then spreads butter across it.

As the video continues, the little one pours tomato sauce onto the dough and spreads it evenly, then adds the cheese and basil leaves to complete the toppings. The final step? Placing the pizza in the oven. After waiting eagerly, the toddler's face lights up as the freshly baked pizza is pulled out, and he eagerly takes a bite. His joyful expressions while enjoying the pizza

will surely make viewers smile. The video wraps up with the toddler waving at the camera, leaving viewers with a heartwarming end.

Instagram users have flooded the comments with sweet reactions. "Every time he finds the camera, he smiles," one person commented. Others shared their affection, with one user saying, "I could see him growing up in a little pizzeria in Italy in a past life." Another person wrote, "Made my day with his pizza." The adorable toddler has certainly made an impression, bringing smiles and joy to pizza lovers and parents alike.

Engineer Develops AI-Powered Robot That Aims and Fires with Lightning Speed



An engineer has unveiled a groundbreaking innovation—a robot powered by ChatGPT that controls a nail gun, enabling it to aim and fire at targets with stunning speed and accuracy. A video of the robot, which is circulating widely on social media, shows it swiftly rotating and shooting at colorful balloons, responding to commands with near-perfect precision.

While the creator has not provided specific details on how ChatGPT interfaces with the nail gun, the project has already sparked significant interest and concern. The engineer claims that the AI-powered nail gun is primarily intended for use in the construction industry, where it could revolutionize processes that require rapid, high-precision tasks such as nailing in large-scale construction projects.

Despite the promising application in construction, the development has raised eyebrows online, with many social media users expressing unease about the potential implications of AI-controlled machinery, particularly if it were to fall into the wrong hands. Some have voiced concerns about the future of AI-powered weapons, fearing that such technology could be used to cause harm without human oversight.

The creator shared the video on Instagram, promoting it as a "fully automated AI-enabled pneumatic nailing tool" that is still in development. They described it as a "super transformational" addition to the construction industry, with expectations that it will significantly enhance efficiency and accuracy in the field.

However, the debate around AI's evolving capabilities continues to intensify. While tools like this could offer immense benefits to industries such as construction, there are growing concerns over the unchecked development of autonomous systems, especially when they have the potential to be adapted for more harmful uses.

The video and its subsequent discussions have sparked widespread curiosity and caution, leading many to speculate on what the future holds for AI-powered machines and their broader societal implications.

Do aliens exist? what scientists really think

Recent news stories often present a hopeful outlook on the discovery of extraterrestrial life, with headlines suggesting that finding life beyond Earth could be imminent. The idea that discovering alien life is "only a matter of time" is widely circulated. But how accurate are these optimistic predictions? Are experts in the field, such as astrobiologists, equally hopeful?



In a new study published in *Nature Astronomy*, researchers conducted a series of surveys to gain insight into the perspectives of the scientific community regarding extraterrestrial life. The surveys, carried out between February and June 2024, focused on the likely existence of basic, complex, and intelligent extraterrestrial life. Emails were sent to astrobiologists and scientists from various related

fields, gathering a total of 521 responses from astrobiologists and 534 from non-astrobiologists.

The results of the survey reveal a strong sense of optimism within the astrobiology community. A staggering 86.6% of surveyed astrobiologists either "agreed"

or "strongly agreed" that it is likely that extraterrestrial life exists. This consensus supports the widely held belief that life beyond Earth is not only possible but probable, particularly in the context of basic life forms.

However, while optimism is high, the study also highlights

that there is no universal agreement on the specifics. Experts diverge when considering more complex or intelligent life forms, with opinions varying widely. Though the overwhelming majority of respondents believe that basic extraterrestrial life could exist elsewhere in the universe, the prospects for discovering intelligent life are still debated.

The study underscores the growing confidence among experts that we may indeed find extraterrestrial life in the future, but it also reveals a cautious approach when it comes to more advanced life forms. Despite this, the overall outlook remains positive, with many experts in the field feeling that humanity is getting closer to answering one of the biggest questions in science.

Amusement Park Ride In Hyderabad Leaves Riders Hanging Upside Down For 30 Minutes

A thrilling roller coaster experience at Hyderabad's Numaish exhibition turned into a nightmare for passengers after a sudden malfunction left them suspended upside down for nearly 30 minutes. The incident occurred on January 16, leaving riders screaming in distress as the ride unexpectedly halted due to a battery issue.



According to reports from *The Siasat Daily*, the coaster, during a trial run, became stuck in mid-air, with passengers hanging upside down. Witnesses described the scene as chaotic, with riders in visible

panic, waiting for assistance. The ride re-

mained inoperative for almost half an hour before technicians were able to resolve the

issue.

An official from the exhibition society later clarified that the malfunction was caused by battery problems. Once the battery was replaced, the ride resumed its normal function, and the riders were safely brought down.

Though no injuries were reported, the incident has raised concerns about the safety protocols and maintenance of amusement park rides. This event has also sparked discussions about the need for better safety measures and more rigorous checks during trial runs to prevent such accidents in the future.

India Announces Squad for Champions Trophy: Rohit Sharma to lead India

India has announced its squad for the upcoming Champions Trophy, with a blend of experience and fresh talent in the lineup. Young left-handed opener Yashasvi Jaiswal, a rising star in Indian cricket, was rightfully included in the 15-man squad, marking his potential as a future asset for the team. Additionally, pacer Mohammed Shami makes his return to the national side after a prolonged injury layoff. However, one notable absentee from the squad is pacer Mohammed Siraj, whose recent performances were deemed insufficient for a place in the final selection.

Jasprit Bumrah, who has been recovering from a long-standing injury, will be a key player to watch ahead of the prestigious tournament. Chairman of selectors, Ajit Agarkar, clarified that Bumrah's participation will be determined by his fitness, as he had been advised to take a break of five weeks to manage his recovery. This means that Bumrah will not be available for the first two ODIs against England, and his fitness levels will be closely monitored in the coming weeks to assess his availability for the rest of the tournament.

As for the squad, the selectors have opted for a well-balanced team, with a mix of established stars and new blood. Rohit Sharma has been named the captain, with Shubman Gill as his vice-captain. The squad includes a strong middle-order featuring Virat Kohli, Shreyas Iyer, and Hardik Pandya, while the experienced duo of Ravindra Jadeja and Axar Patel will bolster the spin department. Kuldeep Yadav, Washington Sundar, and Ravindra Jadeja add further depth in the bowling attack.



In the absence of regular wicketkeeper Rishabh Pant, KL Rahul and Rishabh Pant have been entrusted with the crucial wicketkeeping duties. While the squad has ample experience, there were some tough calls during the selection process. Despite scoring 752 runs in domestic cricket, Karun Nair was overlooked for a spot in the squad, with Agarkar explaining that the team was selected based on performance averages, with all selected players boasting an average in the mid-40s.

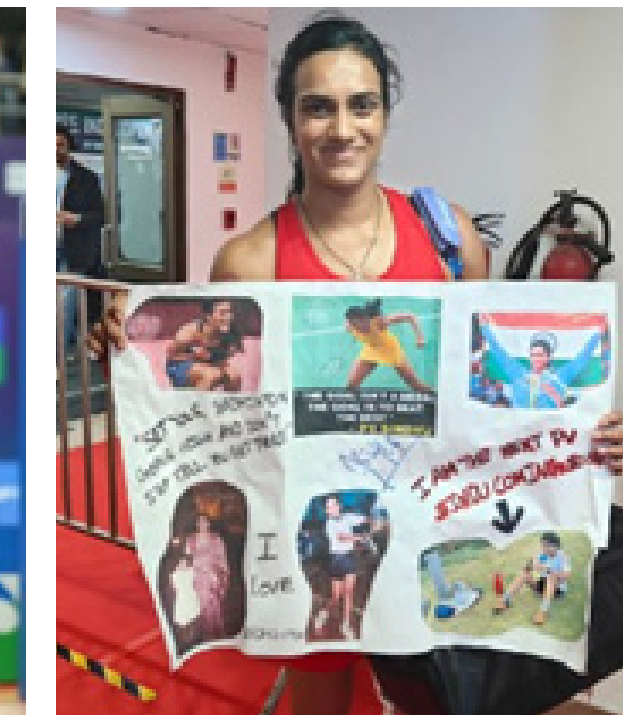
With the 2025 Champions Trophy fast approaching, the Indian team is shaping up to be a formidable force, with several key players eager to make an impact on the world stage.

Sindhu Shows Promise Despite Quarterfinal Defeat to Tunjung at India Open

The atmosphere at the Indira Gandhi Indoor Stadium was electric as PV Sindhu mounted a thrilling comeback against Gregoria Mariska Tunjung in the quarterfinals of the India Open Super 750. With the score at 15-17, Sindhu rallied to bring it level at 17-17, sparking excitement among the crowd. The energy in the stadium was palpable as fans cheered every point, fully invested in the match.

Among the passionate spectators was a 12-year-old girl who was not only cheering for Sindhu but also showed her admiration in a very special way. Holding up a hand-made poster featuring photos of both Sindhu and herself, it read, "I am the next Sindhu, coming soon." The young fan, clearly inspired by Sindhu's prowess, jumped up and down in her front-row seat, radiating enthusiasm with every winner the Indian star landed. The scene was a testament to the impact Sindhu has had on the next generation of athletes, inspiring young girls to dream big and pursue badminton.

After a tough start, where Sindhu lost the first



game 9-21, the atmosphere began to shift as she fought her way back into the match. Her resilience and determination were on full display as she leveled the score and seemed to turn the momentum in her favor. With each powerful stroke, it felt as though Sindhu was not just playing for herself, but for her supporters in the stands, including her young admirer who believed in her every move.

The sense of hope in the stadium was undeniable, as fans clung to the belief that Sindhu could overcome the odds and secure a victory. The match highlighted not just Sindhu's skills on the court, but her influence off it as well, inspiring young fans and future champions to follow in her footsteps.

Satwiksairaj Rankireddy and Chirag Shetty Power Into India Open Semifinals



Satwiksairaj Rankireddy and Chirag Shetty were determined to avoid any mistakes in their quarterfinal match at the India Open, coming out with intensity and focus from the very first point. Having been pushed to the limit in their opening two matches, the ace Indian men's doubles pair knew that avoiding avoidable errors was key to making a deep run in the tournament. Facing the tricky Korean duo of Kang Min Hyuk and Jin Yong, Satwiksairaj and Chirag were in no mood to let their opponents dictate the game.

The Indian pair dominated right from the start, winning the first game 21-10. Despite a late surge from the Koreans, Satwiksairaj and Chirag stayed composed in the second game, securing a 21-17 victory in just 41 minutes. The win sealed their spot in the semifinals, marking their second consecutive

semifinal appearance to start the 2025 season.

On a day when other Indian players, including PV Sindhu and Kiran George, faced tough losses, Satwiksairaj and Chirag's performance was a bright spot for the home crowd. Sindhu went down in a three-game thriller to Paris 2024 bronze medalist Gregoria Mariska Tunjung, while Kiran George fell to Weng Hong Yang.

With their semifinal berth, Satwiksairaj and Chirag continue to keep Indian hopes alive at this BWF World Tour event. Their focused performance against the Koreans was a reminder of their potential, as they look to push further in the tournament and make a strong start to the year. Fans will be eagerly watching to see if the Indian pair can continue their momentum and secure a title at the prestigious event.

Gael Monfils Stuns Fourth Seed Taylor Fritz in Australian Open 3rd Round

In a stunning upset at the Australian Open, 38-year-old Gael Monfils defeated fourth seed Taylor Fritz to secure his spot in the fourth round, becoming the second-oldest man in history to reach the last 16 at Melbourne Park. Monfils staged a remarkable comeback to win 3-6, 7-5, 7-6 (7/1), 6-4, showcasing his resilience and experience.

Monfils, ranked 41st in the world, had previously sparked interest by winning the Auckland Classic, where he became the oldest singles champion in ATP Tour history. The Frenchman entered this match against Fritz, who had been in excellent form, having dropped just eight games in his first two rounds. However, Monfils proved to be a formidable opponent, unleashing powerful groundstrokes and a booming serve to overpower the American.

"The strategy was to hold the baseline



and change the tempo," Monfils explained after the match. "I focused on hitting big shots down the line, using some slice on my backhand, and serving well." His tactical play and belief in himself were key to the victory, as he continued to apply pressure and take

control of the match.

The match began with some intense baseline rallies, including one lasting 29 shots and another 24, as both players traded heavy shots. Fritz broke Monfils' serve at 5-3 to win the first set, but Monfils bounced back in the second. With both players holding steady, Fritz lost his focus while serving at 5-5, allowing Monfils to break and win the set.

In the third set, a tiebreaker saw Monfils dominate, taking it 7-1 with a series of precision shots. Monfils then kept up the pressure in the fourth set, saving break points and breaking Fritz at 5-4 to seal the victory.

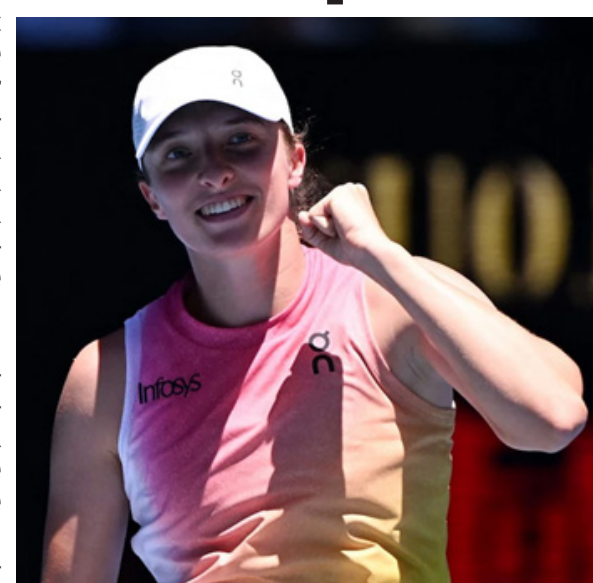
Monfils will now face either Ben Shelton or Lorenzo Musetti in the quarterfinals, continuing his quest for a maiden major semi-final appearance.

Iga Swiatek Dominates Emma Raducanu to Reach Australian Open Second Week

Iga Swiatek continued her quest for a maiden Australian Open title with an emphatic 6-1, 6-0 victory over Emma Raducanu on Saturday, sending a strong message to her rivals. In a battle between two former US Open champions, the five-time Grand Slam winner was in ruthless form, securing 11 consecutive games after the match was tied at 1-1 in the first set.

Swiatek, who fired 24 winners to Raducanu's nine, was nearly untouchable on Rod Laver Arena. "I played a few shots today that reminded me why I practice - for moments like these," Swiatek said after the match, highlighting her confidence and enjoyment during the dominant performance. The Polish star, who committed just 12 unforced errors, also noted the importance of converting break points, which played a crucial role in her victory.

This win marked Raducanu's best per-



formance at the Australian Open, having previously never made it past the second round. However, Swiatek quickly asserted control, breaking Raducanu's serve early and taking the first set in just 31 minutes. From there, it was all one-way traffic, with Swiatek continu-

ing to apply pressure, forcing Raducanu into errors and wrapping up the match in just 1 hour and 10 minutes.

For Raducanu, who had been struggling with injury issues, including a back problem in the lead-up to the tournament, this defeat further highlighted the challenges she has faced since her stunning 2021 US Open triumph. Her best Grand Slam result since then has been a fourth-round appearance at Wimbledon.

Swiatek, the 2022 US Open champion, is looking to improve on her relatively modest Australian Open record, which includes just one semi-final appearance in 2022. With only 10 games dropped in her first three matches, she seems poised for a deep run. She will next face either Eva Lys or Jaqueline Christian in the fourth round, with a potential semi-final showdown against Elena Rybakina awaiting her.



Enchanting Track “Aggipulle” from Dilruba Impresses Audiences

Riding high on the success of KA, the talented actor Kiran Abbavaram is all set for his next film, Dilruba, with the release of its first single, “Aggipulle.” After generating solid buzz with its teaser, the makers have now launched the much-anticipated track, which has quickly won hearts.

“Aggipulle” is a soulful composition by the sensational music director Sam CS, known for his ability to evoke deep emotions through his music. The song features stirring lyrics penned by the talented poet Bhaskar Batta, which beautifully capture the intense and fierce nature of love. With its perfect blend of a soothing melody and impactful words, the track is expected to dominate music playlists in the days to come.



Dilruba, set to release on Valentine's Day, February 14, is expected to be a treat for romantic movie lovers. Kiran Abbavaram, in a stylish makeover for this film, is sure to impress fans with his new look. Cinematography is being handled by Daniel Viswas, while Praveen KL serves as the editor, ensuring the film's visual and narrative appeal.

Produced by Sivam Celluloids and Yoodlee Films (the film studio of Saregama India Ltd.), Dilruba is backed by producers

Ravi, Jojo Jose, Rakesh Reddy, and Saregama, with Viswa Karun directing this intriguing romantic entertainer. With “Aggipulle” already making waves, expectations are high for what the full film has in store.

Anurag Kulkarni's powerful and evocative voice adds a layer of depth to the song, enhancing its emotional resonance. The song's composition, combined with the heartfelt vocals, creates a magical atmosphere, making it a standout in the film's musical lineup.

Vijay Sethupathi's Viduthalai Part 2 to Debut on Amazon Prime Video

Viduthalai Part 2, starring Tamil actor Vijay Sethupathi and actress Manju Warrier in pivotal roles, is set to stream on the popular OTT platform Amazon Prime Video starting January 19. Directed by Kollywood filmmaker Vetri Maaran, the film is the sequel to the hit Viduthalai Part 1. While the sequel's theatrical release in December 2024 did not meet audience expectations, it is now gearing up for an OTT debut, creating renewed interest.

The sequel continues the gripping tale that began in Part 1, where Vijay Sethupathi's character, Perumal (also known as Master), was arrested following a clue provided by Constable Kumaresan, portrayed by comedian Soori. The movie picks up where Part 1 ended, diving deeper into Perumal's journey. In Viduthalai Part 2, viewers will uncover the backstory of why Perumal, who once taught children in a school, became a prominent figure



an integral part of Perumal's life. The film explores their dynamic and how Mahalakshmi's entry influences Perumal's fight against the system.

As the story unfolds, the film reveals further developments about Constable Kumaresan's involvement and actions that lead to the explosive events of Part 2. The gripping narrative promises to reveal unanswered questions from the first part, making it a must-watch for fans of the franchise.

For those who missed the theatrical release, Viduthalai Part 2 will now be available in both Tamil and Telugu languages on Amazon Prime Video,

giving viewers a chance to experience the intense drama and action-packed plot from the comfort of their homes. The new poster for the OTT release further adds excitement for this much-awaited continuation.

Manju Warrier plays a significant role in the movie as Mahalakshmi, who becomes

against the oppressive zamindari system. His transformation from a teacher to a revolutionary leader is one of the central narratives of the film.

Robinhood's New Release Date Collides with Hari Hara Veera Mallu

Nithiin's upcoming adventurous comedy entertainer Robinhood was initially slated for a Christmas release, but the film was postponed for unspecified reasons. Fans were hopeful that Robinhood would eventually make its way to theaters during the Sankranti festival, but those plans were shelved as the festival window became crowded with other big releases.

In a recent update, the makers of Robinhood confirmed that the film will now be released on March 28, 2025. However, this announcement has left Pawan Kalyan fans in shock, as it coincides with the release date of Pawan Kalyan's much-awaited PAN-Indian debut film, Hari Hara Veera Mallu, which is also scheduled for the same day.

The clash of these two major films has sparked speculation across the industry, particularly as Nithiin is a known admirer of Pawan Kalyan. It's widely believed that Nithiin would not want to compete with the release of Hari Hara Veera Mallu, given the respect he has for the star. This has led many to question whether Hari Hara Veera Mallu will indeed be released on March 28, or if there will be a change in its release schedule.

Directed by Venky Kudumula, Robinhood is expected to be an exciting comedy-action film, with Sreeleela playing the female lead. The movie is being produced by Mythri Movie Makers, with music composed by GV Prakash Kumar. Fans are eagerly awaiting the release of Robinhood, but the looming shadow of the Hari Hara Veera Mallu release has left many wondering what will happen in the coming weeks.

With two highly anticipated films now vying for the same release date, moviegoers will be watching closely to see if any adjustments are made to avoid a clash at the box office.

Mad Square: MAD Gang arriving to theatres on March 29th

The much-awaited sequel to the youth blockbuster Mad, titled Mad Square, has finally announced its release date, much to the excitement of Tollywood fans. The original Mad movie, starring young heroes Narne Nithin, Sangeet Shobhan, and Ram Nithin, quickly became a hit among the youth for its entertaining storyline and vibrant energy. Now, with the sequel Mad Square set to hit the screens on March 29, the buzz around this crazy follow-up is undeniable.

Fans and industry insiders had been eagerly anticipating the announcement of Mad Square's release, and with its promotional content making waves,

the excitement has only intensified. The movie promises to deliver another thrilling, fun-filled ride, staying true to the energetic and youthful spirit of the first film.

The film's music, composed by the talented Bheems, is expected to add another layer of excitement, with catchy tunes that are sure to become fan favorites. Mad Square is produced by Sitara Entertainments and Fortune Four Cinemas, two prominent names in the Telugu film industry, ensuring top-notch production values.

With the release date now confirmed, Mad Square is poised to be one of the most talked-about films of the year, offering a perfect mix of fun, action, and entertainment. Fans of the original Mad and newcomers alike can look forward to an exciting cinematic experience when the movie releases on March 29. Get ready for a mad ride!



Pushpa 2 Reloaded: New Scenes Add Depth to the Storyline

Pushpa 2: The Rule has once again broken norms in Telugu cinema, this time with the release of the Reloaded version, which extends the movie's runtime by 20 minutes. Following the success of the original film, the makers introduced the reloaded version in theatres, offering new content that addresses unanswered questions from the first installment.

One of the most anticipated additions is the inclusion of flashbacks that shed light on the events before and after the opening fight. In the reloaded version, Pushpa (played by Allu Arjun) recalls his childhood moments after falling into the sea. This flashback depicts a young Pushpa who, unable to swim, jumps into a pond as part of a dare to prove himself to his friends and earn his family's respect. These new scenes offer a deeper understanding of Pushpa's background and motivations.

Additionally, the reloaded version unveils a critical plot point involving Pushpa's finances. It is revealed that his money gets stuck in Japan during the transportation of red sandalwood cargo from Sri Lanka. Shekhawat's elimination of Hamid and Jali Reddy creates a disruption in the link, leaving Pushpa determined to recover his money. To do so, he lands in Japan hidden inside a container, adding another layer of intrigue to the plot.



New scenes also explore the dynamics between Mangalam Srinu and Shekhawat, who devise a plan to outwit Pushpa. However, Pushpa's clever counter-strategy keeps the syndicate united and ensures his continued dominance.

For fans who were left questioning the locket scene from the original film, the Reloaded version provides much-needed closure. In a touching moment toward the end, Ajay places the locket around Pushpa's neck, adding emotional depth to the story and answering lingering questions.

With these additional scenes, Pushpa 2 Reloaded promises an even more compelling and immersive experience for viewers, further cementing the film's place in cinematic history.