



Weather Forecast

HYDERABAD	VIJAYAWADA	TIRUPATHI
TEMPE RATURE	TEMPE RATURE	TEMPE RATURE
H 29° C L 17° C	H 31° C L 20° C	H 27° C L 19° C

HAPPY New Year

GRAND WELCOME TO

2025

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శ్రేయోభిలాషులకు
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HAPPY
NEW YEAR
2025

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TOOTH POWDER



AYUSSH DHARA



HERBAL NUT POWDER



High Court Extends Interim Order

No Arrest for KTR Until Verdict in Formula E-Case



TPN Correspondent, Hyderabad : The Telangana High Court has extended its interim order, directing that BRS Working President K.T. Rama Rao (KTR) should not be arrested in connection with the Formula E-car race case until the final verdict is delivered.

KTR had filed a quash petition seeking dismissal of the FIR registered against him in the case. The High Court conducted a detailed hearing on the petition on Tuesday. Senior Supreme Court advocate Siddharth Dave represented KTR, while Advocate General Sudarshan Reddy appeared for the

ACB. After hearing lengthy arguments from both sides, the court reserved its judgment and extended the interim protection granted to KTR, prohibiting his arrest until the verdict is announced.

Background

During an earlier hearing, the High Court had directed the ACB to continue its investigation while ensuring no arrest of KTR until December 30. The court also ordered the ACB to submit a counter within ten days and scheduled the next hearing for December 27.

However, the hearing was re-scheduled to December 31, when extensive arguments were presented. Following this, the High Court reserved its decision, further extending the interim relief to KTR.

This development offers temporary relief to KTR while the case continues to unfold.

Babu, Pawan in BJP Banner In Hyderabad

A Silent Signal in Hyderabad!!

G Avinash | TPN, Hyderabad : The recent successful alliance between Telugu Desam Party (TDP), Janase-na, and BJP in Andhra Pradesh has been a significant political development, leading to a decisive victory over the ruling YCP. While this alliance has flourished in Andhra Pradesh, it has not been officially extended to Telangana, where the BJP has been operating independently and TDP, under the leadership of Chandrababu Naidu, has been working to regain its foothold. However, an intriguing political signal has emerged from Hyderabad.



A BJP-centric banner, featuring the images of Chandrababu Naidu and Pawan Kalyan, was spotted at the busy Jubilee Hills junction. The appearance of this banner, in the heart of Telangana, has raised questions since no formal announcement has been made about an alliance between these three parties in the state.

With the GHMC elections on the horizon, the banner's prominence has sparked discussions about the future political landscape in Telangana. Could this be an early

indicator of the NDA alliance expanding into Telangana? Or is it simply an isolated, uncoordinated event?

One thing remains clear: Chandrababu Naidu and Pawan Kalyan have emerged as key players in the NDA, as evidenced by their growing prominence during recent visits to Delhi, where they met with Union ministers. This growing alliance and their visibility suggest that their influence in national politics is gaining traction.

KCR Extends New Year Greetings to Telangana

TPN Correspondent, Hyderabad : BRS president and former Chief Minister K Chandrashekhar Rao extended his heartfelt New Year greetings to the people of Telangana on Tuesday.

In his message, KCR prayed for peace and harmony for all people in 2025. He emphasized the importance of cultivating resilience, encouraging individuals to face life's ups and downs with an optimistic attitude. The BRS supremo further stated that true progress in the New Year would only be achieved through a qualitative change in the lives of the people. He urged governments to focus on initiatives that foster such positive transformation for the betterment of society.



Govt Issues Notification for 567 Acres Land Acquisition in Thimmapur for Industrial Park

TPN Correspondent, Hyderabad : The Telangana government has issued a notification for the acquisition of 567 acres of land in Thimmapur village, Kandukur mandal, for the establishment of an industrial park. The notification, issued by the Rangareddy Collector, mandates the acquisition of 566.39 acres of land in favor of the Telangana State Industrial Infrastructure Corporation Limited (TSIIC).

This land acquisition notification comes amid ongoing protests from farmers and residents of various villages in Kandukur mandal, particularly against the establishment of a pharma village in the region. Farmers in nearby areas like Kandukur, Yacharam, and other neighboring mandals have been vocal in their opposition,



demanding the scrapping of plans for the pharma village and the removal of their patta lands from the prohibited category in the revenue records.

To protest the establishment of the pharma village, farmers from villages such as Medipally, Tatiparthi, Kurmidla, and Nanaknagar have organized rallies and protests, with the formation of an umbrella organiza-

tion called the "Pharma Vyatireka Porata Samithi" (Protest group against pharma village) to intensify their movement and raise awareness about the potential adverse effects of the proposed pharma village.

Despite these protests, the Rangareddy district Collector proceeded with the notification for the acquisition of land for the industrial park in Thimmapur. This development follows the cancellation of an earlier notification for land acquisition in other villages such as Lagacherla and Rotibhanda thanda due to strong resistance from tribal farmers. However, shortly after, a new notification was issued for acquiring land in Polepally, Lagacherla, and surrounding areas for the establishment of a multipurpose industrial park.

Telangana's Tumultuous 2024

Key Developments, Political Shifts, and Public Controversies
From Musi River redevelopment to caste census and controversies in cinema and politics

G Avinash | TPN, Hyderabad : The year 2024 was a transformative one for Telangana, with the state government rolling out ambitious plans for development, but also facing political challenges and public controversies. Among the most significant initiatives was the launch of the caste census, fulfilling one of the key promises made by the Congress government, alongside the redevelopment of the Musi River and the creation of a 'future-ready city' on the outskirts of Hyderabad. However, executing these grand projects faced significant hurdles, including financial constraints and political opposition.

Congress Government's Electoral Promises and the Caste Survey
The Congress government, under Chief Minister Revanth Reddy, made

progress on its electoral promises, including the Rs 21,000 crore crop loan waiver and the launch of the caste survey in November 2024. Despite facing criticism for not yet implementing the 'Rythu Bhrosa' scheme, which promised Rs 15,000 to farmers, the government assured that the scheme would be rolled out after the Sankranti festival in January 2025. The historic caste survey, a major election pledge by Congress leader Rahul Gandhi, was launched on November 6, aiming to collect data on the socio-economic conditions of different castes in the state.

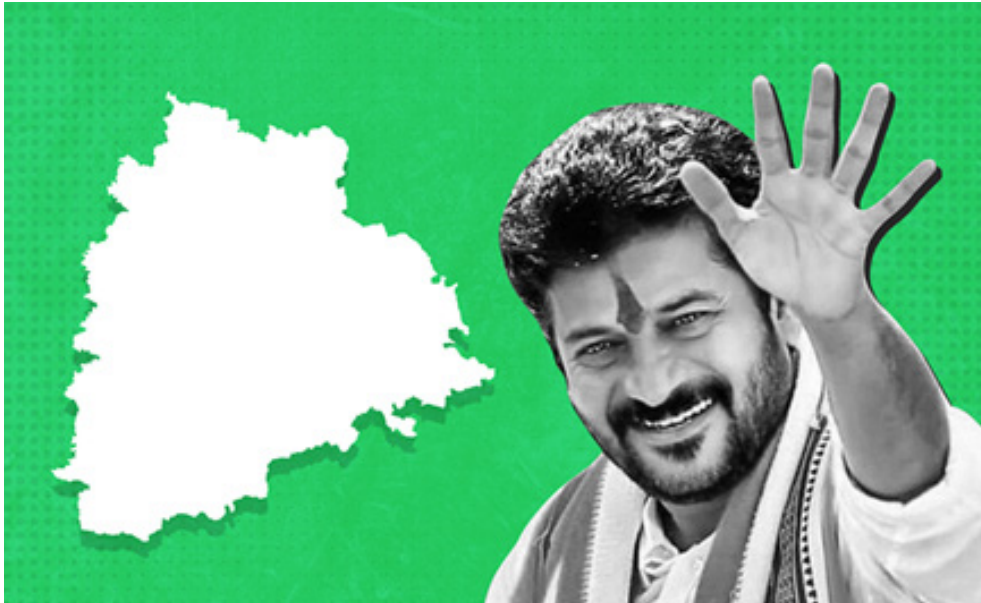
Musi River Redevelopment Amidst Opposition

The Musi River redevelopment, a massive project to clean up and rejuvenate the highly polluted waterway,

was another ambitious initiative that dominated the year. The state government's plans for the river, often compared to the Sabarmati in Gujarat and the Thames in London, were met with opposition from political parties like BRS and BJP. The newly-formed Hyderabad Disaster Response and Asset Protection Agency (HYDRAA) carried out demolition drives along the riverbanks, displacing many poor residents, which sparked widespread protests. Despite the opposition, the government pressed on, stressing the need to address the toxic pollution in the Musi and stating that a consortium of renowned companies would prepare the detailed project report (DPR).

Political Setbacks for BRS and Growing Tensions

In the political arena, the Congress



government faced challenges from opposition parties, particularly the BRS, which struggled following a poor performance in the 2023 assembly elections and a dismal showing in the 2024 Lok Sabha elections, where it failed to secure any seats. This was a major setback for the party, which had previously been dominant in the state. The BJP also won eight of the 17 Lok Sabha seats, while Asaduddin

Owaisi retained his Hyderabad constituency. Additionally, political tensions flared when the Congress government ordered investigations into alleged irregularities under the BRS government, focusing on the Kaleshwaram project and Power Purchasing Agreements (PPAs).



Telangana's Tumultuous 2024

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Tragic Pushpa-2 Stampede and Film Industry Scrutiny

One of the year's most tragic events occurred in early December when a stampede broke out at a premiere show of Pushpa-2 in Hyderabad, resulting in the death of a woman and serious injuries to her son. The incident led to significant public outrage, and Allu Arjun, the film's star, was briefly arrested, though he was granted bail by the High Court. The incident also sparked a broader conversation about public safety and the responsibility of film production companies. The CM, in a meeting with the film industry, made it clear that law and order was paramount and that the movie industry was not exempt from scrutiny.

Lagcharla Farmers' Clashes Over Land Acquisition

Another incident that drew attention was the conflict in Lagcharla, where farmers clashed with the government over land acquisition for a proposed 'pharma village.' The situation escalated when officials were attacked during a public hearing, leading to the arrest of several individuals, including BRS leader Patnam Narendar Reddy. The government later withdrew its land acquisition plans and instead proposed a multipurpose industrial park in the region.

Telangana Thalli Statue Controversy

The unveiling of the Telangana Thalli statue, a new official design different from the one used by the BRS, also created tensions between the ruling Congress and the regional party.

Financial Challenges and Future Prospects for Telangana

The year ended with continued challenges for the ruling government, as it navigated financial strains, with state revenue receipts significantly lower than the budget estimates for 2024-25. The state faced ongoing scrutiny over its ability to fund the ambitious redevelopment and infrastructure projects it had announced.

Overall, 2024 marked a year of significant strides and setbacks for Telangana, with a series of ambitious development projects, political upheavals, and controversies surrounding public safety and governance. As the state moves into 2025, its ability to address these challenges will be key in shaping its future trajectory.

Telangana Cabinet Meeting on January 4

- Scheduled at 4 PM in the Secretariat under CM Revanth Reddy's chairmanship.
- Discussions on farmer's insurance, cash for landless poor, new ration cards, and tourism policy.
- Proposal for subsidized sand, cement, and steel for house construction on the agenda.
- Key commissions' reports and Yadagirigutta temple board setup to be reviewed.

The Telangana Cabinet will convene on January 4 at 4 PM in the Secretariat, chaired by Chief Minister Revanth Reddy. The meeting is expected to address several crucial issues, including farmer's insurance, financial assistance for the landless poor, new ration cards, and a comprehensive tourism policy. Chief Minister Revanth Reddy previously announced that farmer's insurance payments would be credited to farmers' accounts post-Sankranti. A final decision regarding this is anticipated during the meeting. The Cabinet is also

likely to finalize income limits for new ration cards and review pending applications. A significant proposal on the agenda is the provision of sand, cement, and steel at subsidized rates for beneficiaries constructing Indiramma houses. The Cabinet will also deliberate on reports submitted by the Electricity Commission, BC Dedicated Commission, and SC Classification Commission. Additionally, the government is expected to decide on establishing a TTD-style governing board for the Yadagirigutta temple to enhance its management and development.



Harish Rao Slams Congress for Broken Promises and Poor Governance

TPN Correspondent, Hyderabad :

In his New Year message to the people of Telangana, senior BRS leader and former Minister T. Harish Rao criticized the Congress government for its failures and broken promises throughout 2024. He called the year a period of rising discontent and unfulfilled commitments, accusing Chief Minister A. Revanth Reddy of failing to live up to the expectations of the people.

Rao stated that 2024 was marked by the Congress government's inability to deliver on key promises, leading to widespread dissatisfaction among the public. He compared Revanth Reddy's leadership to that of Ravana, citing several public opinion sur-



veys that showed the CM's leadership failing to secure even basic approval.

"The Congress has been in power for nearly 390 days, but none of the six guarantees or the 420 promis-

es from their manifesto have been effectively implemented," Rao remarked. "The party lacks a clear vision, and its governance is a curse for the people of Telangana."

He highlighted several unfulfilled election pledges, including the much-anticipated crop bonus, which was now restricted to just one crop, and the delayed crop loan waiver for farmers and women's groups. Despite the government's announcement of funds, many beneficiaries had yet to receive their dues. Similarly, the promise of addressing rising diet charges for students remained unimplemented.

Rao also criticized the Congress for its focus on commissions rather than delivering on its commitments, particularly in the areas of education and employment. He pointed out the neglect of Gurukul schools, where incidents of student suicides continue, and the

unfulfilled promise of providing two lakh jobs for the unemployed youth.

The BRS leader accused the Congress government of using diversionary tactics and heavy-handed policing rather than addressing the state's core issues. "Even in the Assembly, the Chief Minister and Ministers are not hesitating to lie," Rao said, adding that the administration's failure had tarnished Hyderabad's reputation.

He further accused Revanth Reddy of opportunism, alleging that the CM had coluded with the BJP, leading to mismanagement and leaving the people of Telangana to deal with the fallout from unfulfilled promises.

Leopard Sighting on NH 61 Triggers Panic Among Motorists in Nirmal

TPN Correspondent, Nirmal : A leopard sighting on National Highway 61 near Dilawarpur mandal headquarters caused panic among motorists and locals early Tuesday morning. Witnesses reported the wild animal crossing the highway near a temple, and many of them managed to capture the moment on their mobile phones. The video of the leopard went viral on social media, further intensifying the fear among residents of the area.

This incident comes shortly after a similar scare on December 14, when a leopard attacked Bheema Bai, a local woman, near her cattle shed on the outskirts of Dedra village in Bazarhathnoor mandal, Adilabad district. Bai sustained minor injuries in the attack,

which occurred while the leopard was on the prowl. Earlier in December, on the 4th, another leopard was spotted crossing NH 363 near the Asifabad-Kagaznagar crossroads in Kumram Bheem Asifabad district.

In addition, there are reports of a tiger roaming the forests of Luxettipet range in Mancherla district, with pugmarks recently spotted. The tiger is believed to have entered the region from the Tiryan mandal of Kumram Bheem Asifabad district and is currently residing in the forests of Vemanapalli mandal.

The sightings have raised concerns over the safety of locals and wildlife management in the area.



5,246 Special RTC Buses to Operate Across Telangana for Sankranti

TPN Correspondent, Telangana : The Telangana State Road Transport Corporation (TGSRTC) has announced plans to operate 5,246 special buses during the Sankranti festival from January 7 to 15, to accommodate the surge in passenger traffic. These buses will connect Hyderabad with other districts like Amalapuram, Kakinada, Rajahmundry, Vijayawada, and Tirupati.

Of the total services, 557 buses will offer reservation facilities, ensuring a smooth travel experience for passengers. TGSRTC has also confirmed that its Mahalakshmi scheme, which allows women to travel free of charge, will be applicable on Palle Velugu, Express, City Ordinary, and Metro Express buses. This initiative has been highly popular, with the majority of bus passengers benefiting from the free travel provision.

The special buses will depart from various lo-



cations in Hyderabad, including MGBS, JBS, Uppal Cross Roads, Aramgarh, LB Nagar, KPHB, Boynpally, and Gachibowli, and head towards several other districts in the state. In addition to regular buses, electric buses will be deployed from districts like Karimnagar, Nizamabad, and Warangal to Hyderabad.

To enhance passenger comfort, TGSRTC is set-

ting up essential facilities such as pandals, shamiyanas, chairs, public address systems, drinking water stations, and mobile toilets at major bus terminals in Hyderabad. TGSRTC has advised passengers to make reservations through its website or contact the RTC call center for further details. The call center can be reached at 040-69440000 or 040-23450033 for inquiries.

Surge in Daily Passengers

Recent data from TGSRTC shows a significant increase in daily bus usage, with about 20 lakh passengers utilizing the service, primarily driven by the Mahalakshmi scheme. In Hyderabad, 14 lakh of these daily passengers are women, taking advantage of the free travel benefit. The scheme, launched on December 9, has led to a 70% increase in female passengers, allowing them to save money and access transportation more easily.

Don't Drag the Film Industry into Unnecessary Controversies

Dil Raju's Reaction to KTR's Comments on the Film Industry



TPN Correspondent, Hyderabad : Telangana Film Development Corporation Chairman and renowned producer Dil Raju has strongly reacted to comments made by BRS Working President KTR regarding the film industry. KTR had previously mentioned that the issue with film personalities had been resolved, but Dil Raju expressed his dismay, stating that the film industry should not be dragged into unnecessary controversies.

He emphasized that injecting politics into the Telugu film industry is inappropriate and should be avoided. Dil Raju made it clear that the film industry should not be used for political criticism or attacks.

Regarding the recent meeting with Chief Minister Revanth Reddy, Dil Raju clarified that it was not a casual affair. The meeting was a friendly discussion focused on the challenges and concerns of the industry. He further stated that the film industry is satisfied with the outcome of the meeting, with the government recognizing its role in the state's development. He added that the Chief Minister had sought the industry's cooperation for social welfare initiatives.

Don't Hurt KTR on New Year's Day; Let Him Enjoy for Two Days



TPN Correspondent, Hyderabad : The Telangana High Court on Monday heard a quash petition filed by BRS Working President K.T. Rama Rao (KTR) in connection with the Formula E-car case. After extensive arguments, the court reserved its verdict, ordering the police not to arrest KTR until the judgment is delivered.

Responding to the development, Telangana Congress leader and Minister Komatireddy Venkata Reddy made a lighthearted remark, appealing for leniency toward KTR during the New Year celebrations. "Don't hurt KTR on New Year's Day. Let him enjoy for two days. We'll deal with him on January 3 and 4," he said, adding a touch of humor to the ongoing political discourse.

SLBC Project Highlighted
On a more serious note, Komatireddy emphasized the importance of the SLBC (Srisa- ilam Left Bank Canal) project, describing it as a decades-old dream of the people of Nalgonda district. The project, he noted, is set to irrigate 4 lakh acres of farmland upon completion.

He criticized the authorities for any perceived negligence, stating that the contractors must be held accountable for delays. "If the contractors are not working, inform the minister. With strict monitoring, this project can be completed on time," he asserted.

Hailing the SLBC project as a potential world wonder, he added, "When it is completed, the entire world will come to see it."

Police Oppose Regular Bail for Allu Arjun in Nampally Court

TPN Correspondent, Hyderabad : The Hyderabad Police have requested the Nampally court not to grant regular bail to actor Allu Arjun, citing concerns over his influence and potential interference with the investigation.



In their petition, the police argued that Allu Arjun, being a wealthy and influential figure, may attempt to influence witnesses if granted bail. They also stated that the actor was arrested at the Chikkadapalli police station for not cooperating with the investigation. The authorities expressed concerns that if Allu Arjun were released on bail again, he might continue to refuse cooperation with the ongoing investigation.

The court is expected to review the police's request and decide whether to grant regular bail to the actor, who has been involved in a legal matter under investigation. Allu Arjun's legal team has yet to respond publicly to the police's claims.

Don't Celebrate New Year in Hyderabad, BJP MLA Raja Singh Urges Youth

TPN Correspondent, Hyderabad : Bharatiya Janata Party (BJP) MLA from Goshamahal, T Raja Singh, has urged the Hindu community in Hyderabad to refrain from participating in New Year celebrations, stating that it is not aligned with Hindu traditions or the Indian calendar.



Addressing the media on December 31, Raja Singh said, "January 1 is the New Year for Christians, not for Sanathanis (Hindus). Our New Year begins with Ugadi and Chaitra Shukla Pratipada. I fail to understand why Hindus are adopting celebrations of other communities."

The BJP MLA labeled New Year celebrations as a "western conspiracy," claiming they detract from Hindu values. "We are falling into a trap set by western countries and imposing it on future generations," he said.

Raja Singh expressed concern over Hindu youth frequenting pubs, bars, and resorts to mark

the occasion. He advised them to focus on preserving Hindu Dharma instead. "Instead of speeding and risking lives on roads while celebrating, youngsters should dedicate their lives to protecting Hindu Dharma and combating issues like 'Love Jihad,'" he added.

Raja Singh has consistently voiced opposition to non-Hindu practices, urging the community to stay rooted in its cultural and religious heritage.

HC Extends Protection from Arrest for Harish Rao

HC allows police investigation while prohibiting Rao's arrest until January 9

TPN Correspondent, Hyderabad : The Telangana High Court has extended protection from arrest for former minister T. Harish Rao until January 9 in a case concerning alleged phone tapping filed by BSP leader Gadthagani Chakradhar Goud. During a hearing on Monday, December 30, Justice K. Lakshman reviewed Rao's petition seeking to quash the FIR and halt the police investigation. While permitting the police to proceed with their inquiry, the court directed Panjagutta police not to arrest Rao until the specified date.

Chakradhar Goud, who lost the Siddipet assembly election in November 2023, alleged that his phone was tapped under Rao's directives during the election period. Goud stated that he received an alert from Apple, notifying him that state au-



thorities were monitoring his iPhone. Despite filing complaints with law enforcement, Goud claimed that no action was taken against those responsible for

the alleged surveillance. The case remains under investigation as the court deliberates further on the matter.

Police Serve Notice to Former BRS MLA Patnam Narender Reddy

TPN Correspondent, Vikarabad : The Bomraspet Police, under the Kodangal constituency, have served a notice to former BRS MLA Patnam Narender Reddy to appear before them at 11 am on January 2 regarding the case involving the attack on Congress leader A Shekhar at Rotibanda thanda. The notice was issued on Monday night, directing the former MLA to appear before the Investigation Officer. Patnam Narender Reddy, who has already secured anticipatory bail to avoid arrest, faces questioning in connection with the incident that occurred during a public hearing at Rotibanda thanda on October 26. Tensions had flared when farmers and villagers protested against the proposed pharma village, refusing



to part with their lands. During the incident, Congress mandal president A Shekhar was confronted by the villagers and subsequently locked in the panchayat office.

While some villagers claimed that local Congress leaders were responsible for locking Shekhar in the office to prevent further conflict, the situation escalated, prompting the police to intervene with a mild lathicharge. Shekhar was later escorted to a safe location by the police. Reddy had also spent a month in jail in connection with the Lagicherla incident, where District Collector Prateek Jain was attacked by villagers. He was granted bail last week.

2024: KCR's Absence, KTR's Unimpactful Leadership



TPN Correspondent , Hyderabad : The BRS party, after its disappointing defeat in the 2023 Assembly Elections, has been struggling to regain its foothold. The party failed to secure any seats in the 2024 Parliament elections, with several candidates losing their deposits. Additionally, the BRS has witnessed a sig-

nificant decline in its vote share compared to the Assembly polls, signaling a loss of its traditional support base.

In the wake of this setback, BRS leader and Chief Minister K. Chandrashekar Rao (KCR) has largely disappeared from the political scene. His absence has been notably felt,

especially during the crisis when his daughter, Kavitha, was jailed for several days. While the party needed strong leadership, KCR's retreat to his Erravelli farmhouse raised questions about his commitment to the party and the state.

In his absence, KTR, the Work-

ing President of BRS, took charge, but his leadership has failed to make a significant impact. Although there is some activity within the party, the desired momentum and influence are lacking. Analysts believe the party is still struggling to capitalize on the honeymoon period of Congress leader Revanth Reddy's leadership.

Towards the end of 2024, KTR faced further troubles with a legal case registered against him. The FIR concerns irregular payments made to Formula-E Racing, allegedly violating RBI rules and standard operating procedures. While there is speculation about corruption, investigations are ongoing, with the ACB and ED also involved in the case. With the investigation intensifying, there is a looming threat of KTR's arrest in early 2025, adding more uncertainty to the party's future.

Congress Leaders' Actions Spark Controversy in Khammam District

TPN Correspondent ,Khammam : In a troubling incident in Khammam district, a man named Srinivas Reddy, unable to bear the harassment from Congress leaders, attempted suicide by consuming deworming medicine. The alleged harassment stemmed from a land dispute involving local Congress MLA Ragamai's husband, Matta Dayanand's follower, Subba Reddy.

According to sources, Subba Reddy had allegedly created fake documents and constructed a road on the property of Kanamatha Reddy, a resident of Razorla village in Sattupalli mandal. Subba Reddy is said to have been threatening and pressuring Srinivas Reddy's family for

the past six months over the land issue. The situation worsened when the police reportedly detained Srinivas Reddy's wife, forcibly dragging her to the police station while her husband was hospitalized due to his alarming condition. Srinivas Reddy, whose health deteriorated after the suicide attempt, was later transferred to a hospital in Khammam for better treatment.

Earlier, the police had allegedly arrested Srinivas Reddy's wife, six months ago, during an ongoing court case related to the dispute. Despite this, the police reportedly took the wife into custody again on the day of the suicide attempt.



The family claims that Subba Reddy continued to build the road on Srinivas Reddy's property while they were away. This situation has sparked outrage, with many questioning the police's involvement and the alleged misuse of power by local political figures.

Demolitions in Bhagirathamma Tank Buffer Zone, Hyderabad



TPN Correspondent, Hyderabad : Authorities have launched a crackdown on illegal constructions in the Bhagirathamma tank buffer zone in Nana-kramguda, Hyderabad. Acting on complaints, officials demolished unauthorized structures, including recently erected sheet sheds, on Tuesday.

Illegal Constructions Targeted

Encroachers had reportedly occupied a portion of the two-acre buffer zone surrounding the Bhagirathamma tank and constructed sheet sheds in violation of zoning regulations. Complaints about these structures prompted swift action from authorities.

Joint Operation by Officials

The demolition operation was carried out by a joint team comprising Serilingampalli revenue officials and Greater Hyderabad Municipal Corporation (GHMC) personnel. The structures were brought down using JCB machines to ensure compliance with zoning laws and restore the buffer zone to its intended purpose.

This marks another step in ongoing efforts to curb illegal encroachments in Hyderabad, particularly around ecologically sensitive areas such as water bodies and their buffer zones.

Rachakonda SHE Teams Book 217 FIRs in 2024, Records 6.06% Decline

TPN Correspondent, Hyderabad : Rachakonda SHE Teams registered 217 FIRs in 2024, reflecting a 6.06% dip compared to 231 cases in 2023. The offences include eve-teasing and harassment. Additionally, 1,107 petty cases were booked, with fines imposed through court orders. The teams conducted 1,495 counselling sessions for offenders in the presence of their family members and held 1,760 awareness programs, educating over 4.46 lakh women and girls in schools, colleges, and workplaces.



SHE Teams identified 271 hotspots across Rachakonda and carried out 10,684 decoy operations to deter crimes. Specific metro train decoy operations led to the apprehension of 52 individuals in ladies' compartments, who were fined for their actions. Increase in Respondents Involved A notable rise in the number of respondents handled was reported in 2024, including both minors and adults. Minors involved in crimes increased by 10%, from 1,084 in 2023 to 1,192 in 2024. Adult respondents

surged by 105%, from 712 in 2023 to 1,462 in 2024. Statewide Impact of SHE Teams Across Telangana, SHE Teams responded to 10,862 harassment complaints, leading to 830 FIRs, 3,329 petty cases, and 15,664 counselling sessions. The Bharosa Centers across the state supported 2,964 cases, including 1,954 PCO cases, 574 rape cases, and 436 others.

Under the SAHAS initiative, 115 petitions were resolved in 2024, compared to 52 in 2023. Thirteen training sessions

for government and private organizations, involving 5,557 employees, and six awareness programs were conducted to promote safety and support for women.

Citizens are encouraged to reach out to SHE Teams for support through WhatsApp at 8712662111 or women's help desks at local police stations. The proactive efforts of Rachakonda SHE Teams and their counterparts across Telangana continue to foster a safer environment for women and girls in public spaces.

Mangoes Make Early Arrival in Hyderabad; Prices Remain High



TPN Correspondent, Hyderabad : Hyderabad's markets are seeing an early arrival of mangoes this year, well ahead of the usual season, which typically begins in late January and lasts until early July. However, the limited supply has kept prices steep, ranging between Rs. 150 and Rs. 400 per kilogram.

This year's early batch, sourced from Kerala, includes popular varieties like 'Benishan' and 'Banganapalli.' Currently, the city's markets are receiving 10-80 quintals of mangoes daily. Despite the high prices, mango enthusiasts are eagerly indulging in their favorite fruit. The limited supply has driven up prices, which are expected to remain high until the peak season begins in March. During this period, mangoes from Andhra Pradesh, Karnataka, Maharashtra, Uttar Pradesh, and Gujarat flood the markets, leading to a more diverse selection and reduced prices.

The peak mango season, from March to June, offers varieties like Himayati, Pedda Rasalu, Chinna Rasalu, Daseri, Neelam, Mallika, and Totapari. Prices during this time typically range from Rs. 70 to Rs. 150 per kilogram, significantly lower than the current rates.

While prices may be steep for now, mango lovers can look forward to a more abundant and affordable selection as the season progresses.

McDonald's to Establish GCC in Hyderabad; Job Opportunities on the Horizon



TPN Correspondent, Hyderabad : Global fast-food giant McDonald's is poised to set up a Global Capability Center (GCC) in Hyderabad, potentially bringing significant job opportunities to the region.

A government source indicated that discussions are ongoing, while a prominent X user, known for tracking Hyderabad's real estate developments, revealed that McDonald's is hiring for key roles in

its upcoming facility.

Recruitment efforts include positions for:

- Cyber Defence Experts
 - Testing Experts for the Global Security Operations Centre
 - Infrastructure Engineers
 - Cloud Operations Engineers for the Global Technology and Operations Team
- Corporate affairs records also confirm the registration of McDonald's Capability Centre India Pvt Ltd.

Hyderabad: A GCC Hub

Global Capability Centers are offshore or nearshore units of multinational corporations that utilize regional talent and technology to optimize operations. Hyderabad has

become a prime location for such centers due to its robust infrastructure and skilled workforce.

Between July and September 2024 alone, 2 million square feet of office space were registered in Hyderabad, reflecting its growing appeal to global firms.

McDonald's will join a host of other multinational corporations establishing GCCs in the city, reinforcing Hyderabad's reputation as a preferred hub for technology and operations. As the project progresses, more job openings are expected to emerge, offering new opportunities in the tech and operations sectors.

Hyderabad Woman Dies After Husband Hits Her with Stone During Argument

TPN Correspondent, Hyderabad : A tragic incident occurred in Pratap Singaram village of Ghatkesar on Monday, December 30, when a 35-year-old woman, Niharika, was killed by her husband during a heated argument. Niharika's husband, Srikar Reddy alias Shekhar, reportedly struck her repeatedly with a stone, leading to her death.

The couple, who had two children, frequently argued over trivial issues, with

their latest dispute involving a house gifted to Niharika by her parents. Medically station house officer (SHO), Govinda Reddy, confirmed that the argument escalated and resulted in the fatal attack. A case of murder has been filed under Section 302 of the Indian Penal Code, and an investigation is underway. Rise in Crimes Against Women and Overall Crime Rates in Hyderabad This incident highlights the ongoing concern of rising crimes against women in Hyderabad. Ac-

cording to the Hyderabad police's annual report, crimes against women in the city increased by 2.39% in 2024, with 2,482 reported cases compared to 2,424 in 2023.

Additionally, overall crime in the city saw a significant increase of 41.04% in 2024 compared to the previous year. Despite this, Hyderabad remains the second safest city in India, following Chennai, with other major cities like Mumbai, Kolkata, Bangalore, and Delhi ranking below it.

573 Drug-Related Violation Cases in Telangana: DCA Report for 2024

TPN Correspondent, Hyderabad : The Telangana Drugs Control Administration (DCA) uncovered 573 drug-related violation cases in 2024, marking a significant rise compared to 56 cases reported in 2023. This surge highlights the DCA's intensified efforts to combat spurious drugs, illegal sales, and substance abuse.

Key Seizures and Cases

- Rs. 2.3 Crore Worth of Spurious Drugs: Eight rackets dismantled, leading to the seizure of counterfeit anti-cancer medications, antibiotics, and other falsely labeled products.
- Narcotics Worth Rs. 11.3 Crore: Joint operations with prohibition and excise departments resulted in the confiscation of substances like 3-MMC and Alpha-PiHP, with multiple arrests, including medical professionals.

Violations by Category:

- o 79 cases for price violations.
 - o 199 cases involving misleading advertisements.
 - o 136 cases against unlicensed medical practitioners.
 - o 98 cases for illegal drug sales, including expired and steroid-laden products.
- The DCA conducted 25,253 inspections across the state in 2024, achieving a 76% conviction rate, an improvement from 68% in 2023. To strengthen regulatory efforts, the DCA partnered with the US FDA, focusing on enhancing enforcement and monitoring mechanisms, according to DCA Director General VB Kamalasan Reddy. These proactive measures underline Telangana's commitment to ensuring public health and safety by curbing drug-related

violations and enhancing the regulatory framework.



Fire Breaks Out at Plastic Godown in Hyderabad's Balapur

TPN Correspondent, Hyderabad : A massive fire broke out at a plastic godown in Bismillah Colony, Balapur, on the outskirts of Hyderabad, early Tuesday morning, December 31. Fortunately, no casualties were reported.

The fire, which may have been triggered by a short circuit, spread rapidly due to the presence of plastic and other combustible materials in the godown. Thick smoke billowed into the air, causing panic among local residents.

Upon receiving reports, local police immediately arrived at the scene and dispatched fire engines to contain the blaze. After approximately an hour of firefighting efforts, the fire was brought under control. Investigations are ongoing to determine the exact cause of the fire, while an assessment of the property damage is yet to be completed.

Telangana High Court Expresses Anger Over Demolitions in Hyderabad

TPN Correspondent, Telangana : The Telangana High Court has strongly criticized the Hyderabad Metropolitan Development Authority (HYDRA) for its hasty demolition actions in Khajaguda Brahmanakunta. The court expressed deep frustration over the demolition of structures within 24 hours of issuing notices, a move it deemed unjust and against legal norms.

The issue arose when HYDRA demolished structures in the area, claiming they were built in the Full Tank Level (FTL) zone. This prompted Mekala Anjaiah and others to file a lunch motion petition in the High Court challenging the demolitions. Justice K. Lakshman presided over the hearing, where the court raised serious concerns about the rushed demolition process.

The High Court questioned how demolitions could occur within such a short timeframe and without considering the victims' explanations. It criticized HY-



DRA's failure to provide adequate time for the affected individuals to respond to the notices, which were issued just 24 hours before the demolitions took place.

In its ruling, the court directed HYDRA to follow due process and take action according to the law regarding encroach-

ment removal. It ordered that fresh notices be issued, and the explanations of the affected parties be considered before taking any further action.

The court also warned that if such actions continued, it would be forced to summon HYDRA officials back to court.

Harish Rao Celebrates New Year with Students at BC Gurukul School in Siddipet

TPN Correspondent, Siddipet : Former Minister and MLA Harish Rao continued his annual tradition of celebrating the New Year with students at the BC Gurukul School in Tadkapalli, Siddipet district.

This year, Harish Rao spent time with the students at the BC Boys Hostel, enjoying a meal together. For the past 15 years, the former Minister has made it a point to celebrate the New Year at government hostels, interacting with students and sharing a lunch with them.

The event was marked by Harish Rao's warm interaction with the students, reinforcing his commitment to the welfare of children from backward communities. His gesture was widely appreciated by the students and the community members.



Telangana School Headmasters Threaten Protest Over Attack on Dalit Headmaster

TPN Correspondent, Telangana : Government school headmasters across Telangana have threatened to stage a protest if police fail to take appropriate action against those responsible for the brutal attack on a Dalit headmaster in Maheshwaram mandal, Ranga Reddy district, ten days ago.

P. Ramulu, the headmaster of a government school, was reportedly beaten and forcibly made to apologize to a Class VIII student, a devotee of Ayyappa, following a confrontation over a classroom incident. The altercation occurred on December 21 when Ramulu allegedly asked the student to stand and recite mathemati-

cal tables. The student later claimed that the headmaster had kicked him.

The situation escalated when a mob of more than 50 individuals, reportedly Ayyappa devotees, arrived at the school after the incident was shared in a WhatsApp group. The mob physically attacked Ramulu, tore his clothes, and forced him to apologize. The school staff intervened and rescued the headmaster. A police complaint was filed, and a case was registered under various sections of the BNS Act and SC/ST Act.

The attack, which involved members of the VHP and Bajrang Dal dressed in

Ayyappa Swamy attire, has sparked outrage, especially among Dalit organizations. Advocate P. Vishnu, a member of the advocates' association, condemned the assault, highlighting the fact that the victim was a 60-year-old Dalit headmaster. "It is unheard of for such an elderly and respected figure to be attacked and forced to touch the feet of a student. The police must take swift action, including invoking attempt-to-murder charges," Vishnu stated. The incident has drawn attention to the need for stronger protection for educators and Dalit individuals in Telangana, with protests now likely if the authorities fail to act.

Drunk Man Climbs Live Wires in Palakonda, Shocks Villagers

TPN Correspondent, Telangana : A drunk man in M. Singipuram, Palakonda mandal, Manyam district, caused a stir among locals when he climbed onto live electrical wires and lay down on them, performing acrobatic stunts. Villagers were alarmed when they saw the man, heavily intoxicated, climbing up a live wire. Immediately, concerned locals acted swiftly and turned off the nearby transformer to prevent any po-

tential accidents. Despite the danger, the man continued his reckless behavior, lying down on the wires and performing stunts. The villagers, fearing for his life, finally intervened and forcibly brought him down to safety. His actions left everyone stunned, but fortunately, there were no major injuries reported. The incident highlights the dangers of intoxication and the recklessness it can

lead to, especially around electrical hazards. Authorities have been alerted to ensure such incidents are prevented in the future.



Telangana Man Goes Missing After Mumbai Trip to Secure Dubai Job

TPN Correspondent, Telangana : Thambaku Srinivas, a 39-year-old man from Beervelli village in Nirmal district, Telangana, has been missing for four months after traveling to Mumbai with hopes of securing a job in Dubai. His family is now desperately seeking answers and hoping for his safe return.

Srinivas, who was struggling with a debt of Rs 13 lakhs due to construction expenses, turned to a sub-agent named Boddu Sai for help in finding a job abroad. He paid Rs 75,000 to an agency called Sam Travel Services for a helper position in Dubai and booked his flight for August 5.

Srinivas departed from Armur by bus on August 3 and arrived in Mumbai the following day. He informed his wife,

Lakshmi, of his arrival, but the family lost all contact with him the next day. His phone was switched off, and repeated inquiries to the agent provided no useful information, leaving his family increasingly concerned for his safety. The family traveled to Mumbai in search of Srinivas and filed a missing person report with the Sarangapur police. However, despite four months passing without any updates on his whereabouts, the search continues.

The family recently approached Swades Parikipandla, president of the Migrant Labour Union, and filed separate complaints with the district collector and police officials. They are continuing to press for an investigation, hoping that new leads will emerge and bring their loved one home.



Mayday Rajiv Sagar Criticizes Dil Raju Over Film Development in Andhra



TPN Correspondent, Telangana : Former Telangana Foods Chairman, Mayday Rajiv Sagar, has launched a scathing criticism of Dil Raju, the Chairman of the Telangana Film Development Corporation (TFDC), for his efforts towards film development in Andhra Pradesh. Rajiv Sagar questioned Dil Raju's support for Chief Minister Revanth Reddy's controversial statements regarding the film industry, raising concerns about the shift of the industry from Hyderabad to Andhra.

In a statement issued today, Rajiv Sagar addressed Dil Raju directly, accusing him of working towards shifting the Telugu film industry to Andhra Pradesh. He expressed disbelief over the suggestion that Vijayawada could serve as a new hub for the industry, questioning the connection between the city and the film business. The former Telangana official demanded that Dil Raju clarify his position on these matters before making any critical statements about Telangana Minister KTR. Rajiv Sagar emphasized that attributing unnecessary politics to the film industry could lead to unnecessary controversies, which could harm its reputation.

Sagar also pointed out that Dil Raju, in his capacity as the Chairman of TFDC, should be acting in the best interests of Telangana's film industry. He questioned why, as a producer, Dil Raju had not responded to controversial comments made by Minister Konda Surekha regarding actress Samantha. Rajiv Sagar further probed into Dil Raju's stance on issues like the Sandhya Theater incident involving Allu Arjun and the subsequent delay in the case. He urged Dil Raju to explain the agreements made and his role in these matters.

Telangana Cybersecurity Police Arrest 7 Cybercriminals from Rajasthan

TPN Correspondent, Telangana : The Telangana State Cyber Security Bureau (TGCSB) has successfully arrested seven individuals from Rajasthan, believed to be involved in a series of cybercrimes across Telangana and other parts of India. The arrested suspects are accused of being involved in 189 cases in Telangana alone, resulting in a loss of ₹9 crore, and 2,223 cases across the country.

The arrested individuals have been identified as Sourabh Singh Roy (22), Devendra Kumar Saran (25), Rahul Vaishnav (19), Nitin Sisodiya (25), Naveen Kumar (22), Kuldeep Meena (21), and Sahil Khan (24), all of whom are natives of Rajasthan.

During the operation, the police seized one laptop, nine mobile phones, a four-wheeler, and ₹97,000 in cash. The accused are implicated in various forms of cybercrimes, including business investment fraud, trading fraud, and digital arrest cases.

This operation is part of the ongoing investigation following a significant breakthrough in September 2024, when the TGCSB arrested 27 individuals in Rajas-

than as part of its crackdown on cybercrime. The investigations revealed that the arrested individuals were responsible for cybercrimes involving substantial financial losses, not only in Telangana but also across India.

The police have also identified other individuals who acted as key agents in the opening of mule accounts, who remain absconding following the September arrests. The accused were brought to Telangana after obtaining transit warrants and were subsequently produced in court.

Shikha Goel, the Director of TGCSB, highlighted that this operation was conducted by the newly formed Special Operations Wing, a strategic initiative aimed at handling large-scale interstate operations to curb cybercrimes. The operation marks the first such action by the wing.

"These individuals have willingly allowed their accounts to be used for cybercrimes, including frauds in business investments, trading, and digital arrests. The TGCSB remains committed to a zero-tolerance policy against cybercrime," Goel added.

ISRO Launches Historic PSLV-C60 Mission for Space Docking Experiment SpaDeX

Pioneering Technology Sets the Stage for India's Future Space Ambitions

The Indian Space Research Organisation (ISRO) marked a historic milestone with the successful launch of the PSLV-C60 mission, ushering in a new era of in-space docking technology with the Space Docking Experiment (SpaDeX). This innovative project aims to develop and demonstrate the rendezvous and docking capabilities of two small satellites, critical for India's ambitious space exploration plans. The PSLV-C60 lifted off from the Satish Dhawan Space Centre in Sriharikota, Andhra Pradesh, carrying the SpaDeX payload and other technological components. This launch, ISRO's 99th mission, represents a significant leap in space engineering, leveraging indigenous technology to achieve complex in-orbit maneuvers.

What is the SpaDeX Mission?

SpaDeX is a cost-effective technology demonstrator aimed at testing in-space docking using two small spacecraft: SDX01 (the Chaser) and SDX02 (the Target). These satellites, weighing 220 kilograms, were successfully deployed into a circular orbit at an altitude of 475 kilometers. The mission's primary goal is to demonstrate the rendezvous, docking, and undocking capabilities of the satellites in low-Earth orbit, a technology mastered by only a few nations. The indigenous docking system, termed the "Bharatiya Docking System," underscores India's strides in advanced space technology.

Importance of Docking Technology

Docking technology is essential for long-term and complex space missions. It is a cornerstone for future projects such as Chandrayaan-4, India's planned space station, and the human spaceflight mission, Gaganyaan. ISRO Chairman S. Somanath emphasized the mission's significance, stating, "SpaDeX is not just a one-time experiment. It paves the way for more complex docking systems and larger-scale missions in the future." The docking operations for SpaDeX are scheduled to commence on January 1, with the final docking expected by January 7, 2025. This success will position India among the elite countries capable of conducting in-orbit docking, a feat critical for assembling modular space stations and interplanetary missions. Expanding the Horizon: ISRO's Future



Missions

ISRO's roadmap for 2025 includes a series of ambitious missions, highlighting India's growing prominence in global space exploration:

- Chandrayaan-4: A comprehensive mission featuring five modules launched at different times. The modules will undergo docking maneuvers in Earth and lunar orbits. The mission aims to land on the Moon, conduct exploration, and return to Earth, making docking a pivotal component.
- NISAR Mission: A joint venture between NASA and ISRO, this Synthetic Aperture Radar mission will launch in March 2025. It aims to monitor environmental changes and natural disasters, providing critical Earth observation data.
- Gaganyaan: Two uncrewed test flights for India's human spaceflight mission are planned for early 2025, followed by the first crewed mission later in the year. This endeavor will make India the fourth nation to achieve independent human spaceflight.
- GISAT-2 (EOS-05): Scheduled for launch in 2025, this Earth observation satellite will offer geospatial imagery for continuous monitoring of the Indian subcontinent, aiding in disaster management.
- IDRSS Missions: The Indian Data Relay Satellite System will launch its first two satellites, IDRSS-1 and IDRSS-2,

in 2025-26. These satellites will ensure real-time communication between low Earth orbit spacecraft and ground stations, crucial for manned missions like Gaganyaan.

Revolutionizing Space Exploration

The PSLV-C60 mission and SpaDeX project represent India's technological prowess and strategic vision in space exploration. Science and Technology Minister Jitendra Singh noted, "The success of this mission is vital for India's future space ambitions. It is a key stepping stone for achieving global leadership in space technology."

A Historic Launch

This mission also marks the 99th successful launch from the Satish Dhawan Space Centre. Chairman Somanath expressed his excitement for the upcoming 100th launch, set for early next year. "This milestone reflects ISRO's relentless dedication and technological excellence," he remarked. The SpaDeX mission symbolizes ISRO's ability to overcome complex challenges and execute groundbreaking projects. As the docking operations unfold, the global space community will closely watch India's advancements, further solidifying its position as a major player in the space race. The PSLV-C60 mission has not only achieved a technological feat but also set the stage for future innovations, underscoring ISRO's commitment to pushing the boundaries of human exploration.

Goa's New Year Tourism Sparks Debate

Is the Beach State Losing Its Charm?



Goa, often regarded as India's ultimate New Year's destination, has found itself at the center of an online debate after a video posted by an X user showed unusually sparse crowds in the typically bustling beach city. The video and subsequent discussions have raised questions about the state of tourism in Goa, with opinions divided on whether the destination is losing its allure or simply experiencing a shift in dynamics.

The Spark: Empty Streets in Goa?

The debate began when a social media user shared a video showing empty streets in Calangute, one of Goa's busiest areas. "I am in Goa... negligible crowd even on Calangute. Most restaurants are empty," the user captioned the post. Another X user echoed the sentiment, stating, "I have walked and driven on this street many times. Always packed at this time of the year." A third chimed in, calling it "weird" that once-crowded hotspots were now eerily quiet, with ample parking, vacant restaurant tables, and open spaces on beaches.

Contradictory Claims

Not everyone agreed with these observations. A user refuted the claims, asserting that "Goa is fully packed," and cited a media report quoting Goa Tourism Minister Rohan Khaunte. According to the report, the current tourist season has been "exceptional," with four-star and five-star hotels reporting near-full occupancy. Another user claimed, "The number of people traveling for vacations has quadrupled in the last four years. While Goa may not be the only option, it still enjoys significant patronage." However, counterarguments persisted. One social media user observed that hotel rooms, which would usually sell out weeks in advance, were still available even on New Year's Eve. Another commented that most hotels seemed to be operating at only 60% capacity.

High Prices Driving Tourists Away?

A recurring theme in the discussion was the high cost of visiting Goa. Many users pointed to exorbitant hotel rates, with one commenter claiming hotels were charging "3X normal rates" for rooms. Flight prices were also a sore point, with another user blaming airlines for the decline in tourists. "Airlines are charging ₹15,000-20,000 per person for one-way tickets," they noted. Parag Jain, another user, echoed this sentiment, adding that the overcharging by hotels and taxi operators needed to be addressed if Goa wanted to retain its popularity as a tourist hotspot.

South Korea Plane Crash: Why Was There a Wall?

Questions Raised Over Runway Design as Efforts to Identify Victims Continue

The recent plane crash involving a Jeju Air Boeing 737-800 at Muan International Airport has raised significant concerns about runway design and aviation safety. The crash, South Korea's deadliest aviation disaster, claimed the lives of 179 people, leaving only two survivors, both crew members, who were pulled from the wreckage.

Tragedy Unfolds at Muan Airport

The ill-fated flight, carrying 181 passengers and crew, was attempting to land when it skidded off the runway, striking a concrete structure at the end of the strip. The aircraft, reportedly traveling at high speed, made a belly landing after the pilots declared an emergency following a bird strike. Despite signaling their intent to abort the landing and attempt a second approach, the plane came down 1,200 meters into the 2,800-meter runway, sliding into a concrete embankment. South Korea's Acting President Choi Sang-mok, addressing a disaster management meeting, emphasized the need for expedited efforts to identify the victims and support their families. "The top priority for now is identifying the victims, supporting their families, and treating the two survivors," he said.

Investigation into the Cause

Officials are investigating several potential causes, including bird strikes, the failure of control systems, and



pilot decisions during the emergency landing. Aviation experts have also raised questions about the condition of the plane's landing gear, which did not appear to be deployed during the crash. John Nance, a former commercial pilot and aviation safety expert, expressed doubts about the necessity of the risky landing. "I can't think of any reason for being forced to make a landing like this," he stated.

Concrete Wall Sparks Controversy

Aviation analysts have highlighted the presence of a concrete structure near the runway, questioning its location and design. The structure housed a localizer antenna, a device critical for guiding aircraft during landing. However, experts argue that such structures are typically made of materials designed to absorb impact and minimize damage in case of an overrun. "Normally, on an airport with a runway at the end, you don't have a wall," said Christian Beckert, a Lufthansa pilot and flight safety expert. "What

we saw here was a head-on collision with a concrete wall that appears very thick," added Hassan Shahidi, President of the Flight Safety Foundation. In the United States, the Federal Aviation Administration mandates that structures near runways should be "frangible," meaning they must break or give way upon impact to prevent catastrophic damage. The design and proximity of the wall at Muan Airport are now under scrutiny.

Runway Length and Safety Standards

South Korea's Deputy Transport Minister Joo Jong-wan stated that the runway's 2,800-meter length was not a contributing factor to the crash, asserting that the walls were built to industry standards. However, concerns remain about the adherence to international safety protocols.

Nationwide Safety Inspection Ordered

Acting President Choi has directed an emergency safety inspection of the country's aviation operations. "As soon as the accident recovery is conducted, the transport ministry is requested to conduct an emergency safety inspection of the entire aircraft operation system to prevent recurrence of aircraft accidents," he announced.

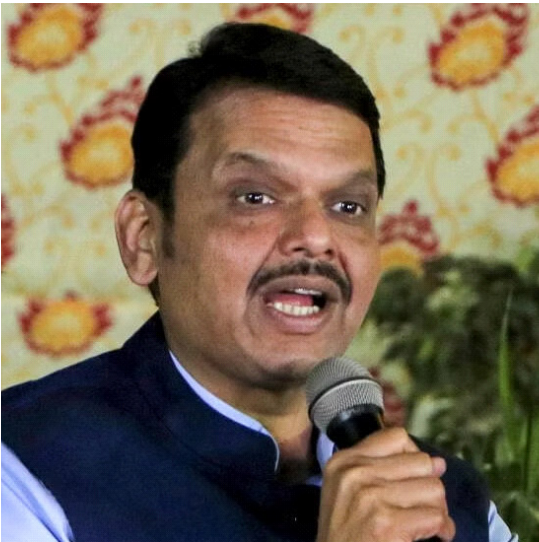
As part of the initiative, the transport ministry will conduct a special inspection of all 101 Boeing 737-800 aircraft operated by South Korean airlines. The inspection will focus on the maintenance records of key components, starting Monday. This devastating incident has not only shaken South Korea but also raised broader questions about aviation safety standards and emergency preparedness. Investigators are expected to provide a detailed report on the crash's causes and recommend measures to prevent similar tragedies. For now, the focus remains on supporting the victims' families, treating the survivors, and ensuring that such a disaster is never repeated.

Will Not Allow Goonda Raj: CM Devendra Fadnavis

TPN CORRESPONDENT NEW DELHI
DECEMBER.1

Maharashtra Chief Minister Devendra Fadnavis has pledged firm action against those responsible for the murder of Massajog Sarpanch Santosh Deshmukh and related cases, asserting that he will not tolerate any form of "goonda raj" in the state. Addressing the media in Mumbai, Fadnavis, who also holds the Home portfolio, emphasized that violence and extortion would not be allowed to thrive under his leadership.

"We will not allow goonda raj... violence, extortion would not be tolerated... no one would be spared," Fadnavis declared, following the surrender of Walmik Karad, a close aide of NCP leader and state minister Dhananjay Munde, at the State-CID headquarters in Pune. The case has posed a significant challenge for both Fadnavis and Deputy Chief Minister Ajit Pawar, who is the NCP President.



In the wake of the incident, BJP MLA Suresh Dhas and NCP (SP) MLA Sandeep Kshirsagar met with Fadnavis to demand that Karad be charged with murder in addition to extortion. Responding to questions about

whether Karad would face murder charges, Fadnavis refrained from making premature statements, clarifying that the police and CID would handle the investigation based on available evidence. "Police will decide based on evidence," he added.

Fadnavis also sidestepped inquiries about the political ramifications of the case or the viral video statement made by Karad, stressing that law enforcement would focus solely on the evidence at hand. He urged individuals to come forward with any evidence they may have, asserting that the police would act impartially and in accordance with the law.

The controversy surrounding the murder and the involvement of influential political figures has led to heightened political tensions, but Fadnavis remains firm in his stance that the rule of law will prevail and no one, regardless of their political affiliations, will be exempt from justice.

Delhi CM Atishi Raises Concerns Over Demolition of Religious Structures

TPN CORRESPONDENT DELHI
DECEMBER.1

Delhi Chief Minister Atishi has expressed concerns over the Religious Committee's order to demolish several religious structures across the city. In a formal letter to Lieutenant Governor VK Saxena, Atishi pointed out that the list of structures identified for demolition includes temples and Buddhist places of worship, which hold significant spiritual importance for the Dalit community.

Atishi stated, "Demolition of these structures would hurt the religious sentiments of these communities," urging Saxena to reconsider the decision and halt the demolition of the temples and places of worship listed in her letter. She emphasized the deep emotional and cultural significance these religious sites hold, particularly in a diverse city like Delhi, where such structures play a crucial role in shaping cultural identities.

The Chief Minister also highlighted growing concerns within various communities regarding the potential loss of sacred spaces, noting that these places of worship are more than just buildings; they are integral to the lives of many residents. She called on the Lieutenant Governor to recognize the profound impact these demolitions could have on the affected communities. In response, the LG Secretariat issued a statement clarifying that no temples, mosques, churches, or other places of worship are currently slated for demolition, nor have any files related to such actions been presented. The statement accused CM Atishi of engaging in "cheap politics" to distract from the perceived failures of her and her predecessor's administration. It further emphasized that the police had been instructed to remain vigilant against any groups attempting to incite deliberate vandalism for political gain.

The LG's office also pointed to the successful and peaceful observance of recent Christmas celebrations, highlighting that the security measures were effectively enforced during the holiday period. Meanwhile, CM Atishi visited the Karol Bagh Gurudwara, where she registered the granthis for the AAP government's new monthly honorarium scheme. Atishi also offered prayers at Sant Sujan Singh Maharaj Gurudwara in central Delhi during her visit.

Kerala CM Pinarayi Vijayan Slams Nitesh Rane's "Mini Pakistan" Remark

TPN CORRESPONDENT NEW DELHI
DECEMBER.1

Kerala Chief Minister Pinarayi Vijayan has strongly condemned Maharashtra Minister Nitesh Rane's controversial remark, where he referred to Kerala as "mini Pakistan." Vijayan described the statement as "deeply malicious" and "utterly condemnable," emphasizing that such rhetoric reflects hate campaigns against the southern state. He further criticized Rane's comment as part of a larger agenda orchestrated by the Sangh Parivar, which seeks to undermine Kerala's reputation as a stronghold of secularism and communal harmony.

Rane, who holds the portfolios of fisheries and ports development in Maharashtra's Devendra Fadnavis government, made the inflammatory statement during a public gathering. He targeted Congress leaders Rahul Gandhi and Priyanka Gandhi Vadra, claiming they were elected from Kerala because the state was "mini Pakistan" and that terrorists voted for them. He stated, "Kerala is mini Pakistan that is why Rahul Gandhi and his sister are elected from there. All terrorists vote for them. This is the truth, you can ask. They have become MPs after taking terrorists with them."

The remark has sparked a strong backlash from opposition parties, with Congress spokesperson Atul Londhe questioning whether Rane, as a minister, should hold his position after making such a derogatory comment. Londhe accused Rane of undermining the Constitution, which he swore to uphold, and called for accountability from Prime Minister Narendra Modi and Maharashtra's Chief Minister Devendra Fadnavis.

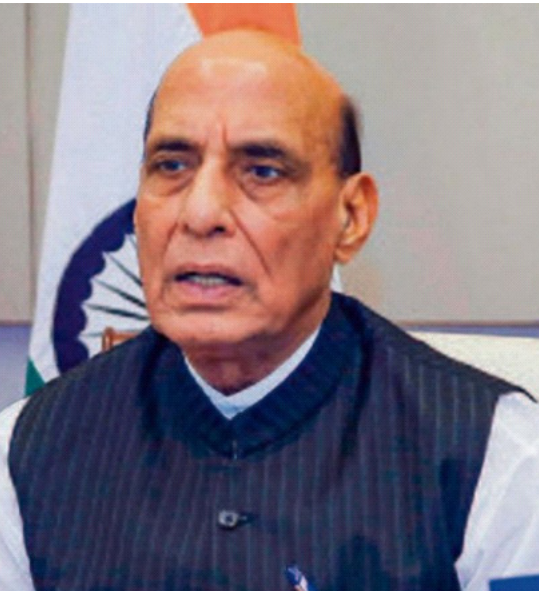
Leaders from Shiv Sena (UBT) and the Nationalist Congress Party (NCP) also condemned Rane's statement, with NCP spokesperson Clyde Crasto demanding clarity from the BJP on whether they endorsed such remarks. In response to the backlash, Rane issued a clarification, stating that Kerala is an integral part of India but expressed concerns over the decreasing Hindu population in the state and religious conversions.

Not very lucky on security front, must stay vigilant: Rajnath Warns of Security Challenges

TPN CORRESPONDENT MHOW
DECEMBER.31

Defence Minister Rajnath Singh on Sunday emphasized the importance of vigilance among Indian soldiers, stating that India is "not a very lucky" nation in terms of security. While addressing army personnel at the Mhow Cantonment in Madhya Pradesh, Singh highlighted the ongoing challenges faced by the country on both its northern and western borders, as well as internal security concerns.

Singh, who is on a two-day visit to Madhya Pradesh, remarked that India's geographical location makes it vulnerable to constant security threats. "Taking the security scenario into account, Bharat is not a very lucky country because our northern and western borders continuously face challenges," he said. He urged the armed forces to remain vigilant, noting that the nation faces threats from both external and internal adversaries who are constantly active.



The Mhow Cantonment, which is located 25 kilometers from Indore, is home to several prestigious military institutions, including the Army War College, Military College of Telecommunication Engineering, and Infantry School. It also houses the Infantry Museum and the Army Marksmanship

Unit. Singh emphasized the importance of these institutions in preparing soldiers for the challenges they face.

"We also face challenges on the internal front. In the backdrop of this, we can't sit quiet, unconcerned. Our enemies, whether internal or external, always remain active. In these circumstances, we must keep an eye on their activities and take appropriate and timely steps against them," he added.

Singh further highlighted the crucial role of the Indian Army in securing the nation and supporting its journey towards becoming a self-reliant and developed country. He acknowledged the discipline and dedication of soldiers undergoing training at Mhow Cantonment, noting that their preparation was akin to wartime readiness, even during peacetime.

"Army has a crucial role in making Bharat a developed and self-reliant country," Singh concluded, urging all soldiers to remain alert and prepared for any eventuality.

I'm Sorry, Feel Regret: Chief Minister Biren Singh On Manipur Violence



TPN CORRESPONDENT MANIPUR
DECEMBER.1

Manipur Chief Minister N. Biren Singh expressed his deep regret and apologized to the people of the state for the ongoing violence that has affected the region since May of the previous year. The ethnic clashes, which began over the Meitei community's demand for Scheduled Tribe (ST) status and the opposition from the tribal Kukis, have led to widespread turmoil. The violence, which has claimed more than 180 lives, has caused immense suffering, with many losing their loved ones and homes.

In a statement reflecting on the challenges of the year, Singh said, "This entire year has been very unfortunate. I want to say sorry to the people of the state for what's happening till today since last May 3. Many people lost their loved ones. Many people left their homes. I feel regret. I apologize." Despite the devastation, the Chief Minister expressed hope that 2025 would bring peace and normalcy to Manipur. "I hope after seeing the last three to four months of progress towards peace, I believe by 2025, normalcy will be restored in the state," Singh added.

In his appeal for reconciliation, the Chief Minister urged all communities in the state to move beyond past mistakes and embrace peace. "You have to forgive and forget the past mistakes, and we have to start a new life towards a peaceful and prosperous Manipur," Singh said. He emphasized the importance of unity, calling for all 35 tribes in Manipur to live in harmony.

The violence in Manipur has deepened divisions between the Meiteis, who account for around 53% of the population and live mainly in the Imphal Valley, and the tribal groups, including Nagas and Kukis, who make up about 40% of the population and primarily reside in the hills. The Chief Minister's message seeks to foster healing and reconciliation in the state as it strives for a peaceful future.



Karnataka CM Siddaramaiah Calls on Naxals to Lay Down Arms and Join Mainstream

TPN CORRESPONDENT NEW DELHI
DECEMBER.1

Karnataka Chief Minister Siddaramaiah on Monday urged Naxalites (Maoists) involved in violent activities to surrender and join the democratic mainstream, emphasizing the state's commitment to reintegrating them into society. In a statement, the CM assured that a comprehensive surrender policy, designed to support and rehabilitate the Naxalites, would be simplified and effectively implemented.

Siddaramaiah emphasized that the government's goal is to encourage Naxals in Karnataka to surrender peacefully and rejoin the mainstream society. As part of the surrender policy, he explained that financial assistance would be provided to those who choose to lay down their weapons, with the aid offered in phases. The policy also includes incentives, skill training, and rehabilitation measures, all of which will be handled with empathy and prioritization.

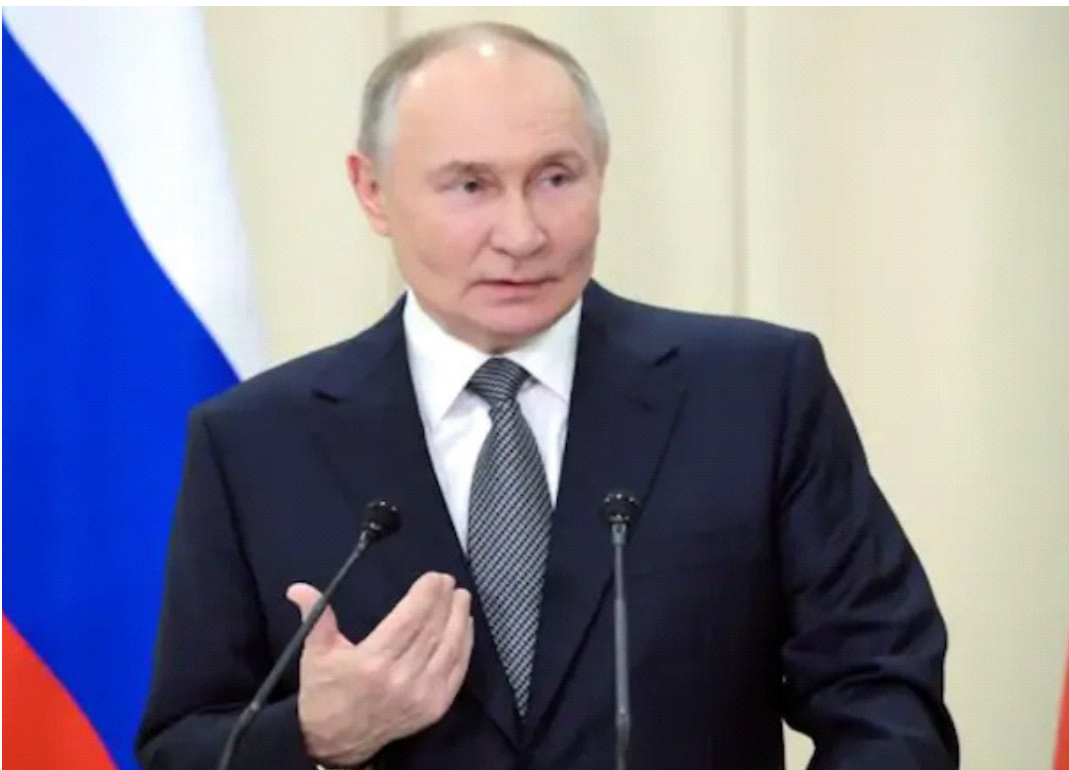
The Chief Minister assured that surrendered Naxalites would receive legal support and that their cases would be expedited for resolution. He said that the government is actively working on identifying and addressing the needs of those who have already surrendered, ensuring they receive the necessary resources for their rehabilitation.

However, Siddaramaiah made it clear that strict legal action would be taken against those who continue to engage in violence. "Anyone involved in violent or unlawful activities will face strict legal action from our government," he said, underscoring the government's zero-tolerance stance on violence.

Vladimir Putin Reassures Russians in New Year Address: Everything Will Be Fine

RUSSIA: In his annual New Year address, Russian President Vladimir Putin reassured the Russian people that despite the country's economic challenges and ongoing war in Ukraine, they would move forward with confidence in 2025. Putin, whose leadership coincides with a tumultuous quarter-century for Russia, acknowledged the rising concerns of ordinary Russians facing high prices and the impact of the central bank's 21% interest rate on businesses and homebuyers.

In his three-and-a-half-minute speech, broadcast across all of Russia's 11 time zones, Putin framed the country's struggles as part of a broader historical mission. He drew on past Russian victories, such as defeating Nazi Germany, to remind citizens of Russia's resilience. "Everything will be fine, we will only move forward," he stated, emphasizing that the future of the country and the wellbeing of its citizens were his priorities.



Putin, who has led Russia for over two decades, also paid tribute to Russian soldiers fighting in Ukraine, calling them heroes for their bravery and courage. However, he did not provide any specifics about the ongoing conflict or the prospects of peace, despite U.S. President-elect Donald Trump's claims to end the war swiftly.

The war in Ukraine has been a significant point of contention for Russia. In 2024, Russian forces advanced in Ukraine at the fastest rate since the war's onset, but heavy losses in both men and equipment have plagued the campaign. Despite recent territorial gains, Russian forces have yet to fully secure certain regions, including Kursk, which remains contested.

Putin also reflected on Russia's sovereignty, stating that under his leadership, the country had avoided threats to its existence. Looking back, he admitted that he regretted not launching the invasion of Ukraine sooner, a decision that continues to shape both his legacy and Russia's future.

Imran Khan Refuses To Make Deal For His Release, Says No Foreign Country Intervening

ISLAMABAD: Imran Khan, the jailed former Prime Minister of Pakistan, has made it clear that he does not wish to make any deals with the country's establishment for his release, nor is he seeking help from foreign nations to secure his freedom. The 72-year-old leader, who was ousted from office and has been facing multiple legal challenges, expressed his stance through his sister, Aleema Khan, who spoke to the media outside Rawalpindi's Adiala Jail after a hearing in the Toshakhana case.



present two primary demands in their upcoming talks with the government. These include the release of all political prisoners and the establishment of a commission to investigate the violent incidents that occurred on May 9, 2023, and November 26, 2023. The next round of negotiations is scheduled to take place on January 2, 2025, at the office of National Assembly Speaker Ayaz Sadiq, who is facilitating the discussions.

Imran Khan's refusal to strike a deal for his release and his insistence on facing the consequences of his legal battles reflect his determination to stand firm amid the ongoing political turmoil in Pakistan. His statement also highlights the tense political landscape as the PTI seeks to address its concerns through dialogue while the former leader remains embroiled in legal issues.

amidst ongoing political negotiations between his party, Pakistan Tehreek-e-Insaf (PTI), and the government, aimed at resolving political issues in the country.

The PTI's negotiating team is expected to

China, Russia Always Moving Forward 'Hand In Hand', Xi Tells Putin

BEIJING: China's President Xi Jinping reaffirmed the strong and cooperative relationship between China and Russia, stating that both countries have always advanced "hand in hand" along the right path of non-alliance, non-confrontation, and without targeting any third party. His comments, made during an exchange of New Year greetings with Russian President Vladimir Putin, were reported by China's official news agency, Xinhua, on Tuesday.

Xi emphasized that the mutual trust and strategic coordination between China and Russia have continued to grow under the leadership of both countries. He underscored the importance of their bilateral ties, which have seen significant strengthening over the years, particularly in areas such as economic cooperation, energy trade, and geopolitical alignment.

The exchange between Xi and Putin comes as both nations continue to strengthen their strategic partnership, aiming to counterbalance the influence of Western countries. This collaboration has been especially visible in the face of growing tensions between Russia and the West, particularly after Russia's invasion of Ukraine in 2022. China, while public-



ly supporting Russia, has also called for peace talks and dialogue, maintaining a nuanced stance on the conflict.

Xi's remarks highlight the growing alignment between the two countries, which have pledged to work together to build a more balanced and multipolar world order. The Chinese leader also expressed hope for further deepening the comprehensive strategic partnership in the coming year, noting the growing political, economic, and cultural exchanges be-

tween their peoples.

The New Year greeting exchange between the two leaders reflects the ongoing importance of the China-Russia partnership as they look to solidify their global influence in an increasingly polarized international environment. Despite concerns in the West about the strengthening ties between Beijing and Moscow, both Xi and Putin remain committed to fostering a relationship based on mutual respect and shared interests.

German Leaders Accuse Elon Musk of Election Interference After AfD Endorsement



BERLIN: The German government has accused Tesla CEO Elon Musk of attempting to interfere in the country's upcoming federal elections after he publicly endorsed the far-right Alternative for Germany (AfD). Government spokesperson Christiane Hoffmann, along with leaders from the Social Democratic Party (SPD) and Christian Democratic Union (CDU), criticized Musk for his comments, which they say are an attempt to influence the political landscape ahead of the snap elections scheduled for February 23, 2025.

Hoffmann stated, "It is indeed the case that Elon Musk is trying to influence the federal election through his statements," while acknowledging his right to express opinions. However, she pointed out that Musk was backing a party that is under surveillance by Germany's Office for the Protection of the Constitution due to its extremist views.

Lars Klingbeil, co-leader of the SPD, compared Musk to Russian President Vladimir Putin, accusing him of supporting the AfD to destabilize German democracy. Klingbeil suggested that Musk's endorsement of the party, known for its anti-European Union stance and extreme-right positions, was an attempt to weaken Germany's political system. He called for stricter regulation of tech giants like Musk's platform, X (formerly Twitter), to limit their influence on global politics.

Friedrich Merz, leader of the CDU, condemned Musk's support for the AfD, calling it an unprecedented form of meddling between allied nations. He also criticized Musk for overlooking the AfD's policies, such as the party's push for Germany to exit the European Union, a move Merz believes would be disastrous for the country's economy.

Musk's comments were sparked by a post on X where he questioned the portrayal of the AfD as a right-wing extremist party, pointing to the party leader Alice Weidel's relationship with a same-sex partner from Sri Lanka. This led to further controversy, including Musk's criticism of Chancellor Olaf Scholz following a confidence vote that resulted in the collapse of his coalition government. The country is now preparing for snap elections after Scholz's coalition was unable to maintain a majority in the Bundestag.



Muhammad Yunus-Led Bangladesh Government to Announce 'Proclamation of July Uprising'

BANGLADESH: Bangladesh's interim government, led by economist Muhammad Yunus, has announced plans to prepare a "Proclamation of July Uprising," aiming to consolidate the unity and reform aspirations ignited by the July protests. The announcement came shortly after the Anti-Discrimination Students Movement, which played a pivotal role in the uprising, distanced itself from a similar declaration initially planned for release.

Shafiqul Alam, Press Secretary to Yunus, revealed during a midnight press conference that the government intends to draft the proclamation with input and consensus from various stakeholders, including political parties, students, and other civil society groups. The document is expected to emphasize the anti-fascist spirit and the desire for state reforms that emerged during the July uprising, which culminated in the ousting of Prime Minister Sheikh Hasina's Awami League government on August 5.

Alam stated that the proclamation would reflect the views of the participating groups and serve as a unifying declaration for the people of Bangladesh. This includes the Anti-Discrimination Students Movement and the National Citizens Committee, both of which had initially planned to announce their version of the proclamation at a public gathering in Dhaka's Central Shaheed Minar. However, after the government's announcement, the student leaders decided to hold a "march for unity" instead, distancing themselves from the proclamation.

Markets End 2024 on a Mixed Note Amid Global Pressure and Late Rebound

Domestic stock markets ended flat in the last session of 2024. The indices started the morning in losses due to negative signals from global markets and negative sentiment. They weakened further with profit booking. At one stage, Nifty fell by 160 points and Sensex by 600 points. After noon, they rebounded as investors bought shares available at attractive prices. Sensex covered the loss of 600 points. Nifty found support at 200dema. On the other hand, the rupee continued to fall. Buying was seen in the pharma, PSU banking and healthcare sectors.

The BSE Sensex, which closed at 78,139 in the previous session, opened at 77,982 on Tuesday. It touched a low of 7,560. Then it rebounded and reached a high of 78,305. Finally, it lost 109 points and closed at 78,139. Today, the NSE Nifty, which opened at 23,560, reached a low of 23,460 and a high of 23,689. Finally, it closed at the opening level of 23,644. The Nifty Bank fell 92 points and settled at 50,860.

In the Nifty50, 28 companies gained while 22 lost. BEL, ONGC, Kotak Bank, Trent, Coal India were the top gainers. Adani Enterprises, Tech Mahindra, TCS, Infi, SBI Life lost the most. Auto, FMCG, Metal, Pharma, Healthcare, PSU Bank, Consumer Durables, Oil and Gas indices rose. Bank, finance, IT and realty indices rose.

Market breadth on NSE today is in favor of buyers. Out of 2915 shares traded, 1781 gained. 1061 lost. 34 shares reached 52-week highs while 90 reached 52-week lows.

Rupee weakened by 8 paise to settle at 85.62 against the dollar, hitting a fresh low. Antique Morning Report has given a buy call to Varun Beverages as it expands in Africa. ITC Hotels stock is expected to list in the range of Rs. 113-



170. WS Industries has received an order worth Rs. 86 crore. Venus Remedies shares rose 3% after Moldova GMP approval for expansion in Eastern Europe. Nuama has maintained a buy call on Jindal Steel with a target price of Rs 1292. Tata Chemicals and GHCL shares rose 6% after the Centre reduced the minimum import price of soda ash. Wari Renewables received a 2 gigawatt solar order from Jindal Renewables. Citi Research has maintained a buy rating on Vodafone Idea shares, saying there is a possibility of a 68% rise.

1. Avanti Feeds Ltd. (AVANTIFEED)
Avanti Feeds is a leading manufacturer of prawn and fish feeds in India. Key financial metrics include. The company has demonstrated consistent revenue growth over the past few years, driven by increasing demand in the aquaculture sector. Maintains healthy profit margins, reflecting



efficient operations and cost management. Operates with minimal debt, indicating a strong balance sheet and prudent financial management. Holds a significant market share in the Indian aquafeed industry, benefiting from the growing seafood export market.

2. Muthoot Finance Ltd. (MUTHOOTFIN)
Muthoot Finance is one of the largest gold financing companies in India. Key financial metrics include. Shows steady revenue growth, supported by the increasing demand for gold loans. Exhibits robust profit margins, indicative of effective interest rate management and operational efficiency. As a Non-Banking Financial Company (NBFC), it operates with a leveraged model; however, maintains a healthy capital adequacy ratio. Maintains good asset quality with low Non-Performing Assets (NPAs), reflecting prudent lending practices.



3. Lux Industries Ltd. (LUXIND)

Lux Industries is a prominent player in the Indian hosiery market, known for its innerwear and casual wear products. Key financial metrics include: Consistent revenue growth driven by strong brand presence and expanding distribution network. Maintains healthy profit margins, benefiting from economies of scale and brand loyalty. Operates with moderate debt levels, ensuring financial stability. One of the leading players in the organized hosiery market, with a diversified product portfolio catering to various segments.



4. ITC Ltd. (ITC)
ITC is a diversified conglomerate with interests in FMCG, hotels, paperboards, and more. Key financial metrics include. Steady revenue growth, with the FMCG segment showing significant expansion. Strong profit margins, particularly in the cigarette segment, contributing significantly to overall profitability. Operates with low debt, showcasing a strong balance sheet and financial prudence. Known for consistent dividend payouts, making it attractive to income-focused investors.



5. Jindal Steel & Power Ltd. (JINDALSTEL)
Jindal Steel & Power is a leading player in the steel and energy sectors. Key financial metrics include. Significant revenue growth, driven by increased steel production and favorable market conditions. Improving profit margins due to operational efficiencies and cost management. Has been working on reducing debt levels, with a focus on deleveraging to strengthen the balance sheet. A major player in the steel industry with a diversified product portfolio and significant export presence.



Oil Prices Rise Amid Cold Weather Forecasts and Increased Diesel Demand

Oil prices rose slightly on Monday, driven by expectations of colder weather in the U.S. and Europe, which could increase diesel demand. Investors are betting that the drop in temperatures over the coming weeks will lead to higher heating demand, particularly for diesel, which is being used as a substitute for natural gas in space heating.



rope in January, further supporting diesel prices.

Additionally, U.S. natural gas futures surged by 17%, reaching their highest point since January 2023, spurred by the colder weather outlook and rising export demand.

Market participants are also awaiting key economic data to assess the health of the world's largest oil-consuming nations. China's PMI factory surveys are due on Tuesday, followed by the U.S. ISM survey on Friday. A weak Chinese economy could lead to an oil oversupply next year, according to analysts.

Concerns over the global oil supply have also intensified with speculation that U.S. President-elect Donald Trump may impose sanctions on Iranian oil exports, potentially reducing global supply by over 1 million barrels per day.

Both Brent and WTI rose by approximately 1.4% last week, supported by a larger-than-expected drop in U.S. crude inventories in mid-December.

India's Current Account Deficit Projected to Stay Around 1% of GDP in FY2025

India's current account deficit (CAD) is expected to remain within a manageable range of approximately 1% of GDP for fiscal year 2025, slightly up from 0.7% in the previous year, according to a report by CRISIL. While global geopolitical risks pose a potential challenge, strong financial inflows and a consistent surplus in services trade are anticipated to offer stability to the country's external sector.



For the second quarter (Q2) of fiscal 2025, India's CAD stood at USD 11.2 billion, which accounted for 1.2% of GDP. This is almost unchanged from the previous year's USD 11.3 billion (1.3% of GDP). However, there was a slight sequential increase from USD 10.2 billion (1.1% of GDP) in Q1 of fiscal 2025, as reported by the Reserve Bank of India.

The increase in CAD was driven by a rise in the merchandise trade deficit, primarily due to higher import costs. However, the report emphasized that the robust services sector, espe-

cially information technology and business services, continues to generate significant surplus, helping mitigate the pressure from the widening goods trade deficit.

Despite global economic uncertainties and ongoing geopolitical risks, the country's financial account remains strong, with foreign direct investment (FDI) inflows and other capital investments supporting overall economic stability. CRISIL noted that the stable CAD is an encouraging indicator for India's economic resilience, as it reflects the ability to finance the deficit without putting undue pressure on the country's foreign exchange reserves.

As India continues to navigate global economic fluctuations, careful monitoring of external risks and maintaining strong financial inflows will be crucial to managing its current account deficit and sustaining overall economic health.

RBI Highlights Rising Household Debt, But India's Levels Remain Low

The Reserve Bank of India (RBI) has acknowledged a rise in household debt over the past three years, but emphasized that India's debt levels remain relatively low when compared to other emerging market economies (EMEs). As of June 2024, household debt in India stood at 42.9% of GDP, a notable increase from previous years, but still below the average seen in other emerging markets.



The report pointed out that while the overall household debt has risen, this trend is largely due to a higher number of borrowers rather than an increase in the average debt per individual. As of March 2024, borrowing by individuals accounted for 91% of total household financial liabilities. The primary drivers of borrowing include consumption (such as personal loans, credit card debt, and consumer durables), asset creation (including mortgage, vehicle, and two-wheeler loans), and productive activities like loans for agriculture, business, and education.

A key finding of the RBI's report was that nearly two-thirds of the loan portfolio belongs to bor-

rowers with prime or higher credit quality. Borrowing patterns varied significantly across risk categories. Subprime borrowers typically took loans for consumption, while super-prime borrowers used debt for asset creation, particularly in housing. Notably, the rise in per capita debt was most pronounced among super-prime borrowers, indicating their increasing use of credit to invest in assets.

From a financial stability perspective, the RBI views this trend as positive. The increase in borrowing among higher-rated borrowers, combined with the fact that much of this debt is being used for asset creation, is seen as a sign of improved credit quality and financial resilience. This shift in borrowing patterns is also seen as a reflection of greater financial inclusion and the diverse needs of India's growing middle class.

While household debt has risen, the RBI's analysis suggests that the overall financial system remains resilient, with a growing emphasis on asset creation rather than consumption.

India Budget: As we Enter 2025, A Lot Is Riding On Sitharaman's Feb 1 Budget

As India enters 2025, the country's economy is looking to the upcoming Union Budget for a strong boost. Finance Minister Nirmala Sitharaman is set to present the Union Budget for the 2025-26 fiscal year on February 1, with expectations running high that it will serve as a critical catalyst for economic growth and reforms.

Prime Minister Narendra Modi recently met with prominent economists and sectoral experts to gather their insights and suggestions for the upcoming budget. This signals the government's intent to craft a budget that addresses both short-term challenges and long-term economic goals.

With the Indian economy facing a mix of challenges, including global uncertainties and rising domestic inflation, the



2025 Budget is expected to focus on measures that can stimulate growth while maintaining fiscal discipline. Experts predict a focus on infrastructure development, job creation, and targeted measures to boost consumption, particularly in rural areas. Additionally, the government may prioritize the digital economy, sustainable energy projects, and improving ease of doing business to attract foreign investments.

Sitharaman's pre-budget consultations have already concluded, and the government is

expected to adopt a balanced approach. While ensuring that welfare schemes continue to support the most vulnerable segments of society, the budget is likely to include provisions aimed at strengthening the manufacturing and services sectors, especially the digital and green energy sectors.

There are also expectations of tax reforms aimed at improving compliance, encouraging savings, and providing relief to middle-class taxpayers.

Overall, the Budget 2025 is seen as a critical step in boosting India's economic growth trajectory and enhancing the country's resilience in the face of global economic challenges. As the government prepares to unveil its plans, all eyes will be on the budget to see how it aligns with the aspirations of a growing and diverse economy.

Humans Will Soon Be Able To Mine On The Moon, But Should We?

By the end of this decade, both nations and private companies may begin mining the Moon's surface. However, as space becomes more accessible to various countries and corporations, it's essential to ask what commercial activities should be allowed, particularly when it comes to the Moon.

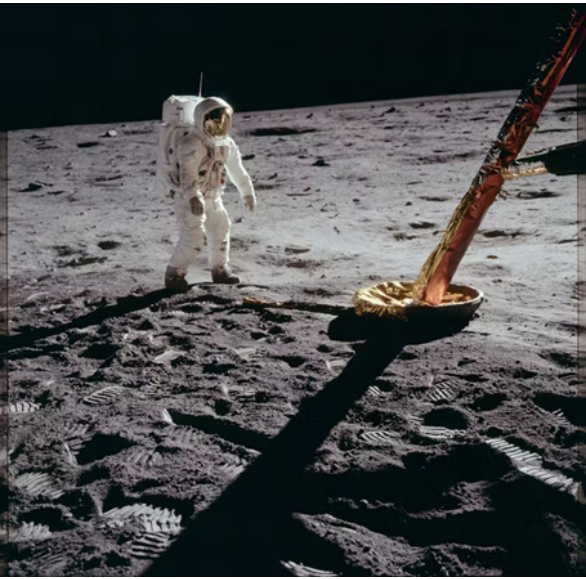
Now is the crucial time to establish rules and regulations that will protect humanity's shared future in space, ensuring that the Moon remains a symbol of inspiration for generations to come. As the Moon's resources become more coveted, it's important to consider both the potential benefits and the long-term impact of lunar mining.

Why Mine the Moon?

NASA's Artemis program is paving the way for lunar exploration, but its ultimate goal is to enable mining operations. China is also pursuing similar objectives, setting off a new lunar race among private companies eager to extract the Moon's resources. These companies might one day sell their findings to governments, creating a cosmic supply chain.

Currently, all space exploration supplies are shipped from Earth, which makes essentials like water and fuel prohibitively expensive. For example, the cost of a liter of water sent to the Moon surpasses that of gold. However, if water ice on the Moon could be converted into hydrogen and oxygen, spacecraft could be refueled on-site, making deeper space exploration, particularly to Mars, more feasible. Additionally, the Moon's rare Earth metals—used in technologies like smartphones—could ease the strain on Earth's dwindling resources.

Could Mining Alter Our View of the Moon?



Mining operations on the Moon would stir up lunar dust, which could travel vast distances due to the Moon's lack of atmosphere. The disturbed dust would result in visible changes in the Moon's appearance, as some areas may appear brighter while others duller, depending on how the dust settles. Managing lunar dust will be crucial for sustainable mining practices.

The Outer Space Treaty (1967) prohibits any nation from claiming ownership of the Moon. However, the legality of lunar resource extraction by private companies remains unclear. The 1979 Moon Treaty, often interpreted as banning mining, claims the Moon's resources as "common heritage of mankind." On the other hand, the 2020 Artemis Accords allow mining but reaffirm the prohibition on ownership claims, suggesting that lunar resources should benefit all nations, not just the wealthiest ones.

US Hotels Introduce Chai, Samosa, Indian TV Channels To Welcome Indian Tourists

As US tourism continues to recover from the pandemic, the hospitality industry is finding new hope in the growing number of Indian travellers. Nearly 1.9 million Indians visited the US in 2024, marking a 48% increase from 2019, according to data from the US National Travel and Tourism Office (NTTO). This surge is largely driven by a 50% rise in business visas and a 43.5% increase in leisure visits.



To cater to this booming market, US hotels and travel companies are adapting their offerings. Some properties have introduced features that specifically appeal to Indian visitors, such as serving chai and samosas in hotel lobbies or offering popular Indian TV channels in guest rooms. Laura Lee Blake, CEO of the Asian American Hotel Owners Association, which represents members owning 60% of US hotels, emphasized these changes as part of a strategic move to meet the needs of Indian tourists.

The rapid growth of India's middle class, coupled with higher travel budgets and increased flight capacity, has fueled the surge in international travel. In contrast, visitor numbers from China, Japan, and South Korea have dropped significantly, with declines of 44.5%, 50.8%, and 23.9%, respectively, compared to 2019 levels. Wealthy consumers from East Asia have shifted their travel preferences toward regional destinations in Southeast Asia, avoiding long-haul flights to the US. Meanwhile, European tourists are returning, though visitation from countries like

the UK, Germany, and France remains below 2019 levels.

Laura Lee Blake notes that Indian travellers are helping to fill the gap left by reduced numbers from China, Japan, and South Korea. Their growing interest in exploring smaller cities and secondary markets is contributing to the recovery of destinations across the US. Indian tourists typically prefer budget and mid-scale hotels, which further supports the spread of recovery across a wide range of destinations.

With Indian travellers increasingly flocking to the US, tourism firms like Viator and Airbnb are seeing substantial growth. Viator reports that US bookings from Indian travellers jumped by over 50% in 2024, tripling from pre-pandemic levels. Airbnb has seen a 45% increase in nights booked by Indian visitors over the past three years. This shift signals a bright future for the US tourism industry, fueled by the demand of younger, experience-driven Indian travellers.

Study Reveals Brain Differences in Teenagers Who Start Substance Use Early

A recent study has revealed significant brain structure differences between teenagers in the US who began using substances like alcohol and cannabis before the age of 15 and those who did not. The research, led by scientists from Washington University in St. Louis, found that several of these differences, such as a larger brain size and a thinner prefrontal cortex, may have existed even before the adolescents started using substances. This suggests that certain brain characteristics could play a role in the risk of early substance use, alongside other factors like genetics and environmental influences.

The prefrontal cortex, part of the brain responsible for higher cognitive functions such as planning, decision-making, and goal achievement, was particularly highlighted in the study. Researchers also noted that some of the brain differences observed appeared to be specific to the type of substance used, further indicating a complex relationship between brain structure and substance use.

Published in **The Journal of the American Medical Association (JAMA) Network Open**, the study's findings indicate that struc-



tural brain differences may influence an individual's likelihood of initiating substance use, though more research is needed to understand how these differences affect brain function and be-

havior.

Nora Volkow, Director of the US National Institute on Drug Abuse, commented, "This study adds to emerging evidence suggesting that brain structure, along with genetics, environmental exposures, and their interactions, may affect the risk for substance use and addiction." Volkow emphasized the importance of understanding these factors for developing effective prevention strategies and supporting vulnerable individuals.

For their analysis, the researchers examined MRI scans of 9,804 children in the US, initially aged 9 to 11. Over three years, they tracked whether the children initiated substance use before age 15. The study found 44 structural differences in the brains of those who began using substances early, including 22 related to cortical thickness.

The study, which used data from the Adolescent Brain Cognitive Development (ABCD) Study, cautioned that brain structure alone cannot predict substance use, and more research is needed to fully understand these complex factors.

Bubble Wrap Dress By 'Balenciaga Of Belarus' Goes Viral For Its Style And Satisfying Pop

A Belarusian fashion brand has taken the Internet by storm with its playful bubble wrap dress, sparking widespread curiosity and excitement. ZNWR, often referred to as the "Balenciaga of Belarus," is offering these one-of-a-kind creations for \$116 (approximately Rs 7,200). The dress is made entirely from large bubble-filled panels, providing wearers with the irresistible urge to pop the bubbles, making it a quirky and interactive piece of fashion.



The dress gained viral attention after a TikTok user posted a video from a mall in Minsk, showcasing the bubble wrap dress displayed in a store. In the video, she humorously points out the dress and encourages viewers, "Girls, if you're looking for a dress, here you go," quickly capturing the attention of thousands. The video confirmed that the bubble wrap dress was not just a joke or packing material, but an actual fashion item, with the user even highlighting the price tag of 280 Belarussian rubles (\$116) and the functional zipper.

Since then, photos of the bubble wrap dress have spread like wildfire on social media platforms like Instagram, prompting an outpouring of reactions from users who are both amused and intrigued by the un-

conventional design. Some find the idea fun and refreshing, while others are curious about its practicality and comfort. The dress offers an alternative to typical holiday and party wear, providing a lighthearted take on fashion.

While it's unclear whether the bubble wrap dress will become a lasting trend or remain a viral novelty, it's undeniable that ZNWR has succeeded in capturing the online world's attention with this unique and tactile design. The combination of fashion and interactive fun has certainly set this Belarusian brand apart in the fashion conversation.

Study Links Seed Oils to Increased Cancer Risk: Key Insights

A new study has raised concerns about the potential health risks of seed oils, such as sunflower, grapeseed, canola, and corn oil, revealing a troubling link between their consumption and increased cancer risk. Published in the medical journal **Gut**, the research suggests that the overuse of these oils may contribute to the rising incidence of cancer, particularly in younger individuals.



The study, which examined 80 colon cancer patients, found elevated levels of bioactive lipids—substances formed when seed oils break down in the body. A detailed analysis of 81 tumour samples from patients aged 30 to 85 showed a strong presence of these lipids in cancerous tissues, prompting researchers to link the consumption of seed oils to the development of cancer.

Seed oils, which became popular in the 20th century, were initially developed in the early 1900s by candle-maker William Procter as a cost-effective substitute for animal fats in soap production. Over time, they found their way into the food industry and became a dietary staple, particularly in Western countries.

Previous studies have already pointed to the negative health effects of seed oils, including their potential role in promoting inflammation in the body. The recent research builds on this, suggesting that the bioactive lipids produced during the breakdown of these oils contribute to the development of colon cancer by promoting inflammation. Chronic in-

flammation has long been recognized as a key factor in the growth and spread of cancer. The study found that colorectal cancer (CRC) tumours exhibited a pronounced pro-inflammatory bias, along with a lack of natural inflammation-resolving mediators, which further fueled tumour growth.

Researchers are now exploring therapeutic strategies, known as resolution medicine, to restore balance by targeting the root causes of inflammation. This emerging field could pave the way for new treatments that focus on reducing the chronic inflammation linked to cancer development.

These findings emphasize the need for further investigation into the long-term effects of consuming seed oils and their potential contribution to cancer risk.

Zimbabwe and Afghanistan Set Record Totals in Drawn Test Match

In a thrilling first Test match between Zimbabwe and Afghanistan, both teams set new records, with the match ultimately ending in a draw on Monday. The historic encounter saw both teams pile up remarkable totals, showcasing their batting prowess.

Zimbabwe, playing at home, was all out for 586 in its first innings, surpassing its previous highest Test score of 563-9, which was set against the West Indies in 2001. This impressive performance marked a new milestone for the host nation in the longest format of the game.

Afghanistan responded with an outstanding total of 699 all out in their first innings. Rahmat Shah played a stellar role, scoring 234 runs, while captain Hashmatullah Shahidi contributed a mammoth 246. The two shared a record-breaking 364-run partnership for the third wicket, which is the highest-ever partnership for any wicket in Afghanistan's Test history. Afghanistan's innings total of 699 also broke their previous record of 545-4, set during their 2021 Test series against Zimbabwe.

In their second innings, Zimbabwe

finished the match at 142-4, still trailing Afghanistan's massive total. With both teams demonstrating remarkable batting strength, the match ended in a draw, leaving fans eagerly anticipating the next encounter.

The second and final Test of the series will begin on Thursday, once again at the Bulawayo venue, promising another exciting clash between these two teams. Both sides will look to build on their impressive performances and aim for victory in the concluding Test match.



R Vaishali Shines in World Blitz Championship Qualifiers

Indian Grandmaster R Vaishali displayed her remarkable chess skills by winning the women's qualifier and securing a spot in the quarterfinals of the World Blitz Championship. Following a gold-medal performance by Koneru Humpy, who claimed the top prize of USD 60,000, Vaishali continued to impress with her stellar performance in the women's section. Vaishali scored 9.5 points out of 11, with three draws, to top the women's leaderboard. Russian Kateryna Lagno came closest to her with 8.5 points, while six other players finished with 8 points. Despite meeting the points criteria, Humpy was eliminated due to the worst tiebreaker and finished ninth.



In the open section, the competition was fierce, with ten players, including world number one Magnus Carlsen, tying for first place. Carlsen drew six of his 13 games but performed when necessary, finishing among the co-leaders in the qualifiers. Russian Ian Nepomniachtchi emerged as the winner with 9.5 points, benefiting from the best tiebreak score, while Fabiano Caruana of the United States took second place, and Carlsen placed third.

In a surprising turn, no Indian players made it to the top eight, despite some strong early performances. Erigaisi Arjun began with a brilliant start, winning his

first five rounds, but faded to finish with seven points. R Praggnanandhaa, the best-placed Indian, scored 8.5 points but was knocked out of the quarterfinals after a loss to Russian Daniil Dubov in the final round.

Vaishali, having earned her spot in the quarterfinals, will face Chinese Grandmaster Zhu Jiner in the next round. Her back-to-back victories against GMs Nana Dzagnidze and Valentina Gunina in rounds 7-8 helped her secure a dominant position in the event.

The Indian standings were as follows: R Praggnanandhaa (8.5 points), Raunak Sadhwani (8 points), Arjun Erigaisi (7 points), and several others. In the women's section, Vaishali led with 9.5 points, followed by Humpy (8 points) in ninth place.

Ipswich Town Celebrates First Premier League Home Win in Over Two Decades

Ipswich Town manager Kieran McKenna praised his team's "special night" after securing their first Premier League home win in over 20 years. The 2-1 victory over Chelsea on Monday marked Ipswich's first top-flight triumph at Portman Road since their April 2002 win against Middlesbrough. Goals from Liam Delap and former Chelsea player Omari Hutchinson helped secure the win, giving the relegation-threatened club a much-needed boost.

This victory, Ipswich's third of the season, lifted them above Leicester City in the Premier League standings. However, they remain in the bottom three, just one point adrift of safety. Despite the challenges, McKenna remains optimistic, believing that with a few adjustments, the club can secure more victories as the season progresses.

"At the halfway point of the season, we've been competitive in the majority of our games," McKenna said. "It's only small improvements that we need to make to win more matches. We're a humble group, but



we have belief."

The victory was particularly meaningful for Ipswich fans, with many having waited 22 years for a top-flight home win. McKenna acknowledged the significance of the moment, particularly the emotional connection for long-time supporters. "To do it against Chelsea was fantastic. For most of the supporters who have been here for 22 years, every moment is a landmark," he said. "Winning this home game is another special milestone."

While Ipswich still faces an uphill battle to avoid relegation, McKenna's belief in his team's potential for improvement suggests that better days may lie ahead for the club. As the season progresses, Ipswich will look to build on this significant win and continue their fight for Premier League survival.

Emma Raducanu Withdraws from Auckland Classic Due to Back Injury Ahead of Australian Open

Former US Open champion Emma Raducanu has withdrawn from the Auckland Classic on Tuesday due to a "back niggle," hampering her preparations for the upcoming Australian Open. The 22-year-old British player, currently ranked 56th, announced that she would now travel to Melbourne to begin rehabilitation ahead of the first Grand Slam of the year, which starts on January 12.



Raducanu, who made an unexpected breakthrough by winning the US Open in 2021, has been battling a series of injuries in recent years. Despite her best efforts to be ready for Auckland, she admitted that the back issue would prevent her from competing at the event. "I love Auckland and the fans here, but unfortunately, I've picked up a back niggle and I won't be ready in time," she said.

The tennis star is working alongside renowned fitness coach Yutaka Nakamura in hopes of strengthening her body to handle the demanding nature of professional tennis. Raducanu missed a significant portion of 2023 after undergoing wrist and ankle surgeries, and she was recently sidelined for two months due to a foot injury.

On the same day, former Australian Open semi-finalist Elise Mertens also pulled out of the Auckland Classic just hours before her first-round match.

ful start to her season, overcoming blustery conditions to win her first-round match in straight sets against Italy's Lucia Bronzetti. The world number 21 from the US secured a 6-4, 6-4 victory and will next face unseeded Romanian Jaqueline Cristian after Ukrainian opponent Yuliia Starodubtseva retired during their second set.

Former Australian Open champion Sofia Kenin also progressed to the second round with a 7-6 (7/5), 6-1 win over China's Wang Xiyu. Kenin will next play fifth-seeded Dane Clara Tauson in her quest for another deep run.

Top seed Madison Keys, however, made a success-

29th All India Federation Cup Carrom Tournament 2025 Set to Kick Off in Nellore

TPN Correspondent
Nellore, Dec 31: The Andhra State Carrom Association (ASCA) and SPSR Nellore District Carrom Association are excited to announce the 29th All India Federation Cup Carrom Tournament 2025, scheduled to take place from January 5th to 8th, 2025, at the Nellore Club in Nellore.



Organized by the All India Carrom Federation (AICF), this prestigious tournament will feature top players from across the country, with teams representing 25 states and 10 institutions. Each team will comprise four male and four female players, alongside their respective coaches and managers.

Among the top contenders are K. Srinivas from Telangana and Rashmi Kumari from New Delhi, both of whom will represent PSPB. Srinivas, the reigning World Champion, will compete alongside M. Khazima from Tamil Nadu, who recently claimed the women's singles title at the 6th Carrom World Cup in the USA. Other members of the Indian team from the World Cup will also be participating in the tournament.

From Andhra Pradesh, notable players such as top seeds Ch. Janardhan Reddy (Men) and MSK Harika (Women) will be representing the state with hopes of securing victory in their respective categories.

The tournament will feature four events: Men's Singles, Men's Doubles, Women's Singles, and Women's Doubles, all following a knockout format. As an AICF

ranking tournament, the points earned here will be crucial for the selection of the Indian national team, alongside other ranking tournaments.

The host district and Nellore Club have made exceptional arrangements to ensure a smooth and memorable event. Participants from various states will benefit from free boarding and lodging throughout the tournament. ASCA has a strong history of organizing national carrom tournaments, having hosted five prestigious events in recent years, and remains committed to promoting the game and supporting its players.

The tournament will be graced by the presence of Mr. Josef Meyer, President of the International Carrom Federation, who will attend to witness the exciting competition. Key matches will be streamed live by SYNCO, the official equipment manufacturer.

The 29th All India Federation Cup Carrom Tournament promises to be an unforgettable event, showcasing the best carrom talent from across India. Fans and enthusiasts are eagerly anticipating the action that will unfold this January in Nellore.

Neeraj Kumar Sampathy
Senior Vice President,
Andhra State Carrom Association

SK Abdul Jaleel
President, All India Carrom Federation
General Secretary, Andhra State Carrom Association



Ram Charan’s Game Changer Clears Censor Formalities Ahead of Release

Global star Ram Charan is all set to captivate audiences with his much-anticipated film **Game Changer**, a political drama directed by the acclaimed Shankar Shanmugam. Slated for a grand release on January 10, 2025, the film will be available in multiple Indian languages, making it a pan-Indian affair. Bollywood actress Kiara Advani stars alongside Ram Charan in the female lead role, adding to the excitement surrounding the film.

Recent reports indicate that **Game Changer** has successfully completed its censor formalities and has been granted a U/A certification by the censor board. The film has a runtime of approximately 2 hours and 45 minutes, promising an engaging cinematic experience. Fans can particularly look forward to an electrifying second half of the movie, which is expected to feature a high-octane train sequence during the interval—a sequence that has already generated significant buzz among fans and industry insiders alike.



The movie boasts an impressive ensemble cast, which includes talented actors like SJ Suryah, Anjali, Samuthirakani, Naveen Chandra, and Srikanth, all of whom play crucial roles that are bound to add depth and intrigue to the political drama. Produced on a lavish scale by Dil Raju under the Sri Venkateswara Creations banner, **Game Changer** is expected to showcase a high production value, befitting its grand narrative.

Music for the film is composed by Thaman, known for delivering chart-topping soundtracks, which further raises expectations for the film’s auditory experience. With all the groundwork completed, the makers are now gearing up for an official announcement and promotional push to ensure that **Game Changer** makes a powerful impact at the box office.

As the release date approaches, excitement continues to build for **Game Changer**, which promises to be a major highlight of the upcoming year in Indian cinema. Stay tuned for further updates on this eagerly awaited film.

Suspense Looms Over Vidaa Muyarchi’s Release Date

The much-anticipated release of **Vadada Muyarchi** has become a subject of suspense as its release date remains uncertain. Initially slated for a Pongal release, the film was expected to hit theaters alongside **Ajith’s* *Good Bad Ugly**. However, just before the festival season, **Vadada Muyarchi** took the coveted slot, leaving fans and the industry eagerly awaiting its debut. Despite a teaser and song being launched to build excitement, there has been no official confirmation regarding the exact release date, fueling speculation.



While advance bookings have already begun in international markets, many are still unsure about whether **Vadada Muyarchi** will meet its tentative release date of January 10. Industry insiders are divided on the reasons for the delay. Some point to pending post-production work, while others suggest there might be legal hurdles that need to be cleared before the film can

be officially released.

A final statement from Lyca Productions, the film’s production company, is expected to provide clarity on the matter and confirm the release details. Directed by Magizh Thirumeni, known for his hit film **Thadam**, **Vadada Muyarchi** promises to be an action-packed thriller. The movie stars Trisha in the lead role, with veteran actor Arjun, Regina Cassandra, and Bigg Boss contestant Arav playing pivotal characters.

Music for the film is composed by the renowned Anirudh Ravichander, further elevating anticipation for the movie’s soundtrack. As fans eagerly await official updates, the question remains: will **Vadada Muyarchi** make its January 10 release or will the suspense continue? All eyes are now on Lyca Productions for an official announcement to put all speculations to rest.

Ram Charan Gets Playful with Balakrishna on ‘Unstoppable’ Show

Ram Charan recently made an appearance on the popular talk show **Unstoppable** hosted by Nandamuri Balakrishna, and fans are already buzzing with excitement over the episode. The actor, known for his role in **Game Changer**, brought his infectious energy to the show, showcasing a playful side as he interacted with Balakrishna. A fun moment from the shoot, where Ram Charan can be seen goofing around with the Nandamuri actor, has already gone viral on social media.



Charan’s look for the episode is creating a buzz as well—he sports a rugged appearance with a thick beard and long hair, which has been widely discussed online. Alongside Charan, his close friend and actor Sharwanand also participated in the shoot, making it a star-studded affair. The episode, filled with surprises, is expected to entertain audiences

with several exciting moments.

One of the highlights of the episode includes an unexpected phone conversation between Ram Charan and a top hero, which has sparked curiosity among fans. Additionally, the episode will feature Dil Raju, the producer of **Game Changer**, who will discuss the much-awaited film. The special segment will also include exclusive content from the movie, offering fans a sneak peek into what’s to come.

The upcoming episode of **Unstoppable** promises to be a treat for movie lovers, with plenty of behind-the-scenes anecdotes, fun moments, and exclusive reveals. This highly anticipated episode will soon premiere on Aha, ensuring that audiences get a dose of entertainment and insight into the making of **Game Changer**.



Nidhi Agarwal Set to Shine in 2025 with Two Pan-Indian Films

Actress Nidhi Agarwal, often referred to as **Andalabham**, is all set to give moviegoers a double treat in 2025. The talented actress will star in two high-profile pan-Indian films alongside two of the biggest superstars in the industry—Pawan Kalyan and Prabhas. For Nidhi, 2025 is shaping up to be a “lucky year,” with her involvement in these major projects set to elevate her career to new heights.

Nidhi’s first big project is **Harihara Veeramallu**, where she shares the screen with none other than the iconic Pawan Kalyan. Speaking about the experience, she expressed her immense happiness, stating, “It is an honor and a privilege to act alongside Pawan sir in **Harihara Veeramallu**. It’s a dream come true to work with such a legendary actor, and I feel proud to be part of this film.”

The second film Nidhi is working on is **Raja Saab**, which stars Pra-

bhas, another pan-Indian superstar. Reflecting on this collaboration, she shared, “Working with Prabhas sir in **Raja Saab** has been an unforgettable experience. The dedication and hard work of the entire team have been truly inspiring, and I’m thrilled to be a part of this exciting project.”

Both of these films are slated for release in 2025, making the year particularly special for Nidhi. In addition to these major films, she also revealed that she has a few more surprises in store, with upcoming projects in both Telugu and Tamil cinema. Although details are under wraps, she hinted at some exciting announcements soon.

With two blockbuster films alongside two of the most popular stars in Indian cinema, Nidhi Agarwal is undoubtedly poised for a standout year in 2025. Fans can look forward to her stellar performances in these much-anticipated releases.

Bachhala Malli: A Rural Drama Set to Stream on Amazon Prime Video

The Telugu film **Bachhala Malli**, starring Allari Naresh and Amritha Aiyer, hit theaters on December 20, 2024, offering a gripping rural action drama that explores themes of family conflict, love, and resilience. While the film has garnered a mixed response from audiences, it has been praised for its emotional storyline and powerful performances. Following its theatrical run, the film is set for a digital release, giving fans another opportunity to experience its heartfelt narrative on an OTT platform.

Bachhala Malli is expected to stream on Amazon Prime Video in January 2025, according to reports from TheCinemaMuchatlu. Although the official release date has yet to be confirmed, Telugu cinema enthusiasts can look forward to the film’s arrival on the platform in the near future.

The trailer of **Bachhala Malli** offers a blend of action and emotional depth, highlighting the challenges faced by Malli, a young



man caught in personal and family struggles. The film’s narrative centers around Malli’s fractured relationship with his father, caused by past mistakes, which leads to his rebellious phase. As Malli finds love with Kaveri (played by Amritha Aiyer), the story delves deeper into their relationship and the hurdles they face. The film follows Malli’s journey to confront his inner turmoil and

work towards mending his broken relationships, especially with his family.

Directed and written by Subbu Mangadevi, **Bachhala Malli** features a talented cast led by Allari Naresh and Amritha Aiyer, with supporting performances from Hari Teja, Rao Ramesh, Sai Kumar, and Rohini. The film is produced by Razesh Danda and Balaji Gutta under the Hasya Movies banner. The cinematography by Richard M. Nathan, editing by Chota K. Prasad, and the musical score by Vishal Chandrasekhar further enhance the film’s emotional impact.

Although **Bachhala Malli** had a moderate box office performance, it has generated positive buzz due to its engaging storyline and compelling performances, earning an impressive IMDb rating of 9.4/10. The film has sparked conversations among viewers, further adding to its appeal.