

Weather
Forecast

HYDERABAD	VIJAYAWADA	TIRUPATHI
H 33° C L 25° C	H 35° C L 26° C	H 36° C L 26° C

WAR IN SOCIAL MEDIA FOR DEPUTY CM



G Avinash | TPN

Amaravati, Jan 20: The demand for Nara Lokesh to become the Deputy Chief Minister is gaining momentum, with voices from within the Telugu Desam Party (TDP) growing louder by the day. What started as a suggestion by YouTuber Mahasena Rajesh has now been echoed by several senior leaders, including TDP Polit Bureau member Reddeppagari Srinivasa Reddy and former minister Somireddy Chandramohan Reddy. Social media posts from pro-TDP circles have further fueled the conversation, adding weight to the growing call for Lokesh to step into this high-profile role.

Meanwhile, the conversation has also been piqued by the shifting dynamics within the TDP-Janasena-BJP coalition government. Though Pawan Kalyan's influence within the coalition is undeniable, especially with PM Modi and the BJP at the centre, the TDP's current social media strategy has intensified this debate, reflecting a powerful family presence. The suggested roles place Nara Chandrababu Naidu at the helm as Chief Minister, while his son, Nara Lokesh, is positioned as Deputy Chief Minister. Nara Bhuvaneshwari, Naidu's wife, is eyed for the Home Minister's role, with Nandamuri Balakrishna taking the helm of the Tourism Ministry. This strategic portrayal not only highlights the family-centric leadership but also signals a clear plan to strengthen the Naidu family's hold over the state's politics.

Janasena's Sarcastic Reactions:

It seems that the Jana Sena party has also taken the matter seriously. The Jana Sena cadre is observing the recent drone flyovers over the Jana Sena office, particularly in areas with a rank equivalent to Deputy CM. Seeing new desires from TDP, they too have started targeting TDP voices on social media, sarcastically suggesting that Chandrababu should take up the position of Bihar Governor and offer the CM post to Pawan Kalyan and Lokesh as the Deputy CM to encourage the next generation of leaders.

A Changing Narrative on Pawan Kalyan's Role:

Initially, TDP cadre had expressed respect for Pawan Kalyan, claiming that Chandrababu Naidu had

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TTD EO, AEO to Be Replaced; Chairman Already Warned



TPN Correspondent

Amaravati, Jan 20: After all reviews and following the direction of the Ministry of Home Affairs of India, the Government of Andhra Pradesh is set to replace EO Mr. Shyamala Rao and AEO Mr. Venkaiah Chowdary this week. The Government Order will be released within two to three days. For the EO post, names like Mr. Pradyumna and Mr. Ravichandra are reportedly under consideration.

As for Chairman BR Naidu, he has already been warned not to prioritize publicity acts and has co-ordinated with the officials. On January 8, 2025, a stampede occurred, which resulted in the death of six devotees. Initially, TTD and the Ministers attempted to portray it as a mistake of a DSP. However, Deputy CM Mr. Pawan Kalyan immediately intervened, putting an end to those attempts. He openly asked the public to forgive the Government for the mistake and demanded that the EO, AEO, and Chairman apologize. However, they did not respond. Since then, there has been significant discussion, with the majority supporting Pawan Kalyan's stance and severely criticizing the EO, AEO, and Chairman. Chief Minister Mr. N. Chandrababu Naidu reviewed the situation and identified a lapse in coordination between the EO, AEO, and Chairman.

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WHO WILL BE NEXT BJP AP PRESIDENT?

TPN Correspondent

Amaravati, Jan 20: With the visit of Mr. Amit Shah and his meeting with BJP leaders, a discussion has started on the new president of BJP for Andhra Pradesh. Currently, Mrs. Purandeswari is serving as the President, and in the recent election, she was elected as MP from Rajahmundry. BJP leadership is in the process of assigning responsibilities at the center to Purandeswari, and they have decided to appoint a new leader for AP. As per the buzz, though Mr. Sujana Chowdary is trying very hard to get that post, there are good chances for ex-CM Mr. Nallari Kiran Kumar Reddy. Keeping in view the earlier experiences of leadership in AP, BJP is moving very carefully. Earlier, Mr. Venkaiah Naidu ran the show, allegedly molding it in favor of Mr. Chandrababu Naidu. Later, Mr. Somu Veerraju, GVL Narasimha Rao, and Vishnuvardhan Reddy became inside followers of Mr. Jaganmohan Reddy and ran the show accordingly. Before that, Mr. Kanna Lakshmi Narayana tried to fight with Mr. Jaganmohan Reddy, but he was removed due to the alleged lobby of YSRC at BJP High Command. Now, the situation in the state is different. BJP has the full support of Mr. Pawan Kalyan, and he is following their instructions at every instance. With the influence of Pawan Kalyan and Chiranjeevi, they will get the support of the Kapu community, which is a



large-scale community in the state, according to BJP's assessment. On the other hand, YSRC is getting weaker day by day. BJP is now planning to replace Mr. Jaganmohan Reddy's party. That is why they are opting for Mr. Kiran Kumar Reddy. He contested from the Rajampeta parliamentary constituency but was defeated. As an experienced leader, he can pull many Congress leaders into the party, particularly those from the Reddy community, which is what BJP expects from him. Moreover, Mr. Pawan Kalyan is in favor of Mr. Kiran Kumar Reddy, as per the buzz. Meanwhile, Mr. Sujana Chowdary is trying to become the President of the party in AP. He



was disappointed for not getting a ministry after being elected as MLA from Vijayawada West. However, community-wise, he may not receive favor at the BJP High Command, it seems. Even though he had financial irregularities and a history of loyalty towards Mr. Naidu, it works negatively. He is also not receiving good feedback as an MLA in Vijayawada West constituency. BJP's traditional circles will also oppose his candidature, it seems. Though Raghuram, senior leader, MLC Madhav, and Vishnu Vardhan Reddy are also in the race for the same post, the main contest is between Mr. Sujana Chowdary and Kiran Kumar Reddy. It seems Mr. Kiran Kumar Reddy will get it, as BJP sees him as a game changer for them in AP.

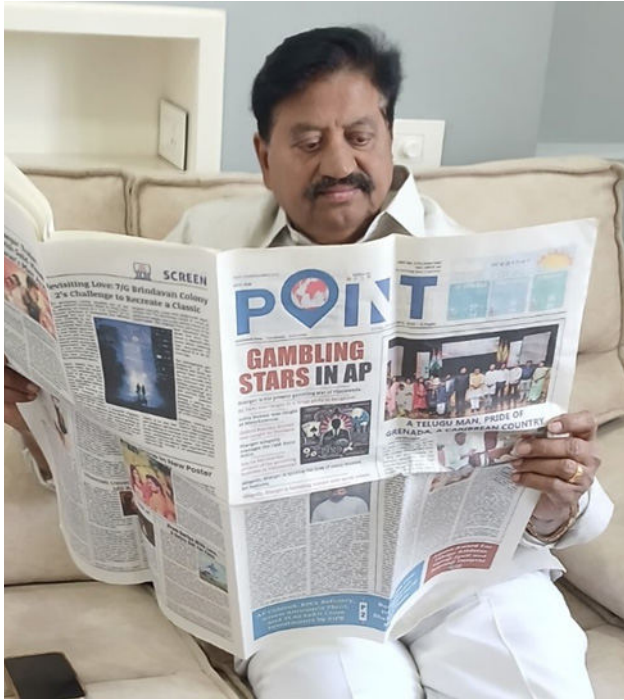
PAWAN KALYAN'S CLEAR VISION CONVINCED ME TO JOIN JANASENA

TPN EXCLUSIVE

Krishna, Jan 20:

Samineni Udayabhannu, Ex-MLA of Jaggaiahpetta of NTR Krishna District, is well known in political circles and to the people of Krishna District. He first became an MLA in 1999 in his first attempt on behalf of Congress from Jaggaiahpetta. He won again in 2004, later lost in 2009 and 2014, and became an MLA again in 2019 on behalf of YSRC. In 2024, facing a wave, he lost again. After the elections, he began a new journey with Janasena and took the responsibility of NTR Krishna District. Speaking to POINT, he shared many political opinions, including his vision.

In response to the question of why he left YSRC, he explained, "We were already suffocating in YSRC because of Jagan's attitude. There was no respect for us before him. He will not respect anybody and will not listen to anyone's words. If anybody tried to explain facts or argue, he would target them severely. We waited until the



elections with great patience. Even after that, we lost hope of any change in him. That is why I decided to quit the party." Why Janasena? He gave a straightforward answer: "I met Mr. Pawan Kalyan. He explained his vision for politics and the expected political journey. No posts, no power, we should wait for a long time, and our purpose is to benefit the people, not us. That is what Mr. Pawan Kalyan explained to me. With that clear vision, I was deeply



impressed, and I am convinced about my decision to join Janasena." He also expressed, "I don't need any post. Whatever responsibility he gives me, I will fulfill. As I have served as an MLA for three terms, posts are not new to me. That is why I left the choice to my leader only." Then, Pawan Kalyan garu asked him to strengthen the key political district, NTR Krishna District. He took on that

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Amit Shah Highlights Commitment to Andhra Pradesh's Development

We Will Complete Polavaram Project by 2028

TPN Correspondent
Vijayawada, Jan 20

Union Home Minister Amit Shah, during his visit to Andhra Pradesh, emphasized the Center's commitment to the state's progress under the leadership of Prime Minister Narendra Modi and Chief Minister Nara Chandrababu Naidu. Speaking at the NDRF 20th Foundation Day celebrations held in Kondapavuluru, Amit Shah reiterated the NDA government's focus on addressing Andhra Pradesh's challenges and ensuring comprehensive development.

- Visakhapatnam Steel Plant:** Shah acknowledged the sensitivity of the steel plant issue, describing it as tied to Andhra Pradesh's self-respect. He announced that the Center has allocated ₹11,440 crore as assistance to the plant and assured continued support.
- Amaravati Capital:** The Home Minister praised



Chandrababu Naidu for his efforts in building Amaravati, while criticizing the previous government for halting progress over the past five years. He assured that with the alliance in power, Amaravati's construction has resumed with the Center's financial backing.

- Polavaram Project:** Shah affirmed that Polavaram, the lifeline of Andhra Pradesh, will be com-

- pleted by 2028, with adequate water supply assured.
- Other Major Investments:**
 - ₹2 lakh crore allocated for Visakhapatnam Green Energy.
 - ₹1.6 crore for AIIMS construction in the state.
 - ₹1.2 lakh crore for national highways development.
 - Disaster Preparedness:** Shah emphasized the



role of the NDRF in disaster management and praised its efficiency in saving lives and minimizing damage. He stated, "The NDA will ensure Andhra Pradesh's progress, bringing threefold development under Chandrababu and Modi's leadership. The state's journey from being on a ventilator to regaining stability is commendable."

Amit Shah's Work Style Should Be a Model for All: CM Chandrababu

Chief Minister Chandrababu Naidu lauded Amit Shah's leadership and commitment to disaster management. He recalled the significant contributions of the NDRF during calamities such as the Hudhud Cyclone and floods. He credited the NDA for supporting Andhra Pradesh's recovery post-division, stating, "With the alliance's support, we have linked rivers like Godavari and Krishna and initiated solar power initiatives for sustainable growth." Chandrababu thanked the Center for financial assistance, emphasizing the importance of continued cooperation for projects



like Polavaram, Amaravati, and Visakhapatnam Steel Plant. He expressed optimism about achieving the Vikasit Bharat Vision 2047 for Andhra Pradesh.

NDRF Services Are Vital for Andhra Pradesh's Safety: Dy CM Pawan Kalyan



Deputy CM Pawan Kalyan appreciated the establishment of the South India Disorders Management Office and the NDRF's role in disaster relief. He acknowledged the efforts of Modi and

Amit Shah in addressing Andhra Pradesh's challenges, saying, "The coalition government has safeguarded the state from disaster, both literal and political, with the support of visionary leadership." Pawan highlighted public participation in disaster relief and expressed gratitude for the allocation of funds to the Visakhapatnam Steel Plant. The event showcased the NDA's developmental agenda for Andhra Pradesh, with Amit Shah, Chandrababu Naidu, and Pawan Kalyan emphasizing their collaborative efforts to resolve issues and drive progress. The announcements have instilled hope for a brighter future for Andhra Pradesh under the alliance's leadership.

Andhra Pradesh and Kerala Lead India's Push for Energy Efficiency and Decarburization

TPN Correspondent

Vijayawada, Jan 20: In a strategic push towards achieving a sustainable energy future and meeting India's Net Zero target by 2070, both Andhra Pradesh and Kerala have emerged as leaders in the country's energy efficiency and decarburization efforts. The Bureau of Energy Efficiency (BEE), under the Ministry of Power, has urged state governments and State Designated Agencies (SDAs) to adopt advanced energy efficiency programs for economic development and tackling climate change.

- Vizag becomes India's first city to host Investment Bazaars for energy efficiency projects.
- Visakhapatnam's LED street lighting retrofit project recognized globally for energy savings.
- Andhra Pradesh's energy-saving investment potential estimated at ₹8,000 crores by 2031.
- International Energy Festival of Kerala (IEFK) 2025 to bring together global experts on energy efficiency.

Kerala is focusing on energy efficiency and renewable energy to meet its growing electricity demand while reducing reliance on fuel imports. The state has also committed to carbon neutrality by 2050 and aims to achieve 100% renewable energy by 2040. The National Electricity Plan estimates that energy efficiency measures could save 12-15% of projected electricity demand by 2030, a target Kerala is working towards. In Thiruvananthapuram, discussions were held between A. Chandra Sekhara Reddy, Media Adviser for Southern States at BEE, Hari Kumar, Director of the Energy Management



Sri KR Jyothi Lal Additional Chief Secretary Dept. of Power, Govt. of Kerala is releasing a report in the impact of Communication Strategies for enhancing Energy Efficiency in Southern States, submitted by A Chandra Sekhara Reddy (Media Adviser Southern States UTs BEE MOP GOI)

Centre (EMC) Kerala, and K.R. Jyothi Lal, Additional Chief Secretary of Kerala's Power Department. The discussions focused on leveraging communication strategies to boost energy efficiency initiatives, mitigate climate change, and cut down greenhouse gas emissions. As part of its decarburization roadmap, Kerala will host the International Energy Festival of Kerala (IEFK) 2025 from February 7-9, 2025, bringing together global energy experts, students, and the public to discuss cutting-edge solutions. Milind Deora, Secretary of BEE, praised Kerala's proactive approach and the Energy Man-

agement Centre's efforts in organizing the IEFK 2025, highlighting the event's potential to showcase energy efficiency technologies and foster investment opportunities. Deora further emphasized the national investment potential for energy efficiency projects exceeding ₹10 lakh crore, urging southern states to tap into this opportunity. In Andhra Pradesh, Chief Secretary K. Vijayanand announced plans to host a Global Conference on Mission LIFE and Energy Efficiency in collaboration with national organizations like BEE and EESL, focusing on energy-saving projects. Andhra Pradesh has also set a target of ₹8,000 crores in energy-saving investments by 2031, with the transport and industrial sectors identified as major contributors. The state has been actively involved in the Energy Efficiency LED Street Lighting program, which was first implemented in Vishakhapatnam. The city became the first in India to host Investment Bazaars for energy efficiency, connecting local industries with potential funding for energy-saving initiatives. Vishakhapatnam's LED street lighting retrofit project, initiated after the 2014 Hudhud Cyclone, has been a major success, reducing energy use by more than 40%, cutting electricity bills, and lowering greenhouse gas emissions. This project was even recognized at the BRICS Global Conference, and it has since served as a case study for energy efficiency in India. As both Andhra Pradesh and Kerala continue to push the envelope in energy efficiency and decarburization efforts, BEE's guidance and the collaboration between southern states are setting the stage for a more energy-efficient, sustainable India.

Naidu Embarks on First Foreign Trip as CM to Attend World Economic Forum

TPN Correspondent
Amaravati, Jan 20

Andhra Pradesh Chief Minister Nara Chandrababu Naidu has embarked on his first foreign trip since the coalition government came to power in 2024. He is traveling to Davos to participate in the prestigious World Economic Forum (WEF) summit. CM Chandrababu departed from Gannavaram airport and will board a flight to Delhi. From Delhi, he will continue his journey to Zurich, where he is scheduled to arrive early Monday morning. In Zurich, he will meet with prominent business leaders and attend a meet-and-greet session with Telugu industrialists at the Hyatt Hotel. Afterward, he will travel by road from Zurich to Davos for the WEF summit. During his time in Davos, the Chief Minister will focus on promoting Andhra Pradesh

as an attractive investment destination, aiming to bring substantial investments to the state. Over the course of four days, he is expected to



meet various global business tycoons and investors. Officials at Gannavaram airport, including Government Chief Secretary K. Vijayanand and CMO staff, wished the Chief Minister success for his trip and hoped it would lead to beneficial investments for the state. CM Chandrababu thanked them for their well wishes as he set off on this important diplomatic and business mission.

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given him the Deputy CM post in the beginning of the government. However, a few days later, the same cadre and social media voices, along with YouTubers, began targeting Pawan Kalyan, claiming that Deputy CM is not a constitutional post and that Pawan should consult with the CM like all other ministers. Now, the conversation has shifted again, with calls for Lokesh to be given the Deputy CM position, and the value of this post seemingly rising only after Pawan Kalyan effectively did his job. So, in the end, it seems the Deputy CM post has gained more value than

ever before, not due to any family's political influence but because of Pawan Kalyan's strategic positioning. Meanwhile, YCP spokesperson Ambati Rambabu openly claimed that in a recent meeting with MoS Amit Shah, Chandrababu Naidu had asked for the Deputy CM post for Lokesh, but Shah reportedly denied, saying Lokesh and his batch of MLAs should stop corruption. YCP is certainly taking advantage of this situation, as TDP is seemingly putting itself in a corner. Let's see how much more "family-first" politics the public is ready to digest.

PAWAN KALYAN'S CLEAR VISION CONVINCED ME TO JOIN JANASENA

responsibility with pleasure and is working to fulfill Pawan's desire with the same vision they both share, Mr. Udayabhanu explained. Currently, Mr. Udayabhanu is attending every small function in the district at the homes of Janasena cadre and well-wishers, not ignoring any small person. Answering the question about this approach, he said, "We have to consolidate the present cadre. We need to look after them by all means. That is why I am spending time on that. Now, we are noting down the names of people who are suitable and will accommodate them in suitable positions in the organizations under Pawan Kalyan's direction." He added, "Presently, we are aiming

to campaign the innovative and people-friendly policies and decisions of Pawan Kalyan to the people through our cadre." He said, "Our leader is doing an excellent job as Deputy CM. He is focusing on road facilities, water facilities in the villages, and, through the Panchayat Raj department, he is implementing people-friendly programs. We have to elevate them and the new approach of Pawan Kalyan, which is different from other politicians." Mr. Udayabhanu assured that Janasena would become the strongest party in NTR Krishna District in the future, and they would now concentrate on targets and the work of alliance parties in a united manner.

TTD EO, AEO to Be Replaced; Chairman Already Warned

Under the direction of Minister for Home Affairs Mr. Amit Shah, Mr. Chandrababu Naidu has moved forward with the decision to replace both officials. He also specially interacted with the Chairman, providing guidance on how to function in the role. A key issue now is that whenever Pawan Kalyan gets involved, action becomes inevitable. This same situation has sparked discussions about the Deputy CM post for Mr. Lokesh. After the announcement regarding the replacement of TTD officials, who were posted by Mr. Lokesh, the discussions will likely intensify.

Minister Gottipati Slams Jagan Over False Propaganda on Electricity Schemes

TPN Correspondent Amaravati, Jan 20
Power Minister Gottipati Ravikumar has strongly criticized YSRCP chief Y.S. Jagan Mohan Reddy for spreading what he termed as "poisonous propaganda" about the coalition government's electricity schemes. Addressing the media, Minister Gottipati dismissed YSRCP's allegations that the free electricity scheme for SCs and STs is being undermined in Andhra Pradesh. The minister accused Jagan of deliberately spreading lies about the electricity system due to his failure during the YSRCP regime. "Jagan weakened the electricity system over five years, creating a massive burden on the state. CM Chandrababu Naidu, with his vast experience, is now rectifying the damage and ensuring quality electricity for all," he said, adding that this reflects Chandrababu Naidu's proven leadership. Minister Gottipati lashed out at Jagan, claiming he cannot bear the success of the coalition government in providing quality electricity through schemes like Suryagarh and PM Kusum. The minister criticized Jagan for his lack of awareness about the long-term benefits of these initiatives, stating, "Jagan is spreading falsehoods without understanding the advantages of these schemes." He further demanded that Jagan clarify what losses the state is incurring through these schemes, which are designed to provide free, quality electricity to farmers and



households without additional financial burden. Gottipati highlighted the benefits of Suryagarh and PM Kusum, explaining that these schemes will provide better-quality electricity to farmers and households. He pointed out that solar panels are being installed free of cost for SC and ST households, with the Suryagarh scheme already being tested in Kuppam before a state-wide rollout. The minister also emphasized that PM Kusum will ensure free and uninterrupted electricity for farmers at the feeder level. "Will Jagan ever provide this kind of quality electricity to farmers?" he questioned. Minister Gottipati said the people of Andhra Pradesh clearly understand the difference between the coalition government led by Chan-

drababu Naidu and the previous YSRCP regime under Jagan. "While Chandrababu brings revolutionary changes like Suryagarh, Jagan's regime was marked by the collapse of systems and venomous propaganda," he remarked. He further questioned whether Jagan could name a single successful scheme from his five-year rule. Gottipati warned that re-electing Jagan would have pushed Andhra Pradesh back by 20 years, emphasizing the coalition's commitment to progressive governance. With these remarks, Minister Gottipati reaffirmed the coalition government's focus on quality electricity and accused Jagan of undermining efforts to improve the state's energy sector.

Botsa Satyanarayana Questions Govt's Stance on Visakhapatnam Steel Plant

TPN Correspondent Visakhapatnam, Jan 20
YSRCP MLC and former minister Botsa Satyanarayana has raised serious doubts about the central government's intentions regarding the Visakhapatnam Steel Plant (VSP). Addressing a press conference in Visakhapatnam, Botsa criticized the coalition government for its lack of clarity on the central government's stance on the privatization of the steel plant. Referring to the recent announcement of a financial package of ₹11,440 crore for VSP, Botsa expressed skepticism, questioning whether the package was aimed at genuinely supporting the steel plant or laying the groundwork for its privatization. He reminded the public that during Prime Minister Narendra Modi's visit to Visakhapatnam, no mention was made about halting the privatization of the plant. Botsa also compared the financial aid for the Visakhapatnam Steel Plant to the ₹15,000 crore given to the Karnataka Steel Plant, highlighting the disparity. He stated that the Visakhapatnam Steel Plant, being larger and more significant, deserved a better package. He criticized the coalition government for not presenting a clear action plan for the plant's future and alleged that the package was a ploy to mislead workers and the public. On another note, Botsa condemned the stampede during Vaikuntha Ekdashi in Tirupati, which claimed six lives, blaming the government's negligence for the tragedy. He recalled writing to the Chief Justice to take



suo motu cognizance of the incident and contrasted the poor handling of the Tirupati event with the well-organized Kumbh Mela in Uttar Pradesh. Botsa reiterated the YSRCP's demand to merge Visakhapatnam Steel Plant with the Steel Authority of India (SAIL) to ensure its survival. He also dismissed allegations about the Rushikonda building in Visakhapatnam, stating it belongs to the government and will be utilized as per its policies. Furthermore, Botsa mentioned the coalition's policies on Deputy CM posts, recalling that during the YSRCP's government, five Deputy CM positions were allocated. Botsa expressed frustration over the Union Home Minister's focus on unrelated matters, such as the residences of YSRCP chief YS Jagan, instead of addressing critical issues like VSP's privatization. The issue has stirred a significant political debate, with the YSRCP questioning the coalition's priorities and demanding more transparency on critical matters affecting Andhra Pradesh.

Somireddy Supports Nara Lokesh for Deputy CM Post

TPN Correspondent Amaravati, Jan 20
Former minister and TDP Politburo member Somireddy Chandra Mohan Reddy has voiced strong support for appointing Nara Lokesh, TDP National General Secretary and state minister, as the Deputy Chief Minister of Andhra Pradesh. Somireddy stated that Lokesh is fully qualified for the position, citing his resilience and leadership demonstrated during the Yuvaalam Padayatra. The demand for Nara Lokesh to be given the Deputy CM post has gained momentum within the TDP. AP Assembly Deputy Speaker and Undi MLA Raghu Rama Raju also recently expressed his opinion in favor of Lokesh's appointment. Adding to this, Somireddy Chandra Mohan Reddy took to social media to advocate for Lokesh, echoing a proposal made by Politburo member R. Srinivasulu Reddy. In his tweet, Somireddy wrote, "Lokesh Babu is fully qualified for the post of Deputy CM. After facing numerous po-



litical challenges and humiliations, Lokesh proved his leadership abilities through the Yuvaalam Padayatra. His fighting spirit and commitment have earned him the support of both the TDP cadre and the people of the state. I request the TDP high command to seriously consider Lokesh's name for the Deputy CM post." Somireddy highlighted Lokesh's ability to connect with the people and navigate challenges as key reasons for his eligibility. He stated that Lokesh's leadership qualities have inspired confidence among the TDP cadre and the public, making him an ideal candidate for the Deputy CM position. With growing voices within the party, including senior leaders and MLAs, supporting Nara Lokesh's elevation, it remains to be seen how the TDP high command will respond to this demand. The development has further intensified the discussions around the leadership roles within the coalition government and the future of the TDP.

Swachh Andhra - Swachhatha Divas in the State, an initiative unmatched anywhere else in India

A Unique Initiative for Cleanliness by AP Govt

TPN Correspondent Amaravati, Jan 20
Swachh Andhra Corporation Chairman Kommareddy Pattabhiram highlighted that Andhra Pradesh is the only state in the country to dedicate a specific day to cleanliness. He stated that the third Saturday of every month is observed as "Swachhatha Divas" in the state, an initiative unmatched anywhere else in India. Pattabhiram recalled that Chief Minister N. Chandrababu Naidu formally launched the "Swachh Andhra - Swachh Divas" program on Saturday in Maidukurru. On this occasion, CM Chandrababu Naidu led by example, administering a cleanliness oath to all members in the assembly. Across the state, 4.74 lakh people participated in the cleanliness pledge, making it a significant milestone. On Saturday, the Swachh Andhra Divas program was successfully organized at various locations across Andhra Pradesh, including bus stops and bus stations. Pattabhiram noted that the state still has 46 lakh met-



ric tons of garbage to clear. The Swachh Andhra Corporation is committed to achieving this goal by October 2 this year. To further streamline and enhance the program, Pattabhiram announced the establishment of an integrated command control center. This center will use drones to identify areas with accumulated garbage in villages, ensuring that no corner of the state is left behind in the cleanliness drive. Pattabhiram also revealed that the Swachh Divas program will focus on 12 unique themes annually, with a different theme every month. He emphasized the coalition government's commitment to promoting cleanliness and environmental sustainability through these initiatives. The Swachh Andhra - Swachh Divas program has set a new benchmark in cleanliness efforts, showcasing Andhra Pradesh as a pioneer in environmental consciousness and sustainable living.

TDP Leader SVSN Varma Backs Nara Lokesh for Deputy CM Post

TPN Correspondent Pithapuram, Jan 20
Pithapuram TDP leader SVSN Varma has come forward in support of Nara Lokesh being appointed as the Deputy Chief Minister of Andhra Pradesh. Varma stated that there is nothing wrong in demanding that Lokesh, the TDP National General Secretary, be given the post, as he has proven his leadership capabilities through his dedication and hard work for the party. Varma highlighted Lokesh's efforts during challenging times, including his Yuvaalam Padayatra, which helped him connect with the people and address their issues. He argued that Lokesh has faced numerous political challenges and risen above them, earning the respect and trust of the TDP cadre and the public. "After everything Lokesh has done for the party and the people of Andhra Pradesh, it is only fair to ask for him to be given the Deputy CM post. His leadership has rejuvenated the party, and he is fully qualified to take on this responsibility," said Varma. The demand for Nara Lokesh's elevation within the government has been growing steadily, with



several TDP leaders voicing their support. Varma's statement comes at a time when discussions about leadership roles in the coalition government are gaining momentum, further intensifying the debate within political circles. Varma also emphasized that Lokesh's proactive approach and ability to handle political adversities make him a strong candidate for the Deputy CM position, adding that his appointment would strengthen the party and enhance its connection with the youth and the public. With this growing support from senior TDP leaders, the pressure on the party's high command to consider Nara Lokesh for the Deputy CM post continues to build, signaling potential changes in the coalition government's leadership structure.

Ambati Rambabu Criticizes Chandrababu Naidu, Dismisses Claims on Jagan's Assets

TPN Correspondent Guntur, Jan 20
YSRCP leader and Guntur District President Ambati Rambabu strongly criticized TDP chief Chandrababu Naidu during a media interaction, accusing him of deflecting from the real issues plaguing the state by making baseless allegations against Former Chief Minister Y.S. Jagan Mohan Reddy. Ambati dismissed the rumors suggesting that Union Home Minister Amit Shah had inquired about Jagan's assets, stating that it was another attempt by Chandrababu to tarnish Jagan's reputation. He likened it to the "cow story," accusing Chandrababu of constantly throwing mud at Jagan instead of addressing critical state issues. Ambati questioned Chandrababu's moral authority to comment on Jagan's residence, pointing out that Chandrababu himself resides in an illegal construction. He said, "Why didn't Chandrababu tell Amit Shah



about hosting parties in his illegally built house? Why didn't he mention that the house was demolished due to quid pro quo allegations?" He further mocked Chandrababu's luxurious residence, questioning whether he had ever invited anyone to it. Ambati claimed that Chandrababu has no answers about what to do with government buildings constructed during Jagan's tenure and accused him of spreading lies instead of focusing on governance. Ambati highlighted that unresolved division-related issues still affect the state and criticized Chandrababu for ignoring these critical matters. He urged leaders to prioritize solving these problems rather than engaging in political mudslinging. Ambati concluded by emphasizing YSRCP's focus on development and governance, contrasting it with what he called Chandrababu's attempts to distract the public with baseless accusations and political theatrics.

Devineni Umamaheswara Rao Pays Tribute to Koteswaramma



TPN Correspondent | Mylavaram| Jan 20 :

Former Minister and Telugu Desam Party (TDP) leader Devineni Umamaheswara Rao, along with TDP leaders from the Mylavaram constituency, visited the family of Sri Parikela Nageswara Rao to offer condolences on the passing of Nageswara Rao's mother, Koteswaramma.

On Sunday, the leaders gathered at Koteswaramma's residence to pay their respects. They garlanded her portrait and participated in the Dashadina Karma program, a traditional ritual to honor the departed soul. The leaders prayed for peace to be granted to her soul and extended their deepest sympathies to the bereaved family.

Devineni Umamaheswara Rao expressed his heartfelt condolences, standing in solidarity with the family during this difficult time. Local leaders also joined the tribute, emphasizing their support for the family in their time of grief.

The ceremony was marked by a sense of unity and respect, reflecting the close ties between the TDP leaders and the family of Sri Parikela Nageswara Rao.

BC Caste Associations Meeting to Push for OBC Demands in Vijayawada

TPN Correspondent |

Vijayawada| Jan 20 : A landmark meeting with representatives of over 80 caste associations is set to take place on Tuesday, January 28, at 11 a.m. in Vijayawada, under the auspices of the Andhra Pradesh BC Association. The event, chaired by State BC Association President and AP State BC Commission Member Dr. N. Maresh, aims to advocate for the fulfillment of long-standing demands of Other Backward Classes (OBCs). BJP Rajya Sabha Member R. Krishnaiah unveiled the event poster and extended his support.

Speaking at the poster launch, R. Krishnaiah emphasized the importance of representation from every caste association at the meeting. He underlined that justice for OBCs at the national level is long overdue and called for intensified efforts to achieve their rightful demands.

Key Demands Highlighted by R. Krishnaiah

1. Introduction of the BC Bill in Parliament.
2. Allocation of 50% political reservation for BCs in legislative assemblies.
3. Constitutional amendments to ensure promotions for BC employees and increase central education and job reservations from 27% to 56%.
4. Expansion of BC reservations in Panchayat Raj institutions from 22% to 50%, with constitutional security.
5. Creation of a separate ministry for BCs and implementation of special development schemes.
6. Reservations for SC/ST/BCs in the private sector and appointments of judges in the Supreme Court and High Courts.
7. Central implementation of post-matric scholarships and fee reimbursement for BCs on a saturation basis.
8. Allocation of ₹2 lakh crore for a BC sub-plan and collection of BC caste data in the census.
9. Filling 16 lakh job vacancies in central government departments and PSUs immediately.

Dr. Maresh lamented that despite 75 years of independence, BCs have not fully enjoyed the benefits of the Constitution due to their lack of access to state power. He called on BCs to unite under the slogan, "We are half and we are half," and push for 56% central-level reservations in line with their population.

He further urged Chief Minister Nara Chandrababu Naidu and Deputy CM Pawan Kalyan to take the lead in conveying OBC demands to the Central Government and supporting the BC Bill in Parliament.

Prominent BC leaders such as Gujja Krishna, Bharat Kumar, C. Rajender, Vemula Ramakrishna, Neelam Venkatesh, Ramakoti Mudiraj, Balaram, and Bhaskar Prajapati participated in the meeting, along with leaders from various BC and caste associations, pledging their support for the success of this critical initiative.



MP Kesineni Shivanath Launches 'Vikasit Panchayat' Initiative for Rural Development

TPN Correspondent | Vijayawada| Jan 20 :

MP Kesineni Shivanath has outlined a comprehensive plan to develop 295 villages in the Vijayawada Parliament constituency, with the aim of transforming them into model villages under the Vikasit Panchayat initiative. A special meeting with representatives from the National Institute of Rural Development (NIRD) and District Collector Lakshmi sha was held on Sunday at a private hotel in Guru Nanak Colony to discuss the project.

During the meeting, MP Kesineni Shivanath emphasized the importance of creating an entrepreneur in every family and achieving holistic development in rural areas within two and a half years. He urged the officials to focus on turning villages into energy-sufficient, healthy, child-friendly, women-empowered, and poverty-free communities.

NIRD representatives announced that a pilot project will be initiated in four rural constituencies: Thiruvur, Mylavaram, Jaggayyapet, and Nandigama. Six villages from each constituency will be grouped into clusters, forming a total



of four clusters. Thirty-two individuals will be selected and provided with a fifteen-day training program at NIRD in Hyderabad, starting February 3.

As part of this initiative, training will also focus on self-employment opportunities and skill development. Villagers will be guided on marketing and branding their locally manufactured products, with assistance from MP Kesineni Shivanath to connect with larger companies for support.

Collector Lakshmi sha pledged his full support

for the initiative, while NIRD representatives assured continuous assistance in achieving the program's goals. Senior Consultant Mohammad Khan, Associate Professor Dr. Anjan Kumar Banja, and other officials including Dilip Kumar Pal, Muralikrishna, and OSD Venkataratnam also participated in the meeting.

The Vikasit Panchayat initiative aims to create sustainable and inclusive rural development, setting a benchmark for villages in Andhra Pradesh.

Congress Protest in Vijayawada Against Amit Shah's Remarks on Dr. B.R. Ambedkar



TPN Correspondent |

Vijayawada| Jan 20 : The Vijayawada City Congress Party, under the call of the All India Congress Committee (AICC) and as per the directions of APCC President Smt. Y.S. Sharmila Reddy, staged a protest on Sunday morning against Union Home Minister Amit Shah's visit to the districts of Ummadi Krishna. The protest was held at 11 a.m. near Dr. B.R. Ambedkar's statue in Bhavajipet, 27th Division, near D Mart. The event was organized under the auspices of the Vijayawada City Congress Committee and led by City Congress President Naraharisetty Narasimha Rao. Speaking at the event, Naraharisetty Narasimha Rao expressed strong disapproval of Amit Shah's comments on Dr. Babasaheb B.R. Ambedkar made in Parliament on December 17th. He criticized the BJP for remaining silent on the issue, stating, "It is shameful that no BJP leader has raised objections to Amit Shah's remarks on the architect of the Indian

Constitution."

The Congress leaders demanded that Amit Shah issue a public apology in Parliament for his remarks. They further called for his immediate dismissal from the post of Union Home Minister if he fails to do so. Protesters raised slogans such as "Amit Shah, go back" to express their anger. To honor Dr. Ambedkar, the Congress workers anointed his statue with milk, garlanded it with flowers, and paid their respects. Naraharisetty emphasized that Congress leaders, from party president Mallikarjuna Kharge to grassroots workers, strongly condemn Amit Shah's comments. This protest highlights the Congress party's commitment to safeguarding the legacy of Dr. Ambedkar and challenging any perceived attempts to undermine his contributions to the nation. The event drew significant attention, with party members reaffirming their resolve to protect the values enshrined in the Constitution.

Thief Steals Pipe and Brooms from Sri Anjaneyaswamy Temple in NTR Dist

TPN Correspondent |

NTR Dist | Jan 20 :

In a bizarre incident, a thief broke into the Sri Anjaneyaswamy Temple in Lingagudem village, Penuganchiprol Mandal, NTR District, and attempted to steal a bell. When the attempt to steal the bell failed, the thief instead stole a pipe and two brooms from the temple premises.

The incident came to light when the priests arrived at the temple and noticed the missing items. Upon reviewing the footage from the temple's CCTV camera, the theft was confirmed.

The unusual choice of stolen items has raised eyebrows in the community, and the local authorities have been informed about the incident. The investigation is ongoing, and efforts are being made to identify the thief based on the CCTV footage.

Devotees and locals have expressed concern over the security of the temple and have urged for better measures to prevent such incidents in the future.



Vijayawada Anti-Evasion Officers Seize Cigarettes and Spit Tobacco Worth Rs. 1 Crore in Major Operation

TPN Correspondent|

Vijayawada/Guntur| Jan 20

In a major operation, Vijayawada Anti-Evasion officers of the Guntur Central GST Commissionerate have successfully busted an illegal hoarding and trading operation, seizing cigarettes and spit tobacco (Khaini) worth Rs. 1 crore. The operation was carried out on Saturday, with assistance from the Customs Commissionerate (Preventive) officers, targeting unregistered premises in Ambapuram Panchayat, Ajit Singh Nagar, Vijayawada, under the Guntur CGST Commissionerate.

The investigation revealed that large quantities of Indian-origin cigarettes and Khaini were being hoarded and traded without proper documentation, thereby evading taxes. During the search, officers discovered 25.38 lakh cigarette sticks, including popular brands such as GTPL Vimal, Gold Vimal, Gold Flake, and Paris, worth Rs. 96.82 lakh. Additionally, they seized 46,000 pouches of Khaini, stored in 23 HDPE e-bags. The goods, however, lacked the necessary markings such as date of manufacture and expiry, raising serious concerns about their authenticity. Furthermore, the seized cigarette packages were not accom-



panied by the required invoices or e-way bills, further indicating tax evasion. The tenant, who owns the goods, failed to appear during the search and could not provide documents proving the legitimate purchase of the goods.

The Anti-Evasion officers believe that the seized goods were illegally transported and stored for illicit trade. The matter is currently under investigation, and the authorities are ensuring compliance with GST tax laws.

In the ongoing efforts to curb illegal trade, the Guntur CGST Commissionerate has already seized illegal cigarettes worth Rs. 5.67 crore in the financial year 2023-24 and Rs. 4.17 crore in the current financial year.

Cocaine Chaos Uncovered in Guntur: Excise Police Seize 8.5 Grams



TPN Correspondent |

Guntur| Jan 20:

In a significant operation, the Excise Department and Guntur police have uncovered a cocaine racket in the district, seizing 8.5 grams of cocaine packed in 7 packets. This marks the first-ever cocaine case registered in the state.

The operation took place in Shyamala Nagar, Guntur, where three individuals were detained and questioned. During the interrogation, the details of the illegal drug trade came to light. According to the police, cocaine is being sold in Guntur city at prices ranging from ₹3,000 to ₹6,000 per gram.

Investigations revealed that three

individuals from Nallacheruvu have been actively involved in selling cocaine in the city. The Excise Department has emphasized the severity of this issue and has called for public cooperation in combating the drug menace.

Citizens with any information related to cannabis or other drugs are urged to report it to the helpline number 14500.

The seizure of cocaine and the arrests have raised concerns about the growing drug trade in the region. The authorities are intensifying their efforts to curb such illegal activities and ensure the safety and well-being of the community.

TTD Chairman Presents Silk Clothes to Ayodhya Sri Ram temple

K Kannaiah | TPN
Tirumala, Jan 20: On behalf of Tirumala Tirupati Devasthanams (TTD), Chairman Sri B.R. Naidu presented silk clothes to Ayodhya's Sri Ram temple on Sunday.
Upon arrival at the Ayodhya temple, the TTD Chairman and his delegation were welcomed by Sri Ram Janmabhoomi Tirtha Kshetra Trust General Secretary Sri Champat Rai and his team. The event featured a grand procession accompanied by traditional melatalas and auspicious instruments, culminating in the presentation of the silk clothes to Sri Ram.
The temple priests blessed the TTD team and presented Tirtha prasadam in gratitude for the offerings.
The program saw the participation of TTD Board Member Sri Bhanu Prakash Reddy, HDPP Secretary Sri Sriram Raghunath, Srivari Temple Chief Priest Sri Venugopal Dikshitulu, Chief Priest Sri Gopi-

nath Dikshitulu, Bokkasam in Charge Sri Gururaja Swamy, and other officials.



Chennai Donor Contributes ₹6 Crore to TTD Trusts

K Kannaiah | TPN
Tirumala, Jan 20: In a generous act of devotion, Shri Vardhaman Jain, a prominent Chennai-based donor, contributed ₹6 crore to the Tirumala Tirupati Devasthanams (TTD) trusts on Sunday.
The donation was ceremoniously handed over at the Ranganayakula Mandapam in the Tirumala temple. Shri Jain presented demand drafts amounting to ₹5 crore for the Sri Venkateswara Bhakti Channel (SVBC) and ₹1 crore for the Sri Venkateswara Gosamrakshan Trust. The contribution was received by TTD Additional Executive Officer Shri CH Venkaiah Chowdhury.



Notably, Shri Jain has a history of significant contributions to TTD trusts, reaffirming his commitment to supporting the temple's various initiatives.

Auto Drivers Awareness Drive on Road Safety

DTO Muralimohan and Inspection Officer Damodar Naidu lead the campaign

C Shekar | TPN
Tirupati, Jan 20: As part of the ongoing Road Safety Month celebrations, Tirupati District Transport Officer (DTO) Sri Muralimohan and Srikalahasti Motor Vehicle Inspection Officer Damodar Naidu today conducted an awareness drive for auto drivers regarding road safety. The drive focused on the importance of adhering to road safety measures and proper vehicle documentation.
The inspection took place at the toll gate near Yerpedu, where autos plying on the national highway were thoroughly checked. DTO Sri Muralimohan emphasized the importance of not carrying more passengers than the permissible limit in autos and ensuring that all vehicle records, such as permits, registration certificates (RC), fitness certificates (FC), and insurance, are up-to-date and properly maintained.
Motor Vehicle Inspection Officer Damodar



Naidu highlighted key safety guidelines for driving on the newly constructed six-lane national highway from Renigunta to Naidupeta. He urged auto drivers to exercise caution when crossing the national highway from villages and reminded them to always drive in the left lane when on the highway. If a service road is available, drivers should use it instead of the main highway.
Naidu also warned auto drivers not to

travel in the opposite direction, as high-speed vehicles frequently use this national highway, posing significant risks. He stressed that strict action will be taken against those violating traffic rules, particularly those operating vehicles without the necessary documentation.
This initiative aims to promote road safety and ensure compliance with traffic regulations, safeguarding both drivers and passengers.

Bhimavaram Police Solve Kidnapping Case, Police Arrests 7



TPN Correspondent | Bhimavaram Jan 20:
The Bhimavaram Police have successfully solved the kidnapping case that occurred on January 16 at the Bhimavaram Town Railway Station, in West Godavari district. The police arrested seven individuals involved in the crime, while five more are still on the run.
According to DSP Jayasurya, who provided the details at the Bhimavaram Two Town Police Station on Sunday, the victim, 52-year-old Viswanatham Satyanarayana, was abducted by a group of individuals due to his financial dealings. The police launched a swift investigation after the victim's son, Sainath, filed a complaint about his father's disappearance.
Financial Trouble Behind the Kidnapping
The investigation revealed that Satyanarayana, who ran a commission business and dealt in fans, had accumulated significant financial troubles, including defaulting on loans during the COVID period. Among those who borrowed large sums from him were Somiseti Satya Prasad and Lakshmi Venkata Mallikarjuna Suresh, who owed Satyanarayana around Rs 10 crore. The duo enlisted the help of friends Ashish and Lokesh from Anantapur, and together they conspired to kidnap Satyanarayana with the promise of a 10% commission.
The Kidnapping Incident
The kidnappers, wearing safari dresses and armed with walkie-talkies, carefully planned the abduction by monitoring Satyanarayana's movements for two days. On January 16, they kidnapped him while he was dropping off relatives at the railway station. They initially abandoned his vehicle on the way and then transported him to Anantapur in an Innova car, threatening him with a demand for Rs 10 crore. When Satyanarayana suggested that he would sell his properties in Bhimavaram to repay the money, the police intercepted the gang while they were returning to Bhimavaram.
Police Response
The police acted quickly to apprehend the kidnappers, arresting seven members of the group and seizing key items including a knife, cricket sticks, a diary, and nine mobile phones. The DSP confirmed that efforts are ongoing to arrest the remaining five conspirators. In a statement, DSP Jayasurya commended the Bhimavaram Two Town CI, sub-inspectors, and police personnel for their prompt action in cracking the case and bringing the culprits to justice. The investigation is ongoing, and the police are confident that the remaining suspects will soon be apprehended.

TTD EO Conducts Surprise Inspections at SWIMS and Vishnu Niwasam

K Kannaiah | TPN
Tirumala, Jan 20: TTD Executive Officer (EO) Sri J. Shyamala Rao conducted surprise inspections at Sri Venkateswara Institute of Medical Sciences (SWIMS) and Vishnu Niwasam, a devotee accommodation complex, on Sunday. He was accompanied by TTD Joint Executive Officer (JEO) Sri V. Veerabrahmam and other officials during the early-morning inspections.
Inspections at SWIMS
The TTD EO and JEO began their inspections at SWIMS Hospital, where they reviewed attendance records of doctors and staff on night duty. The EO directed officials to prominently display the duty roster of doctors and staff for each shift on the ward index boards. He emphasized the importance of maintaining cleanliness inside and outside the hospital premises and prioritizing hygiene.
During interactions with patients, the EO inquired about the quality of medical services and food facilities. The patients

expressed satisfaction with the care provided.
The EO also inspected critical departments, including the Emergency Services Department, Nephrology Ward, ICU, Surgical Gastroenterology, Cardiology, and RICU.
SWIMS Director Dr. R.V. Kumar, Medical Superintendent Dr. Ram, and other officials participated in the inspection.
Inspections at Vishnu Niwasam
Later, the TTD EO and JEO inspected the facilities at Vishnu Niwasam, an accommodation complex for Srivari devotees in Tirupati.
The EO interacted with devotees in the hall and cellar who were waiting due to a shortage of rooms. Many devotees mentioned they had traveled long distances for Srivari darshan and planned to proceed to Tirumala queue lines after exhausting Sarvadarshan tokens.
The EO instructed officials to provide regular announcements through micro-

phones, ensuring devotees are informed about the possibility of directly accessing queue lines in Tirumala on Monday for Srivari darshan.
TTD officials and staff accompanied the EO during the inspections, which focused on improving facilities and services for devotees.



Bhoomana Karunakar Reddy Criticizes CM Chandrababu Over TTD Mismanagement

C Shekar | TPN
Tirupati, Jan 20: Bhoomana Karunakar Reddy, spokesperson of the YSR Congress Party, has leveled strong allegations against Chandrababu Naidu and Deputy Chief Minister Pawan Kalyan regarding the alleged mismanagement and corruption in Tirumala Tirupati Devasthanams (TTD) during their tenure.
Reddy accused Chandrababu Naidu of allowing widespread anarchy on the sacred Tirumala hills, stating that TTD has witnessed unprecedented atrocities under his rule. He criticized the hasty cancellation of a Union Home Ministry-ordered inquiry by the Disaster Management Department, allegedly to avoid scrutiny during Amit Shah's visit to Vijayawada.
Reddy alleged that TTD's sanctity was compromised during Chandrababu Naidu's regime, leading to incidents such as liquor and biryani packets being found on the sacred hill. He cited the death of a boy in Tirumala and the lack of media attention from what he termed "yellow media" aligned with TDP.

The YSR Congress spokesperson accused TDP and Jana Sena leaders of exploiting TTD resources, alleging corruption in ticket sales and illegal sandalwood smuggling. He highlighted the deaths of six devotees during the Vaikuntha Ekadashi stampede and criticized the TDP for not providing adequate compensation, demanding ₹1 crore ex-gratia for each family. Reddy noted the absence of a judicial inquiry into various issues, including the laddu controversy, and accused TDP of using misinformation to tarnish the image of YSR Congress.
Reddy claimed that the spiritual and administrative dignity of TTD was undermined during Chandrababu Naidu's tenure. He also criticized Pawan Kalyan for his alleged failure to safeguard Sanatana Dharma despite being in charge of the Forest Department.
The YSR Congress Party has demanded strict action against those responsible for the alleged mismanagement and called for greater accountability to restore the sanctity and order of Tirumala.

Adhikaranandi Kumbabhishekam Performed at Srikalahastheeswara Swamy Temple

C Shekar | TPN
Tirupati, Jan 20: As part of the Adhikaranandi Kumbabhishekam at the Srikalahastheeswara Swamy temple, famously known as Dakshina Kashi, the Kalisha Puja Purnahuti Adhikaranandi Abhishekam was conducted this morning with devotion and grandeur.
The ritual was led by the temple's chief priests, including Savath Gurukul, Karunakaran Gurukul, and Abhishekam Gurukul Suresh Gurukul. The sacred ceremony was performed with traditional rituals, enhancing the spiritual significance of the event.
The event witnessed the participation of key officials, including Temple Executive Officer NR Krishna Reddy, Deputy Superintendent and CSO Nagabhushanam Yadav, Temple Inspector Hari Yadav, and the temple's chief priests. Others in attendance were S.M.K. Srinivas Gurukul, Arthagiri, and temple officials and staff. The Kumbabhishekam is a significant ritual that strengthens the spiritual sanctity of the temple and

reaffirms its historical and cultural importance. Devotees and officials expressed their reverence as the sacred rituals concluded successfully.



Arvind Kejriwal Admits to Unfulfilled Promises Ahead of Delhi Polls

TPN Correspondent | New Delhi
Ahead of the February 5 Delhi assembly elections, Aam Aadmi Party (AAP) national convenor Arvind Kejriwal acknowledged his government's failure to fulfil three major promises. Addressing a gathering in Laxmi Bai Nagar on Saturday, Mr. Kejriwal reassured the public of his commitment to completing the projects in the next five years.

- Kejriwal admitted falling short on promises to clean the Yamuna, ensure 24-hour drinking water, and upgrade Delhi's roads to European standards.
- He reiterated his focus on completing these projects in two to three years.
- Congress leader Sandeep Dikshit criticized the AAP government for the capital's pollution crisis. "I am truthful to my promises. I could not fulfil three commitments: cleaning the Yamuna river, providing clean drinking water round the clock, and transforming Delhi's roads to European stan-



dards," Kejriwal admitted. He added that efforts to clean the Yamuna will take two to three years, with ongoing work already showing progress. On the issue of clean water, Mr. Kejriwal highlighted an initiative launched recently in Rajendra Nagar, stating, "24-hour drinking water supply has begun in one

colony, and this will be expanded across Delhi." He reaffirmed that all three promises would be fulfilled within the next term if re-elected. Congress Criticizes AAP on Pollution and Infrastructure
Congress leader Sandeep Dikshit, contesting from the New Delhi constituency, criticized the AAP government for failing to address

pollution in Delhi and the Yamuna River. At a press conference, he accused the Kejriwal government of neglecting sewage treatment facilities, resulting in the Yamuna becoming the "most polluted stretch" in the world.

"The Kejriwal government boasted in 2023 about cleaning the Yamuna but has made little progress," said Dikshit. He also dismissed the blame placed on stubble burning for Delhi's air pollution, citing vehicle emissions, weak public transport infrastructure, and reduced green cover as the primary causes. Dikshit further claimed that the number of Delhi Transport Corporation (DTC) buses had decreased from 5,500 in 2013 to around 3,000, indicating a failure to enhance public transportation in the capital.

With promises and criticism shaping the election discourse, the upcoming polls will serve as a crucial test for the Kejriwal-led AAP government.

Several AAP Leaders Join BJP Ahead of Delhi Assembly Polls

Delhi gears up for a heated electoral battle with prominent leaders switching parties.



TPN Correspondent | New Delhi
In a significant political shift ahead of the Delhi Assembly elections, several leaders and members from the Aam Aadmi Party (AAP) joined the Bharatiya Janata Party (BJP) on Sunday. Among the notable figures was Kapil Naagar, who contested

twice from Kamla Nagar ward of the Model Town Legislative Assembly. He joined the BJP, along with over 100 AAP workers. The joining ceremony took place in the presence of BJP state president Virendraa Sachdeva, signaling a further strengthening of the BJP's

position as the Delhi Assembly elections approach. In another event, BJP candidate from Kalkaji assembly constituency, Ramesh Bidhuri, welcomed several AAP workers into the party fold.

During the event, Mr. Bidhuri expressed his gratitude to the new joiners and emphasized the vision of Prime Minister Narendra Modi, saying, "There is nothing more fortunate than becoming a part of PM Modi ji's family. Modi ji says only one thing – everyone's support, everyone's development, everyone's faith, everyone's effort. We all need to make an effort to ensure India is recognized as a developed nation by 2047."

Mr. Bidhuri, who is contesting against Chief Minister Atishi from the Kalkaji constituency, also criticized her for allegedly neglecting the voters over the past four and a half years. "People are facing a

very difficult situation. Streets and roads are in shambles. The sewerage system is malfunctioning. You can't enter the house without mud stuck to your shoes. Drinking water is contaminated," he remarked.

The Delhi Assembly polls are scheduled for February 5, with vote counting to take place on February 8. The contest is shaping up to be a three-way battle between the ruling AAP, BJP, and Congress. Despite its earlier dominance in Delhi, Congress has struggled in recent elections, failing to win a single seat in the 2020 Assembly elections. AAP, on the other hand, had a landslide victory in 2020, securing 62 out of 70 seats, while the BJP won only eight seats.

The defection of several AAP leaders to BJP could have an impact on the political landscape as the election draws near.

Indian Women's Team Wins Historic First-Ever Kho Kho World Cup

India's women's Kho Kho team creates history with their victory at the Kho Kho World Cup.

TPN Correspondent | New Delhi
In a remarkable feat of athleticism and teamwork, the Indian women's Kho Kho team has clinched the first-ever Kho Kho World Cup, marking a historic moment for the sport in the country. The team's victory has not only brought them international recognition but has also spotlighted Kho Kho, one of India's oldest traditional sports, as a force to be reckoned with on the global stage.

The Indian women's team displayed unmatched skill and determination throughout the tournament, defeating some of the best teams from around the world. Their performance has sparked a wave of enthusiasm and inspiration among young athletes, particularly women, across India.

The Kho Kho World Cup, held in [location], saw a series of thrilling matches, with India emerging as

the dominant force, showcasing the strength and unity of the team. The players' exceptional display of coordination and perseverance proved to be the key to their success, with each match being a testament to their rigorous training and commitment to the sport.

This victory comes at a time when Kho Kho is gaining renewed attention and recognition in India, with increasing efforts to promote traditional sports alongside more mainstream competitions. The women's team's historic achievement is expected to inspire a new generation of athletes to take up Kho Kho and contribute to its growth both domestically and internationally.

India's triumph at the Kho Kho World Cup has not only solidified the nation's prowess in this traditional sport but also highlighted the importance of nurturing women's sports talent. As the sport gains



more visibility, it is expected that Kho Kho will see a surge in participation, with more youngsters aspiring to take the field in future competitions.

With the victory, the Indian women's team has set a new benchmark

in the history of Kho Kho and has made a significant impact in the global sports arena. This triumph serves as a reminder of the power of perseverance, teamwork, and the ability to achieve greatness on the world stage.

Four, Including Two Children, Die in Ghaziabad House Fire



TPN Correspondent | Ghaziabad :

A devastating fire, caused by a suspected short circuit, claimed the lives of four family members, including two children, in Ghaziabad early Sunday morning. The victims were asleep when the fire engulfed their home. The deceased have been identified as Gulbahar (32), her two minor sons, and a relative's son who lived in the same house. Gulbahar's husband, Shah Nawaz, managed to escape unhurt. Chief Fire Officer Rahul confirmed that firefighters recovered the charred bodies after extinguishing the blaze. "The fire broke out in the early hours while the family was asleep. Unfortunately, four lives were lost in the incident," he said.

The tragic loss underscores the importance of ensuring electrical safety in residential areas. Local authorities are investigating further to prevent such incidents in the future.

Olympic Medallist Manu Bhaker's Grandmother and Uncle Killed in Road Accident



TPN Correspondent | New Delhi :

Olympic medallist Manu Bhaker has been struck by a personal tragedy as her maternal grandmother, Savitri Devi, and uncle, Yudhveer Singh, were killed in a road accident in Charkhi Dadri, Haryana, on Sunday, January 19. The accident occurred around 9 am on Mahendragarh Bypass Road when a Brezza car collided with the scooter on which Bhaker's relatives were travelling.

Reports indicate that the car driver fled the scene following the accident. Local authorities have launched an investigation into the incident.

A relative of the deceased spoke to the media, explaining that the accident took place under foggy weather conditions. "There was fog, they met with an accident. We appeal to the administration to investigate it properly. They were Manu Bhaker's maternal uncle and maternal grandmother," the relative said.

Upon receiving the distress call, the police arrived at the scene, took the bodies into custody, and sent them for post-mortem at the civil hospital. ASI Suresh Kumar of the local police station confirmed the details of the accident, stating that the victims died at the spot and the car driver had yet to be found. "We got the information about the accident involving a car and a scooter. Both the persons on the scooter died. We could not find the driver of the car at the spot," Kumar said.

The tragic loss comes just two days after Bhaker, a celebrated shooter, was conferred with the prestigious Khel Ratna Award by President Droupadi Murmu. The sudden demise of her family members has cast a shadow over her recent achievement.

The authorities are continuing their investigation into the circumstances surrounding the accident, and efforts are underway to locate the driver responsible for the collision.

'One District One Product' Exhibited At Maha Kumbh

The ODOP initiative promotes India's rich handicraft heritage at the Mahakumbh in Prayagraj.



TPN Correspondent | New Delhi

The Centre's 'One District One Product' (ODOP) initiative is making a notable presence at the Maha Kumbh 2025 in Prayagraj, with items such as carpets, glass toys from Firozabad, and wooden toys from Varanasi showcased to the devotees. The exhibition of these handicrafts aims to highlight the unique products of various districts, fostering local craftsmanship and entrepreneurship.

In addition to this, e-commerce giant Flip-

kart has set up a stall at the Mahakumbh, offering a platform for entrepreneurs to sell their products for free. This move is part of the initiative to promote small businesses and provide them with wider exposure.

Sharad Tandon, the Joint Commissioner of Industries for the Prayagraj Division, shared that during the Kumbh Mela in 2019, the event generated a business worth Rs 4.30 crore, and the expectations for this year's business have surged, with figures reaching up to Rs 35 crore.

The ODOP initiative, which aims to promote local handicrafts and cottage industries, has garnered significant attention, with products like zari-zardosi, glass toys, and wooden toys becoming major attractions for the devotees attending the Kumbh.

Furthermore, products that have received Geographical Indications (GI) recognition are also being prominently displayed, reinforcing the country's diverse craft traditions.

2025's First Mann Ki Baat

PM Modi Praises EC, Highlights Maha Kumbh

TPN Correspondent | New Delhi
Prime Minister Narendra Modi, in the first Mann Ki Baat broadcast of 2025, commended the Election Commission (EC) for leveraging technology to empower democracy and ensuring a fair polling process. The address, held on Sunday, also celebrated the ongoing Maha Kumbh in Prayagraj and emphasized India's democratic and cultural heritage.

- *PM Modi lauds EC's technological advancements ahead of National Voters' Day.*
- *Maha Kumbh praised for fostering unity and showcasing India's civilizational strength.*
- *The PM reflects on India's democratic journey and its constitutional values.*

With National Voters' Day approaching on January 25, PM Modi emphasized the importance of democratic participation, urging citizens to vote in large numbers. "The Election Commission has modernized and strengthened the electoral process, using the power of



technology to empower the people," he said. This statement comes amid opposition criticism of the EC, particularly regarding the integrity of Electronic Voting Machines (EVMs). Reflecting on India's journey as a democracy, PM Modi noted, "Doubts were cast on our viability as a democracy after independence, but India has proved them wrong. After all, India is the mother of democracy." The broadcast included audio clips

of Constituent Assembly members like Dr. Rajendra Prasad, Dr. B.R. Ambedkar, and Syama Prasad Mookerjee, highlighting their vision and values. "We must draw inspiration from our Constitution makers to build an India they would be proud of," he said. On the Maha Kumbh
Discussing the ongoing Maha Kumbh in Prayagraj, PM Modi praised the event for its inclusivity and spiritual significance. "People of various castes and regions have come together without discrimination. Extensive participation, especially by the youth, strengthens our civilizational roots and assures a golden future," he remarked. The prime minister also noted the event's global recognition, calling it a matter of pride for all Indians. With Republic Day just a week away, PM Modi's address underscored the significance of the Constitution's 75th anniversary and India's commitment to democratic and cultural values.

Rahul Gandhi Faces FIR Over Remark on Fighting Indian State

TPN Correspondent | Guwahati

Rahul Gandhi, the Leader of the Opposition, is facing legal trouble following his remarks during the inauguration of the Congress Party's new headquarters on January 15 in Delhi. Gandhi's statement, where he accused the BJP and RSS of capturing institutions and claimed the Congress is "fighting the BJP, the RSS, and the Indian State itself," has led to an FIR being filed against him in Guwahati. The complaint, lodged by Monjit Chetia at Pan Bazar Police Station, cites sections 152 and 197(1)d of the BNS for "acts endangering the sovereignty, unity, and integrity of India." These charges are cognizable and non-bailable. In the FIR, the complainant alleged



that Gandhi's remarks crossed the boundaries of permissible free speech and posed a significant risk to public order. "By declaring that his fight is against the 'Indian State itself,' the accused has consciously incited subversive activities and rebellion among the populace. This is an attempt to delegitimize the authority of the State and to portray it as a hostile force," Chetia stated. He further attributed Gandhi's comments to frustration over repeated electoral failures, claiming the Opposition leader is using his platform irresponsibly. "Instead of maintaining public confidence in democratic institutions, he has chosen to provoke rebellion, endangering India's unity and sovereignty," Chetia added.

Kerala Leads India's Push for Energy Efficiency and Decarbonization

Focus on Advanced Strategies, Renewable Energy Adoption, and Sustainability

TPN Correspondent | Thiruvananthapuram

Kerala is taking bold steps towards achieving a carbon-neutral future with its latest push for energy efficiency and decarbonization. The Bureau of Energy Efficiency (BEE), under the Ministry of Power, has urged state governments and State Designated Agencies (SDAs) to adopt advanced energy efficiency strategies to reduce carbon emissions and contribute to India's Net Zero target by 2070. These strategies focus on promoting energy efficiency, expanding renewable energy use, and increasing electric power adoption across sectors. During a meeting in Thiruvananthapuram, A. Chandra Sekhara Reddy, Media Adviser for Southern States and Union Territories (BEE), and Hari Kumar, Director of the Energy Management Centre (EMC) Kerala, met with K.R. Jyothi Lal, Additional Chief Secretary of Kerala's Power Department. The discussion centered around utilizing communication strategies to enhance energy efficiency initiatives, combat climate change, and minimize greenhouse gas emissions.

- *Kerala announces the International Energy Festival in Thiruvananthapuram, February 7-9, 2025.*
- *Kerala aims for carbon neutrality by 2050 and 100% renewable energy by 2040.*
- *Rapid adoption of electric vehicles and Vehicle-to-Grid (V2G) technology.*
- *Energy efficiency measures could save 12-15% of projected electricity demand by 2030.*
- *Over ₹10 lakh crore potential in energy efficiency investments, says BEE Secretary.*

K.R. Jyothi Lal emphasized, "Kerala is dedicated to becoming a leader in energy efficiency and carbon neutrality. The IEFK 2025 will unite global energy professionals, policymakers, innovators, and investors to explore strategies



Sri KR Jyothi Lal Additional Chief Secretary Dept. of Power, Govt. of Kerala is releasing a report in the impact of Communication Strategies for enhancing Energy Efficiency in Southern States, submitted by A Chandra Shekhar Reddy (Media Adviser Southern States UTs BEE MOP GOI)

for a greener future. Key initiatives include advancing energy efficiency, scaling renewable energy, promoting electric mobility, and adopting sustainable building practices."

BEE Secretary Praises

Kerala's Vision

Milind Deora, Secretary of BEE, who participated online, commended Kerala's proactive approach, noting the state's efforts in organizing IEFK 2025 as a platform for showcasing energy efficiency programs and attracting investments. He also highlighted the vast energy efficiency investment potential of over ₹10 lakh crore in the country, encouraging southern states to capitalize on this opportunity.

Kerala's Decarbonization Roadmap

As part of its decarbonization roadmap, Kerala is prioritizing energy efficiency to meet the growing demand for electricity, reduce reliance on fuel imports, and ensure environmental sustainability. According to the National Electricity Plan, energy efficiency measures could save 12-15% of the projected electricity demand by 2030. Kerala is also focusing on the rapid growth of electric vehicles and plans to implement V2G technology, which will allow EV charging only during off-peak hours to optimize energy consumption. Director of EMC, Dr. Hari Kumar, thanked the BEE for its support in Kerala's energy conservation efforts, highlighting their importance in addressing climate change and fostering sustainable development. With its ambitious plans and collaborative efforts, Kerala aims to lead the way in India's energy transformation. Through partnerships with other southern states like Andhra Pradesh, Tamil Nadu, Telangana, and Karnataka, Kerala is setting a global example for climate action and sustainable energy solutions.

PM Modi Dials Yogi Adityanath Over Maha Kumbh Fire Incident

Over 70 huts and 10 tents destroyed by fire triggered by cylinder blasts; no casualties reported.



TPN Correspondent | Prayagraj

Prime Minister Narendra Modi reached out to Uttar Pradesh Chief Minister Yogi Adityanath regarding the devastating fire at the ongoing Maha Kumbh Mela in Prayagraj. The incident, caused by cylinder blasts, destroyed over 70 huts and 10 tents in Sector 19 of the mela grounds on Sunday evening.

- *Fire broke out at the Gita Press camp, destroying 70-80 huts and 10 tents.*
- *PM Modi spoke with CM Adityanath to assess the situation.*
- *No casualties reported; the fire was brought under control by emergency teams.*

The fire erupted around 4:30 pm due to a cylinder explosion in the Gita Press tent and rapidly spread to adjacent huts and tents. Thick black smoke engulfed the skies over the mela, prompting swift action by firefighting and disaster response teams. ADM Mela, Vivek Chaturvedi, confirmed, "Around 70-80 huts and 8-10 tents have been burnt. Fortunately, there are no casualties, and everyone has been safely rescued. The fire has been extinguished." The Uttar Pradesh government deployed over 15 fire tenders, along with teams from the NDRF and



SDRF, to tackle the blaze. DIG NDRF, MK Sharma, stated, "Four NDRF teams worked alongside other agencies to bring the fire under control."

Maha Kumbh Mela DIG Vaibhav Krishna assured, "An inquiry will determine the exact cause of the fire. The situation is now under control, and no casualties have been reported."

Chief Minister Yogi Adityanath visited the site to review the situation and instructed officials to ensure safety measures are strengthened to prevent such incidents. PM Modi's engagement highlights the importance of the Maha Kumbh Mela, a globally significant religious event drawing millions of devotees.

While the quick response prevented any loss of life, the incident has raised concerns about safety protocols and infrastructure in such large gatherings.

Saif Attacker Is Bangladeshi, Changed Name After Coming To India

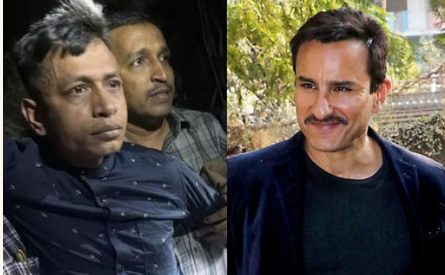
Police suspect illegal entry and name change facilitated the crime.

TPN Correspondent | Mumbai

Mumbai Police have identified the man accused of breaking into actor Saif Ali Khan's Bandra residence and attacking him as a Bangladeshi national, Shariful Islam Shehzad. The suspect, who allegedly entered India illegally and adopted the alias Bijoy Das, has been living in Mumbai for the past four months, working with a housekeeping agency.

- *Saif Ali Khan was stabbed six times during a burglary attempt at his Bandra home.*
- *The accused, Shariful Islam Shehzad, is believed to have illegally entered India from Bangladesh.*
- *Police have invoked charges under the Passport Act and other sections against him.*

Deputy Commissioner of Police Dixit Gedam confirmed the arrest and revealed critical details during a press briefing. "The investigation shows the accused could be from Bangladesh. He does not possess any Indian documentation. We have recovered items indicating his Bangladeshi origin and suspect he entered India illegally," Mr. Gedam stated. The incident unfolded late



Wednesday night when the intruder broke into Mr. Khan's home via the fire exit. The actor's maid, Junu, raised the alarm upon spotting the man. In the ensuing confrontation, the intruder stabbed Mr. Khan six times before fleeing the scene. Both the actor and his maid sustained injuries and were rushed to Lilavati Hospital. Doctors have confirmed that Mr. Khan is recovering. Police said the suspect, arrested from Thane, attempted to rob the actor. "The intruder demanded money and, when opposed, attacked Mr. Khan and the maid," the police statement noted. Charges under the Passport Act and sections related to illegal entry have been filed against Shehzad. Investigators are currently verifying the accused's background and seeking further information about his activities since entering India.

Tourist asked to speak 'Kannada' in emergency call during burglary

TPN Correspondent | Bengaluru

A Spanish tourist, Jesus Abrielle, has alleged that during a burglary at his apartment in Bengaluru, an emergency operator asked him to speak in Kannada, leading to the disconnection of his call. The incident occurred in the early hours of January 15, when two burglars broke into Abrielle's flat in Richmond Town. According to Abrielle, the burglars entered through the bedroom window, making off with valuables including a laptop, a ring, and important documents. The burglars fled through

a sliding window, leaving Abrielle frightened and alone in one room. When he called the emergency helpline to report the crime, the operator allegedly asked him to speak in Kannada. Unable to communicate effectively, Abrielle disconnected the call. The incident has sparked criticism, with some blaming language fanaticism in Karnataka for ruining the state's global-friendly brand. This robbery has caused a loss of ₹82,000 worth of valuables, and police investigations are ongoing to identify the suspects.

Donald Trump’s Inauguration Celebrations Kick Off

Event Details, Venue, Guest List And More

TPN Correspondent | Washington DC

Donald Trump will be sworn in as the 47th president of the United States at 12 pm EST (10:30 pm IST) on Monday, as the US Constitution mandates that each new president’s term begins at noon on January 20. The inaugural celebrations started with a star-studded 500-member reception at the Trump National Golf Club in Virginia, followed by a rally and candlelit dinner for supporters in Washington, DC.

Inauguration Gala and Ceremony Trump’s inaugural festivities include 18 galas, with three key official events. On Sunday, the President-elect held a “Make America Great Again Victory Rally” at Capital One Arena, which will be the first event in Washington DC since his 2021 speech at the Ellipse. He also attended a candlelight dinner with supporters.

The inauguration ceremony will see Trump sworn in by Supreme Court Chief Justice John Roberts. This will be his second time officiating for Trump, after the 2017 inauguration.



Following the oath, Trump will deliver his inaugural address, outlining plans for his second term. Incoming Vice President JD Vance will also be sworn in.

Inaugural Luncheon and Executive Orders

Post-ceremony, Trump and other leaders will attend a celebratory luncheon in Statuary Hall at the US Capitol. The event is hosted by the Joint Congressional Committee on Inaugural Ceremonies (JCCIC). Afterward, Trump will likely sign a series of ex-

ecutive orders, fulfilling campaign promises and reversing Biden-era policies.

The president is expected to reinstate several executive orders from his first term that were revoked by President Biden. This will be followed by attendance at three official inaugural balls: the Commander in Chief Ball, the Liberty Ball, and the Starlight Ball.

National Prayer Service and Venue Change

The official end of the inauguration

celebrations will be a National Prayer Service at the Washington National Cathedral on Tuesday at 11 am (9:30 pm IST). This interfaith service marks the conclusion of the event. Trump had planned to hold the ceremony outdoors in front of the Capitol building, but a last-minute change moved the event inside the Capitol Rotunda due to forecasts of extreme cold. Although the indoor venue has a much smaller capacity of around 600, it has affected the anticipated crowd size, with 220,000 tickets originally available. Trump announced that supporters could watch a live feed at Capital One Arena, with room for up to 20,000 attendees.

Presidential Parade and Musical Performances

The inaugural parade, typically held along Pennsylvania Avenue, will take place indoors this year at Capital One Arena. This change marks the first time the parade has been moved indoors since 1985. Trump has invited several high-profile guests, including tech billionaires Elon Musk, Jeff Bezos, and Mark Zuckerberg. Musicians such as Carrie Underwood, Lee Greenwood, Kid Rock, and the Village People will perform during the celebrations.

Inaugural Luncheon and Guest List

Though the menu for Trump’s inaugural luncheon is still unknown, previous luncheons have included American classics. Trump is known for his love of simple, savory meals, so dishes like steak and lobster may be included. The guest list is also impressive, with figures from both tech and politics. Outgoing President Joe Biden will attend, as will former Presidents Bill Clinton, George W. Bush, and Barack Obama. Trump has also invited foreign leaders, including Italy’s Giorgia Meloni, Hungary’s Viktor Orban, Argentina’s Javier Milei, and China’s Xi Jinping.

Executive Orders and Global Diplomacy

Trump is preparing to sign multiple executive orders, which could include mass deportations, expanded oil drilling, and potential pardons for the January 6 rioters. A meeting is scheduled immediately after the inauguration between US officials and foreign ministers from the “Quad” nations—Japan, India, and Australia—an alliance seen as a counterbalance to China’s growing influence.

Lex Fridman: The US Podcaster Who Will Visit India To Interview PM Modi

TPN Correspondent, India

American podcaster Lex Fridman announced on Sunday that he will interview Prime Minister Narendra Modi in February. The podcast will focus on PM Modi’s vision for India’s technological and cultural future. Fridman shared his excitement about visiting India, stating that it will be his first trip to the country, where he looks forward to experiencing its vibrant culture and meeting its people.

Fridman, born in Chkalovsk, Tajikistan, and raised in Moscow, moved to the United States at the age of 11. He holds degrees in computer science and electrical engineering from Drexel University. His professional journey includes a stint at Google and a current position as a research scientist at MIT. Fridman launched his podcast, initially called The Artificial Intelligence Podcast, in 2018, later rebranding it to The Lex Fridman Podcast. Over the years, it



has featured high-profile guests such as Elon Musk, Jeff Bezos, Donald Trump, and Volodymyr Zelenskyy. Despite controversies, including a 2022 interview with rapper Kanye West, Fridman continues to advocate for tough, honest conversations. Outside of podcasting, he holds a first-degree black belt in Brazilian jiu-jitsu.

Fridman’s upcoming podcast with PM Modi is expected to offer insights into India’s growing role in global technological and cultural advancements.

Dakota Johnson Visits Siddhivinayak Temple with Sonali Bendre

The Hollywood star embraces India’s spiritual essence during her stay.



TPN Correspondent | Mumbai Hollywood actress Dakota Johnson, in Mumbai for Coldplay’s Music of the Spheres World Tour concert, took time out to visit the iconic Siddhivinayak Temple on Sunday. Accompanying her were Bollywood actresses Sonali Bendre and Gayatri Joshi, who joined her in seeking Lord Ganesha’s blessings.

Johnson, who arrived in the city on Thursday with her boyfriend and Coldplay frontman Chris Martin, has been immersing herself in the local culture. In a

video circulating online, Dakota is seen donning a graceful navy-blue ethnic outfit paired with an orange dupatta, while Sonali and Gayatri opted for elegant beige and off-white traditional ensembles, respectively. The trio’s visit to the temple was met with admiration from fans, who praised their spiritual gesture. Johnson’s visit to India and her connection with Indian culture continue to make headlines as she explores the city during her stay.

Farmers Clash on India-Bangladesh Border; Situation Under Control, Says BSF

TPN Correspondent | Malda

Timely intervention by BSF and BGB defuses escalating tensions.

Tensions flared on Saturday morning along the India-Bangladesh border near the Sukdevpur Border outpost in Malda after a disagreement between farmers from both countries spiraled into a brief clash. The incident, which occurred around 11:45 am, involved accusations of crop theft and escalated into stone-throwing and verbal abuses, according to the Border Security Force (BSF).

- Farmers from India and Bangladesh clashed near the Sukdevpur border outpost.
- BSF and BGB intervened promptly to defuse the situation.
- Recent disputes over border fencing



work add to ongoing tensions.

A BSF statement confirmed that the altercation began when Indian farmers accused Bangladeshi farmers of stealing crops. The situation intensified as farmers from both sides gathered in large numbers. However, swift action by the BSF and their Bangladeshi counterparts, the Border Guard Bangladesh (BGB), pre-

vented further escalation.

“The situation was immediately brought under control following timely intervention by BSF and BGB personnel. Farmers were dispersed and sent back to their respective territories. No injuries were reported,” the BSF stated.

In light of the incident, the BSF urged Indian farmers to avoid border disputes and report grievances directly to personnel stationed at the border. The BGB also played a key role in managing their side of the conflict and ensuring calm.

This clash comes in the wake of recent objections by the BGB over border fencing efforts by India, which they claimed were encroaching into Bangladeshi territory. The matter was resolved through discussions, and construction resumed without further issues.

UP Men Lured by Job Offers, Sent to Russia’s War Front

TPN Correspondent | Azamgarh

Nearly a dozen young men from Azamgarh and Mau districts in Uttar Pradesh were promised jobs in Russia as security guards, helpers, and cooks, with a salary of Rs 2 lakh per month. However, their lives took a tragic turn as they were forcibly recruited into the Russian army and sent to the front lines of the Russia-Ukraine war.

Three of the 13 men, including Kanhaiya Yadav from Azamgarh and Shyamsundar and Sunil Yadav from Mau, have lost their lives on the battlefield. Two others, Rakesh Yadav and Brijesh Yadav, returned home after sustaining

injuries. The families of eight men—Vinod Yadav, Yogendra Yadav, Azharuddin Khan, Humeshwar Prasad, Deepak, Ramchandra, Arvind Yadav, and Dharendra Kumar—are still anxiously waiting for news.

The victims were duped by agents, including Vinod Yadav, who offered them lucrative jobs but sent them to the war instead. Yogendra Yadav’s brother, Ashish Yadav, shared how his sibling was sent to Russia under the pretext of a security guard job but was later forced into military service. Similarly, Azharuddin Khan’s mother recalled her son’s final words before he joined the

Russian army.

Families have demanded government intervention to locate the missing individuals and take action against the agents responsible. Rakesh Yadav, who managed to return home, recalled the grueling training he underwent and the deceptive contracts signed in Russian.

The Indian Ministry of External Affairs (MEA) reported that 12 Indians have died while serving with the Russian military, and 16 are currently listed as missing. As of August last year, Russia ceased recruiting foreign nationals into its armed forces.

Hamas Hands Over First Israeli Hostages As Gaza Truce Begins

TPN Correspondent, Gaza

On Sunday, the first three Israeli hostages were handed over to the Red Cross as part of a long-awaited Gaza truce, signaling a significant step towards peace after over 15 months of war. The hostages, all women, were transferred in Gaza City ahead of their return to Israel. The handover followed a delay of nearly three hours in the ceasefire, which had been scheduled to begin at 8:30 AM. The delay occurred due to a dispute over the list of hostages to be freed. Despite the holdup, Israel’s military continued operations, resulting in casualties before the truce officially began.

As soon as the ceasefire took effect,



trucks carrying essential humanitarian aid entered Gaza, providing much-needed relief for displaced Palestinians. Thousands of residents, carrying their belongings, began returning to their homes in the war-torn region. Many ar-

eas, especially in northern Gaza, have been left in ruin, with residents like Rana Mohsen from Jabalia describing their return to rubble as “home.”

A total of 33 Israeli hostages are set to be released in exchange for around 1,900 Palestinians in Israeli custody. This truce, which marks the beginning of a 42-day ceasefire, aims to pave the way for a permanent end to the conflict. However, a second phase of the truce is still under negotiation.

The families of the hostages are cautiously hopeful, while the situation remains tense in both Gaza and Israel, with both sides prepared for the possibility of the conflict reigniting.

Stock Markets Brace for Turbulence Ahead of Budget and Global Developments

Domestic stock markets are likely to be volatile this week. Donald Trump's inauguration as US President on January 20, rising dollar index and US bond yields are negative factors. Benchmark indices may fluctuate for a few more days. IT, pharma and FMCG stocks are showing some strength. Last week, profit booking was seen in media, realty, consumer durables, healthcare and pharma stocks. Demand for metal, CPSE, PSU bank and oil and gas stocks increased. Investors should be vigilant as the Union Budget approaches.

Stock Recommendations

Indus Tower

These stocks, which hit a lifetime high in September last year, have undergone a 31% correction. The latest trend reversal has started at the key support level of Rs. 320. Gaining four times in the last five sessions and rising 13% compared to Nifty is a good sign. There are expectations that it will release better results in the third quarter. In



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this counter, which closed at Rs. 362 with a gain of 2.30% last Friday, investors should take a position at Rs. 350 with a target price of Rs. 385/390. Stop loss at Rs. 340 is mandatory.

Marico

Currently, the FMCG sector is showing some strength. Marico shares, which have corrected by 20% from their lifetime high, are currently moving at key levels. Accumulation is underway. The fact that it is moving at the 200-day and 21-day average value is a positive factor. In this counter, which closed at Rs. 664 with a gain of 1.81% last Friday, investors should take a posi-



tion at Rs. 720/730 with a target price of Rs. 640. Stop loss should be kept at Rs.625.

RVNL



These shares, which touched a lifetime high of Rs.647 in July last year, have corrected by 44%. Interest in Railway shares has increased due to expectations of a 20% increase in allocations to Railways in the Budget and their availability at attractive prices. Investors should enter the Rs.400/410 range with a target price of Rs.455 in this counter, which closed at Rs.426 last Friday with a gain of 3.71%. Stop

loss should be kept at Rs.390.

Coal India:

This counter, which has fallen by 30% from its lifetime high, is currently showing momentum. As it has already fallen sharply, a trend reversal is likely. These shares have risen by 8% in the last four sessions. Investors should buy Rs.400/410 in this counter, which closed at Rs.387 in the previous session. Buy at Rs.380 with a target price of 430/450. Place a stop loss at Rs.365.



Tata Consumer:



This counter, which touched a lifetime high at Rs.1250, has corrected by 30%. It found key support at Rs.880. Since then, it has been showing some strength. Investors should take a position at Rs.940 with a target price of Rs.1050 in this counter, which closed at Rs.954 in the previous session. Place a stop loss at Rs.925.

Budget FY26: Govt could cut customs duty on raw materials to boost manufacturing

In a bid to boost local manufacturing, the government is considering reducing customs duties on raw materials used in industries such as medical equipment, electronics, and footwear in the upcoming Union Budget for FY26. Tax experts suggest that this move could help streamline the sector and reduce classification disputes.



Deloitte India's Partner for Indirect Tax, Harpreet Singh, shared that key demands for the 2025-26 Budget, to be presented in Parliament on February 1, would focus on simplifying customs duties, rationalizing the rate structure, and managing disputes. Singh believes the government will likely reduce customs duties on raw materials in sectors like healthcare, electronics, home appliances, and pharmaceuticals, which have been prioritized for boosting local manufacturing under the phased manufacturing plan.

The rationalization of customs duties, which is expected to be a significant feature of the FY26 Budget,

could lead to a reduction in raw material costs for sectors such as medical equipment, white goods, electronics, footwear, and toys. Singh noted that a comprehensive review of the customs duty rate structure was announced in the 2024-25 Budget to help simplify the regime, reduce duty inversion, and minimize disputes in the future.

This potential reduction in customs duties is part of the government's ongoing efforts to encourage domestic manufacturing, particularly in industries vital to economic growth. By lowering the costs of key raw materials, the government aims to create a more competitive manufacturing environment, ultimately supporting the growth of local industries and reducing reliance on imports.

India Set to Allow 1 Million Metric Tons of Sugar Exports Amid Surplus Stocks



India is set to permit the export of 1 million metric tons of sugar during the current season, according to government and industry sources. This move aims to help sugar mills export surplus stocks from the world's second-largest producer of sugar while stabilizing local prices.

The Indian government is expected to soon issue an official order allowing the export of the 1 million tons of sugar. This decision, which had been speculated in recent weeks, could add downward pressure to global sugar prices, as India's surplus will add to global supply. Sources, who wished to remain anonymous, revealed the upcoming announcement but were not authorized to speak to the media.

The move comes as a surprise to many traders, given that India's sugar production is expected to fall short of consumption for the first time in eight years. Maharashtra, Karnataka, and Uttar Pradesh account for over 80% of the country's total sugar production. However, lower cane yields in these states have led to revised output estimates for the 2024-25 season.

Sugar production in India is projected to drop to approximately 27 million tons from 32 million tons last year, falling short of the country's annual consumption of over 29 million tons. Despite the reduced production estimates, India remains one of the largest sugar exporters globally, with its export markets including Indonesia, Bangladesh, and the UAE. India was the second-largest sugar exporter from 2018 to 2022, averaging 6.8 million tons annually.

Deepak Ballani, Director General of the Indian Sugar and Bio-energy Manufacturers Association, commented that the limited export of 1 million tons is good news for the sugar industry, as next year's production is expected to be stronger. This move will likely offer some relief to sugar mills and ensure a more balanced supply chain, despite the shortfall in domestic production.

World Bank Predicts Further Reduction in India's Fiscal Deficit

India's fiscal deficit is projected to continue shrinking, primarily driven by increasing tax revenues, according to a World Bank report. This positive trend is expected to support the government's fiscal consolidation efforts.

The report highlights that India stands out in South Asia with its improving fiscal position, while other nations in the region, such as Pakistan and Bangladesh, are facing challenges like higher interest payments and infrastructure investments, keeping their fiscal deficits stable. In contrast, India's growing tax revenues are helping reduce its fiscal deficit.

Inflation in South Asia is expected to moderate, supported by stabilizing exchange rates, with countries like India, Nepal, and Sri Lanka seeing inflation levels within or below target ranges.

India is also expected to remain the fastest-growing economy among the world's largest economies, with a forecast GDP



growth of 6.7% for FY2025-26 and FY2026-27. The World Bank's report attributes this growth to the robust performance of India's services sector and a strengthening manufacturing sector, bolstered by government measures to improve logistics infrastructure and simplify tax regulations.

Private consumption is expected to rise due to an improving labor market, better credit availability, and easing inflation. At the

same time, investment growth is anticipated to remain strong, supported by private investments, healthy corporate balance sheets, and favorable financing conditions. This economic resilience is expected to provide stability in the coming years.

India's fiscal deficit for the current financial year is projected to decrease to 4.9% of GDP, down from 5.6% in 2023-24. Strong direct tax collections, including a 15.4% increase in net direct taxes, alongside robust GST collections, are contributing to this fiscal improvement.

The increased tax revenues give the government more financial flexibility, allowing it to invest in infrastructure projects and welfare schemes. A lower fiscal deficit also reduces the need for borrowing, enabling more funds for private investments and supporting higher economic growth and job creation. Furthermore, a reduced fiscal deficit helps maintain a stable inflation rate, ensuring continued economic stability.

India's Economic Environment Boosting Private Investments, Says CII Survey

India's current economic climate is improving favorable for private investments, with the country emerging as a "bright spot" amidst the global economic challenges, according to a recent survey by the Confederation of Indian Industry (CII). The ongoing pan-India survey, which aims to cover 500 firms by the first week of February, has released its interim results based on a sample of 300 companies of various sizes, including large, medium, and small businesses.

The early findings of the survey highlight that a significant 97 percent of the firms surveyed are planning to increase employment in the fiscal years 2024-25 and 2025-26, reflecting the optimism surrounding the country's economic prospects. This is a strong indicator of the growing confidence among businesses in India's economic recovery and potential for expansion.

Additionally, 79 percent of the respondents reported an increase in their workforce over the past three years, signaling that com-



panies are already responding positively to the economic environment by creating more jobs. This trend aligns with the government's push to support the manufacturing sector and boost employment through various initiatives, including infrastructure development and the "Make in India" campaign.

The CII survey's findings are in line with other positive economic indicators, with India being projected as one of the fastest-growing economies globally. The country's GDP growth is expected to remain robust, and foreign investment is also expected to rise, thanks to favorable policies and an improving business climate.

As India navigates global uncertainties, its domestic economic fundamentals appear strong, and the confidence displayed by businesses in expanding their workforce suggests that the country's economic resilience is continuing to strengthen. These positive developments not only contribute to the growth of the economy but also help in creating a more competitive and inclusive job market.

The final results of the survey, which will cover a broader spectrum of industries, are expected to provide deeper insights into the private sector's expectations and outlook for the coming years.

Instagram Expands Reels to 3 Minutes, Revamps Profile Grids

Instagram has introduced several new features to enhance the user experience, including an exciting update to its Reels functionality. Users can now upload videos up to three minutes long, a significant increase from the previous 90-second limit. The announcement was made by Instagram head Adam Mosseri via a Reel on Saturday, bringing the platform in line with similar video-sharing features on YouTube Shorts.

The decision to extend the length of Reels follows YouTube's recent change to allow videos up to three minutes long and comes just before the anticipated TikTok ban in the United States. Despite this update, Instagram's Reels still cannot compete with TikTok's maximum video length of 60 minutes.

Along with the Reels update, Instagram has also revamped its profile grids. The iconic square profile images have now been replaced with rectangular grids, offering users a fresh look at



their posts. This change is designed to create a more dynamic and engaging layout, better suited for displaying content across Instagram's various features.

In another notable update, Instagram is now allowing users to see which Reels their friends have liked, adding a more social and interactive element to the platform. This feature allows users to discover popular content among their circle of friends, further enhancing Instagram's focus on social sharing.

These changes come at a time when Instagram continues to evolve in response to the growing competition from platforms like TikTok and YouTube. The extended Reels duration and other updates aim to provide users with more flexibility and engagement options, solidifying Instagram as a key player in the short-form video space.

TikTok Shuts Down in the US Amid Looming Ban

TikTok has officially been banned in the United States as the deadline for the ban approaches. Users in the country can no longer use, download, or update the popular app. ByteDance, the Chinese company behind TikTok, has taken proactive steps by removing the app from both the Google Play Store and Apple App Store. Existing users who try to access TikTok are now greeted with a message reading: "A law banning TikTok has been enacted in the U.S. Unfortunately, that means you can't use TikTok for now."

The move comes after months of heightened scrutiny of TikTok, with U.S. lawmakers expressing concerns over national security and data privacy. The app, which boasts millions of active users in the U.S., has faced increasing pressure due to its Chinese ownership, with the U.S. government fearing that user data could potentially be accessed by the Chinese government.

In the wake of the ban, former President Donald Trump is reportedly considering a 90-day reprieve for TikTok users in the U.S. This re-



prieve would allow users to access the app for a limited time while negotiations over its future continue. The possibility of a temporary extension has sparked debates on how to handle the app's fate in the U.S., with some calling for a full ban, while others argue for a solution that allows TikTok to continue operating under strict regulations.

The situation remains fluid, and the future of TikTok in the United States is uncertain. However, the recent steps taken by ByteDance suggest that the platform's presence in the U.S. may soon be fully curtailed unless an agreement is reached. Users across the nation are bracing for the final shutdown, while discussions around the app's future continue to unfold.

Man Credits ChatGPT for Diagnosing Rare Kidney Disease and Saving His Life

A Reddit user recently shared an extraordinary story of how ChatGPT helped him identify a life-threatening condition and ultimately saved his life. According to the man, after a routine workout consisting of pushups, squats, and planks. Despite not pushing himself too hard, he felt as though he had been "hit by a bus" the following day. He attributed it to high coffee intake and dehydration, but after two days of worsening symptoms, he became concerned and turned to ChatGPT.



After analyzing his symptoms, the chatbot suggested he seek immediate medical attention, diagnosing him with "moderate to severe Rhabdomyolysis." This rare condition occurs when muscle tissue breaks down rapidly, releasing proteins that can damage the kidneys. Upon further research, the man found that ChatGPT's diagnosis aligned with his symptoms, prompting him to visit a hospital for further testing.

Hospital lab results confirmed the chatbot's diagnosis of severe Rhabdomyolysis, which had the potential to severely affect his kidneys. He was

quickly hospitalized and spent a week under observation while receiving treatment. Had the man not sought medical attention when he did, the consequences could have been much worse.

Rhabdomyolysis can occur due to excessive exercise, trauma, or muscle injury without adequate rest, making it difficult to diagnose without medical expertise. The man's experience underscores the potential value of AI in offering guidance in urgent health situations, highlighting how tools like ChatGPT can assist in early detection and save lives.

Though this case is rare, it also demonstrates how technology can support timely medical intervention when symptoms might be overlooked or misdiagnosed.

Chinese Man Spends ₹3.5 Crore to Build Real Shin-Chan House, plans to create Kasukabe Town

A 21-year-old man from China has spent an astounding ₹3.5 crore (approximately \$400,000) to recreate the iconic house of Shin-Chan, the beloved anime character, as part of his dream to bring the world of the show to life. The house, with its distinctive red and white bricks, is now a photography hotspot for fans of the series, who flock to the location to capture a piece of the Shin-Chan universe.

Shen, a passionate fan of the anime, transformed his family's sheep farm into a replica of Shin-Chan's home. The project, which took over a year to complete, involved painstaking attention to detail. Shen even traveled to Shanghai multiple times to secure official licensing rights for the property, demonstrating his dedication to making this vision a reality. The nearly finished house covers 100 square meters and has already garnered significant attention from anime enthusiasts worldwide.



structure.

However, Shen's ambitions don't stop there. He plans to expand the Shin-Chan world by recreating Futaba Kindergarten, the fictional school from the anime, and transforming it into an educational center. Looking further into the future, Shen hopes to build the entire Kasukabe Town, the fictional setting of Shin-Chan, creating a fully immersive experience for fans.

This ambitious project is a testament to the power of fandom and the lengths some will go to bring their passions to life, offering a unique way for fans to interact with the beloved world of Shin-Chan.

UK Restaurant Charges Rs 10,000 for Pineapple Pizza — Here's Why

The age-old debate of pineapple on pizza has sparked strong opinions worldwide, and now, a UK restaurant has taken it to the next level. Lupa Pizza, located in Norwich, has decided to charge a staggering £100 (approximately Rs 10,500) for its Hawaiian pizza, making a bold statement about their stance on the controversial topping.

The owners and staff of Lupa Pizza are notably opposed to the idea of pineapple on pizza, which is why they've reluctantly included it on the menu at a sky-high price. The description on the menu humorously reads: "Yeah, for £100 you can have it. Order the champagne too! Go on, you monster!"

Co-owner Francis Woolf openly admits to his disdain for pineapple on pizza, telling The Guardian, "I absolutely loathe the pineapple on a pizza." Head chef Quin Jianoran echoed his sentiments, stating, "I love a pina colada, but pineapple on pizza? Never. I'd rather put a bloody strawberry on one than that tropical menace."



Despite their strong opinions, Lupa Pizza's decision to add the Hawaiian pizza was driven by the desire to cater to customers' demands, though at a hefty price. The Hawaiian pizza was first created by Sam Panopoulos in the 1960s, when he added tinned pineapple to a ham pizza. Since then, it has remained a divisive dish, adored by some and reviled by others.

So far, no one has ordered the £100 pizza at Lupa, although Jianoran mentions that the online buzz surrounding the pizza has been "unbelievable." The restaurant is also running a poll to determine if pineapple should become a permanent fixture on their monthly special menu, with pineapple currently leading at 62%.

Interestingly, Lupa's pricing is not the highest for pineapple-based products. Last year, a red-hued pineapple variant in California was priced at nearly Rs 34,280, showing just how far some are willing to go for the tropical fruit.

While some traditional pizza makers reject pineapple, others, like Naples' Gino Sorbillo, are embracing it, aiming to combat food prejudice.

Deccan Premier Carrom League Season-3 Ends In a Grandeur Manner

Recognition of outstanding players and teams at a grand event honoring carrom excellence



The Deccan Premier Carrom League (DPCL) Season-3 Prize Distribution Function was held with great enthusiasm, recognizing exceptional talent in the sport of carrom. The event was presided over by Sri Dr. Neeraj Kumar Sampathy, Chairman of DPCL, and saw prominent dignitaries gracing the occasion. The function featured esteemed guests such as Sri V.D. Narayan, Secretary General of the International Carrom Federation, who served as the Chief Guest, and Sri Bharathi Narayan, General Secretary of the All India Carrom Federation, who was the Guest of Honour. Sri Sk. Abdul Jaleel, Chief Referee of the Tournament and General Secretary of the Andhra State Carrom Association, also attended the event, adding his valuable support and expertise. The event was a moment of celebration

for the winners, with top players and teams being honored for their exceptional performances throughout the league. The contributions of the carrom community were acknowledged, and the ceremony emphasized the importance of sportsmanship and excellence in the game.

- **Winners:** Jain Irrigation Pvt. Ltd. emerged victorious in DPCL Season-3.
- **Runners-up:** Strike Force secured the second position.
- **Prize pool:** A total of ₹12 lakh was distributed among the prize winners.

The entire carrom community expressed heartfelt gratitude to Carrom Live Chief Executive Sri Surya Devara Jayadev and his team for their unwavering dedication and support in making the league a success.

Winners and Prize Distribution



Jain Irrigation Pvt. Ltd. claimed the coveted first place in the DPCL Season-3, showcasing outstanding skill and teamwork. The runners-up, Strike Force, put up a fierce competition, while Navya Bharathi Strikers secured the third place. Charminar Challengers finished in the fourth spot, rounding out the top four teams. The prize pool for this season was an impressive ₹12 lakhs, which was distributed to the winners, reflecting the league's commitment to rewarding talent and excellence in carrom. With the successful conclusion of Season-3, the DPCL continues to shine as a premier platform for carrom players, fostering growth and camaraderie within the sport. The event further established the league's growing presence and set the stage for even greater seasons to come.

Rohan Bopanna-Shuai Zhang Enter Mixed Doubles Quarterfinals Of Australian Open

Veteran Indian tennis player Rohan Bopanna and his Chinese partner Shuai Zhang have advanced to the quarterfinals of the mixed doubles event at the Australian Open, following a walkover in their second-round match on Sunday. Originally scheduled to face the fourth-seeded pair of Taylor Townsend from the United States and Hugo Nys from Monaco, Bopanna and Zhang were granted a walkover, securing their spot in the last eight without stepping onto the court.



bos and El Salvador's Marcelo Arevalo, and the Australian pairing of Olivia Gadecki and John Peers.

This marks another strong performance for the Indo-Chinese duo, who earlier impressed in their opening match by defeating Kristina Mladenovic of France and Ivan Dodic of Croatia with a 6-4, 6-4 win.

In the upcoming quarterfinals, Bopanna and Zhang will face the winner of the match between Hungary's Timea Babos and El Salvador's Marcelo Arevalo, and the Australian pairing of Olivia Gadecki and John Peers.

The mixed doubles tournament at the Australian Open continues to be an exciting venture for the experienced Bopanna, who has previously enjoyed success in both men's and mixed doubles at Grand Slam events. With a solid start and their progression to the quarterfinals, the Indo-Chinese pair will look to carry this momentum forward as they aim for a spot in the semifinals.

Rishabh Pant Set to Lead Lucknow Super Giants in IPL 2025

Star wicketkeeper-batter Rishabh Pant is reportedly set to be named the new captain of the Lucknow Super Giants (LSG) for the 2025 Indian Premier League (IPL) season. According to ESPNcricinfo, Pant will take over the leadership role after the franchise chose not to retain KL Rahul, who had led the team to the playoffs in the first two editions of the IPL. With Rahul's departure, LSG had two options for the captaincy: Pant or Shreyas Iyer, and the management opted for Pant.

Pant, who was purchased by LSG for a record-breaking Rs 27 crore during the IPL 2025 mega auction, became the most expensive player in the history of the tournament. His signing came after a fierce bidding war between LSG, Royal Challengers Bangalore (RCB), and Sunrisers Hyderabad (SRH).

Despite efforts from Delhi Capitals (DC) to retain him using the 'Right To Match' card, LSG outbid all competitors and secured the dynamic batter's services.

Before joining LSG, Pant had represented Delhi Capitals throughout his IPL career since 2016. He amassed 3,284 runs in 110 matches, averaging 35.31, with one century and 18 fifties. Pant was appointed DC's captain in 2021, leading the team to the playoffs in that season.

Ahead of the IPL 2025 mega auction, LSG retained players like Nicholas Pooran, Mayank Yadav, and Ravi Bishnoi, alongside uncapped stars Mohsin Khan and Ayush Badoni. However, despite their strong squad, LSG had a disappointing 2024 season, finishing in 7th place with 14

points from seven wins in 14 matches.

LSG will look to Pant's leadership and explosive batting to help them improve their standing and push for a title in IPL 2025. The squad for the upcoming season includes notable players like Aiden Markram, David Miller, Mitchell Marsh, and Ravi Bishnoi, making them a formidable team on paper.



Pakistan Defeat West Indies by 127 Runs, Take 1-0 Lead in Two-Match Series

Pakistan secured a commanding 127-run victory over West Indies in the first Test of their two-match series in Multan. The win, achieved on the third day of the match, gave Pakistan a 1-0 lead, with spinner Sajid Khan playing a pivotal role in the victory.



Sajid Khan took 5 wickets for 50 runs, bringing his match figures to 9-115, while fellow spinner Abrar Ahmed contributed with 4 wickets for 27 runs. The West Indies were bowled out for just 123 in their second innings, falling short of their target of 251. Noman Ali also played a key role, taking 1-42, as Pakistan's spinners accounted for all the wickets in the West Indies' second innings.

The West Indies' best effort came from left-handed batter Alick Athanaze, who scored 55, the only half-century of the match for the tourists. Athanaze shared a 41-run partnership with Tevin Imlach for the sixth wicket before being dismissed by Sajid Khan. Abrar Ahmed then wrapped up the innings by taking the final wicket of Jomel Warrican.

Earlier in the day, West Indies' bowlers had impressed, with left-arm spinner Warrican claiming a career-best 7-32, helping dismiss Pakistan for 157 in their

second innings. Warrican's 7-wicket haul was the best by a West Indian bowler in Pakistan, surpassing Malcolm Marshall's 5-33 in Lahore in 1986.

Despite the spinners' clinical performance, Pakistan captain Shan Masood acknowledged the need for improvement in the batting department. "The spinners were clinical, but we need to add more runs with the last few wickets," he said.

West Indies captain Kraigg Brathwaite emphasized the importance of confidence, urging his batters to believe in their abilities. "We saw how Alick played, and we just have to be brave," Brathwaite remarked.

The second Test of the series will begin on January 25, 2025, also in Multan.

U19 World Cup: India Women Begin Title Defense With 9-wicket Win Over West Indies

India's U19 Women's cricket team began their title defense in fiery fashion, defeating West Indies by 9 wickets in the opening match of the ICC U19 Women's World Cup. The match, played at the Bayuemas Oval, saw India's bowlers dominate as they bundled West Indies out for a mere 44 runs in just 13.2 overs.



After winning the toss and opting to bowl first, India's bowlers were in complete control right from the start. Pace bowler Joshitha VJ (Player of the Match) made early breakthroughs, picking up 2 wickets for 5 runs in 2 overs. Parunika Sisodia and Aayushi Shukla then took charge, with Parunika finishing with 3 wickets for 7 runs, while Aayushi claimed 2 wickets for just 6 runs. The West Indies' poor running be-

tween the wickets also helped India, with three run-outs contributing to their collapse. India's bowlers, backed by sharp fielding, dismantled the West Indies' batting lineup with ease. Aayushi and Parunika both claimed a further wicket each to ensure the West Indies were bowled out for 44 runs.

In reply, India needed just 4.2 overs to reach the target, losing only one wicket. Vice-captain Sanika Chalke and wicketkeeper G Kamalini were unbeaten at the crease, scoring 18 and 16 runs respectively. Sanika played some exquisite shots, including three boundaries, while Kamalini hit three fours, including the winning shot. The match ended on a dominant note for India just as rain began to affect the stadium.

India's victory came on the back of solid performances in their warm-up games, where they defeated South Africa and Scotland. They will now face hosts Malaysia on Tuesday, with their sights firmly set on continuing their winning run in the tournament.

Neeraj Chopra Ties the Knot with Himani

Javelin star Neeraj Chopra leaves fans shocked with unexpected marriage announcement.

Olympic gold medalist Neeraj Chopra has surprised fans with the announcement of his marriage to Himani. The javelin star took to social media on Sunday to reveal the news, leaving fans in awe. In a heartfelt tweet, Neeraj expressed his happiness, sharing the

joyous occasion with the world. His announcement has sparked a wave of congratulatory messages from fans and well-wishers across the globe. Congratulations to Neeraj and Himani on this new chapter of their lives!





Rana Daggubati Presents ‘Premante’: A New Romantic Thriller Starring Priyadarshi

Rana Daggubati, known for supporting strong, content-driven films, is taking on a new role as the presenter for Premante, the debut production venture of Jhanvi Narang. The film stars Priyadarshi in the lead role, alongside Anandi and popular television personality Suma Kanakala. Directed by Navaneeth Sriram, this movie marks his directorial debut. Puskur Ram Mohan Rao joins as the co-producer, with the project being produced under SV-CLLP and Spirit Media banners.

The film’s title, Premante, was unveiled today with an eye-catching poster that features two tea glasses, hinting at a romantic conversation between the lead characters. The launch event saw Rana Daggubati clapping to mark the occasion, while Sandeep Reddy switched on the camera for the muhurtham shot, setting the stage for an exciting production journey.

Premante promises to offer a thrilling cinematic experience, with its tagline “Thrill U Praptirasthu” adding to the intrigue. The film blends elements of romance and suspense, with a focus on an emotional and intense storyline. The cinematography will be handled by Vishwanath Reddy, while the musical score will be composed by Leon James, further adding to the anticipation surrounding the film.

With a talented ensemble cast, including seasoned actors like Suma Kanakala and



the rising star Priyadarshi, Premante is expected to capture the audience's attention with its gripping narrative and emotional depth. Fans of romantic thrillers are eager to see how this fresh story unfolds under the directorial vision of Navaneeth Sriram, and with Rana Daggubati backing the project, expectations are high for this promising new film.

Varun Tej’s Upcoming Horror Comedy ‘VT15’ Teases Korean Connection

Director Merlapaka Gandhi is back with a fresh and intriguing concept, bringing a unique blend of horror and comedy to the big screen with VT15, starring Varun Tej in the lead role. The film, tentatively titled VT15, marks an exciting new venture for the actor, who reunites with music director Thaman after the success of Toli Prema. The makers of the film recently announced the project, releasing an engaging concept poster that has already sparked curiosity among fans.

The poster for VT15 features an eye-catching design with a fire dragon logo surrounded by flames, creating an aura of mystery and excitement. Additionally, the presence of Korean text hints at an intriguing international connection, further piquing the audience's interest. The words “When haunting turns hilarious!” promise an entertaining and adventurous ride that combines the thrills of a horror story with the laughs of a comedy, making it a must-watch for fans of both genres.

Though the poster has given a glimpse of what’s to come, the makers have been tight-lipped about the specific details of the cast and crew. However, the film’s Korean influence is set to be a significant aspect, adding a layer of uniqueness to the narrative. Fans are eagerly waiting for more updates on the film, which is being jointly produced by UV Creations and First Frame Entertainment.

With Varun Tej leading the charge, VT15 promises to offer something new and exciting to moviegoers, blending spine-chilling moments with co-



medic relief in a never-before-seen manner. The collaboration between director Merlapaka Gandhi and the talented team behind the project sets high expectations for what could be one of the most entertaining films of 2025.

Marco 2 Officially Confirmed: Sequel to Bollywood’s Violent Action Hit

Mollywood’s action-packed blockbuster Marco, starring Unni Mukundan, has officially been confirmed for a sequel following its massive success at the box office in December 2024. The film, known for its intense and brutal action sequences, grossed over Rs. 100 crore and became a sensation in multiple languages, including Telugu, Hindi, and Tamil.

While rumors initially swirled about a potential remake of Vikram, the filmmakers have now confirmed that the sequel to Marco is in the works. Marco 2 promises even grander production and more intense violence, with an aim to surpass the original’s success and create an even bigger impact in the ac-



tion genre.

Excitement around the sequel reached new heights when Unni Mukundan recently met Mollywood superstar Mohanlal, leading to specula-

tion that the legendary actor might be involved in the project. If Mohanlal indeed joins the film, it could become one of the most eagerly awaited releases in Malayalam cinema.

Directed once again by Haneef Adeni and produced by Sharif Mohammad, Marco cemented Unni Mukundan’s position as one of Mollywood’s leading action stars. The film’s captivating soundtrack, composed by Ravi Basrur, also played a crucial role in its success and is expected to contribute similarly in the sequel.

Fans are eagerly anticipating updates as Marco 2 promises to push the boundaries of action cinema even further. With increased scale, higher stakes, and possibly the involvement of Mohanlal, the sequel is expected to be a major hit when it releases. Stay tuned for more news as this highly anticipated project progresses.

Nani Announces Release Date for Court – State vs ANobody

Actor Nani, known for his work as a producer on acclaimed films such as Awe and the HIT franchise, has taken on a new role as a presenter for the upcoming courtroom drama Court – State vs A Nobody. The film, starring Priyadarshi, Harsh Roshan, and Sri-devi in pivotal roles, has generated significant buzz due to its intense narrative and thought-provoking premise.

Nani made the official announcement via X, revealing that Court – State vs A Nobody will hit theaters worldwide on March 14, 2025. In his post, he expressed his excitement, saying, “A film that will move you and make you think in every sense. Will be the most

talked about topic on March 14th. Proud to present Court – State vs A Nobody.” The first look poster of the film features Priyadarshi in the role of a lawyer, adding to the anticipation surrounding the film’s release.

The story of Court – State vs A Nobody revolves around a young boy caught up in a legal battle, raising questions about justice, fairness, and the legal system. The movie promises to be a compelling exploration of the complexities of law and the pursuit of truth. The motion poster, which was recently unveiled, features an intense background score composed by Vijai Bulganin, known for his work in Baby.



Bhairavam Teaser Update: A Thrilling Action Drama Set for January 20 Release

Director Vijay Kanakamedala, known for his work on thrilling action-packed drama with his latest project, Bhairavam. The film, which features Bellamkonda Sreenivas, Nara Rohith, and Manchu Manoj in the lead roles, is generating significant buzz among fans. The makers recently unveiled an intense teaser update poster, building anticipation for the upcoming release. The teaser is scheduled to launch on January 20 at AAA Cinemas in Ameerpet.

Bhairavam has already captured attention with the first-look posters of the lead actors, and the latest teaser poster promises more action and drama. Bellamkonda, Nara Rohith, and Manchu Manoj are seen in serious, intense expressions, signaling their characters’ significant roles in the movie. The teaser update poster raises expectations, hinting at a high-octane cinematic experience.

The film will see Manchu Manoj playing the character of Ugram, is all set to deliver a thrilling action-packed drama with his latest project, Bhairavam. The film, which features Bellamkonda Sreenivas, Nara Rohith, and Manchu Manoj in the lead roles, is generating significant buzz among fans. Music for Bhairavam has been composed by Sricharan, who is infusing classical tunes to enhance the drama and intensity of the film.

Produced by KK Radhamohan under the banner of Sri Sathya-sai Arts, Bhairavam promises to be a gripping narrative that blends intense action with compelling characters. The film’s combination of thrilling sequences, mass appeal, and strong performances from the lead actors is expected to make it a highly anticipated release. Fans are eagerly awaiting the teaser launch on January 20, as they get ready for the exciting journey that Bhairavam is set to offer.