

POINT

Weather Forecast

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

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BAAHUBALI VS THE REST

Inflated Box Office Numbers and the Rise of Corporate Bookings

G Avinash | TPN
Hyderabad, Jan 24

The legendary success of Baahubali 2: The Conclusion has become a benchmark many in the Indian film industry are desperate to surpass—often at any cost. Recent Income Tax raids in Hyderabad have exposed a murky underbelly of inflated box office collections involving Pushpa 2, Devara, and Jawan, tarnishing their claims of overtaking Baahubali 2.

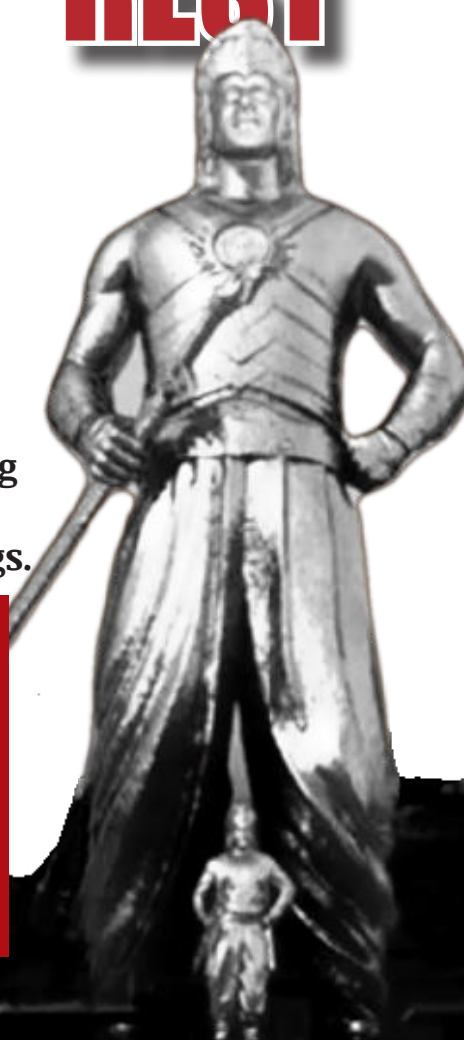
Baahubali 2 grossed ₹1,416.90 crore and achieved 10 crore footfalls without manipulation.

Income Tax raids targeted Dil Raju, Mythri Movies, and Mango Media for financial irregularities.

Big stars opting for profit-sharing models are driving the trend of corporate bookings.

Films like Pushpa 2, Devara, and Jawan face allegations of inflated box office numbers.

PR campaigns and fake reviews are hurting genuine competition.



CM Naidu's Davos Visit Enhances AP's Global Brand Image



TPN Correspondent
Andhra Pradesh, Jan 24

Andhra Pradesh Chief Minister Nara Chandrababu Naidu successfully concluded his four-day visit to the World Economic Forum (WEF) in Davos, leaving a lasting impression on global leaders and investors. The visit focused on promoting Andhra Pradesh's brand image, attracting substantial investments, and showcasing the state's potential as a global investment hub.

Key Highlights of the Visit

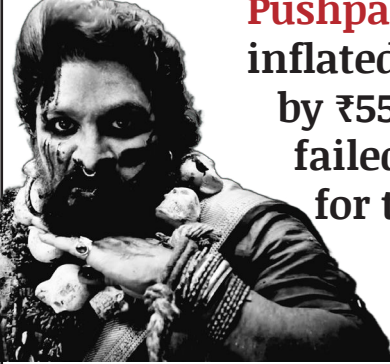
Day 1: Engaging Switzerland's Expertise

CM Chandrababu met Indian Ambassador to Switzerland, Mridul Kumar, in Zurich to discuss collaborations in pharmaceuticals, technical textiles, and skilling initiatives. The Chief Minister emphasized the potential for Swiss investments in rail components and AI-driven innovation.

Day 2: Visionary Address on Green Industrialization

At a Confederation of Indian Industry (CII) session, Chandrababu unveiled the "Swarnandhra - 2047 Vision Roadmap," focusing on Andhra Pradesh's transition to a green energy leader. He proposed a Global Leadership Center in Amaravati to nurture future leaders.

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Pushpa 2: Allegedly inflated collections by ₹550 crore and failed to account for taxes on the unverified earnings.



Devara: Involved in community-driven corporate bookings, with organizations like TANA allegedly contributing to inflated figures.



Jawan: Kickstarted this trend with multiplex chains being questioned for facilitating corporate bookings to amplify its success narrative.

The Income Tax Department recently conducted raids on prominent Tollywood players, including producer and Telangana Film Development Corporation Chairman Dil Raju, Mythri Movie Makers, and Mango Media. These raids uncovered financial irregularities, including the strategic use of corporate bookings to inflate earnings. Corporate bookings involve bulk purchasing of tickets by production houses or affiliates for shows that often remain empty. This tactic creates an illusion of box office success, misleading audiences, distributors, and stakeholders alike.

Why Are Corporate Bookings Increasing?

A significant shift in the remuneration model of big stars is fueling this trend. Many top actors have moved away from fixed fees, opting instead for a share of the profits. In most cases, the distribution ratio between producers and distributors stands at around 60:40, though it may vary slightly. If a film underperforms at the box office, stars risk losing face in the industry and damaging their market value. To avoid this, they actively participate in corporate bookings, using their share of the profits to inflate numbers

artificially. This practice not only boosts the perception of a film's success but also secures their brand image.

Additionally, heavy investments in public relations (PR) and paid reviews are killing competition in the industry. For instance, Ram Charan's latest release Game Changer has reportedly faced negative campaigns, allegedly orchestrated by rival PR teams aiming to discredit the film before its release.

A Call for Transparency

The exposure of these practices through IT raids underscores the urgent need for reforms in box office reporting. As the race to surpass Baahubali 2 intensifies, the industry must prioritize transparency and fairness over artificial hype and inflated numbers.

The Real Legacy

While Baahubali 2 continues to be celebrated for its authentic achievements, the exposure of these inflated claims has left audiences questioning the legitimacy of modern blockbusters. As the investigation widens, the industry faces a stark choice: uphold transparency or continue chasing fake glory. The battle to beat Baahubali might have just revealed more losers than winners.

Minister Lokesh Announces Positive Prospects for AP from Cognizant

- Minister Nara Lokesh meets Cognizant CEO Ravikumar at Davos, shares upcoming opportunities for AP.
- 2.2 million square feet of coworking space available in Visakhapatnam, Vijayawada, and Tirupati.
- Cognizant plans to shift 80,000 employees to Tier-2 cities, with Visakhapatnam in focus for expansion.

TPN Correspondent
Davos, Jan 24

During his visit to Davos, Minister Nara Lokesh met with Cognizant CEO Ravi Kumar, where he shared promising news for Andhra Pradesh. Lokesh revealed that Cognizant is set to bring good news to the state, highlighting the availability of 2.2 million square feet of coworking space across Visakhapatnam, Vijayawada, and Tirupati. Minister Lokesh encouraged Cognizant to begin operations in these Tier-2 cities as part of their

regional expansion and growth strategy. He also called for a partnership between the AP government and Cognizant to build a highly skilled workforce in emerging technologies such as AI and quantum computing. Cognizant CEO Ravi Kumar responded positively, confirming plans to relocate 80,000 employees from Tier-1 to Tier-2 cities, further aligning with AP's growth objectives. He assured that a decision on the AP government's proposals would be made soon, signaling potential new developments for the state.



CM Naidu and Dy CM Pawan Kalyan Pay Tribute to Netaji Subhash Chandra Bose

TPN Correspondent
Amaravati, Jan 24

Chief Minister Chandrababu Naidu and Deputy Chief Minister Pawan Kalyan paid their respects to Indian freedom fighter and Azad Hind Fauj founder Netaji Subhash Chandra Bose on his birth anniversary. The leaders described Netaji as a beloved child of Mother India who stood with the people oppressed under British rule and made the British tremble with his courage. Speaking on the occasion, CM Chandrababu Naidu called Netaji a



patriot whose unique approach to opposing British tyranny set him apart. He praised Netaji's struggle for independence as a beacon of inspiration for future generations. "The spirit of that warrior who declared that nothing is greater than the country is always worthy of imitation," the Chief Minister remarked. CM Chandrababu further expressed his tribute to Netaji through a heartfelt tweet, emphasizing the enduring legacy of his contributions to India's independence.

Minister Nimmala Rama Naidu Inspects Polavaram Project Works

- Minister Nimmala Rama Naidu reviews diaphragm wall construction progress.
- Rs. 1,000 crores deposited in the accounts of displaced families.
- Polavaram project targeted for completion by December 2027 under CM Chandrababu Naidu's leadership.

TPN Correspondent
Polavaram, Jan 24

AP Water Resources Minister Nimmala Rama Naidu conducted an inspection of the Polavaram project works on Thursday, focusing on the recently initiated diaphragm wall construction. During his visit, the minister examined the functioning of machinery, reviewed excavation materials in the adjacent laboratory, and evaluated the overall progress of the project. Speaking on-site, Minister Rama Naidu announced that Rs. 1,000 crores have been deposited into the accounts of families displaced by the Polavaram project. He assured that the government is prioritizing the completion of the diaphragm wall using three cutters to expedite progress. He revealed that the second cutter will become operational by February 1, while the third cutter is expected to be functional by



April. The diaphragm wall construction is being undertaken with a dedicated budget of Rs. 1,000 crores. The minister reiterated Chief Minister Chandrababu Naidu's commitment to completing the Polavaram project by December 2027, describing it as a critical milestone in Andhra Pradesh's water resource development.

AP Govt Takes Water Dispute to SC

- AP government challenges central government's notification on Krishna river water distribution.
- Supreme Court to hear the Krishna Tribunal case on February 13.
- Telangana seeks a 70% water share, AP contests the proposal.

TPN Correspondent
New Delhi, Jan 24

The long-standing water dispute between the Telugu states has once again escalated to the Supreme Court. The hearing for the Krishna Tribunal case is scheduled for February 13.

The issue centers on the distribution of Krishna river water, with AP challenging a notification issued by the central government on October 23, 2023. The notification outlined the water distribution according to the Bifurcation Act, which is at the heart of the dispute.

The Telangana government, which claims the majority of the river flows through its territory, has requested a 70% share of the Krishna river water, based on the Bifurca-



tion Act. However, AP disputes this, and Telangana has proposed a 50% share for both states. The Brijesh Kumar Tribunal had previously issued decisions on the water allocation between Maharashtra, Karnataka, and Andhra Pradesh, but disputes over the division of water between AP and Telangana have persisted. The central

government's notification on water distribution has led to further complications, and the AP government has filed a petition in the Supreme Court, requesting a fast-tracked hearing. The court has scheduled the hearing for February 13 at 2 pm, and the case will be reviewed by a bench led by Justice Suryakant and Justice Koteswar Singh.

Visakhapatnam to Emerge as a Model City in Tourism Development



- State Tourism Department MD Amrapali emphasized world-class standards for tourism in Visakhapatnam.
- Discussions held on adventure, temple, eco, beach, wildlife, medical, and cruise tourism opportunities.
- Proposals include cruise terminals, eco-tourism resorts, boat clubs, and new beaches.
- VMRDA plans projects like nature cottages, a convention center, urban entertainment zones, and a mega amusement park.
- Focus on Araku coffee branding, modern zoo facilities, and multi-modal convention centers.

TPN | Raju
Visakhapatnam, Jan 24

In a comprehensive review meeting with district officials, State Tourism Department MD Amrapali stressed the importance of transforming Visakhapatnam into a model city for tourism. She called for world-class standards in planning and implementation to attract both national and international tourists.

During the meeting, which included representatives from the Tourism Department, Port, VMRDA, GVMC, GCC, Forest Department, and private entities, detailed discussions were held on enhancing adventure, temple, eco, beach,

wildlife, medical, and cruise tourism. Amrapali suggested developing additional beaches, constructing special terminals for cruise tourism, and focusing on boating opportunities in reservoirs like Kambala Konda, Gambhiram, and Tatipudi.

VMRDA Metropolitan Commissioner K.S. Vishwanathan presented an overview of ongoing and proposed projects. These include nature cottages and a beach view café on Kailasagiri, a five-star convention center at Rushikonda, an urban entertainment zone in Madhuravada, a natural history park in Kapuluppada, and eco-tourism resorts in hilly areas. Plans for a mega amusement park and boat

clubs in Tatipudi and Gambhiram were also highlighted.

GCC MD Kalpana Kumari emphasized branding for GCC products, including Araku coffee, with steps to establish an experience center in Araku's coffee plantations. Zoo curator Mangamma announced plans to modernize the zoo with features inspired by international standards.

Officials from various departments confirmed their commitment to undertaking projects under their respective purviews. The port officials proposed constructing terminals to boost cruise tourism, and tourism officials discussed strategies to enhance visitor experiences and safety.

CM Naidu's Davos Visit Enhances AP's Global Brand Image

Continued from page 1

Day 3: Investment Milestones

- **Google Cloud:** CM Chandrababu urged CEO Thomas Kurian to set up a chip design center and server manufacturing unit in Visakhapatnam, making it a hub for server maintenance services.
- **Petronas:** Malaysian energy giant Petronas plans a ₹15,000 crore green ammonia production plant in Kakinada, contributing to Andhra Pradesh's green energy goals.
- **PepsiCo:** Discussions with PepsiCo executives focused on expanding their Global Business Services Center and establishing a Digital Hub in Visakhapatnam.
- **Bahrain Delegation:** Dialogues with Bahrain representatives revolved around policy-driven industrial development and investment opportunities in Andhra Pradesh.
- **Meeting with Bill Gates:** CM Chandrababu sought collaboration with the Bill & Melinda Gates Foundation to establish a Health Innovation Center and an AI University, while exploring successful global health initiatives for Andhra Pradesh.
- **Hindustan Unilever:** Proposals included a ₹330 crore investment in palm oil production and set-

ting up a technology center for beauty products in Visakhapatnam, utilizing the state's agricultural produce.

- **Senmatt:** Chandrababu sought support from the World Economic Forum's energy division to attract investments in green hydrogen, battery storage, and solar manufacturing.
- **DP World:** Discussions centered on establishing smart container terminals in Kakinada, Krishnapatnam, and Moolapeta to enhance Andhra Pradesh's logistics infrastructure.

Day 4: Strengthening Global Ties

During his return journey, CM Chandrababu met global leaders, including Andre Hoffmann (Che Holdings), Achim Steiner (UNDP), and Becky Anderson (CNN), to discuss Andhra Pradesh's development and international collaboration.

Impact and Future Prospects

The Chief Minister's meetings have laid the groundwork for significant investments across green energy, IT, health, and logistics sectors. Prominent commitments from global giants like Petronas, Google Cloud, and PepsiCo reaffirm Andhra Pradesh's position as a preferred investment destination. Minister Nara Lokesh will remain in Davos for an additional day to continue discussions with industrial leaders, ensuring the state's momentum in attracting transformative projects.

AP Fibernet Chairman Waives Rs. 100 Crore Penalties on Nara Lokesh's Birthday

- Rs. 100 crore penalties on cable operators imposed by the previous government waived.
- Allegations of illegal rent collection on set-top boxes during the YSRCP regime.
- Fiber net basic pack introduced for the poor; services to be provided at half the private sector price.



TPN Correspondent
Amaravati, Jan 24

AP Fibernet Chairman GV Reddy announced the waiver of Rs. 100 crore penalties imposed on cable operators during the previous YSRCP government. Addressing the media on the occasion of IT Minister Nara Lokesh's birthday, GV Reddy revealed that these penalties were imposed in a

haphazard manner, allegedly influenced by political factions.

GV Reddy further alleged that the previous government had illegally collected a monthly rent of Rs. 59 per set-top box from customers. He announced the cancellation of these rents, bringing relief to cable operators and customers alike.

Encouraging stakeholders, GV Reddy invited those interested in the supply of fiber net boxes to come forward, indicating plans to revamp fiber net services. He emphasized that the current administration is committed to offering high-quality services at the lowest possible price. A special fiber net basic pack has also been introduced for economically weaker sections, ensuring affordability.

In a notable gesture, GV Reddy announced that fiber net services would be provided free of cost on Tirumala hill, enhancing connectivity for devotees. This initiative reflects the government's commitment to making digital access more inclusive.

Jagan Govt Blamed for Visakhapatnam Steel Plant Crisis – MP Srinivasa Varma

- Union Minister Bhupathi Raju Srinivasa Varma accuses Jagan government of mismanaging the Visakhapatnam Steel Plant.
- Claims the NDA government has provided Rs. 13,090 crore so far, including Rs. 11,440 crore recently for revival efforts.
- Assures pending salaries of Rs. 230 crores for November and December will be paid soon.



YS Sharmila Criticizes Chandrababu Over Adani Power Contracts

TPN Correspondent
Amaravati, Jan 24

AP Congress President YS Sharmila launched a scathing attack on Chief Minister Chandrababu Naidu over his handling of Adani-related power contracts. She criticized Chandrababu for claiming he needs "accurate information" to take action against Gautam Adani, calling it the "biggest joke of the decade."

Sharmila questioned Chandrababu's contradictory actions, recalling how he had accused Adani of corruption while in opposition but changed his stance upon coming to power. She pointed out that Chandrababu previously claimed that Adani's power deals burdened the state by Rs. 1 lakh crore.

Referring to an FBI report, Sharmila alleged that corruption occurred in agreements between the previous government and SECI, with bribes amounting to Rs. 17 billion. She stated that cases have already been filed against Adani in the United States.

Sharmila accused the current government of neglecting its responsibility by failing to involve the Anti-Corruption Bureau (ACB) in investigating these agreements. She claimed that the state is deliberately protecting Adani under the direction of Prime Minister Modi. Demanding immediate action, Sharmila urged Chandrababu to cancel the Adani power contracts and deploy the ACB to uncover the truth. She concluded by accusing the government of betraying the people of Andhra Pradesh.



Palla Srinivasa Rao Criticizes YSRCP Govt For Fostering Hatred and Detering Investments

TPN Correspondent
Amaravati, Jan 24

Andhra Pradesh Telugu Desam Party (TDP) President Palla Srinivasa Rao participated in Minister Nara Lokesh's birthday celebrations held at the TDP central office in Amaravati. On this occasion, the party released the song Yellow Simham to honor Lokesh's contributions.

Addressing the gathering, Palla Srinivasa Rao expressed his happiness over the TDP membership crossing the one crore mark. He credited Lokesh's leadership as the party's General Secretary for bolstering the morale of TDP workers. Rao highlighted Lokesh's leadership talent, particularly showcased through the Yuvagalam padayatra, and reiterated his role in securing a significant central government package for the Visakhapatnam Steel Plant. Rao criticized the governance under YSRCP, accusing it of fostering hatred and failing to attract investments to Andhra Pradesh over the past five years. He emphasized the importance of the central package for reviving the steel plant, which he claimed struggled under YSRCP rule.

Calling Lokesh the "brand ambassador" for TDP workers, Rao shared the ease of joining the party through a streamlined membership process. He pointed out that TDP adheres to rules for key posts, including Deputy CM, and warned against irresponsible comments from some individuals.

vari, Varma highlighted the central government's assistance of Rs. 11,440 crore for the steel plant's revival and a total of Rs. 13,090 crore allocated to date. He dismissed claims that the plant's issues stem from a lack of mining resources, pointing out that it had been profitable in the past despite similar challenges. Varma criticized talks of merging the steel plant with SAIL, calling them unrealistic. He clarified that while SAIL is a profitable company, it has resisted merging and instead requested a package and management autonomy. He acknowledged the sac-

rifices made by workers to establish the Visakhapatnam Steel Plant and reiterated the central government's commitment to its revival. The minister assured that pending salaries of Rs. 230 crore for November and December will be cleared soon. He commended former Chief Minister Chandrababu Naidu for prioritizing the steel plant in his discussions

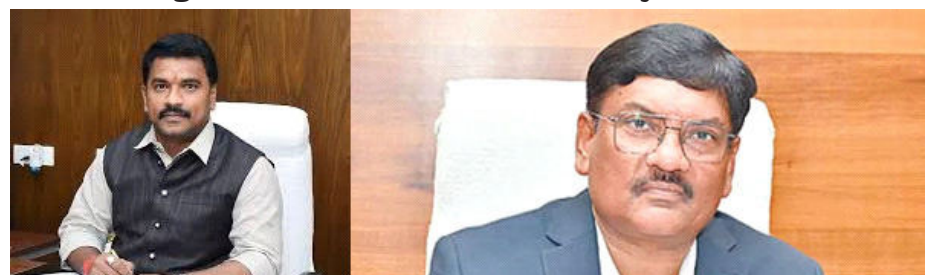
with the central government, leading to substantial assistance. Varma also criticized AP Congress President Sharmila for her comments on the steel plant, calling them baseless. He thanked Union Steel Minister Kumaraswamy for his efforts and announced that Kumaraswamy would soon visit Andhra Pradesh to address the issues surrounding the plant.

Union Minister Bhupathi Raju Srinivasa Varma has sharply criticized the YSRCP government for the mismanagement of the Visakhapatnam Steel Plant, alleging that poor decisions and overspending have led to its financial crisis. He emphasized that the central government, under Prime Minister Narendra Modi, has provided significant support to revive the struggling plant and make it a leader in steel production. Speaking to the media in West Goda-

TPN Correspondent
West Godavari, Jan 24

Mayor vs Commissioner: Allegations of Corruption in Guntur Municipal Corporation

- Guntur Mayor Kavati Manohar Naidu accuses Commissioner Puli Srinivasulu of misusing Rs. 9.23 crores in Budameru flood relief funds.
- Mayor challenges the Commissioner to present detailed accounts of flood aid.
- Commissioner denies allegations and claims to have provided flood aid worth Rs. 9 crores.
- The Mayor alleges that the Commissioner avoided the challenge and demands accountability.



TPN Correspondent
Guntur, Jan 24

A major controversy has erupted in the Guntur Municipal Corporation, pitting Mayor Kavati Manohar Naidu against Commissioner Puli Srinivasulu over alleged corruption in Budameru flood relief funds. The Mayor has accused the Commissioner of embezzling Rs. 9.23 crores meant for flood aid, sparking intense public debate. The Mayor challenged the Commissioner to present detailed accounts of the flood relief expenditure and declared that he would wait in his chamber for the Commissioner to respond. As promised, the Mayor stayed in his chamber from 11 am to 2 pm on January 23, but the Commissioner did not appear. Speaking to the media, Mayor Manohar stated that the Commissioner's absence confirmed his allegations of corruption. "If he had nothing to hide, he would have come forward with the accounts,"

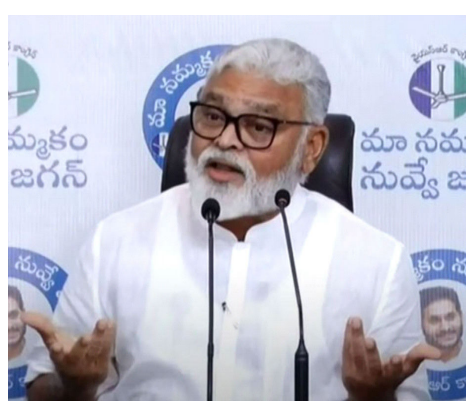
the Mayor said. He criticized the Commissioner for allegedly looting public money and obstructing municipal council meetings. Manohar revealed that he had written to Prime Minister Narendra Modi, Chief Minister Chandrababu Naidu, and Deputy CM Pawan Kalyan regarding the corruption. He vowed to recover every penny of public money, even after the Commissioner's retirement. Meanwhile, Deputy Mayor and other corporators have also joined the Mayor in accusing the Commissioner of massive corruption. They alleged irregularities in the expenditure of the Rs. 9.23 crore flood relief fund. The Commissioner, however, has refuted these claims and reportedly offered to resign from the IAS if proven guilty. The Mayor's public challenge to the Commissioner has become a hot topic in Guntur, with the city's residents eagerly awaiting further developments in this high-stakes confrontation.



Former AP NGO President Chandrasekhar Reddy Criticizes Govt Over Employee Issues

TPN Correspondent
Amaravati, Jan 24

In a press conference, Chandrasekhar Reddy, former president of the AP NGO Association, strongly criticized the coalition government for its failure to address the issues faced by state employees. He alleged that the government has completely ignored employee welfare and failed to deliver on its election promises. Reddy pointed out that despite assurances of a better PRC in the coalition's manifesto, not even a Pay Revision Commission has been formed. He also expressed concerns about the lack of clarity on reforms related to CPS, GPS, and OPS, claiming that employees are left in the dark. He accused the government of failing to deliver basic entitlements, stating that Rs. 26,000 crores owed to employees and pensioners—covering GPF pending, PRC arrears, DA arrears, EL encashments, APGLI, medical reimbursements, and retirement benefits—have not been paid. He alleged that while the government claims to distribute these as "Sankranti gifts," employees are receiving only a fraction of their actual dues.



Ambati Rambabu Questions Davos Expenses and Investments

TPN Correspondent
Amaravati, Jan 24

YSR Congress Party (YSRCP) senior leader and former minister Ambati Rambabu has raised questions regarding the coalition government's recent visit to Davos. Taking to Twitter, Rambabu demanded clarity on the expenditure incurred and the investments secured during the trip. "How much did the government spend on going to Davos? How much investment did they bring from Davos? I want to hear it if you tell me!" Rambabu tweeted, expressing skepticism about the financial value of the visit. Chief Minister Chandrababu Naidu and Minister Nara Lokesh attended the World Economic Forum (WEF) in Davos, with Chandrababu engaging in a series of meetings over four days. While Chandrababu returned on Thursday, Lokesh remains in Davos to continue representing Andhra Pradesh at the forum. The trip has garnered significant attention, with the opposition questioning its outcomes and financial prudence. Rambabu's remarks underline the YSRCP's growing criticism of the coalition government's efforts to attract international investments.

Chandrababu's Davos Visit Focuses on State Development - Varla Ramaiah

TPN Correspondent
Amaravati, Jan 24

TDP Polit Bureau member Varla Ramaiah has lauded Chief Minister Chandrababu Naidu's visit to Davos, emphasizing its focus on all-round development and employment creation in Andhra Pradesh through industrial investments. He reiterated the CM's commitment to implementing Vision-2047 and making AP the leading state in the country. Ramaiah revealed that Chandrababu, undeterred by the freezing cold, visited every tent in Davos to personally invite investments for Andhra Pradesh. He contrasted this effort with Jagan's previous visit to Davos, dis-

missing it as merely symbolic, while calling Chandrababu's visit a Prajayatra aimed at tangible outcomes. He pointed out that Bill Gates' assurance of investment in Andhra Pradesh reflects the success of Chandrababu's Vision-2047 initiative. He also clarified that both Chandrababu and Minister Lokesh attended the event with the state's development and welfare in mind. Ramaiah criticized the YSRCP government, labeling Jagan's tenure as corrupt and chaotic. He argued that questioning Chandrababu's efforts for the state is unjustified, especially when Jagan's administration has failed to deliver significant progress.



District Collector Dr. G. Lakshmi Sha Awarded Best Electoral Practices Award

TPN Correspondent |
NTR Dist, Jan 24

NTR District Collector Dr. G. Lakshmi Sha has been honored with the Best Electoral Practices Award for 2024. The State Election Commission selected Dr. Lakshmi Sha for his exemplary work in preparing an accurate and error-free final voters' list in his role as the District Collector and District Election Officer. The award will be formally presented during the National Voters' Day celebrations, scheduled for January 25 at Tummalapalle Kalakshetra. This recognition highlights Dr. Lakshmi Sha's significant contributions to ensuring the integrity and accuracy of the electoral process in NTR District.



Large Urban Area Traffic Volunteering Week Concludes with Road Safety Awareness

- DCP Krishnamurthy Naidu and DTC A Mohan emphasize the importance of road safety among students.
- Programs encourage wearing helmets, seat belts, and adherence to traffic laws.
- Over 500 volunteers and students from various colleges participate in the initiative.

TPN Correspondent |
Vijayawada, Jan 24

The closing ceremony of the "Large Urban Area Traffic Volunteering Week" took place at V R Siddhartha Engineering College in Kannur on Thursday, with DCP Krishnamurthy Naidu and DTC A Mohan serving as the chief guests. DCP Krishnamurthy Naidu addressed the attendees, emphasizing that drivers must align their mind and body while operating vehicles. He stressed the importance of wearing helmets for two-wheeler riders and seat belts for car drivers. The primary objective of the event was to raise awareness about traffic laws and register cases against those violating these rules. DTC A Mohan reinforced the need for road safety awareness to begin at the student level, stating that students can play a crucial role in spreading knowledge of traffic rules. He called for awareness programs in colleges and urged students to educate their families about safety precautions, thus contributing to a safer district.



Nehru Yuva Kendra District Youth Officer Sunkara Ramu highlighted the participation of 500 My Bharat volunteers, as well as students from the NSS units of V R Siddhartha Engineering College and Vijaya Pharmaceutical Sciences for Women College. He mentioned that Road Safety Week would be observed from the 17th to the 23rd of this month. Certificates were presented to the students who actively took part in the initiative. Motor Vehicle Inspector Sivarama Goud, Penamaluru Sub-Inspector Lanka Suresh, NSS Unit Officer Kolla Narendra, and other key participants were also present at the event.

MLA Venigandla Ramu Inaugurates Science Laboratory at Municipal Girls' High School



TPN Correspondent |
Gudivada, Jan 24

Gudivada MLA Venigandla Ramu inaugurated a state-of-the-art science laboratory at the Andhra Kesari Tanguturi Prakasam Pantulu Municipal Girls' High School on January 22. The lab was established with the support of NRI Dr. Gorantla Vasu Babu. During the inauguration, MLA Ramu highlighted the transformative power of education, stating that it is the key to eradicating poverty. He expressed his satisfaction with

the modern equipment in the laboratory and encouraged teachers to ensure that students fully utilize the resources. Venigandla Pratyusha, MD of Efficiency Solutions and daughter of MLA Ramu, addressed the students during the assembly. She shared her own experiences of encouragement from her father, urging the girls to believe in their potential and pursue education. Pratyusha emphasized that education is the foundation of success, citing the

achievements of women leaders across various fields. MLA Ramu also committed to strengthening government educational institutions in the constituency and promised to set up similar science labs in other schools in Gudivada. He shared his personal story, attributing his success to the education of his daughters, and encouraged the students to excel in their studies. The event featured cultural programs, and Pratyusha interacted with students, answering their questions and offering words of motivation. The program was attended by various dignitaries, including NTR Stadium Committee Vice Chairman Yelavarthi Srinivasa Rao, TDP leader Chekur Jaganmohan Rao, former TANA president Anjaiah Chowdary, and local educational officers.

Youths Attack 10th Class Students in Kilesapuram, Villagers Demand Strict Action

TPN Correspondent |
Ibrahimpatnam, Jan 24

A disturbing incident took place in Kilesapuram, Ibrahimpatnam, where a group of youths attacked 10th class students who were on their way to tuition classes. The incident quickly escalated, with local villagers capturing the attackers and delivering them to the police station. The villagers, angered by the attack, have demanded strict action against those responsible for harming the students. In an effort to understand the cause behind the violent act, the police have taken the victim to a hospital in Vijayawada for medical tests. Authorities are investigating whether the attackers were under the influence of marijuana or alcohol at

the time of the assault. The police have promised to take necessary actions based on the investigation, while locals continue to voice their concerns about safety in the area.



Irregularities at Jyoti Polytechnic College in Uyyuru Mandal, Parents Demand Action

TPN | V.V.S. MadhuBabu |
Uyyuru, Jan 24

Irregularities at Jyoti Polytechnic College in Kalavapamula, Uyyuru mandal, have come to light, with accusations of mistreatment and unfair practices against students. The college management has been accused of filing a false case against parents who complained about the poor quality of teaching. One parent, whose son was allegedly given unfair internal marks despite lower attendance compared to other students, demanded details about the case filed against him under the Right to Information Act. When he approached the police, he was advised not to engage in conflict with the college management, as they claimed the issue had been resolved. The parent further raised concerns about the college's lack of transparency in fee structure, violent treatment of complainants, and the overall neglect of student welfare. In response, the father has filed a formal



complaint with the Board of Technical Education, requesting that the college's recognition be revoked due to the alleged misconduct. Parents are now seeking intervention from Minister Nara Lokesh to address these concerns and halt the unethical activities of the college. The victimized student and his family are also preparing to take legal action and plan to approach the High Court for justice.

Thieves Target Elderly Couple in Ibrahimpatnam, Loot Jewelry and Cash

TPN Correspondent |
NTR Dist, Jan 24

In a brazen theft in Ibrahimpatnam, a gang of thieves executed a well-planned operation, breaking into the home of an elderly couple. The thieves stole gold jewelry worth 16 kas and cash amounting to 10,000. The theft occurred after the gang raided the house, breaking into a locked room. Initial investigations by the police suggest the crime took place the previous night, following a raid conducted during the day. CCTV footage from the area has revealed that four individuals were involved in the theft. Local residents are now urging the police to remain vigilant, particularly by keeping an eye on people who roam the area under the guise of running businesses. They believe that these individuals could be involved in criminal activities. The police are investigating the case and working to track down the culprits.



Gudivada Police and Students Promote Road Safety Awareness

- Gudivada police and students organize rally and human chain for National Road Safety Month.
- DSP Dheeraj Vinil emphasizes the importance of following traffic rules and ensuring public safety.



TPN Correspondent |
Gudivada, Jan 24

In observance of National Road Safety Month, Gudivada police, along with students from Aditya Degree College, organized a rally to raise awareness about the importance of traffic rule compliance. The rally, led by newly-appointed Gudivada DSP Dheeraj Vinil, took place along the main roads of Gudivada. After the rally, participants formed a human chain at Nehru Chowk Center to further promote road safety. Speaking to the media, DSP Dheeraj



Vinil stressed the need for everyone to be aware of traffic regulations and emphasized the commitment of police officers to assist the public in ensuring road safety at all times. The event served as a reminder of the vital role traffic discipline plays in preventing accidents and safeguarding lives.

Special Helpline Number Set Up for Resurvey Queries

- Director Dr. N. Prabhakar Reddy announces helpline number to address landowner concerns.
- Resurvey pilot project launched in selected villages with provisions for public participation.
- Survey team to communicate with landowners through WhatsApp groups and video calls.

TPN Correspondent |
Amaravati, Jan 24

To ensure transparency and public involvement in the ongoing land resurvey process, the Survey, Settlement, and Land Records Department has set up a special helpline. Dr. N. Prabhakar Reddy, Director of the department, announced that landowners, as well as revenue and survey officers, can now call the helpline number 8143679222 during working hours (10 AM to 5:30 PM) to resolve any queries related to the resurvey process. The resurvey, launched by Chief Minister Chandrababu Naidu to be conducted with landowner

participation, offers owners three opportunities to visit the site and show land boundaries. In cases where the owners cannot be present, the process will be completed through video calls. The resurvey process has begun as a pilot project in selected villages across each mandal, with a special communication team assigned to inform landowners. Dr. Reddy explained that two surveyors, along with a Village Revenue Officer (VRO) and Village Revenue Assistant (VRA), have been assigned to each block of land, which will be divided into manageable areas of 200 to 250 acres. These surveyors will create WhatsApp groups with the

landowners to share survey information and allow them to track the progress. The survey team will also take photos of the land and upload them online, ensuring the landowners have full access to their information. Furthermore, landowners will have the opportunity to appeal against any measurements confirmed by officials. Dr. Reddy assured that the resurvey in pilot villages would be carefully monitored, with a target of completing 20 acres per day over a 15-day period. However, he emphasized that the goal is not to rush the process but to ensure complete satisfaction for the farmers.



Nara Lokesh's Birthday Celebrations Held with Grand Participation



TPN Correspondent |
Visakhapatnam, Jan 24

The birthday of Minister Nara Lokesh was celebrated with grandeur under the leadership of key TDP figures, including Pendurthi constituency TDP in-charge Shri Gandhi Babji, Visakhapatnam district TDP president and Oil Federation chairman, and several prominent leaders. Visakhapatnam MP Sri Bharat was the chief guest, along with Anakapalle district TDP

- TDP leaders and over 1000 supporters gather to celebrate Minister Nara Lokesh's birthday.
- Leaders praise Lokesh's political leadership and his efforts to strengthen TDP.
- Highlighting success of Yuva Galam campaign and ongoing efforts for TDP's victory.



president and State Housing Board chairman Sri Bathula Tatabbai. The event saw the participation of over 1000 constituency leaders, corporators, village sarpanches, MPTCs, and local BJP district president Kashi Raju. A grand banquet



was organized to host the guests. Leaders hailed Nara Lokesh as a worthy son of his father, crediting him for achieving one crore memberships for the party, a major milestone. They emphasized Lokesh's rising

stature as a political leader, pointing out his significant contributions to TDP's victory in Mangalagiri and his role in the state-wide Yuva Galam tour, which aimed to ensure the party's success across Andhra Pradesh.

Proposal for New Railway Line: Ongole - Podili - Donakonda



TPN | N.Kasirao |
New Delhi, Jan 23

The central government has given the green signal for preparing a detailed project report (DPR) for the Ongole-Donakonda new railway line project. Previously, Ongole MP Magunta Srinivasulu Reddy proposed the construction of the Ongole-Donakonda new railway line via Podili and also suggested extending the Nadikudi-Srikalahasti railway line through the same route.

Responding positively to this proposal, Union Railway Minister Ashwini Vaishnaw confirmed that a DPR is being prepared to facilitate the establishment of the Ongole-Podili-Donakonda railway line. This initiative aims to enhance connectivity and contribute to the region's development.

Minister Nara Lokesh's Birthday Celebrated in Payakarapeta Constituency

- Fruits distributed to patients at Nakkapalli Government Hospital.
- Padayatra organized from the hospital to the Home Minister's residence.
- Cake-cutting ceremony held at the Home Minister's residence in Saripallipalem.



TPN | Raju |
Payakarapeta, Jan 24 :

In honor of IT Minister Nara Lokesh's birthday, celebrations were organized in the Payakarapeta constituency under the leadership of State Home Minister Vangalapudi Anitha. Telugu Youth, ITDP, and TNSF leaders conducted various programs to mark the occasion. Fruits were distributed to patients at the Nakkapalli Government Hospital. Following this, a padayatra was held, starting from the hospital and concluding at the Home Minister's residence in Saripallipalem. Youth leaders raised slogans advocating for the return of leadership, reflecting the enthusiasm among the ranks.

Minister Anitha hosted a cake-cutting ceremony at her residence, where she wished Nara Lokesh a happy birthday. She and other leaders commended Lokesh for being the first leader to establish a workers' welfare fund and for earning public admiration through his impactful Yuvagalam padayatra. Prominent participants included TDP Anakapalle District General Secretary Lalam Kashi Naidu, TDP Nakkapalle Mandal Party President Koppisetty Venkatesh, S Rayavaram Mandal Party President Amalankanti Abadham, ITDP Anakapalle District President Srinivasu, Telugu Youth leaders Paddu and Ramakrishna, TNSF Anakapalle District Presidents Peddireddy Venk

Grand Celebrations for Nara Lokesh's Birthday in Srikalahasti



TPN | C Sekhar |
Srikalahasti, Jan 24

The birthday of Telugu Desam Party (TDP) National General Secretary and Andhra Pradesh IT and Education Minister Nara Lokesh was celebrated with grandeur at various locations in Srikalahasti. The Telugu Yuvatha Tirupati Parliament President Akshinthal Krishna Yadav led the festivities, which were organized near



the NTR statue. The event included a cake-cutting ceremony and a mass food donation program attended by key leaders, including Srikalahasti MLA Bojjala Sudheer Reddy.

Speaking at the event, Sudheer Reddy praised Lokesh's transformation from being recognized as the Chief Minister's son to becoming a leader who has made a mark with his Yuvagalam padayatra and various initiatives in IT and education. He highlighted Lokesh's dedication to the state's development, emphasizing that even on his birthday, Lokesh was working tirelessly at the Davos Business Summit to attract investments for Andhra Pradesh.

In another celebration, the Muslim youth under the aegis of the Fruit Merchants Association organized a special event in Peddamasjid Street. Town President G. Vijay Kumar and State Minority Cell Executive Secretary Shakir Ali participated as chief guests. They distributed fruits to the underprivileged and extended their wishes to Lokesh for his continued success. Shakir Ali lauded Lokesh's efforts to improve minority welfare, particularly his initiatives in Urdu education and teacher recruitment. These celebrations reflected Lokesh's growing popularity and his commitment to public service, with a wide range of leaders, youth, and party workers participating enthusiastically.

Nara Lokesh's 43rd Birthday Celebrated Grandly in Satyavedu Constituency

TPN | C Sekhar |
Satyavedu, Jan 24

The 43rd birthday of TDP National General Secretary and Minister for IT and Education, Nara Lokesh, was celebrated with great enthusiasm in Satyavedu constituency headquarters. The event was organized under the leadership of Mandal Party President K. Praveen Kumar Reddy and Cluster In-charge and former Mandal Party President Paramasivam.



The celebrations began with a special puja at the Gangamma temple, where coconuts were ceremonially broken, seeking the deity's blessings for Lokesh's prosperity and success. Following the temple rituals, a massive cake-cutting ceremony was held, marking the joyous occasion.

The event also included a blood donation camp and a free food distribution program organized under the NTR Trust. These initiatives were aimed at serving the public and adding meaningful contributions to the celebratory day.

The event was graced by notable dignitaries, including Satyavedu Constituency Coordinator Sriapati Babu, Constituency Observer Chandrasekhar Naidu, former ZP Vice Chairman Sundar Ramireddy, and former MPP Mastan Yadav. Several TDP leaders and party workers actively participated, making the program a grand success.

On behalf of the Mandal Party, heartfelt gratitude was extended to all those who contributed to the successful execution of the celebrations. The event was a reflection of the strong support and admiration Nara Lokesh commands among the people and party members in Satyavedu.

Kanipakam Temple Receives Silver Donation for Abhishekam

TPN | C Sekhar |
Kanipakam, Jan 24

The famous Sri Varasiddhi Vinayaka Swamy Temple in Kanipakam received a generous donation of five silver pots, weighing approximately 5 kilograms and valued at ₹5,00,000, for performing milk abhishekam to the deity. The donation was made by Sri V. Sairaj and his family, residents of Hyderabad. The silver pots were handed over to the temple's Executive Officer, Sri Penchala Kishore, in a special ceremony.

To honor their contribution, temple authorities arranged for a special darshan for the donors and presented them with Teertha Prasadam and a Sheshavastram. The gesture was coordinated by the temple superintendent, Kodandapani, and temple inspector, Ravi, along with other staff members.

This act of devotion underscores the enduring faith and generosity of devotees towards the revered Kanipakam temple, which continues to be a spiritual hub for countless pilgrims.



Intermediate Student's Suicide Sparks Protests at Narayana College

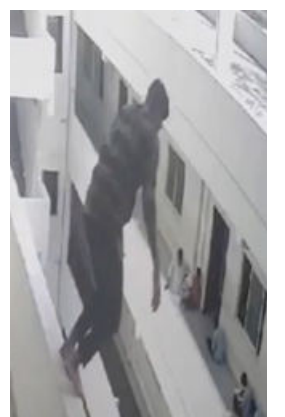
TPN Correspondent |
Ananthapuram, Jan 24

A tragic incident involving the suicide of an Intermediate First-year student at Narayana College near Ananthapuram city has led to widespread outrage. Charan, a native of Ramapuram in Battalipalli mandal, ended his life by jumping from the third floor of the college building in Somaladoddi on Thursday morning.

Charan, who had returned to college after the Sankranti holidays, reportedly took the extreme step around 10:30 am. Sources suggest he succumbed to his injuries before being taken to the hospital.

The incident sparked protests led by SFI (Student Federation of India) leaders, who accused the college management of attempting to cover up the tragedy. They expressed outrage over the alleged wiping away of bloodstains and the failure to promptly disclose the incident. SFI leaders claimed that fee-related harassment drove Charan to suicide and demanded a thorough investigation into the matter.

Protesters called for accountability from the college management and urged authorities to implement measures to prevent such incidents in educational institutions. The incident has highlighted the need for reforms in fee collection practices and better mental health support for students.



The Economic Response to the Trauma of Partition: Lessons from Early Indian Budgets



The partition of India in 1947 was one of the most traumatic events in the country's history, displacing nearly 1.8 crore people and claiming approximately 10 lakh lives. It altered the social, political, and economic landscape of the affected regions in profound ways. In the years following this catastrophic upheaval, the government had to deal with the immediate challenges of rehabilitation and relief. The tragedy was so immense that its impact is still felt today, and the early Indian budgets provide crucial insights into how the young nation sought to address the aftermath of such devastation.

The first budget of independent India, presented in 1947-48, acknowledged the partition as the "most poignant human tragedy" outside of war. In response to the massive displacement, the government allocated Rs 27 crore—26% of the total non-defence expenditure—toward relief and rehabilitation. This

was more than double the amount set aside for health and education combined. The government's focus on rehabilitation reflected the immediate and urgent need to resettle millions of displaced people and provide them with basic necessities.

The 1948-49 budget continued this focus, noting that while only the "fringe" of the problem had been addressed, there was a strong commitment to placing refugees into productive occupations. The government allocated Rs 25 crore for rehabilitation, including Rs 10 crore for establishing the Rehabilitation Finance Administration, which played a significant role in addressing the crisis. The expenditure on refugees and food subsidies in 1949-50 amounted to Rs 52.82 crore, nearly a third of the total expenditure.

These early budgetary provisions highlight the Indian government's recognition of the deep scars left by partition

and its effort to tackle them head-on. In today's terms, the amount spent on rehabilitation would be a significant sum, ensuring that many resettlement colonies became key drivers of post-Independence growth.

However, some critics argue that by diverting such substantial resources toward rehabilitation, the government neglected other vital areas such as health, education, and infrastructure during the early years. The lack of investment in these sectors may have limited the country's economic potential in the long run, hindering its growth in the subsequent decades.

While one can debate the effectiveness of the government's choices, what is clear is that the trauma of Partition shaped India's early economic policies. The question remains—have we learned the right lessons from this period of history to avoid such grave mistakes in the future?



India's Immigration Dilemma: The Need for a National Perspective

Immigration has once again become a pressing topic of discussion, both globally and within India. Recently, Mumbai police reported that the man who attacked Saif Ali Khan was an illegal migrant from Bangladesh, underscoring the growing concerns about unauthorized immigration. In the United States, President Donald Trump's rhetoric has largely focused on immigration, especially illegal immigration, framing it as one of the nation's most significant challenges.

Until recently, many Indians didn't think much about immigration in an anti-immigrant context. After all, Indians have been among the biggest beneficiaries of immigration policies, particularly those of Western countries. My own family, for instance, thrives in the United States thanks to the opportunities provided by the U.S. immigration system, which has welcomed highly qualified individuals from around the world. This sentiment holds true for many prominent Indian immigrants, such as Sundar Pichai, Satya Nadella, and Rishi Sunak, who have risen to notable positions globally.

However, the rise of anti-immigration sentiments—seen in both the U.S. and India—may soon turn the spotlight on issues that we, as a nation, might not have fully confronted. Trump's policies, though aimed at curbing illegal immigration, have led to growing apprehensions about how they might affect legal Indian immigrants, especially with reports suggesting thousands of Indians attempting to enter the U.S. illegally, primarily via the southern border. India is likely to face the ramifications of this, as deportations may soon increase, with 1,800 deportees expected soon.

On the domestic front, India is increasingly concerned about illegal immigration, particularly from Bangladesh. Many politicians and citizens now echo the sentiments expressed by leaders like Trump regarding illegal immigration. While it is important to address this issue, the larger question remains: how should India respond to the broader issue of immigration in the West?

In the past, India has prioritized the rights of its emigrants, advocating for policies like H-1B visas for skilled professionals. Yet, it's time to question whether such efforts truly serve India's national interest. Should India's foreign policy be shaped by the rights of individuals seeking to emigrate, or should it prioritize the welfare of those choosing to stay?



Union Budget : Align aspirations with emerging opportunities, prepare for challenges ahead

As January unfolds and the excitement of the New Year wanes, the focus inevitably shifts back to the more pressing matters at hand, particularly financial ones. With the Union Budget just around the corner, there's a surge of hope and expectation about the relief it might bring to different sectors of society. However, understanding the various forces that shape the Budget can help temper these hopes with a dose of realism, ensuring we remain grounded in our expectations.

In today's world, the conversation often intertwines economic growth with sustainability and social responsibility. These two concepts are increasingly viewed as inseparable, but it's important to remember that growth and equity do not always go hand in hand. For growth to be inclusive, it needs to reach all segments of society, particularly the rural, economically disadvantaged, and vulnerable populations. This requires targeted investments in reskilling and upskilling programs, soft loan schemes, housing, and infrastructure projects that aim to create a nurturing environment for all to thrive.

At the same time, we cannot ignore the middle class, which often faces the dilemma of being economically comfortable on the surface, but at risk of financial instability due to unforeseen circumstances, such as health emergencies. Ensuring that the middle class doesn't fall into this precarious situation is a key focus that demands attention in the upcoming Budget.

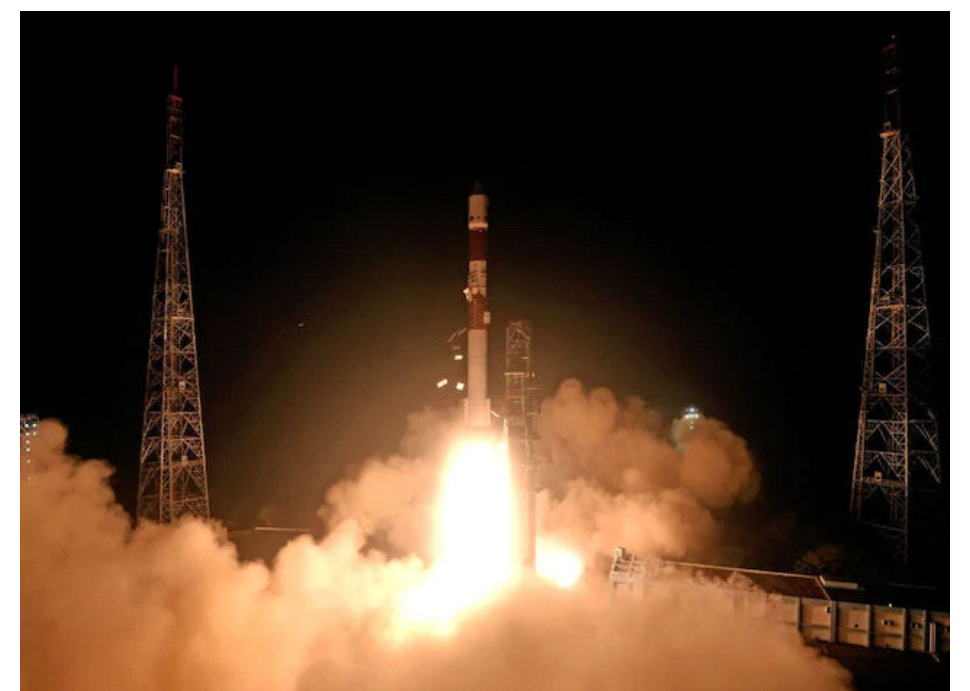
Achieving robust economic growth, particularly the 7% target set by the government, is no small feat, especially in the face of geopolitical challenges. This requires a sharp focus on capital formation and investment in key sectors that can drive sustained growth. The Budget will need to support initiatives that foster capital investments while simultaneously driving employment and production. However, the balancing act between public spending and inflation remains one of the most crucial aspects of Budget planning.

India's Space Triumph: A Major Step Towards Global Leadership

India has achieved a significant milestone in space exploration with the successful docking of two unmanned spacecraft, placing the country alongside the United States, Russia, and China as only the fourth nation to master this complex technology. This breakthrough, executed by the Indian Space Research Organisation (ISRO), signals a new chapter in the country's ambitious space program, showcasing its growing capabilities in the global space community.

The Space Docking Experiment (SpaDeX) involved two small spacecraft, named Target and Chaser, each weighing approximately 220 kilograms. Launched aboard India's PSLV rocket on December 30, the spacecraft rendezvoused and successfully docked on January 11, 2025, after overcoming minor technical hurdles. This docking not only highlights India's technological achievements but also sets the stage for future missions involving satellite servicing, in-space construction, and even human space exploration, such as missions to the Moon.

Prime Minister Narendra Modi praised the accomplishment, calling it a significant stepping stone for India's space ambitions. The success of SpaDeX underscores India's technical sophistication, enhancing its reputation as a rising space power. Spacecraft docking is crucial for a variety of advanced missions, including refueling spacecraft, transferring materials, and building



in-space infrastructure. These capabilities are essential for satellite servicing, human spaceflight, and the potential establishment of a space station in the future.

This achievement comes on the heels of India's successful Chandrayaan-3 mission, which made history by landing a spacecraft on the Moon's South Pole. The country has also set its sights on launching its first crewed mission in the coming years, with a goal to land an astronaut on the Moon by 2040. Additionally, India plans to establish its own space station, the Bharatiya Antariksha Station, by 2035, further cementing its position as a leader in space exploration.

India is also making strides in space commercialization. By opening up its space sector to private companies and encouraging foreign investment, the country has created a dynamic environment for innovation. The successful collaboration between public and private entities, like Ananth Technologies' role in SpaDeX, highlights the country's ability to leverage both sectors for more cost-effective and efficient space exploration.

As India continues to advance its space program, it strengthens its geopolitical influence and positions itself as a formidable player in global space exploration, challenging traditional space powers like the United States, Russia, and China.

PM Modi Pays Tribute to Bal Thackeray on 99th Birth Anniversary

Remembers Shiv Sena founder's contributions to Maharashtra and Indian pride.

Prime Minister Narendra Modi paid homage to Shiv Sena founder Bal Thackeray on his 99th birth anniversary, lauding his unwavering dedication to public welfare and the development of Maharashtra. In a post on X, Modi wrote, "He is widely respected and remembered for his commitment to public welfare and towards Maharashtra's development. He was uncompromising when it came to his core beliefs and always contributed towards enhancing the pride of Indian culture."

Bal Thackeray, a staunch proponent of Hindutva, was instrumental in intertwining the ideology with the notion of "Marathi pride," which became the cornerstone of the Shiv Sena's political agenda. Under his leadership, the party grew into a dominant force in Maharashtra, particularly in Mumbai, where it played a critical role in shaping the city's political and social fabric.

PM Modi highlights Thackeray's dedication to Hindutva and Maharashtra's progress.

Thackeray's legacy shaped by his fusion of nativist and nationalist ideologies.

Shiv Sena founder remembered for championing Marathi pride and Indian culture.

Thackeray's political journey began with his background as a cartoonist, which he



utilized to voice issues of regional identity and local employment. In 1966, he founded the Shiv Sena to address the grievances of Marathi-speaking communities, rallying them under the banner of cultural and linguistic pride. Over time, his leadership expanded the party's reach, making it a significant player in Maharashtra's political landscape.

Known for his fiery oratory and steadfast positions, Thackeray was revered by supporters for championing the rights of the common man and Marathi people while

staying committed to a broader nationalist vision. His legacy continues to influence Maharashtra's politics, with the Shiv Sena playing a pivotal role in state and national governance under various factions and alliances.

As the nation commemorates Thackeray's contributions, his vision for a culturally proud and economically robust Maharashtra remains a guiding light for many. The tributes on his 99th birth anniversary reflect the lasting impact of his leadership on Indian politics and society.



Wayanad rehabilitation: No assistance from Centre yet, says CM Vijayan

Rs 712.98 crore from CMDRF to aid survivors as state seeks additional funds

TPN Correspondent | Thiruvananthapuram

Kerala Chief Minister Pinarayi Vijayan expressed concern over the lack of central assistance for the rehabilitation of Wayanad landslide survivors, despite the disaster being declared of "severe nature." Addressing the Legislative Assembly on Thursday, the CM announced that Rs 712.98 crore from the Chief Minister's Disaster Relief Fund (CMDRF) will be utilized to aid the survivors.

The state initially demanded Rs 2,221 crore from the Centre for rehabilitation efforts. However, Vijayan noted that the Post Disaster Needs Assessment (PDNA) report indicates that additional funds will be required. "I have written to MPs across the country to contribute up to Rs 1 crore from their MP funds," he added.

Kerala seeks Rs 2,221 crore from Centre for rehabilitation.

Rs 15 lakh to be provided to those opting out of proposed townships.

Opposition demands clarity on housing fund and treatment cost for survivors.

The CM assured that rehabilitation efforts would be expedited, including Rs 15 lakh allocations for individuals preferring to live outside the planned townships. Addressing opposition concerns, Vijayan promised immediate action to resolve delays in disbursing treatment costs to severely injured survivors and to finalize the Rs 30 lakh allocation for proposed housing.

Leader of Opposition V D Satheesan highlighted the uncertainty surrounding housing costs and emphasized the need for decisive steps to conclude the rehabilitation process.

As Kerala continues its rehabilitation efforts, the lack of central support has sparked debate, with the state government urging collective contributions from MPs nationwide to support Wayanad's recovery.

Karnataka CM Siddaramaiah Rejects BJP's Allegations as Politically Motivated

Counters claims of fund misuse and defends governance priorities.

TPN Correspondent | Bengaluru

Karnataka Chief Minister Siddaramaiah dismissed accusations by BJP state president BY Vijayendra that his government misused welfare funds for Scheduled Castes (SCs) and Scheduled Tribes (STs). Speaking to reporters on Thursday, Siddaramaiah labeled the allegations as false and politically motivated, aimed at undermining his administration.

Vijayendra had alleged that Rs 87 crore from the Karnataka State Maharshi Valmiki Scheduled Tribes Development Corporation was illegally transferred ahead of the Lok Sabha elections. He further criticized the Congress government for delaying the appointment of a chairperson for the Commission for Scheduled Castes and Scheduled Tribes, rendering it ineffective in addressing the grievances of oppressed communities.

BJP accuses Congress of misusing Rs 87



crore meant for SC/ST welfare. Siddaramaiah dismisses allegations as false and politically driven. CM denies intra-party rifts over leadership change, citing high command's role. In a post on X, Vijayendra revealed that a public interest litigation (PIL) had been filed in the High Court regarding the delay in appointments. He claimed the court had issued notices to the government on

this matter.

Addressing intra-party disputes within the Congress over leadership, Siddaramaiah clarified that any decision on the Chief Minister's post would be made by the party's high command. This comes amidst speculation fueled by aspirations expressed by Deputy Chief Minister DK Shivakumar and Public Works Minister Satish Jarkiholi.

Siddaramaiah also explained his absence from the World Economic Forum in Davos, stating he prioritized preparations for the state budget over international engagements. His decision to skip the forum for two consecutive years underscores his focus on state governance.

As Karnataka's political landscape heats up, Siddaramaiah's rebuttals reflect a strategy to counter BJP's criticism while maintaining internal party unity ahead of critical governance milestones.

BJP's Annamalai Calls IUML MP's Actions 'Disrespectful' at Temple, Kani Disagrees

TPN Correspondent | Tamilnadu

Tamil Nadu BJP president K Annamalai launched a sharp critique against Indian Union Muslim League (IUML) leader and Lok Sabha MP from Ramanathapuram, Navas Kani, accusing him of consuming non-vegetarian food at the sacred Thiruparankundram Subramanya Swamy hill in Madurai. The hill is home to the revered Murugan temple and the Sikandar Badusha Dargah, making it a site of religious significance.

Calling the alleged incident "deeply unfortunate," Annamalai demanded Kani's dismissal. "This MP went up the hill and ate non-vegetarian food. This is very unfortunate. Appeasement politics have taken hold. He created a law and order problem," Annamalai told India Today.

BJP's Annamalai accuses MP of disrespecting temple sanctity. IUML's Navas Kani denies allegations, claims mediation role. Sacred hill hosts both Murugan temple and Sikandar Badusha Dargah.

Annamalai further alleged that Kani's actions were an affront to the Murugan temple's sanctity and an attempt to foment division. "This is not only completely wrong but also a religious riot," he wrote on X.

Kani, however, denied consuming non-vegetarian food, stating, "I haven't consumed non-vegetarian food, someone else did." He explained that his visit to the hill was to mediate between clashing parties during a standoff over animal transportation for sacrifice. "Him saying I consumed non-vegetarian food is wrong," Kani clarified.

Indian Foreign Secretary to Visit China for Key Talks on Bilateral Relations

TPN Correspondent | New Delhi

Indian Foreign Secretary Vikram Misri will visit China on January 26-27 to explore ways to strengthen ties between the two nations. Discussions with the Chinese Vice Minister will focus on political, economic, and people-to-people relations, alongside critical topics such as visa policies, direct flight routes, and economic cooperation.

The visit follows recent efforts to ease tensions between India and China, including National Security Advisor Ajit Doval's meeting with Chinese Foreign Minister Wang Yi last month. Doval emphasized the need for a fair framework to resolve the boundary dispute while maintaining a broader political perspective on bilateral relations.

Misri's visit follows NSA Ajit Doval's talks with China's Wang Yi.

India and China agreed to resume patrolling along the LAC in eastern Ladakh.

Both nations stress that normalcy hinges on peace in border areas.

This diplomatic engagement comes after a milestone agreement in October 2024, where Prime Minister Narendra Modi and Chinese President Xi Jinping met for the first time in five years during the BRICS Summit in Kazan, Russia. The agreement enabled patrolling to resume along the Line of Actual Control (LAC) in eastern Ladakh, marking de-escalation in a region fraught with tensions since the 2020 Galwan Valley clash.



Tamil Nadu CM Stalin Lays Foundation for Open-Air Museum at Keeladi

TPN Correspondent | Chennai

Chief Minister M K Stalin on Thursday laid the foundation stone for an open-air museum at Keeladi, the renowned Sangam-era archaeological site, currently in its tenth phase of excavation. The museum, with an estimated cost of ₹17 crore, will exhibit key finds such as brick structures, ring wells, and other archaeological discoveries, further cementing Keeladi's importance in understanding Tamil history.

In addition to the open-air museum, Stalin inaugurated a website dedicated to the Keeladi excavations and released a report titled Antiquity of Iron, which hypothesizes that Tamil Nadu's Iron Age began 5,300 years ago, dating back to the first quarter of the third millennium BCE.

₹17 crore open-air museum planned for Sangam-era site Keeladi. CM Stalin highlights Tamil Nadu's Iron Age as starting 5,300 years ago.

Gangaikondacholapuram to house a grand museum for Chola-era artefacts.

As part of the state's initiatives to preserve and celebrate Tamil heritage, Stalin also broke ground for a grand museum at Gangaikondacholapuram in Ariyalur district. The site, built by Rajendra-I in honor of his father Raja Raja Cholan, holds historical significance for the Chola Kingdom, which extended its influence as far as China centuries ago.

Speaking at the event, Stalin emphasized the government's commitment to showcasing the ancient history of Tamils through scientific methods. "The history of the Indian subcontinent should be rewritten from the Tamil landscape," he asserted, underlining the rich contributions of Tamil civilization to the region's heritage.

31,000 People Ordered to Evacuate After Wildfire Erupts Near Los Angeles

Ferocious flames engulf Castaic hills, spreading rapidly across 8,000 acres

TPN Correspondent
Castaic, United States

A new wildfire erupted north of Los Angeles on Wednesday, forcing 31,000 residents to evacuate. The blaze, dubbed the Hughes Fire, spread rapidly near Castaic Lake, consuming over 8,000 acres in just a few hours and threatening nearby communities.

Fueled by strong, dry Santa Ana winds, the wildfire sent plumes of smoke and embers across the region, intensifying fears of further spread. The fire broke out just as Los Angeles County was still reeling from two previous deadly blazes that claimed over two dozen lives and destroyed thousands of structures.

Robert Jensen, from the Los Angeles County Sheriff's Department, emphasized the importance of immediate evacuation. "We've seen the devastation caused by people failing to follow those orders in the Palisades and Eaton fires. If you've been issued an evacuation order, please get out," he said.

- **Over 31,000 residents around Castaic Lake evacuated as wildfire spread.**
- **Firefighters battled the blaze with helicopters, planes, and ground crews.**
- **Strong Santa Ana winds and**



dry conditions worsened the situation.

The fire's rapid growth disrupted traffic on the I5 freeway, a key route along the West Coast, with sections of the road closed. Evacuations also extended to the Pitchess Detention Center in Castaic, with 500 inmates moved to safer locations. Cal Fire officials described the conditions as highly volatile, with Brent Pascua noting,

"We're getting the winds, low humidities, and extremely dry brush. These factors are making the fire spread at an alarming rate." Helicopters and Super Scooper planes were deployed to douse the flames with water and retardant. However, meteorologist Daniel Swain warned of worsening conditions, predicting stronger winds that could hinder firefighting efforts and potentially drive the fire

into Ventura County. This wildfire highlights the increasing threat posed by climate change, with prolonged droughts and rising temperatures leaving landscapes dry and susceptible to fire even during the rainy season. Southern California, which typically receives rain in January, has seen no significant precipitation for eight months, further exacerbating the crisis.

"We Didn't Stop Trading," Says Jaishankar On Trade With Pakistan

TPN Correspondent | Washington

External Affairs Minister S. Jaishankar clarified India's position on trade with Pakistan, stating that New Delhi never ceased trading but that Islamabad unilaterally halted trade in 2019. Speaking at a press conference in Washington DC on Wednesday, he emphasized that Pakistan made the decision to stop trading, not India.

"We did not stop trading. Their administration made the decision in 2019 to not continue trading with us," Jaishankar said. He also reiterated India's concern regarding the Most Favoured Nation (MFN) status, which India extended to Pakistan but was never reciprocated.

- **Jaishankar clarified that India did not halt trade; the decision came from Pakistan in 2019.**
- **India had extended MFN status to Pakistan, but Pakistan failed to reciprocate.**
- **Stressed strong trust and convergence in India-US relations, calling for bolder cooperation.**

The EAM added that there have been no recent discussions or initiatives on trade between the two nations. "Neither such talks have taken place with Pakistan regarding trade from our side, nor did they take any initiative from their side," he noted. Shifting focus to India-US relations, Jaishankar highlighted the growing trust and shared global vision between the two countries. "We have a very strong degree of trust today between India and the United States, a very high level of convergence of our interests," he stated.

He further remarked on the potential for the India-US partnership to serve national and global interests alike. "While we serve our national interest and build our bilateral partnership, there's a lot of good we can do on regional and global issues," he said. Jaishankar hinted at a more ambitious trajectory for India-US ties, calling for bolder and larger initiatives in the bilateral relationship.

Trump Redesignates Iran-Backed Houthi Rebels as Foreign Terrorist Organization

Reverses Biden's earlier move to ease restrictions on the Yemen-based group



TPN Correspondent | Washington

US President Donald Trump has signed an executive order reinstating the designation of Yemen's Iran-backed Houthi rebels as a "foreign terrorist organization," the White House announced on Wednesday.

This decision reverses the earlier move by former President Joe Biden, who had lifted the designation in 2021 after assuming office. Biden had instead classified the group as a "specially designated global terrorist" en-

tire—a less severe designation that ensured humanitarian aid could continue flowing into Yemen, a country devastated by war. The reinstatement of the "foreign terrorist organization" label is expected to have significant implications for Yemen's conflict and international efforts to provide relief to its population. Trump's decision underscores his administration's hardline stance on Iran's influence in the region, as the Houthi rebels are widely recognized as Tehran's allies in the Yemeni conflict.

Trump Speaks on Pardons, Office Return, and Key Policies in First Interview Back

Ex-president addresses past decisions, challenges, and plans for America's future.

TPN Correspondent | Washington

US President Donald Trump sat for his first interview since returning to the White House, offering insights on a range of topics, including his predecessor Joe Biden's pardons, his return to office, and his stance on key issues such as immigration and TikTok. Speaking to Fox News' Sean Hannity, Trump defended his past decisions and outlined his vision for the nation.

Trump claimed he had been advised to pre-emptively pardon himself and others during his first term but chose not to. "I said I'm not going to pardon anybody, we didn't do anything wrong," he asserted, calling his supporters "incredible patriots."

Trump claims he rejected a self-pardon option during his first term. Plans to cut federal funds to sanctuary cities if necessary. Defends pardons of Capitol rioters, calling many "absolutely innocent." On returning to office, Trump reiterated unsubstantiated claims



about the 2020 election, stating, "We wouldn't have inflation, the Afghanistan disaster, October 7 in Israel, or the Ukraine war. But I believe this moment is bigger than if it were traditional." Despite challenges, he expressed optimism, saying America's problems are "all solvable."

Addressing illegal immigration, Trump suggested cutting off federal funding to sanctuary cities, emphasizing, "Sometimes that's the only thing you can do." On TikTok, he downplayed security concerns, questioning whether the app posed a significant threat, given its focus on

young users and entertainment content.

Trump also defended his pardons of nearly 1,600 January 6 Capitol rioters, stating, "Most of the people were absolutely innocent." The former president framed his actions as part of a broader effort to safeguard the nation's values and restore unity.

The interview marked Trump's renewed focus on his administration's priorities, signaling bold plans to address the country's pressing issues while defending his contentious decisions.

World Leaders Call for AI Regulation and Global Reforms at Davos

TPN Correspondent | Davos

Leaders from across the globe convened at the five-day World Economic Forum (WEF) Annual Meeting, urging action on artificial intelligence (AI) governance, climate change, and socio-economic reforms. The event concluded Friday, showcasing diverse initiatives aimed at addressing pressing global challenges. Spanish Prime Minister Pedro Sanchez emphasized the need to curb misinformation and cyber harassment by reforming social media governance within the European Union. He called for stronger enforcement of the Digital Services Act and enhanced authority for the European Centre for Algorithmic Transparency, stating, "The values of the European Union are not for sale."

UN Secretary-General warns of unchecked AI and climate crisis risks.
Spain pushes for stricter social media regulations across the EU.
Congo announces the world's largest tropical forest reserve.

United Nations Secretary-General António Guterres highlighted AI and climate change as two critical global threats. While acknowledging AI's transformative potential, he warned of the risks posed by unregulated advancements and urged international collaboration under frameworks like the Global Digital Compact.

In a groundbreaking announcement, Democratic Republic of Congo President Felix-Antoine Tshisekedi Tshilombo revealed the creation of the Kivu to Kinshasa Green Corridor Reserve. Spanning 550,000 sq km, the reserve aims to protect tropical forests while supporting economic development and livelihoods for millions of citizens. As Malaysia prepares to lead the ASEAN union, Prime Minister Anwar Ibrahim expressed confidence in the region's future, promising collaborative efforts to drive growth and stability. The Davos summit underscored the importance of global unity in tackling shared challenges, with leaders emphasizing sustainable development, technological innovation, and proactive governance.

Imran Khan Ends Talks with Government After 14-Year Jail Term

TPN Correspondent | Islamabad

Pakistan's former Prime Minister Imran Khan has ended reconciliatory talks with the government, just a week after being sentenced to 14 years in prison on graft charges. The talks, initiated last year to address political instability, have collapsed following the judgment in a high-profile land corruption case involving the former cricket star-turned-politician.

Khan's party, Pakistan Tehreek-e-Insaf (PTI), confirmed the decision, citing unmet demands. "Khan has called off negotiations," PTI Chairman Gohar Khan told reporters after visiting the ex-PM in jail. Imran Khan had issued a seven-day ultimatum to the government, which expired without a response.

Talks aimed at stabilizing Pakistan collapse post-sentencing.

Imran Khan seeks judicial commissions to probe key incidents.
PTI alleges unfair treatment in land corruption verdict.

The corruption case, Khan's most significant legal challenge, centers on allegations of financial impropriety. A real estate tycoon reportedly transferred land to a welfare institution run by Khan and his wife in exchange for illegal favors.

PTI's demands include forming judicial commissions to investigate events leading to Khan's August 2023 arrest and the violent protests that followed, particularly the May 9, 2023 rallies that saw his supporters vandalize public property. As political tensions deepen, Khan's decision to halt negotiations casts a shadow over efforts to restore stability in Pakistan, leaving the government and opposition at loggerheads amidst ongoing unrest.

Markets Edge Higher as IT and Pharma Lead the Recovery Amid Volatility



Stock market indices gained on Thursday on the back of gains in IT and pharma sectors and buying in heavyweights. Despite the weekly derivatives closing, investors invested in selected stocks, which led to a moderate rise. The markets were initially volatile due to mixed signals from international markets. They remained range-bound for a while. The benchmark indices performed well as some companies reported good results and sectoral indices also rebounded. The Nifty ended above 23,200. It is not possible to say that the markets have turned around unless there is a gap from consecutive selling. Consolidation is expected for some time.



MURTHY NAIDU PAADAM
Stock Market Analyst
+91 988 555 9709

ly closed at 76,520 with a gain of 115 points. The NSE Nifty, which opened at 23,128, reached a low of 23,090 and a high of 23,270. It fell by 50 points in total and closed at 23,205. The Nifty Bank fell by 135 points and settled at 48,589.

In the Nifty50, 30 companies gained while 20 lost. UltraTech Sem, Grasim, Wipro, Shriram Finance, Sun Pharma were the top gainers. BPCL, Kotak Bank, HCL Tech, SBI, Reliance were the biggest losers. Auto, IT, Media, Pharma, Realty, Healthcare, Consumer Durables indices rose the most today. Bank, finance, oil and gas indices rose.

Market breadth on NSE today turned slightly more in favour of buyers than sellers. Out of a total of 2888 stocks traded, 1575 gained and 1236 lost. Shares of 18 companies touched 52-week highs. Shares of 81 compa-

nies touched 52-week lows.

Rupee weakened by 13 paise to settle at 86.46 against the dollar. Citi has given a buy rating to Polycab with a target price of Rs 8600. Zee Entertainment's third quarter net profit rose 180% to Rs 164 crore. Citi has maintained a sell rating on Persistent Systems with a target price of Rs 5000. Maruti Suzuki is increasing the prices of cars by Rs 1,500 to Rs 32,500 from February 1. Sinjin's net profit rose 18% to Rs 131 crore from Rs 111 crore. Mazagaon Dock Shipbuilders gave clarity on a submarine project worth Rs 70,000 crore. Adani Green Energy's net profit rose 73% to Rs 561 crore from Rs 325 crore. 25 lakh shares changed hands in Fortis Healthcare and 24 lakh shares in Federal Bank. 10 lakh shares each in Hindalco and Paytm changed hands.

1. Berger Paints

One of the largest players in the Indian decorative and industrial paints segment. Strong demand in urban and rural housing, new product launches, and focus on premium paints. Around 15-17%, supported by premium product portfolio.

Consistently growing, aided by operational efficiencies. Brand recognition, wide distribution network, innovative products. Fluctuating raw material costs (crude oil derivatives), competition from Asian Paints and other key players. Positive due to in-



BERGER PAINTS INDIA LIMITED

creasing housing demand and urbanization.

2. IRCTC (Indian Railway Catering and Tourism Corporation)

Monopoly in catering, ticketing, and tourism services for Indian Railways. Significant contributor due to convenience fees. Revenues tied to passenger volume. Growing steadily post-pandemic. High due to minimal competition in its segments. Attractive for income-focused investors. Monopoly, asset-light model, and strong cash flows. Government regulation and reliance on Indian Railways. Long-term positive with India's growing rail network and digital adoption.



3. LTIMindtree (LTIM)

Top-tier IT services company post-merger of L&T Infotech and Mindtree. Digital transformation, cloud services, data analytics, and enterprise IT solutions. Double-digit growth driven by demand for digital services globally. Robust with long-term contracts from Fortune 500 clients. Strong parentage (L&T), diversified client base, and focus on high-growth digital segments. Intense competition from Infosys, TCS, and Accenture; currency fluctuations. Promising due to global digital trans-



formation trends and enterprise IT spending.

4. Havells India

Leading player in electrical goods and appliances with premium branding. Product Portfolio: Cables, switches, fans, lighting, and home appliances. Consistently in the range of 13-15%. Low, reflecting a strong balance sheet. Brand trust, wide distribution, and innovation. Rising input costs (copper and aluminum) and competition from V-Guard, Bajaj, and others. Positive, driven by infrastructure growth and increasing penetration in rural areas.



HAVELLS
(Havells India Limited)

5. Ambuja Cements

: Among the top cement producers in India, part of the Adani Group. Construction and infrastructure projects. Moderate, aligned with the cyclical nature of the industry. Around 16-20%, supported by efficient operations and cost management. Low, ensuring financial stability. Strong brand presence, cost leadership, and environmentally sustainable practices. Cyclical demand, rising energy and transportation costs. Positive, supported by government infrastructure push and urban housing demand.



Ambuja
Cement

The BSE Sensex, which closed at 76,404 in the previous session, opened at 76,414 on Wednesday. It touched an intraday low of 76,202. It reached an intraday high of 76,743. It final-

Rupee's fall is due to dollar's rise, any RBI intervention can harm Indian exports: Rajan



Former Reserve Bank of India (RBI) Governor Raghuram Rajan has cautioned against any RBI intervention aimed at reversing the weakening of the Indian rupee, which he attributes primarily to the strengthening of the US dollar. Speaking on the global economic situation, Rajan emphasized that the US dollar's rise is largely due to the potential impact of tariffs imposed by the US and a strong economic performance in the country.

According to Rajan, while the dollar has appreciated against several global currencies, including the rupee, any attempt by the RBI to prop up the rupee could negatively affect Indian exports. "If the RBI strengthens the rupee against the dollar, it would inadvertently make the rupee more expensive against other currencies, which could hurt our exporters," he said. He also noted that the RBI's traditional approach has been to intervene only when depreciation causes significant volatility, not to try and preserve the rupee at a specific level.

Rajan explained that the US economy is growing robustly, attracting more capital inflows, and leading to a stronger dollar. This is further compounded by a reshoring of production back to the US due to tariff policies, which also enhances the appeal of the US as an investment destination.

On India's economy, Rajan highlighted concerns over slowing growth and a lack of private investment. He emphasized that the recent growth had been recovery-based, and now the focus should shift to sustainable growth driven by investments and consumption. Rajan stressed that a key challenge for the Indian economy is the softening of demand across income groups, including the upper middle class.

Looking ahead to India's Union Budget, Rajan urged policymakers to prioritize job creation, better employment opportunities, and boosting household consumption. "A strong focus on creating more jobs and confident households will create a virtuous cycle of increased consumption and investments," he concluded.

Used car sales in India likely to touch 10.8 million in 2030

The used car market in India is on a fast-paced growth trajectory, with projections indicating that sales will rise from 4.6 million units in 2023 to 10.8 million by 2030, marking a compound annual growth rate (CAGR) of 13%. According to a report released on Thursday, 2024 has emerged as a pivotal year, with used car sales surpassing new car sales at a notable ratio of 1.3:1.

One of the key trends in the market is the increasing number of eco-conscious buyers, as the demand for electric vehicles (EVs) grew fivefold in 2024. Maharashtra, Karnataka, and Delhi led the EV charge, further influencing the used car market. The report also highlights that SUVs continued to dominate, capturing 16.7% of the market share in 2024.

"The used car market, once considered a niche segment, has now redefined car ownership in India. With shifting custom-



er preferences towards more affordable and reliable options, the used-car market has seen significant growth compared to the new car market," said Gajendra Jangid, Co-founder of CARS24.

The report also points out that while the average selling price (ASP) of new cars has increased by 32%, used cars have seen a

24% rise. Despite these price hikes, used cars remain a more budget-friendly alternative, offering great value without compromising on quality.

In terms of financing, the report notes a significant rise in loans for both new and used cars. Financing for new cars has surged from 60% in 2010 to 84.2% in 2024, while the used-car financing market has grown from 15% to 23%. The post-COVID era has also seen a shift in consumer priorities, with 12% of buyers opting for personal mobility for convenience and safety rather than relying on shared transportation.

As India's used car market continues to expand, it is reshaping the automotive landscape and providing consumers with a more accessible option for vehicle ownership.

"Adani Energy Solutions Sees 80% Profit Surge in Q3 FY25

Adani Energy Solutions (AESL) has announced a remarkable 80% surge in its consolidated profit after tax (PAT), reaching Rs 625 crore for the third quarter (Q3) of the financial year 2025 (FY25). Excluding one-time tax items, the adjusted PAT grew by 26% to Rs 440 crore.

The company also saw a robust 24.4% year-on-year growth in total income, reaching Rs 6,000 crore for Q3 FY25. Operating revenue stood at Rs 4,173 crore, a 15.4% increase compared to Rs 3,615 crore in Q3 FY24. For the nine months ended FY25, total income surged by 44.4% to Rs 17,850 crore.

CEO Kandarp Patel highlighted the company's focus on timely project commissioning and operational efficiency, emphasizing that AESL continues to outperform both operationally and financially. He credited the strong quarterly performance to newly commissioned transmission projects, including MP Package-II, Kharghar-Vikhroli, and Warora-Kurnool lines,

as well as higher energy sales in Mumbai and Mundra utilities.

"The key highlight of this quarter is the new project wins in AESL, which have strengthened our position as the largest private transmission player in India," said Patel. With a total order book of Rs 54,761 crore in transmission and Rs 13,600 crore in smart metering, AESL remains confident in its ability to maintain growth, thanks to strong project execution and capital management.

The company's EBITDA for the quarter grew by 6%, reaching Rs 1,831 crore, driven by strong revenue growth across segments, including EPC income in transmission, treasury income, and steady regulated EBITDA from Adani Electricity Mumbai Limited (AEML). Operational EBITDA increased by 9% to Rs 1,579 crore.

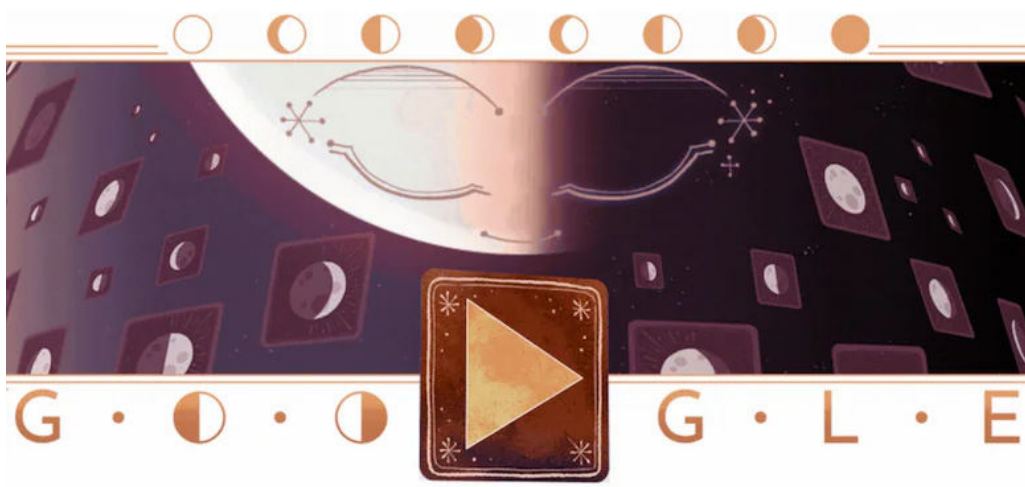
AESL also secured two new transmission projects—Khavda Phase IV Part-D and



Rajasthan Phase III Part I—adding 3,044 circuit kilometers (ckm) to its under-construction network. With this, the company's under-construction transmission pipeline now totals Rs 54,761 crore.

Smart meter deployment is progressing rapidly, with an average installation rate of 15,000 meters per day, set to rise to 20,000 meters per day in the coming quarter.

Google's 'Rise of the Half Moon' Doodle Educates with Fun Lunar Game



Google's latest doodle, titled "Rise of the Half Moon," is an interactive and educational celebration of the lunar cycle, launched on Thursday, January 23, 2025. In honor of the final Half Moon of January, the doodle offers users a fun and engaging card game designed to teach them about the moon's phases while providing entertainment.

The objective of the game is to match different moon phases by strategically placing cards to score points. Players must compete against the half moon, with the game concluding once the board is filled. As users progress, they gain valuable insights into

the lunar cycle, making it both an enjoyable and educational experience.

Titled "Rise of the Half Moon," the doodle is described as a recurring card game series. According to the description page, players are invited to connect the phases of the lunar cycle to earn points and "beat the moon." Successful players might be rewarded with special surprises. The game also invites users to join the pack, a nod to January's full moon, traditionally known as the "Wolf Moon." This name is inspired by the howling of wolves during long winter nights, adding cultural depth to the doodle.

The doodle is accessible on both mobile and desktop devices, ensuring that a wide audience can participate in this lunar celebration. To further enhance the experience, Google offers users the option to download a "Half Moon Rises" wallpaper for their devices. The doodle's page also features a world map, showing where the doodle has appeared.

Google's doodles, since their debut in 1998, have become a unique way to celebrate significant events, cultural moments, and anniversaries. Over the years, these doodles have evolved in creativity and interactivity, sparking curiosity, educating users, and bringing joy to millions across the globe.

Japanese Aquarium Puts Cutouts Of People To Comfort Lonely Sunfish



A Japanese aquarium has come up with an innovative solution to cheer up its lonely ocean sunfish during renovations. The Kaikyokan Aquarium in Shimonoseki, which has been closed to the public since December 2024, noticed that its resident sunfish was struggling without the usual visitors. The aquarium staff observed the fish becoming unwell, refusing to eat its jellyfish, and even rubbing its body against the tank.

Initially, the staff thought the sunfish might have developed digestive problems or contracted a parasite. However, after further observation, one staff member suggested the possibility that the fish was simply lonely without the pub-

lic around. Although the idea seemed far-fetched, the team decided to give it a try.

In a creative effort to alleviate the sunfish's apparent loneliness, the aquarium staff placed cardboard cutouts of visitors, dressed in staff uniforms, around the tank. They set up the cutouts to mimic the presence of people observing the sunfish. The aquarium then shared an image of this unique setup on social media, showing the sunfish seemingly comforted by the fake visitors.

The results were surprising. The next day, the sunfish appeared to be feeling better. It began swimming in front of the tank and waving its fins, indicating that it had regained

its health and energy. The staff was amazed by the turnaround and credited the cutouts for helping the sunfish feel more at ease.

This isn't the first time an aquarium in Japan has used creative methods to support its animals. During the 2020 COVID-19 lockdown, Tokyo's Sumida Aquarium engaged volunteers to FaceTime its spotted garden eels, encouraging them to come out of hiding and stay active.

Kaikyokan Aquarium's inventive solution highlights the emotional sensitivity of animals and the lengths to which caretakers will go to ensure their well-being, even in the face of unusual circumstances.

What Is Blue Monday? Understanding the 'Most Depressing Day of the Year'

Blue Monday, often referred to as the "most depressing day of the year," falls on the third Monday of January, and in 2025, it lands on January 20th. The concept of Blue Monday was coined in 2005 by the UK travel company Sky Travel, which claimed it to be the day when people experience the lowest mood. Factors such as the end of the holiday season, post-New Year's financial strain, cold weather, and unfulfilled New Year's resolutions contribute to this low point.

While the idea has become a part of popular culture, Blue Monday is more associated with controversy than scientific validation. The term originated from a Sky Travel press release that used a formula to calculate the most depressing day of the year. The formula included factors such as debt levels, weather conditions, the

number of days until the next holiday, time since the last payday, and the average number of daylight hours. This "depression factor" was meant to explain why people feel down and encourage them to take action to improve their mood, such as planning a holiday.



Despite its widespread recognition, there's little scientific evidence supporting the claims of Blue Monday being the actual "most depressing day." Mental health experts argue that the day is just a marketing tool rather than a reflection of genuine psychological phenomena. However, many people may experience a

dip in mood around this time due to seasonal changes, the return to work after the festive period, or the pressure of unachieved resolutions.

How to Beat Blue Monday

Take a walk: Getting outside or even bringing nature inside with plants can help lift your mood. Research shows exposure to nature can benefit psychological well-being.

Dance it out: Music and dancing are great ways to improve your mood, offering a fun and effective way to boost happiness.

Connect with loved ones: Spending time with friends or family and checking in on each other's mental health can provide support.

Reframe failure: Rather than focusing on setbacks, see them as opportunities for growth and learning, which can motivate you to keep moving forward.

'Volcanoes Will Erupt': Scientists Sound The Alarm, How Life On Earth Will End

According to a study by scientists at Bristol University, Earth is heading toward a catastrophic future where all life, including humans and animals, will be wiped out due to extreme heat. The study, which used a computer simulation, predicts that Earth will face a total destruction event in the next 250 million years. The temperature on Earth will soar to a staggering 70 degrees Celsius, a level too hot for any living creature to survive.

The research also highlights the role of rising carbon levels, with the accelerated increase of carbon emissions contributing to an earlier extinction event. Scientists warn that this escalating carbon buildup could trigger an event similar to the mass extinction that wiped out the dinosaurs 66 million years ago. The last

supercontinent, Pangaea, existed from 330 to 170 million years ago, and researchers believe that Earth's continents will eventually merge again to form a new supercontinent known as Pangaea Ultima in 250 million years.

As the planet heats up, life will become unsustainable. Volcanoes, which cover much of the Earth's surface, will erupt due to the pressure of extreme temperatures. These eruptions will release vast amounts of carbon dioxide, exacerbating the already critical situation, leading to the collapse of ecosystems and the eventual death of all organisms. With the temperature rising and oxygen levels depleting, Earth will become inhospitable.

Alexander Farnsworth, the leader of the research team,



stated that with doubled levels of carbon dioxide, people would perish from heatstroke, and the overall quality of life would be unbearable. The Earth's atmosphere would be filled with carbon dioxide, making it almost impossible for humans and animals to breathe. As life forms die off in massive waves, only the edges of the supercontinent Pangaea Ultima might remain habitable, offering a bleak future for the planet.

US Court Rules Elephants Cannot Be Freed From Zoo, Declaring They're Not 'Human'



In a controversial ruling, a US court has decided that five elephants held at the Cheyenne Mountain Zoo in Colorado cannot be released based on their lack of legal rights, as they are not considered "human." The case was brought forward by the animal rights group Nonhuman Rights Project (NRP), which sought to have the elephants freed under a legal process called habeas corpus. The group argued that the elephants—Missy, Kimba, Lucky, Lou-Lou, and Jambo—who were born in Africa and have spent years in captivity, showed signs of brain

damage. NRP claimed the zoo conditions amounted to a "prison" for these highly intelligent and social animals.

NRP's goal was to relocate the elephants to a sanctuary where they could live more naturally, but the Colorado Supreme Court ruled that the animals did not meet the legal criteria to pursue such a claim. In its decision, the court explained that the legal question at hand was whether an elephant could be considered a "person." Since elephants are not legally recognized as persons, the court determined that

they did not have standing to seek their release.

This decision follows a similar one in 2022, when the New York courts ruled against freeing an elephant named Happy from the Bronx Zoo.

In response, Cheyenne Mountain Zoo criticized the NRP, accusing the group of abusing the court system to raise funds rather than genuinely advocating for the welfare of animals. The zoo stated that the NRP's ongoing legal battles were part of a strategy to manipulate the public into donating to their cause.



West Indies Crush Malaysia to Reach Super Six in Women's U19 T20 World Cup

West Indies clinched a spot in the Super Six stage of the 2025 Women's Under-19 T20 World Cup with a commanding 53-run victory over hosts Malaysia in Kuala Lumpur on Thursday. Despite posting a modest total of 112/7 in their 20 overs, the West Indies bowlers delivered a clinical performance, bowling out Malaysia for a mere 59 runs. The win helped them finish third in Group A and advance to the next stage of the tournament.

For Malaysia, this loss marked their exit from the competition, as they ended the group stage with three consecutive defeats and were unable to progress further.

West Indies captain and all-rounder Samara Ramnath was the standout performer in this crucial encounter. Although her contribution with the bat was minimal, scoring just 5 runs, she was exceptional with the ball, claiming 4 wickets for only 6 runs. Her outstanding bowling performance ranks as the third-best in the tournament, following Vaishnavi Sharma (India) and Maisie Maceira (Scotland) who each took five-wicket hauls.

At one point, Malaysia seemed to be in control at 38/2 after 10 overs while chasing a target of 113. However, Ramnath's spell triggered a dramatic collapse, as she took four vital wickets—three through bowled or lbw dismissals—helping reduce Malaysia to 59 all out. Malaysia lost their last eight wickets for just 21 runs.

Ramnath struck early in her second over, dismissing Malaysia's captain, Nur Daniya Syuhada, and trapping Nur Izzatul Syafiqah lbw. She later returned to clean-bowl Suabika Manivannan, completing the demolition in the 18th over. Off-spinners Najanni Cumberbatch and Erin Deane also played key roles, combining for four wickets and keeping relentless pressure on the Malaysian batters.

Earlier, after being asked to bat first, West Indies struggled to accelerate but managed to post a competitive total, with Assabi Callender anchoring the innings with a patient 30 off 42 balls.

With India and Sri Lanka already securing their places in the Super Six, West Indies join them as the third team from Group A to advance.

Sachin Tendulkar Foundation Celebrates 5 Years of Transforming Lives

The Sachin Tendulkar Foundation (STF) marked a significant milestone as it celebrated five years of empowering the less privileged and fostering dreams. The celebration, held at The Bombay Club in Mumbai, was a heartfelt gathering that reflected on STF's impactful journey and reaffirmed its commitment to enhancing lives through health, education, and sports, particularly for children.

The evening's theme, "Shine Brighter Together," underscored the Foundation's core mission of creating lasting change, especially for young people, by supporting their aspirations in these key areas. The event was a blend of tributes from well-wishers, family, friends, and non-profit partners, all of whom have been integral to STF's success.

A highlight of the evening was Sara Tendulkar, daughter of cricket legend Sachin Tendulkar, marking her first official engagement as the Foundation's Director. Reflecting on her upbringing, Sara spoke about the influence her family had on her understanding of giving back and the transformative power of the Foundation's work. "Over the last five years, the Sachin Tendulkar Foundation has touched over 100,000 young lives, and that's a hundred thousand reasons to keep going," Sara shared.

The Foundation's journey was intro-



duced through a short film, showcasing the dedication of the Tendulkars and their NGO partners. Over 15 organizations work alongside STF to bring positive change to communities. Chris Martin of Coldplay also attended and engaged in a conversation with Sachin Tendulkar about the Foundation's journey.

Sachin Tendulkar reflected on the inception of STF, explaining that the idea began with a simple vision: to ease the

lives of the underprivileged and inspire young dreamers. With Sara now leading the Foundation, he expressed confidence that STF will continue to impact millions of lives. Looking forward, STF plans to expand its sports-for-development initiatives, improve infrastructure in rural areas, enhance healthcare access, and introduce innovative education programs. With a renewed focus, STF aims to make the next decade a transformative period for millions of children and youth.

India Outclass Sri Lanka by 60 Runs to Enter Super Six in U19 T20 Women's World Cup

India cruised to a dominant 60-run victory over Sri Lanka in their final Group A match of the ICC U19 T20 Women's World Cup, securing their place in the Super Six as group toppers. Openers G Trisha and India's pacers were the stand-out performers in this lopsided encounter.

Trisha played a composed knock of 49 off 44 balls, including 5 fours and a six, guiding India to a total of 118 for 9 on a challenging pitch. Her innings anchored the team's score, allowing them to set a competitive target. Despite some late contributions from VJ Joshitha (14 off 9 balls) and Mithila Vinod (16 off 10 balls), India's total appeared to be a challenging one for Sri Lanka to chase.

Sri Lanka's chase got off to a disastrous start as India's pacers VJ Joshitha and Shabnam tore through the top order. Sri Lanka were reduced to 9 for 4 in just 3.2 overs, and



for 5. The Sri Lankan innings never recovered, and they were eventually restricted to 58 for 9 in 20 overs.

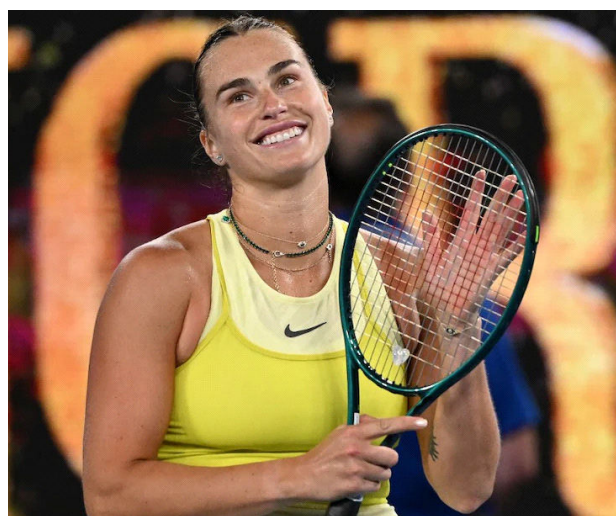
While Rashmika Sewwandi (15 off 12 balls) showed some resistance, the mounting required run rate forced her to take risks, leading to her dismissal. Sisodia (2/7) was the standout spinner for India, along with Ayushi Shukla and Vaishnavi Sharma, who played crucial roles in dismantling Sri Lanka's lower order.

Earlier, India had to battle through a tough patch in their innings, but Trisha's maturity at the top of the order held the innings together. Her aggressive six off Shashni Gimhani was a highlight. Despite a few wickets falling, India's strong finish ensured they set Sri Lanka a difficult target.

With this win, India maintained an unbeaten record in the group stage and are poised for the Super Six phase of the tournament.

Aryna Sabalenka Beats Paula Badosa To Reach Australian Open 2025 Women's Singles Final

Defending champion Aryna Sabalenka displayed her exceptional form by defeating Spain's Paula Badosa 6-4, 6-2 to advance to the Australian Open 2025 women's singles final. The world number one from Belarus, who has been on a stunning 20-match winning streak at Melbourne Park, will now look to secure her third consecutive Australian Open title. She will face either Polish second seed Iga Swiatek or American 19th seed Madison Keys in Saturday's final.



In what was a hard-fought match between close friends, Sabalenka showcased her powerful game on Rod Laver Arena, overcoming early challenges from Badosa. The match began with Badosa taking a 2-0 lead, capitalizing on a few early mistakes from Sabalenka. However, the Belarusian quickly found her rhythm, breaking back after Badosa's error-prone service game. Sabalenka then surged ahead, winning three games in a row to take a 4-2 lead, wrapping up the first set in 53 minutes with a strong display of 19 winners.

The second set saw a more dominant Sabalenka as she capitalized on Badosa's double faults and lack of consistency, breaking early for a 2-1 lead. Badosa, who had stunned world number three Coco Gauff in the previous round, could not recover from Sabalenka's aggressive baseline play and was broken again to seal the match in

straight sets.

Sabalenka's victory not only takes her one step closer to a third consecutive Australian Open title but also keeps her in contention for the top spot in the women's rankings. If she had lost, Iga Swiatek would have reclaimed the number one position. Badosa's run, though ending in the semifinals, marked a remarkable comeback after battling back from a serious back injury in 2023. She will return to the top 10 for the first time since October 2022, a testament to her resilience and determination.

Lakshya Sen, Satwik-Chirag pair bow out of Indonesia Masters

Indian badminton players faced disappointment at the Indonesia Masters Super 500 tournament as Lakshya Sen and the men's doubles duo of Satwiksairaj Rankireddy and Chirag Shetty were knocked out in the second round on Thursday.

Lakshya Sen, ranked 10th in the world, continued his struggle on the international circuit with a hard-fought loss to Japan's Kenta Nishimoto. The match ended 16-21, 21-12, 21-23 in Nishimoto's favour, lasting 50 minutes. Despite a strong comeback in the second game, Sen couldn't maintain the momentum, and he fell short in the decider.

The disappointment continued for India with the exit of the Asian Games champions, Satwik Rankireddy and Chirag Shetty. The men's doubles pair, who had reached back-to-back semifinals at the Malaysia Super 1000 and India Super 750 tournaments in the past two weeks, lost a tense match to Thailand's Kittinupong Kedren and Dechapol Puavaranukroh. The match was decided by narrow margins, with the Thai pair clinching a 22-20, 23-21 win.

Earlier in the day, the mixed doubles team of Dhruv Kapila and Tanshia Crasto also suffered an early exit. Despite initially taking the lead,



the Indian pair lost 21-18, 15-21, 19-21 to Malaysia's Pang Ron Hoo and Su Yin Cheng in a closely contested second-round match.

Lakshya Sen, who had previously won an Asian Games silver and a Commonwealth Games gold, started poorly in his match, losing the first game. Although he managed to bounce back in the second game, the lack of consistency proved to be his downfall, and he was ultimately unable to close out the match.

With all the Indian players eliminated in the second round, the Indonesia Masters has turned out to be a disappointing outing for India's shuttlers, raising concerns about their form going into upcoming international tournaments.



Bollywood Struggles in 2025: Can Sky Force Revive the Industry's Fortune?

The Hindi film industry has been grappling with a tough phase in recent years, with South Indian films dominating the pan-India box office. While Bollywood continues to struggle, a few standout films like Pathaan, Jawan, Gadar 2, Animal, and Stree 2 have managed to perform well, but they have been the exception rather than the rule. The primary reasons for Bollywood's decline have been attributed to lackluster scripts, repetitive storytelling, and a shortage of fresh ideas.

Even 2025 hasn't brought much relief. The year started on a disappointing note with the release of Sonu Sood's action thriller Fateh on January 10, which quickly became a box office failure. Just a week later, Ajay Devgn's Azaad and Kangana Ranaut's Emergency hit theaters on January 17, only to fall flat with audiences despite featuring prominent stars. These films struggled to create a lasting impact and join the ranks of Bollywood's successful releases.

The upcoming Republic Day weekend is expected to bring a glimmer of hope for the industry with the release of Ak-



shay Kumar's Sky Force. Akshay, who has been facing a rough patch in recent years with several low-performing films, is under pressure to deliver a hit. However, there are no high expectations surrounding Sky Force, as its trailer has not received a positive reception. Many have expressed concerns that it's yet another generic patriotic military-based film that fails to offer anything new or exciting.

The real test for Sky Force will be whether Akshay Kumar can defy all odds and deliver Bollywood's first major hit of 2025. If the film fails to make a mark, the Hindi film industry may have to face yet another month of disappointing box office returns, potentially marking January as a dud for Bollywood. Only time will tell if Akshay can bring the much-needed revival to the industry.

Tamil Hit Madha Gaja Raja Set to Release in Telugu on January 31

After a long wait of 12 years, the Tamil comedy film Madha Gaja Raja, starring Vishal, Santhanam, Anjali, and Varalaxmi Sarathkumar, was finally released in Tamil Nadu on January 12, 2025, as a special treat for Pongal. Directed by Sundar C, the film has proven to be a moderate success at the box office, capturing the interest of audiences with its light-hearted humor and engaging performances.

Following its successful theatrical run in Tamil, Madha Gaja Raja is now gearing up for its Telugu release, set for January 31, 2025. The Telugu version will be released globally by Sathya Krishnan Productions, with Gemini Film Circuit handling the presentation. The film's music, composed by popular Kollywood actor Vijay Antony, has already been well-received and adds another layer of appeal to this comedy entertainer.



The release of Madha Gaja Raja was initially planned for 2023, but the film faced multiple delays for reasons that were not publicly disclosed. Despite the setbacks, the excitement surrounding its release remains high, especially with the star power of its cast, which includes leading actors who enjoy a significant fan base in both Tamil and Telugu cinema. This ensures that the film is poised to make a strong impact when it opens in theaters across Andhra Pradesh and Telangana.

Shahid Kapoor's Deva to Keep Audiences on Edge with a Multiple-Ending Climax Twist

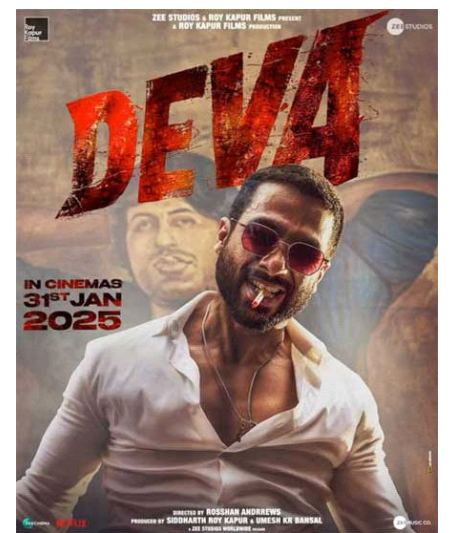
Shahid Kapoor's upcoming film Deva is already generating immense buzz, thanks to its gripping trailer and intriguing storyline. Directed by Rosshan Andrews, the film stars Kapoor as a cop, with Pooja Hegde playing the female lead. The film's suspenseful plot and action-packed sequences have captured the attention of fans, making it one of the most anticipated films of the year.

In a recent interview, Shahid Kapoor revealed that the film's climax played a key role in his decision to take on the project. According to the actor, the intensity and unexpected twist in the film's conclusion were major factors that drew him to the role. This revelation has sent waves through the media, with fans eagerly speculating about the shocking twist that awaits them.

However, there's a growing buzz in Mumbai's film circles that the makers of Deva have shot multiple versions of the climax and are still undecided about which one to include in the final cut. According to reports, the film's ending will be nothing short of surprising, promising to leave audiences on the edge of their seats.

Shahid Kapoor looks impressive as a tough, no-nonsense cop, and early reactions to his performance have been positive. Meanwhile, Pooja Hegde, who has been away from the limelight for a while, is making her big comeback with this film. Her performance has been described as solid, and fans are hoping that Deva will mark a successful return for the actress to the top of the box office.

With a mix of action, drama, and an unpredictable climax, Deva is shaping up to be a film that's not to be missed. As the release date approaches, anticipation continues to build for what promises to be an unforgettable cinematic experience.



Pushpa 2 Celebrates 50 Days in Theaters with Special Fan Show at Iconic Hyderabad Theater

The massive success of Pushpa 2: The Rule, starring Allu Arjun and directed by Sukumar, continues to captivate audiences across the globe. Since its release on December 5, 2024, the film has been breaking records and receiving rave reviews for its gripping storyline, stellar performances, and powerful direction. With a worldwide gross of over Rs. 1800 crore, Pushpa 2 has firmly established itself as one of the biggest blockbusters in recent cinema history.

Today, the film celebrates a major milestone—its 50th day in theaters. To mark this special occasion, a fan screening has been scheduled at the renowned Sandhya 70mm theater in Hyderabad, where fans will get a chance to relive the magic on the big screen. The evening show promises to be a memorable event, as fans eagerly await the possibility of appearances from the film's stars and crew.

The film boasts a talented ensemble cast, including Rashmika Mandanna, Fahadh Faasil, Sunil, Anasuya, Rao Ramesh, and Jagapathi Babu, each delivering compelling performances that have contributed to the film's widespread appeal. The music, composed by Devi Sri Prasad and Sam CS, enhances the emotional depth of the movie, with its unforgettable tracks resonating with fans everywhere.

Produced by Mythri Movie Makers, Pushpa 2 continues to be a cinematic marvel, capturing the hearts of moviegoers with its gripping narrative and impressive visuals. As the film enters its 50th day in theaters, it remains a cultural phenomenon, solidifying its place in Indian film history. Fans are sure to cherish this special event and eagerly anticipate the future of the Pushpa franchise.

Vikram's Veera Dheera Sooran Sets Release Date for March 27, 2025

Chiyaan Vikram, known for his diverse and powerful performances, is all set to return to the big screen with his highly anticipated gangster action drama, Veera Dheera Sooran. Directed by SU Arun Kumar, best known for his work on Chithha, the film has already generated significant buzz with its intriguing glimpses, leaving audiences eager for more. Dushara Vijayan stars opposite Vikram in the film, taking on the role of the female lead.

As the movie enters its final stages of post-production, the makers have officially locked in the release date. Veera Dheera Sooran is slated to hit theaters on March 27, 2025. The film will face competition at the domestic box office, going up against highly anticipated titles like Sikandar, L2E (Lucifer 2), Robinhood, and Mad 2. Originally, Veera Dheera Sooran was planned for a Pongal 2025 release, but with Ajith's Vidaamuyarchi al-

ready slated for the festive season, the makers decided to postpone their film to avoid direct competition.

Produced by Riya Shibu under the HR Pictures banner, Veera Dheera Sooran promises to be an intense action-packed drama, combining gangster elements with Vikram's powerhouse performance. The music for the film is composed by the talented GV Prakash Kumar, who is known for his memorable soundtracks in Tamil cinema.

The Telugu states' distribution rights for the film have been secured by NVR Cinema, ensuring a wide release across Andhra Pradesh and Telangana. With Vikram's immense popularity and the film's thrilling storyline, Veera Dheera Sooran is set to make a strong impact upon its release, and fans are eagerly awaiting to see the actor in yet another compelling role.

