



Weather Forecast

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

People Need to Know the Issues Discussed at Davos - CM Naidu

Reflects on Davos Visit and AP's Development Vision

- Davos Achievements:** Promoting green energy and AP's economic potential globally.
- Future Investments:** Announcements of Rs. 10 lakh crore in green energy, IT, and petrochemical sectors.
- Vision for AP:** Focus on Amaravati, tourism, education, and infrastructure development.



was to place Andhra Pradesh back on the global map, showcasing the state's potential in green hydrogen, petrochemical hubs, and IT services. The CM announced major investments, including BPCL's petrochemical complex in Ramayapatnam (Rs. 96,000 crore), a steel plant near Anakapalle (Rs. 1.35 lakh crore), and NTPC's green hydrogen production (Rs. 1.87 lakh crore). Additionally, Kakinda will export green ammonia, while Visakhapatnam will host IT giants like Google and TCS. Chandrababu also highlighted a Rs. 10 lakh crore investment in green energy production, calling it a game-changer for AP. Tourism was identified as a key sector, with the Tata Group planning a 200-room facility. The CM announced that Amaravati will emerge as a hub for education, healthcare, and infrastructure, with significant progress in projects like Polavaram's new diaphragm wall. He assured that work would be completed by December 2027. Chandrababu criticized the previous government for driving companies like Amara Raja out of AP, stressing his vision of improving living standards and increasing per capita income in the state. He reaffirmed his commitment to rebuilding Andhra Pradesh into a global powerhouse.

participated in 27 meetings at Davos, including the Country Strategic Dialogue and conferences on green energy, artificial intelligence, and sustainable development. He emphasized that his goal

TPN Correspondent Amaravati, Jan 26

Chief Minister Nara Chandrababu Naidu addressed the media following his participation in the World Economic Forum at Davos, emphasizing the importance of sharing insights from such global events with the people. Highlighting his experience of attending Davos since 1995, Chandrababu recalled the initial skepticism he faced about Hyderabad's IT potential, which later became a global success. Chandrababu stated that he partici-

Padma Awards 2025

Padma Shri for 100-year-old freedom fighter, Kuwaiti yoga pioneer, Nagaland fruit farmer

TPN Correspondent | New Delhi

On the eve of Republic Day, 30 remarkable individuals were awarded the prestigious Padma Shri, recognizing their extraordinary contributions across various fields. Among the honorees are a 100-year-old freedom fighter, a pioneering Kuwaiti yoga expert, a Nagaland fruit farmer, and a host of others, including cultural icons and social influencers.



The Padma Shri, one of India's highest civilian awards, was conferred on Saturday to individuals who have made significant impacts in their respective domains. These include activists, artists, educators, and community leaders who have shown unparalleled dedication to their crafts, cultures, and causes.

Some Noteworthy Padma Shri Awardees

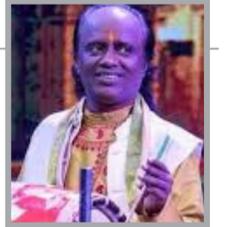


Libia Lobo Sardesai

A pivotal figure in Goa's freedom movement, 100-year-old Sardesai co-founded an underground radio station called 'Voz da Liberdade (Voice of Freedom)' in 1955, rallying resistance against Portuguese colonial rule. Her efforts made a lasting impact on Goa's liberation struggle.

Gokul Chandra Dey

The 57-year-old Dhak player from West Bengal has broken gender norms by training 150 women in the male-dominated art form. He also innovated a lighter version of the dhak, making it 1.5 kg lighter than traditional instruments. Dey has represented India on international stages and collaborated with legends like Pandit Ravi Shankar and Ustad Zakir Hussain.



2 PAGE

Dy CM Pawan Kalyan Congratulates Padma Awardees



- Balakrishna's Padma Bhushan:** Pawan Kalyan praises Balakrishna's contributions to cinema and public service.
- Recognition for Dr. Nageshwar Reddy:** Congratulates the gastroenterology expert on his Padma Vibhushan.
- Public Service Honorees:** Acknowledges the contributions of Manda Krishna Madiga, Madugula Nagaphani Sharma, and others.

TPN Correspondent Amaravati, Jan 26

Deputy Chief Minister Pawan Kalyan extended heartfelt congratulations to those selected for the prestigious Padma Awards, acknowledging their distinguished services across various fields. Pawan Kalyan expressed immense pride in the recognition of Telugu film industry legend Sri Nandamuri Balakrishna, who was honored with the Padma Bhushan for his immense contributions to cinema and his public service as Hindupuram MLA and Chairman of Basava Tarakam Cancer Hospital. The Deputy CM also congratulated Dr. D. Nageshwar Reddy, a renowned gastroenterologist, for being awarded the

2 PAGE

Nandamuri Balakrishna Honored with Padma Bhushan

Balakrishna Recognized: Padma Bhushan awarded in the field of arts.

Padma Honorees: Manda Krishna Madiga receives Padma Shri; D Nageswara Reddy honored with Padma Vibhushan.

139 Padma Awardees in Total: 7 Padma Vibhushan, 19 Padma Bhushan, and 113 Padma Shri recipients.



TPN Correspondent New Delhi, Jan 26

Telugu film actor Nandamuri Balakrishna has been awarded the Padma Bhushan by the central government for his contributions in the field of arts. This recognition is seen as a significant honor for the actor and politician from Andhra Pradesh. Manda Krishna Madiga, the founder president of MRPS, was awarded the Padma Shri in the category of Public Affairs. Other Padma Shri recipients from Andhra Pradesh

include Miriyala Apparao (Arts), KL Krishna (Literature), Madugula Nagaphanisharma (Arts), and Panchamukhi Raghavacharya (Literature). Renowned doctor D Nageswara Reddy was awarded the Padma Vibhushan for his exceptional contributions to medicine. Other notable recipients of the Padma Bhushan include Kannada actor Anantnag, Tamil actor Ajith Kumar, senior Tamil actress Shobhana, and Kerala hockey player Sreejesh. AP Chief Minister Nara Chandrababu Naidu and actor Junior NTR congratulated Balakrishna for his achievement. The central government announced a total of 139 Padma awards this year, including seven Padma Vibhushan, 19 Padma Bhushan, and 113 Padma Shri awards.

CM Naidu Heartfelt Congratulations to Nandamuri Balakrishna on Padma Bhushan Honor

2nd page

Little Brains
ఒక మంచి విద్యాలయం
NURSERY - X Std.

BEST BRAINS

THE TRUE FREEDOM OF JOYFUL LEARNING !

HAPPY REPUBLIC DAY



Siddhartha Nagar, 6th Lane, Vijayawada-10
0866 2491525, 9515 111 525



Deputy CM Pawan Kalyan Responds to Amazon Gift Card Issue

- Expired Gift Card Balances: Pawan Kalyan says expired balances are being transferred to accounts.
- RBI Guidelines Emphasized: Prepaid payment instruments must follow a one-year validity rule.
- Consumer Protection: Pawan calls for flat rates to prevent unfair losses.



TPN Correspondent
Amaravati, Jan 26

Andhra Pradesh Deputy Chief Minister Pawan Kalyan has addressed concerns related to expired balances on Amazon gift cards. Speaking on the issue, Pawan Kalyan said that several complaints from Amazon gift card users about lost balances had recently come to his attention. He revealed that even his office faced issues with balances being lost from expired gift cards, highlighting the financial impact on consumers. Through a post on social media platform X, Pawan Kalyan pointed out that over 295 million Indians actively use e-commerce platforms, with more than 1 billion gift cards purchased on Amazon India alone. He stressed the im-

portance of adhering to RBI guidelines, which mandate that prepaid payment instruments (PPIS) must have a validity of at least one year. If accounts remain inactive for a year, they can only be deactivated after giving prior notice, with the balance refunded or transferred to a KYC-linked bank account. To protect consumers from unnecessary losses, Pawan Kalyan urged platforms like Amazon to adopt flat-rate systems, ensuring transparency and fairness. He reaffirmed his commitment to safeguarding consumer rights and preventing the loss of hard-earned money through such issues.

Minister Narayana Meets Nellore City Constituency Leaders



- Leadership Meeting: Minister Narayana holds discussions with constituency in-charges.
- Record Membership: Nellore City registers 1,55,278 members, ranks first in the state.
- Focus on Development: Minister promises to resolve issues and strengthen the party.

TPN Correspondent
Vijayawada, Jan 26

Minister Narayana held a meeting with the leaders of the Nellore City constituency at his camp office in Vijayawada. The meeting was attended by constituency division in-charges, cluster in-charges, and other local leaders. During the meeting, Minister

Narayana congratulated the leaders for their achievement in registering 1,55,278 members in the constituency, securing the first rank in the state. He praised their efforts and emphasized the importance of continuing this momentum to further strengthen the party at the grassroots level. The minister also gave clear directions to the leaders regarding the development of the constituency. He assured them that immediate steps would be taken to address any problems faced by the people in Nellore City. Minister Narayana emphasized his commitment to both the welfare of the public and the continued growth of the party in the region.

Minister Nara Lokesh Receives a Grand Welcome After Successful Davos Visit

- Grand Welcome: MP Kesineni Chinni and leaders welcome Lokesh at Gannavaram Airport.
- Focus on Investments: Lokesh promoted Brand AP and invited global industrialists.
- Youth Employment: Efforts aimed at creating job opportunities in Andhra Pradesh.



TPN Correspondent
Vijayawada, Jan 26

After a successful five-day visit to the World Economic Forum in Davos, IT and Education Minister Nara Lokesh was welcomed at Gannavaram Airport on Saturday at 1:35 am. MP Kesineni Sivanath (Chinni), MLA Yarlagadda Venkatrao, and Andhra Pradesh Sports Authority Chairman Animini Ravi Naidu greeted Lokesh with enthusi-

asm, acknowledging his significant contributions during the trip. MP Kesineni Chinni congratulated Lokesh for his efforts in promoting Brand Andhra Pradesh to prominent industrialists and global CEOs. The Minister explained the state's advantages, including its infrastructure and opportunities, and extended invitations to invest in Andhra Pradesh.

Nara Lokesh's participation at Davos, under the leadership of Chief Minister Nara Chandrababu Naidu, was aimed at attracting investments and creating employment opportunities for the youth of the state. His dedication to enhancing the state's economic prospects and securing its future was widely praised by leaders and officials.

Don't Do Politics on Young Children, Says Home Minister Anitha

TPN Correspondent:
Visakhapatnam, Jan 26

Home Minister Vangalapudi Anitha strongly criticized the opposition for politicizing issues related to children, emphasizing that such actions are unacceptable. During her inspection of the Visakhapatnam Juvenile Home, she addressed allegations of harassment made by the girls residing there. The minister had previously requested a report on the issue and personally interacted with the girls to gather details.



Anitha revealed that the juvenile home accommodates 56 girls, who are receiving education and training in various

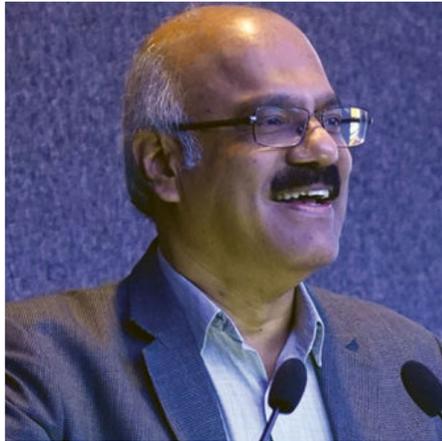
fields. She noted that some of the residents are dealing with mental health challenges and assured that measures are being taken to provide medical supervision and support.

The minister reiterated the government's commitment to protecting children, stating, "The responsibility of safeguarding children lies with the government, and no one needs to remind us of this. Even if the current issue is resolved, we are ensuring no similar problems arise in the future." She also accused the opposition of using social media platforms to spread misinformation, claiming that 80% of the content on their accounts is false. Anitha criticized the opposition for their alleged corruption and attempts to mislead the public, adding that those responsible for wrongdoing during the previous government's tenure will be held accountable.

Dr. Nageshwar Reddy on Padma Vibhushan Award: "This Award Has Increased My Responsibility"

TPN Correspondent
Hyderabad, Jan 26

AIG Hospital Chairman Dr. Nageshwar Reddy expressed his gratitude upon being selected for the prestigious Padma Vibhushan Award by the Central Government. He shared his happiness and stated that receiving such an honor has only increased his sense of responsibility. Dr. Reddy committed to continuing his efforts to serve both society and the country with greater dedication. On the occasion of the Republic Day celebrations, the central government announced the Padma Awards for 2025, recognizing individuals for



their distinguished contributions across various fields. Along with Dr. Nageshwar Reddy, film actor Nandamuri Balakrishna from Andhra Pradesh was honored with the Padma Bhushan in the arts category. Dr. Nageshwar Reddy, who hails from Telangana, was awarded the Padma Vibhushan in the medical category for his exemplary contributions to healthcare. The Padma Awards this year have celebrated the remarkable achievements of individuals in diverse sectors, with seven recipients of the Padma Vibhushan, 19 Padma Bhushan, and 113 Padma Shri awards.

1st Page Cont...

CM Naidu Heartfelt Congratulations to Nandamuri Balakrishna on Padma Bhushan Honor



Heartfelt congratulations to Telugu cinema legend and Hindupur MLA, Shri Nandamuri Balakrishna, on being conferred the prestigious Padma Bhushan award! Continuing the illustrious legacy of his father, the iconic Nandamuri Taraka Rama Rao Garu, Balakrishna has achieved remarkable success in cinema, politics, and philanthropy. Balakrishna's steadfast commitment to public welfare, particularly through his efforts with the Basavatarakam Indo-American Cancer Hospital and Research Institute, has positively impacted countless lives. His work stands as a testament to his compassion and dedication to society. This recognition is a well-deserved honor for a true icon whose contributions have inspired millions. Balakrishna's multifaceted career exemplifies excellence and service, making him a role model for future generations.

Dy CM Pawan Kalyan Congratulates Padma Awardees

Padma Vibhushan for his groundbreaking work in the medical field. He lauded Sri Manda Krishna Madiga for his relentless efforts in public movements, especially for the Madiga community's reservations and government medical aid for children and the disabled, on receiving the Padma Shri. Pawan Kalyan also recognized the contributions of poet Sri Madugula Nagaphani Sharma, who was awarded the Padma Shri for his literary work, and Sri K.L. Krishna for his contributions to education and literature. The Deputy Chief Minister acknowledged the Central Government's efforts under Prime Minister Narendra Modi to honor those who have greatly contributed to society. He also noted the posthumous recognition of Burrakatha artist Sri Miriyala Apparao, whose artistic legacy has been rightfully celebrated.

Padma Awards 2025

P Datchanamorthy

A distinguished name in Tamil literature and folklore, Datchanamorthy has contributed significantly to the preservation and promotion of regional literary traditions.



Sally Holkar

At 82, Sally Holkar has been a catalyst in reviving the Maheshwari craft. She founded a handloom school in Madhya Pradesh, dedicating five decades to preserving the traditional weaving techniques of this 300-year-old craft.



Shaikha A J Al Sabah

A Kuwaiti yoga pioneer, Al Sabah has spread the benefits of yoga in the Gulf region, fostering cross-cultural connections and wellness across borders.



Maruti Bhujangrao Chitampalli

Chitampalli has been instrumental in promoting India's folk arts, with a special focus on Maharashtra's rural traditions and music. These awardees come from varied backgrounds, but their shared dedication to cultural preservation, innovation, and societal welfare unites them in their exceptional achievements. The Padma Shri awards are a tribute to their remarkable legacies, each contributing to the national fabric in their unique ways.



Hugh and Colleen Gantzer

The renowned travel writers and photographers have chronicled India's diverse landscapes, cultures, and traditions, making valuable contributions to the world's understanding of the country's rich heritage.

L Hangthing

An advocate for social reform and cultural preservation, Hangthing has been active in uplifting local communities in Nagaland and promoting the region's heritage.



CM Naidu Says Resignation Happens When Trust is Lost on Party Leadership

- Personal Matter of YCP: CM clarifies resignation is internal to YCP.
- Political Situation Criticized: Chandrababu comments on the state of politics in AP.



TPN Correspondent Amaravati, Jan 26
 AP Chief Minister Nara Chandrababu Naidu has responded to the resignation of YSRCP MP Vijayasai Reddy from the Rajya Sabha, calling it a personal matter for the YCP. Speaking at a media conference on Saturday, Chandrababu addressed the resignation in the context of trust within political parties. He explained that if there is no trust in the party, a person will eventually leave, emphasizing the importance of a stable party situation. Chandrababu remarked that the situation in Andhra Pradesh was unique, claiming that no other state in the country had experienced the destruction of systems due to personal vendettas. He also pointed out that if people unqualified for politics enter the field, the state's political environment would deteriorate further.

Minister Kandula Durgesh Criticizes Vijayasai Reddy's Resignation

- Vijayasai Reddy's Corruption: Minister accuses Reddy of masterminding corruption.
- Reddy's Personal Attacks: Durgesh questions Reddy's future political moves.

TPN Correspondent Rajahmundry, Jan 26
 State Tourism Minister Kandula Durgesh has responded sharply to the resignation of Vijayasai Reddy from the YSR Congress Party (YCP). Durgesh expressed confusion over Reddy's resignation, questioning his motives, especially after being the driving force behind numerous corruption cases in the previous YCP government. He blamed Reddy for the party's poor performance in the last elections, which resulted in YCP securing only 11 seats. The Minister further stated that more people from YCP would likely leave the party, citing the widespread fears caused by corruption and mistakes made by the leadership. Durgesh also criticized Reddy's personal attacks on Chief Minister Chandrababu Naidu and Deputy CM Pawan Kalyan, questioning how Reddy could consider joining any alliance after such actions.



MLA Ganta Srinivas Criticizes Vijayasai Reddy's Resignation and YSRCP

TPN Correspondent Visakhapatnam, Jan 26
 MLA Ganta Srinivas Rao responded strongly to Vijayasai Reddy's withdrawal from politics, accusing him of bringing anarchy to Visakhapatnam during his tenure. Speaking to the media on Saturday, Ganta stated that Reddy's five years in Visakhapatnam were a nightmare for the people, highlighting how lands were forcibly taken from people and transferred to the names of Reddy's family members. He referred to these actions as part of the "Vizag Piles" issue and alleged that many people had been threatened and displaced. Ganta also criticized Reddy's tweet regarding his resignation, stating that it brought pity, laughter, and surprise. He questioned who would seek justice for those who suffered due to Reddy's actions, adding that legal action would be taken for the wrongdoings commit-



ted, and Reddy could not escape responsibility. In addition, Ganta declared that YSRCP was a "sinking boat" and that no one would remain in the party if Jagan Mohan Reddy left. He also shared a prediction that a Rajya Sabha member from their district would soon follow Vijayasai's example and resign. Further commenting on the state of the YSRCP, Ganta expressed his anger over the party's stance on the steel plant package and stressed the need for the YCP to stop unnecessary politics. He also praised the efforts of CM Chandrababu Naidu and Nara Lokesh to attract investments, stating that companies like Google and TCS are now looking to invest in Visakhapatnam, reversing the previous climate of fear. Ganta concluded by urging YSRCP to focus on reforming the party for better growth.

Vijayasai Should Reveal the Truth Now – YS Sharmila

- Vijayasai Reddy's Resignation: Sharmila demands the truth from Reddy.
- Accusations of Deception: Sharmila criticizes Jagan and Vijayasai's actions.
- Failure to Fulfill Promises: Sharmila calls out unfulfilled election pledges.

TPN Correspondent Vijayawada, Jan 26
 AP Congress President YS Sharmila has launched a scathing attack on Vijayasai Reddy following his MP Rajya Sabha resignation, questioning his actions and demanding that he reveal the truth about his departure from the party. Sharmila stated that Reddy would not have resigned without informing Jagan Mohan Reddy and accused him of lying about his family and political situation. She criticized the YCP for losing credibility, highlighting that prominent leaders like Vijayasai Reddy were leaving the party one by one, further weakening Jagan's leadership. Sharmila also targeted Jagan Mohan Reddy, calling him a "liar" and alleging that he had prevented investigations into corruption involving Reddy and the BJP. She claimed that Reddy had misled the public in the past and demanded that he now tell the full truth. In her address, Sharmila also criticized the coalition government for failing to fulfill the "Super Six" promises made during the elections. She questioned why the government



had not kept its commitments to farmers, children, and women, citing unfulfilled promises such as financial aid for children and Rs. 1,500 monthly support for women. Furthermore, Sharmila raised concerns over the high unemployment rate in Andhra Pradesh, accusing the government of failing to implement job guarantees. She urged that unemployment allowance should be provided as promised and reminded the government of its failure to fill two lakh government jobs, calling the "Super Six" a "super flop." Sharmila concluded by urging the media to cover the government's failure in fulfilling promises to the public.

Rajya Sabha Chairman Accepts Vijayasai Reddy's Resignation

TPN Correspondent New Delhi, Jan 26
 Rajya Sabha Chairman and Vice President Jagdeep Dhankad has accepted the resignation of YSRCP MP Vijayasai Reddy. The resignation letter, submitted in the Speaker's format, was immediately approved, and the Rajya Sabha Secretary General issued a bulletin confirming the resignation. After stepping down, Vijayasai spoke to the media, stating that his decision to resign was driven by purely personal reasons. He emphasized that he would be staying away from politics and refraining from discussing political matters in the future. He also clarified that despite facing numerous challenges, he did not become an approver in any cases, and he was unfamiliar with the



politics of backstabbing. Responding to criticisms that his resignation was a strategy to escape legal cases, Vijayasai firmly stated that he was not in a position to have any cases waived by anyone. He rejected any suggestion that his resignation was linked to personal legal interests.

Only They Will Remain in YSRCP – Pattabhiram

TPN Correspondent Andhra Pradesh, Jan 26
 Kommareddy Pattabhiram, Chairman of the Swachh Andhra Corporation, has made explosive remarks regarding YSRCP MP Vijayasai Reddy's resignation, causing a stir in Andhra Pradesh politics. Pattabhiram alleged that Vijayasai Reddy was a witness to every wrongdoing committed by Former Chief Minister Jagan Mohan Reddy and claimed that his resignation was a ploy to escape legal cases. Speaking to the media during his visit to Eluru on Saturday, Pattabhiram remarked that Vijayasai Reddy's involvement in crimes under Jagan's leadership was undeniable.



He even joked that Vijayasai's interest in farming would be fulfilled in jail, suggesting that he would have the opportunity to farm while incarcerated. Pattabhiram warned that Vijayasai would soon face jail time and criticized the resignation as a dramatic attempt to avoid accountability. Pattabhiram further stated that only Jagan Mohan Reddy and Bharathi would remain in the YSRCP, and issued a warning to the Former Chief Minister, suggesting that he too would soon face imprisonment. He vowed that no one involved in corruption would be spared, signaling that the coalition will take firm action against all wrongdoers.

Nagari MLA Gali Bhanu Prakash Criticizes Roja



TPN Correspondent Tirupati, Jan 26
 Nagari MLA Gali Bhanu Prakash has strongly criticized YSRCP leader Roja for her comments about the coalition government. He expressed his dissatisfaction with Roja's remarks, calling her "crazy" and suggesting that only "crazy" people make baseless criticisms. He also mocked her understanding of basic concepts, questioning how she could criticize the government when she didn't even know the difference between a cow and a bull. Bhanu Prakash went on to question Roja's right to criticize Chief Minister Chandrababu Naidu, particularly when the Chief Minister's team is working to attract investments at the Davos summit. He highlighted that, during the tenure of the YSRCP government, no industries had been brought to Andhra Pradesh, while the current coalition government is actively working for the state's development. Furthermore, Bhanu Prakash addressed a recent child sexual assault case in Nagari, stating that the crime was committed by a YSRCP activist. He assured the public that legal action would be taken against the individual responsible for the atrocity, emphasizing that such incidents would not be tolerated under the current government. The MLA's comments reflect the ongoing tension between the YSRCP and the coalition government, as well as the government's commitment to holding individuals accountable for criminal actions.

Former Minister Kakani Govardhan Reddy Comments on Vijayasai Reddy's Resignation

TPN Correspondent Nellore, Jan 26
 Former Minister and YCP Nellore District President Kakani Govardhan Reddy has spoken out regarding Vijayasai Reddy's resignation, praising his long-standing commitment to the party. Kakani emphasized that Vijayasai played a significant role in helping Jagan Mohan Reddy become Chief Minister and worked tirelessly for the party's success. Despite facing numerous conspiracies and misinformation, Kakani commended Vijayasai Reddy for bravely enduring the challenges and standing firm with YCP. He also acknowledged that Reddy has an inseparable connection with the party. Kakani revealed that he saw Vijayasai Reddy's resignation on social media but stated that he did not personally speak to Reddy following the resignation announcement.



Deputy Mayor Diamond Babu Accuses Guntur Municipal Commissioner of Corruption



TPN Correspondent Guntur, Jan 26
 Deputy Mayor Diamond Babu held a press meet at the Guntur Municipal Corpora-

tion where he made serious corruption allegations against Guntur Municipal Corporation Commissioner Puli Srinivas. He accused Srinivas of embezzling crores of rupees by promising assistance to the victims of the Budameru flood. Babu claimed that the Commissioner left the council meeting after being asked to provide the figures related to the funds. Diamond Babu demanded a written response to prove that Srinivas was not involved in corruption. He also questioned the decision to promote an employee who had been caught by the Anti-Corruption Bureau (ACB) in a corruption case to the position of Commissioner. The Deputy Mayor made it clear that he would continue to fight against the Commissioner and expose the irregularities in the system, vowing to hold those responsible accountable.

TIDCO Chairman Vemulapalli Ajay Kumar Inspects Houses in Jakkampudi

- **TIDCO Housing Issues:** Inspection of TIDCO houses in Jakkampudi by Chairman Ajay Kumar.
- **Government Support:** Rs. 150 crores to be paid to banks for beneficiary installment dues.
- **Future Plans:** Completion of housing projects with basic facilities by June.

TPN Correspondent | Jakkampudi, Jan 26

TIDCO Chairman Vemulapalli Ajay Kumar, along with Ammisetti Vasu, Akkala Gandhi, and Bolisetty Vamsi Krishna, conducted an inspection of the TIDCO houses in Jakkampudi. The visit highlighted the ongoing issues and the government's steps to resolve them for beneficiaries. During the inspection, Ajay Kumar emphasized the coalition government's commitment to resolving the housing crisis, which had been halted under the previous YSRCP government. He pointed out that under the previous regime, over Rs. 39,000 crores were invested in building TIDCO houses, but the progress was severely disrupted. Only 2.6 lakh out of 4.5 lakh planned houses were allotted to beneficiaries, with many projects left unfinished.



Ajay Kumar assured the public that the coalition government would pay Rs. 150 crores to banks to cover the installment dues for TIDCO beneficiaries until December. Additionally, a HUDCO loan of Rs. 4,500 crores had been sanctioned to continue the housing projects. The government is working to complete several houses by June and ensure that they are habitable

with the necessary basic facilities. The minister also announced that the government would address the unpaid dues to contractors and farmers who had been allocated plots for TIDCO houses. He reassured the beneficiaries that the government would work to clear the pending payments and expedite construction in priority areas.

YSRCP Leaders Demands Govt Support for Farmers in Makkapet Village



TPN Correspondent | NTR Dist, Jan 26

In Makkapet village of Vatsavai mandal, NTR district, the YSR Party called on the government to provide support to farmers suffering from the adverse effects on their chilli crops. The party demanded that the government offer Rs. 20,000 per quintal for the chilli crop and provide compensa-

tion through crop insurance for crops affected by disease. The protest was led by NTR District YSR Party President Devineni Avinash, former Nandigama MLA Mondithoka Jaganmohan Rao, and Jaggayyapet constituency in-charge Thanniru Nageswara Rao. During the event, Devineni Avinash criticized the current government for neglect-



ing the farmers. He reminded the audience that during Jagan's tenure, farmers had received compensation of Rs. 49,500 per acre for their chilli crop losses. However, he stated that under the current government, there was no evidence of such support for farmers. Avinash emphasized that the current government should prioritize the welfare of the farming community.

MP Kesineni Chinni Extends Republic Day Greetings, Emphasizes Constitution's Role

- **Constitution as a Guide:** MP Kesineni praises India's Constitution for its role in democracy and development.
- **Criticism of Previous Government:** Sivanath accuses Jagan's rule of undermining fundamental rights.
- **Future Development Plans:** MP envisions further development in Vijayawada with the cooperation of PM Modi and CM Chandrababu Naidu.

TPN Correspondent | Vijayawada, Jan 26

Vijayawada MP Kesineni Sivanath extended Republic Day greetings to the people of his constituency, highlighting the significance of India's Constitution in guiding the country's progress. In a statement released on the 76th Republic Day, Sivanath praised the Constitution as the cornerstone of democracy, emphasizing its provisions for fundamental rights, including equality, freedom of speech, and assembly.



The MP pointed out that the Constitution has provided legal and administrative principles necessary for the country's development, guiding both Parliament and State Assemblies. He highlighted its role in accommodating the diverse regions and languages of India, ensuring progress. Criticizing the previous government under Jagan Mohan Reddy, Sivanath claimed that the rulers had disregarded the Constitution and undermined the fundamental rights of the people. He stated that the people's decision to oust the previous government reflected their desire to protect democracy and the Constitution. Sivanath further expressed his confidence that, with the cooperation of Prime Minister Narendra Modi and the leadership of Chief Minister Chandrababu Naidu, Vijayawada will continue to progress, guided by the principles of democracy and the Constitution.

Olympic Athlete Dandi Jyothika Sri Participates in Republic Day Celebrations

TPN Correspondent | Vijayawada, Jan 26

Olympic athlete Dandi Jyothika Sri, who is currently studying for her degree at SRM University, participated in the Republic Day celebrations in Gannavaram, Krishna District. Jyothika, who recently competed in the 400 meters relay at the Paris Olympics, expressed her gratitude for the support she receives from her college.



She shared that she had been invited from Trivandrum to participate in the Republic Day events and is presently in the national camp in Trivandrum, training for the 400 meters event. Jyothika's continued dedication and hard work in athletics have made her a source of inspiration for many young athletes.

Traffic Arrangements for 76th Republic Day Celebrations in Vijayawada



TPN Correspondent | Vijayawada, Jan 26

In view of the 76th Republic Day celebrations at the Indira Gandhi Municipal Corporation Stadium in Vijayawada, the N.T.R. District Police Commissioner's Office has announced comprehensive traffic arrangements to ensure smooth flow and convenience for the public. The Honorable Governor of Andhra Pradesh, Shri S. Abdul Nazeer, along with other dignitaries, will attend the event on January 26, 2025, from 8:30 AM to 10:40 AM, prompting the following traffic diversions from 7 AM to 12 PM:

- 1. Diversions around Key Intersections:** Vehicles from RTC Y Junction towards Benz Circle will be redirected via Eluru Road, Swarna Palace, and other areas. Traffic from Benz Circle to Bandar Road will be diverted towards Fakir Gudem and other routes. No vehicles will be allowed from Red Circle to RTA Junction and from Shikhamani Center to Veterinary Junction.

- 2. R.T.C. Bus Diversion Routes:** City buses from RTC "Y" Junction towards Benz Circle will be redirected via Eluru Road to Ramavarappadu Ring.
- 3. Special Instructions for Invitees:** Different passes (AA, A1, A2, B1, B2) have specific gates and parking areas for smooth entry. Media and AIS officials will enter through Gate No. 2. General public, along with school and college students, should enter via Gates No. 5 and 6.
- 4. School/College Student Bus Routes:** Buses from various localities will be redirected to specific parking locations, such as Siddhartha Public School Ground and Bishop Ajarayya School Ground. The public is urged to cooperate with the authorities to ensure a smooth and safe Republic Day celebration.

Kakinada District Collector Shanmohan Sagili Awarded Best District Election Officer



TPN Correspondent | Vijayawada, Jan 26

Kakinada District Collector Shanmohan Sagili was awarded the prestigious Best District Election Officer award at the National Voters' Day celebrations held at the Tummalalalle Kala Kshetram in Vijayawada. The award was presented by the Chief Secretary of the State Government, K. Vijayanand, recognizing his exceptional leadership and efforts in managing the district's election processes effectively.

In addition to the District Collector, Kakinada RDO S. Mallibabu and Kakinada Urban Tahsildar Jitenra were also honored for their remarkable contributions. The award ceremony was a part of the National Voters' Day events organized by the State Election Commission. The recognition underscores the dedication and hard work of these officials in promoting democracy and ensuring smooth election procedures in their respective areas.

Free Medical Check-ups for 250 People at Dr. Mohana Rao Memorial Trust Silver Jubilee Celebration

TPN Correspondent | Ibrahimpatnam, Jan 26

A special free medical check-up camp was organized at the Dr. Mohana Rao Memorial Trust Hospital in Kondapalli town on Saturday to celebrate its silver jubilee. The camp, aimed at providing healthcare services to the local community, was inaugurated by renowned laparoscopic surgeon Dr. Surapaneni Sudhakar. Dr. Sudhakar, who served as the chief guest, praised Dr. Mamidi Seetarama Rao for continuing his father Dr. Mamidi Mohana Rao's legacy of providing super-specialty medical services to the people of Kondapalli and surrounding areas for the past 25 years. Dr. Mamidi Seetarama Rao highlighted the importance of rural healthcare and emphasized his commitment to offering quality medical services in the region since 2000. Orthopedic surgeon Dr. Mamidi Ratnamohana Rao also shared his contributions, noting his expertise in performing complex trauma surgeries, knee replacements, and arthroscopic procedures over the past five years. During the camp, approximately 250 people underwent medical tests, including bone density, sugar, serum creatinine, cholesterol, and ECG screenings. The hospital staff actively supported the event, which offered much-needed healthcare services to the local community.



Minister Bala Veeranjanyulaswamy Conducts Surprise Inspection of Girls' Hostel in Chirala



TPN | N. Kasirao
Chirala, Jan 26

Social Welfare Minister Dola Bala Veeranjanyulaswamy conducted a surprise inspection of the girls' hostel in Udnagar, Bapatla district, to assess the living conditions and facilities provided to students. The minister expressed dissatisfaction with the unhygienic conditions in the toilets, kitchen, and students' rooms. To better understand the students' needs, he had lunch with them and inquired about the facilities available in the hostel. During the inspection, Minister Bala Veeranjanyulaswamy noted the need for repairs to the hostel building and assured that the issues would be resolved promptly. He revealed that the government has allocated a budget of Rs. 143 crore to repair hostels across the state, aiming to provide proper accommodation along with quality education for students. The minister emphasized the coalition government's commitment to improving the education system and ensuring a better environment for students. The inspection reflects the government's dedication to addressing the challenges faced by students in hostels.

Nara Bhuvaneshwari Receives a Grand Welcome from MLC Kancharla Srikanth



TPN | C. Sekhar
Bangalore, Jan 26

Nara Bhuvaneshwari was given a warm and grand reception at the Bangalore Airport as she arrived to attend the Sankranti celebrations organized by the Bangalore TDP Forum. Government Whip and Vice MLC Kancharla Srikanth, who also serves as the Chairman of the Kuppam Coordination Committee, personally welcomed her with great respect and enthusiasm. Bhuvaneshwari's presence as the chief guest for the celebrations underscores her enduring connection with Telugu communities and their cultural traditions, further energizing TDP supporters in the region.

Prakasam Dist Collector A. Tamim Ansaria Honored with Best Electoral Practices Award

TPN | N. Kasirao
Ongole, Jan 26

Prakasam District Collector A. Tamim Ansaria has been awarded the Best Electoral Practices Award-2024 at the 15th National Voters' Day celebrations held at Tummalapalli Vari Kshetraiya Kalakshetra in Vijayawada. The award was presented by Chief Secretary of the State Government, Shri K. Vijayanand, in recognition of the Collector's exemplary efforts in designing a highly transparent voter list, implementing innovative programs to ensure voter registration for all eligible individuals, and raising awareness about the importance of voting. In addition, Ongole RDO Smt. K. Lakshmi Prasanna and Darshi Tahsildar M. Shraavan Kumar were also honored for their outstanding performance in electoral practices. The awardees were congratulated by Chief Secretary Vijayanand, former State Election Commissioner Dr. Nimmagadda Ramesh Kumar, and Joint Chief Electoral Officer A. Venkateswara Rao. The district administration extended its heartfelt congratulations to the Collector, RDO, and Tehsildar for their achievements in enhancing electoral transparency and participation.

15th National Voters Day Celebrated at Tadepalligudem Tahsildar's Office

MLA Bolishetty Srinivas Attended As Chief Guest

TPN Correspondent |
Tadepalligudem, Jan 26

The 15th National Voters Day program was held at the Tahsildar's office in Tadepalligudem Mandal, West Godavari District. The event was graced by Government Whip and Janasena MLA Bolishetty Srinivas, who participated as the chief guest. In his address, MLA Bolishetty Srinivas emphasized the critical role of citizens in maintaining democracy. He pointed out that democracy thrives through active participation, especially through voting. He also touched on the government's swift actions, claiming that farmers

received financial support within 48 hours after the NDA coalition government's election. Referring to the importance of voting, he urged citizens not to take their right to vote lightly and insisted that government subsidies should be canceled for those who fail to exercise their voting rights. The MLA reiterated the ongoing importance of Ambedkar's reservations, underscoring that they are still relevant on Saturday and should continue to be protected and implemented. He concluded by advocating for stronger steps to ensure that every eligible voter participates in the electoral process.



Kerala Devotee's Family Receives Rs. 27 Lakh Compensation



TPN | K. Kanaiah
Tirumala, Jan 26

The family of V. Nirmala from Palakkad, Kerala, who tragically lost her life in a stampede during the issuance of Saradarshan tokens on Vaikuntha Ekadashi (January 8) in Tirupati, has been granted Rs. 27 lakh in compensation. The Tirumala Tirupati Devasthanams (TTD) board members presented the compensation on Saturday as follows:

- Rs. 25 lakh contributed by the TTD Governing Council.
- An additional Rs. 2 lakh from TTD board member Smt. Vemireddy Prashanthi Reddy's personal funds.

TTD board members Mr. Naresh Kumar, Mr. Rammurthy, and Mr. Shantaram handed over the cheque to the deceased's daughter, Kaushiga, while also visiting the family to express their condolences. In line with the TTD Governing Council's decision, arrangements are being made to offer a contract job within the TTD to Koushik, a family member of the victim, to support their livelihood.

National Voters Day Celebrated in Grand Style at Kuppam Govt Degree College

TPN | C. Sekhar |
Kuppam, Jan 26

The Kuppam Government Degree College marked National Voters Day with grandeur on Saturday. The event aimed to raise awareness about the importance of voting among the youth. College Principal Narayana Murthy, addressing the gathering, emphasized that most degree students were on the verge of turning 18, making them eligible voters. He highlighted that voting is the cornerstone of democracy

and urged the students to actively exercise their right to vote for building a better society. "The responsibility of shaping the future lies with on Saturday's youth, and using the vote wisely is a powerful weapon to protect your rights," he remarked. As part of the celebrations, a rally was organized from the college to PS Medical College, where students carried placards promoting the significance of voting. Vice Principal LB Pradeep Kumar, Dr. C Rajyalakshmi, Dr. Sudarsha-



nam, C Srinivasulu, Eswarachari, faculty members, non-teaching staff, and students enthusiastically participated, ensuring the success of the program.

Satyavedu SI Ramaswamy Distributes Educational Materials to Students



TPN | C. Sekhar
Satyavedu, Jan 26

A program to support underprivileged students was organized at a

government primary school in the Kotamitta area of Satyavedu mandal, Tirupati district. The initiative was conducted under the auspices

of S. Saravanan, President of the Believe Effective Service Trust. Satyavedu SI Ramaswamy and MEO Ravi attended the event as chief guests. Speaking at the occasion, SI Ramaswamy expressed his gratitude for being part of this noble initiative, encouraging students to focus on their education and aim for higher positions in life. MEO Ravi commended the efforts of Saravanan and emphasized the importance of programs like these in supporting the growth of government schools and benefit-

ing underprivileged students. He also expressed hope that the Believe Effective Service Trust would continue to serve poor students in the future. Other attendees included MEO 2 Usha, school teachers Geetha and Gurunatham, retired teacher Srinivasulu, Treasurer Krishnaveni, and members of the Trust, including Karthik, Sasikala, and Ranjith. Their collective efforts ensured the success of the program and brought smiles to the faces of many young learners.

National Voters' Day Celebrated at Aditya Degree College at Kakinada

TPN | K.S. Sekhar
Kakinada, Jan 26

National Voters' Day was celebrated in grand style at Aditya Degree College, Kakinada, under the joint auspices of the NSS and Kakinada IDA. The event highlighted the importance of voting as a cornerstone of democracy. Academic Director Dr. B.E.V.L. Naidu addressed the gathering, emphasizing that voting is a powerful weapon in a democracy and urging students to actively participate in shaping the nation's future through their votes. The event featured Rangoli, essay writing, and drawing competi-

tions centered on the theme "Our Vote - Our Responsibility," where students showcased their creativity and raised awareness about the significance of voting. Kakinada IDA Secretary Dr. Adala Satyanarayana, the chief guest, encouraged everyone aged 18 and above to exercise their voting rights. He appreciated the college's initiative in organizing such creative competitions to promote voter awareness. Certificates of appreciation and mementos were awarded to the winners. Aditya Vidya Sansthan Chairman Dr. Nallamilli Sessa Reddy and Degree College Secre-



tary Dr. Nallamilli Suguna Reddy congratulated the NSS team for their efforts in organizing the program. The event saw active participation from IDA members, including Dr.

Yerusha, College Vice Principal Satyanarayana, Campus Incharge Tejeswara Rao and I Gowri Priya, faculty, and students, making it a resounding success.



Telangana's Success at Davos Reflects Congress' New Economic Vision

Innovation, inclusion, and strategic planning drive record investments and growth in Telangana

The World Economic Forum 2025 in Davos has brought Telangana unprecedented success, with investments soaring to ₹1,78,950 crore, creating an estimated 49,550 jobs. This marks a significant leap from ₹40,000 crore in 2024 and ₹19,900 crore in 2023, underlining global trust in Telangana's development model and the Congress-led government's policies.

Key sectors drawing investment include IT, pharmaceuticals, green energy, defense, and manufacturing, with Amazon committing ₹60,000 crore for data centers and Sun Petrochemicals allocating ₹45,500 crore for pumped storage projects. Hyderabad remains central to this transformation, strengthening its role as a hub of innovation and human capital. Telangana attracts ₹1,78,950 crore in investments at Davos 2025, a fourfold increase from 2024. Hyderabad's Future City project

emphasizes AI, sustainability, and next-gen industries.

Congress' focus on inclusive growth aligns with global expectations for economic justice.

The Congress government attributes this success to three pillars:

1. Innovation and Inclusion: The state's policies prioritize skill development, new industry growth, and equitable opportunities. Telangana's inclusive governance contrasts sharply with the exclusivist narratives of previous regimes.

2. Harnessing Hyderabad: As Telangana's economic powerhouse, Hyderabad continues to lead in IT, biotechnology, and pharmaceuticals, contributing significantly to the state's GDP growth of 9.2%, outpacing the national average of 8.2%. The upcoming Future City project exemplifies the city's forward-thinking approach, planned as a Net Zero Carbon zone focused on cutting-edge

sectors.

3. Prepare and Plan: Strategic foresight under Chief Minister Revanth Reddy has positioned Telangana as a trendsetter. Initiatives like zoned development around Hyderabad's Ring Roads ensure long-term sustainability and growth.

The Congress' development model, echoing the principles of former Prime Minister Dr. Manmohan Singh, emphasizes fairness, transparency, and inclusivity. Telangana's performance at Davos highlights how stable leadership with a pro-people agenda can deliver broad-based economic growth.

As Telangana paves the way for inclusive and sustainable development, it sets an inspiring example for the nation, reinforcing its role as a beacon of progress under the Congress' transformative vision.

A New Era for India-Indonesia Relations: Strengthening Cultural and Strategic Ties



This year, Prabowo Subianto, the President of Indonesia, is the chief guest at India's Republic Day Parade, marking a significant moment in the long-standing bilateral relationship between India and Indonesia. The ties between these two nations, which span over two millennia, are deeply rooted in cultural exchanges, commercial interactions, and a shared history of collaboration on the global stage.

The India-Indonesia relationship gained momentum during the era of Jawaharlal Nehru and Indonesia's first President, Sukarno. Their personal rapport was instrumental in establishing a strong foundation for diplomatic ties. The two leaders are also credited with founding the Non-Aligned Movement (NAM) during the Bandung Conference in 1955, a historic event that provided a platform for countries seeking independence amid the Cold War. This initiative remains one of the 20th century's most groundbreaking multinational efforts. As a reflection of their close ties, Sukarno was invited as the chief guest for India's first Republic Day celebrations in 1950.

However, the relationship between the two nations has not always been smooth. There have been periods of tension, such as the violent attack on the Indian embassy in Jakarta and Indo-

nesia's support for Pakistan during the 1965 India-Pakistan war. Despite these challenges, the ties between India and Indonesia have evolved, and the focus has shifted to a new era of cooperation.

The cultural connections between the two countries have remained steadfast over the centuries. The spread of Hinduism and Buddhism from India to Indonesia left a lasting imprint on Indonesian culture, which is evident in the widespread influence of Indian epics such as the Ramayana and Mahabharata in Indonesian art, folklore, and traditions. These shared cultural values have been reinforced through joint initiatives like the naval exercises between India and Indonesia, aptly named "Samudra" and "Garuda," symbolizing the strength and unity of both nations.

Prabowo Subianto's Republic Day visit is expected to deepen the strategic partnership between New Delhi and Jakarta, fostering stronger ties in areas such as defense, trade, and regional security. This visit marks a turning point, as India and Indonesia look to build on their historical connections and usher in a new chapter of collaboration for the future. The strengthening of the bilateral relationship will not only benefit both nations but will also have a broader impact on the stability and growth of the Indo-Pacific region.

The Illusion of 'Civilisational Justice' A Reflection on History, Morality, and Politics

Examining the controversial quest for "civilisational justice" in India's socio-political landscape.

The term "civilisational justice," recently championed by Organiser editor Prafulla Ketkar, has ignited debates about its implications for India's historical, cultural, and political discourse. It suggests a grievance masked as a right, advocating for the correction of perceived historical wrongs, often through acts of retribution. However, this concept raises more questions than it answers about morality, governance, and the role of religion in society. Ketkar's editorial linking the Shri Harihar Mandir-Jama Masjid dispute in Sambhal to a broader quest for "civilisational justice" calls for an inclusive debate on the interpretation of India's itihasa (history). Yet, this approach seems to endorse an agenda of division, where state-endorsed excavations of contested religious sites are used to perpetuate communal strife. Such actions distract from pressing socio-economic challenges, exploiting historical narratives for political gain.

"Civilisational justice" is being framed as a moral imperative to reclaim India's past, but its implications undermine societal harmony. Historical complexities reveal a shared heritage, challenging the exclusivity of such narratives. Justice, as defined in India's Constitution, focuses on socio-political equality, not historical retribution.

The Politics of Historical Retribution

The quest for civilisational justice often prioritises religious and communal identity over constitutional ideals. Ravi Joshi, in his critique, argues that

this approach misrepresents the essence of Hindu dharma, which embodies a morally self-sustaining universe rather than a religion of conquest or vengeance. Destroying mosques to build temples contradicts this ethos, turning faith into a tool for political manipulation. Furthermore, the selective reclamation of historical wrongs raises questions about whose version of history is valid. India's shared heritage spans Hindu, Buddhist, Jain, Islamic, and British influences. Can justice truly be served by erasing one community's contributions to elevate another's?

Morality, Justice, and Governance

Atal Bihari Vajpayee's assertion that rajdharma (the duty of governance) supersedes all other duties serves as a reminder of a ruler's moral obligation to protect all citizens, irrespective of faith or caste. The pursuit of "civilisational justice" as a political tool undermines this principle, fostering division instead of unity.

Conclusion

India's historical and cultural narrative is one of coexistence and pluralism. Any effort to claim exclusivity over this heritage distorts its essence and weakens the moral foundation of governance. True justice lies in upholding the constitutional promise of equality and fostering a shared sense of belonging, rather than exploiting history for political expediency.

Curbing Cacophony HC Takes Tough Stand on Loudspeakers Use

The Bombay High Court has made a significant ruling stating that the use of loudspeakers is not an essential part of any religion. This decision is a welcome relief to millions of Indians who endure the daily disruption caused by loud, intrusive sounds. With noise pollution being flagged as a serious health hazard, the court has directed law enforcement agencies to take swift action against those using loudspeakers that exceed legal decibel limits. Though the ruling pertains specifically to Maharashtra, noise pollution is a widespread issue across India, affecting citizens in every state.

Loudspeakers and public address systems are commonly used in places of worship, often without the required permission from local authorities. This unauthorized use can occur without any regard for the well-being of the surrounding residents. Fear of offending religious sentiments often paralyzes police officers, who are hesitant to take action on complaints from the public. Many citizens, too, avoid lodging complaints for fear of being targeted or ostracized in their communities. The lack of effective enforcement has made noise pollution a persistent issue that hampers the quality of life for millions of people.

The Noise Pollution (Regulation and Control) Rules, established 25 years ago, were designed to regulate and maintain acceptable noise levels in public spaces. However, enforcement has often been lax, leaving citizens to endure noise levels that exceed the permissible limits. In many cases, offenders justify their actions by citing constitutional rights such as freedom of speech (Article 19) and freedom of religion (Article 25). However, the Bombay High Court has clarified that denying permission



to install loudspeakers does not violate these rights if it serves the public interest.

In recent years, public address systems have become tools for religious expression and even competition. They have been linked to incidents of communal unrest, as seen during the Ram Navami and Hanuman Jayanti processions in 2022, where loudspeakers played a role in escalating tensions in various states. In response, the Uttar Pradesh government took a hardline approach, cracking down on unauthorized loudspeakers in religious spaces. Such measures should be implemented nationwide to protect public health and ensure peace.

Ultimately, the use of loudspeakers should be measured, respectful, and within the boundaries of law. Priests and devotees should recognize that spirituality does not need to be amplified at the expense of others' peace and well-being. It is crucial that actions are taken to ensure that public spaces remain conducive to everyone's health, sleep, and overall quality of life.



Punjab Ranks Last in Fiscal Health Index 2025, SAD Demands CM Mann's Resignation

Shiromani Akali Dal demands probe into alleged misuse of public funds.

TPN Correspondent | Chandigarh

Punjab's performance in the National Fiscal Health Index 2025, where it ranked last among 18 major states, has drawn sharp criticism from the Shiromani Akali Dal (SAD). Senior leaders Bikram Singh Majithia and Dr. Daljit Singh Cheema have slammed Chief Minister Bhagwant Mann's administration, accusing it of failing comprehensively on all five fiscal health parameters outlined by Niti Aayog.

The index evaluated states on quality of expenditure, revenue mobilisation, fiscal prudence, debt indices, and debt sustainability. Punjab's poor showing has been attributed to alleged mismanagement by the Aam Aadmi Party (AAP) government.

- Punjab allocated just 10% of its development expenditure on capital projects.
- SAD accuses the AAP government of diverting public funds for party use.
- Demands include resignations



of CM Bhagwant Mann and Finance Minister Harpal Cheema. The SAD leaders expressed shock at Punjab's fiscal performance, highlighting that the state allocated only 10% of its development expenditure to capital investments. This, they claim, indicates a diversion of public funds for political purposes. "The AAP government has failed to demonstrate fiscal prudence and has jeopardized the state's financial health," Majithia said, calling for a high-level probe into the

alleged misappropriation. The opposition also demanded the immediate resignation of Chief Minister Mann and Finance Minister Harpal Cheema, holding them accountable for Punjab's financial distress.

The report has sparked a political debate, with critics questioning the AAP's governance and its impact on the state's fiscal stability. Meanwhile, the Mann administration has yet to issue a detailed response to the allegations.

First Sikh CJ I Khehar, Cricketer Ashwin Among Padma Awardees for 2025

139 distinguished individuals receive Padma Awards, including 23 women and 13 posthumous recipients.



TPN Correspondent | Delhi

The Government of India announced the prestigious Padma Awards on the eve of the 76th Republic Day, honoring 139 eminent personalities for their contributions across various disciplines. The awards include seven Padma Vibhushan, 19 Padma Bhushan, and 113 Padma Shri decorations.

Justice (Retd) J.S. Khehar, the first Sikh Chief Justice of India, received the Padma Vibhushan for his exceptional service to the judiciary. Suzuki's former CEO, the late Osamu Suzuki, folk singer Sharda Sinha (posthumously), and celebrated author M.T. Vasudevan Nair were also among the recipients of the Padma Vibhushan.

Former cricketer R. Ashwin and hockey goalkeeper P.R. Sreejesh were honored with the Padma Shri for their sports achievements. Telugu superstar Nandamuri Balakrishna earned a Padma Bhushan for his contributions to cinema. Former SBI Chairperson Arundhati Bhattacharya received the Padma Shri for her leadership in fi-

nance.

Among the 19 Padma Bhushan recipients are economist Bibek Debroy, ghazal singer Pankaj Udhas, filmmaker Shekhar Kapur, and former Bihar Deputy Chief Minister Sushil Modi. Posthumous awards were conferred upon leaders like Manohar Joshi, former Maharashtra Chief Minister and ex-Lok Sabha Speaker. The Ministry of Home Affairs highlighted that 23 of the awardees are women, while 10 recipients hail from the NRI, PIO, or OCI categories. The awards span diverse fields such as art, social work, public affairs, trade and industry, medicine, literature, sports, and civil service.

The Padma Awards, one of India's highest civilian honors, celebrate individuals whose contributions significantly impact society. Padma Vibhushan recognizes exceptional service, Padma Bhushan is for distinguished service of high order, and Padma Shri is awarded for excellence in any field.

Decades of Aspiration Fulfilled: Vande Bharat Train Reaches Srinagar in Trial Run

A new era of connectivity for Jammu and Kashmir, with advanced features tailored for the region's winters.

TPN Correspondent | Srinagar

A historic milestone was achieved on Saturday as the Vande Bharat Express train made its inaugural trial run to Srinagar, bridging Kashmir to the rest of India in just over three decades since the project's inception. Starting its journey from Katra station at 8 am, the state-of-the-art train reached Nowgam station in Srinagar in just three and a half hours. The trial continued with a brief halt at Nowgam before proceeding to Budgam station, marking the successful completion of the Jammu-Srinagar route trial.

Designed to cater to Jammu and Kashmir's unique needs, the train is equipped with advanced heating systems to ensure seamless operations in sub-zero temperatures during harsh winters.

A three-decade-long vision of better connectivity to Kashmir finally ma-

terializes with the advanced Vande Bharat Express. The Jammu-Srinagar route promises reduced travel times, enhancing accessibility and regional integration. Special features like winter-ready heating systems highlight the train's adaptation to the region's extreme conditions. This development is poised to significantly enhance the socio-economic fabric of Jammu and Kashmir, offering faster, more reliable connectivity while symbolizing progress and unity in the region.



Anurag Thakur Slams Kejriwal Over AAP's "Dishonest" Poster; Congress Joins Criticism

Delhi CM faces backlash from BJP and Congress for labeling opposition leaders as "dishonest".

TPN Correspondent | Delhi

Bharatiya Janata Party (BJP) leader Anurag Thakur took aim at Delhi Chief Minister Arvind Kejriwal on Saturday after the Aam Aadmi Party (AAP) released a controversial poster branding several opposition leaders as "dishonest." The poster, shared on AAP's social media platforms, prominently featured Kejriwal alongside BJP leaders, including Prime Minister Narendra Modi and Union Home Minister Amit Shah, and Congress figures like Rahul Gandhi, with a caption claiming, "Kejriwal's honesty will prevail over all the dishonest people."

Thakur, whose image was also included, questioned Kejriwal's self-proclaimed integrity and accused him of excluding his party colleagues.

Thakur called out Kejriwal for excluding Atishi's face, alleging gender bias.



The BJP leader accused AAP of corruption, including the alleged Delhi liquor scam.

Congress criticized AAP for "insulting" figures like Manmohan Singh and Sheila Dikshit.

"Why is Delhi Minister Atishi missing from the poster? Kejriwal only sees himself as 'Delhi ka Shehensha'," Thakur remarked, accusing the Delhi CM of ignoring women in his party.

He further linked Kejriwal to the Delhi liquor scam, claiming, "People of Delhi will not elect someone who thinks about governing from behind bars."

Meanwhile, Congress leader Alka Lamba condemned AAP's labeling of Congress leaders Rahul Gandhi, Sandeep Dikshit, and Ajay Maken as "dishonest." She pointed out that Kejriwal had previously praised former Prime Minister Manmohan Singh's honesty, saying, "He should apologize to Dr. Singh's wife." Lamba also called Kejriwal out for earlier seeking Congress's support during elections, branding the alliance a mistake.

As Delhi heads to the polls on February 5, political tensions continue to escalate, with the poster controversy becoming a central topic of discourse. Votes will be counted on February 8.

Allocate funds for Bengaluru in Union Budget: DK Shivakumar to Sitharaman

DK Shivakumar seeks Centre's support for tunnel roads, double-decker flyovers, and more.

TPN Correspondent | Karnataka

With just a week left before the Union Budget 2025, Karnataka Deputy Chief Minister DK Shivakumar has written to Finance Minister Nirmala Sitharaman, urging financial allocation for Bengaluru's ambitious infrastructure projects. These projects include tunnel roads, double-decker flyovers, a peripheral ring road, and expanded water supply systems, aimed at addressing the city's rapid urban growth.

Shivakumar emphasized Bengaluru's growing status as a global tech hub, highlighting its contribution to job creation and economic progress. However, the city's burgeoning population, now nearing 1.5 crore, has placed immense pressure on its infrastructure. "Developing Bengaluru's infrastructure is vital to maintaining its reputation as India's Silicon Valley," he stated, appealing for the Centre's financial assistance in the upcoming budget.

Tunnel roads from Hebbal to Silk Board Junction proposed at Rs 15,000 crore.

Double-decker metro flyovers in Phase 4 estimated at Rs 8,916 crore.

Peripheral Ring Road and water projects to cost over Rs 27,000 crore.

Among the most critical projects is the 18.5 km north-south tunnel road from Esteem Mall to Silk Board Junction, aimed at decongesting the city's notoriously clogged roads. This Rs 15,000 crore project is part of a broader tunnel road network, including a 28.5 km corridor from KR Puram to Nayandahalli Junction, costing Rs 25,000 crore.



The government also plans to extend the successful double-decker metro flyovers from Phase 2 to Phase 4, with a 45 km route connecting JP Nagar to Hebbal and Hosahalli to Kadabagere, projected at Rs 8,916 crore.

To further tackle traffic woes, 17 new flyovers spanning 99.5 km are planned across 11 major junctions, alongside a 300 km buffer zone road to address encroachments near water bodies.

Additionally, the Bangalore Development Authority is spearheading the eight-lane, 73 km Peripheral Ring Road project at Rs 27,000 crore, while the Cauvery Stage VI project aims to secure 500 MLD of additional water by 2028.

The Karnataka government has invited public discussions on several of these projects, reflecting its commitment to inclusive planning. Shivakumar expressed hope that the Union Budget will provide the necessary support to realize these transformative initiatives, ensuring Bengaluru's continued growth as a global city.

Karnataka Court Accepts Closure Report in Bribery Case Against CM Siddaramaiah

Lokayukta police find no evidence of quid pro quo in Rs 1.3 crore bribery allegations.



TPN Correspondent | Bengaluru

A special court in Karnataka designated to handle criminal cases against elected representatives has accepted the closure report submitted by the Karnataka Lokayukta police in a bribery case involving Chief Minister Siddaramaiah.

The allegations, made by a BJP leader, accused Siddaramaiah of receiving Rs 1.3 crore during his earlier tenure as Chief Minister in exchange for appointing a steward at the Bengaluru Turf Club (BTC).

On January 18, the court ruled in favor of the

Lokayukta's findings, stating, "The closure report filed by the Deputy Superintendent of Police, Karnataka Lokayukta, Bengaluru, dated 12.9.2024, is hereby accepted." While acknowledging that records showed Siddaramaiah received Rs 1.3 crore from the accused L. Vivekananda, the court noted that this transaction could not be definitively linked to a quid pro quo arrangement related to the steward's nomination at BTC.

The case centered on alleged bribery involving a high-profile appointment at Bengaluru Turf Club. No conclusive evidence of quid pro quo was found in the Lokayukta's investigation. The court had previously directed the Lokayukta to reopen and further probe the matter. The case initially gained traction after the special court ordered the Lokayukta police to reopen the investigation. However, the subsequent inquiry did not substantiate the claims of corruption, leading to the filing and eventual acceptance of the closure report.

This decision serves as a significant relief for Chief Minister Siddaramaiah, who faced the allegations during a politically sensitive time. The ruling also highlights the complexities involved in proving bribery cases, particularly those involving high-ranking officials.

India, Indonesia To Enhance Ties In Defence, Maritime Security: PM Modi

PM Modi and President Prabowo discuss collaboration in trade, defence, and digital innovation.

TPN Correspondent | Delhi
Prime Minister Narendra Modi and Indonesian President Prabowo Subianto held pivotal bilateral discussions on Saturday at Hyderabad House, New Delhi, reinforcing a shared commitment to regional peace, economic growth, and cultural exchange. The meeting resulted in the signing of multiple Memorandums of Understanding (MoUs) covering diverse sectors, including health, digital infrastructure, and defence.

India and Indonesia to celebrate 2025 as the India-ASEAN Year of Tourism, enhancing cultural and tourism exchanges.

Bilateral trade between the two nations surpassed \$30 billion, showcasing robust economic ties. Collaborations in maritime security, counter-terrorism, and de-radicalisation were key highlights of the agreements. Strategic and Regional Collaboration PM Modi underscored Indonesia's central role in ASEAN and the Indo-Pacific regions, aligning with India's 'Act East' policy. He reiterated the importance of maintaining freedom of navigation and adherence to international laws in the Indo-Pacific, reflecting shared interests in regional stability.



The leaders also pledged collaboration in emerging technologies like Artificial Intelligence, Fintech, and the Internet of Things. Defence cooperation included agreements on maritime safety, counter-terrorism, and capacity building, aiming to enhance security across shared waters.

Ramayana, Mahabharata, and Bali Jatra. He also emphasised India's contributions to preserving Indonesia's Prambanan Hindu Temple, symbolising enduring cultural cooperation.

President Prabowo echoed these sentiments, noting the historical connection between the two nations. He expressed gratitude for India's support during Indonesia's independence struggle and lauded India's assistance in trade, tourism, and technology.

Looking Ahead
The leaders agreed to celebrate 2025 as the India-ASEAN Year

of Tourism, promoting cultural exchanges and bolstering tourism. They also acknowledged Indonesia's participation in BRICS as an avenue for advancing Global South interests. President Prabowo expressed honour at being the Chief Guest for India's Republic Day celebrations, marking a symbolic continuation of the ties forged when Indonesia's President Sukarno attended the first Republic Day parade in 1950. The bilateral discussions underscored the shared vision of a prosperous Indo-Pacific, reflecting the depth of India-Indonesia ties and setting the stage for an enduring strategic partnership.

Pakistan Reports First Monkeypox Case of 2025 Amid Rising Concerns

A patient returning from Dubai tests positive for mpox, taking Pakistan's total cases to 10

TPN Correspondent | Pakistan
Pakistan has confirmed its first case of Monkeypox (mpox) for 2025, detected in a patient who returned from Dubai on January 24. The individual was identified during screening at Peshawar airport and has been transferred to Services Hospital Peshawar for treatment, as reported by ARY News.

This case brings Pakistan's total confirmed mpox cases to 10 since the health emergency was declared. The Ministry of Health has assured citizens that stringent measures are being implemented to curb the virus's spread, especially considering the patient's travel history linked to Gulf nations, raising concerns about regional transmission.

Patient screened at Peshawar airport after returning from Dubai; isolated for treatment. Mpox symptoms include fever, rash progressing through vesicles and pustules, and exhaustion. Health authorities intensify screening and preventive measures to control the spread. Earlier, a passenger traveling from Sharjah exhibited symptoms of mpox during medical checks at another airport. Identified as Javed Ahmed, the individual was taken

to an isolation ward in Rajanpur as a precautionary measure. Health officials have termed the situation alarming and are reinforcing safety protocols.

Understanding Monkeypox

Mpox, caused by the Mpox virus, typically begins with a rash appearing 1 to 3 days after fever onset. The rash progresses through stages including vesicles, pustules, and scabs, often starting on the face before spreading across the body. Other symptoms include swollen lymph nodes, exhaustion, and headaches.

The virus has an incubation period ranging from 5 to 21 days and usually lasts between 2 to 4 weeks. While the natural reservoir of the virus remains unidentified, African rodents and non-human primates are suspected carriers.

As Pakistan grapples with this new case, health authorities continue to monitor incoming travelers and enforce isolation protocols to prevent a larger outbreak. The incident highlights the importance of international cooperation and local vigilance in addressing the resurgence of viral diseases.

4 Israeli Women Hostages Freed by Hamas in Second Ceasefire Swap

Fragile truce facilitated by Qatar, Egypt, and the US shows potential for ending the war in Gaza.



TPN Correspondent | Israel

Four female Israeli soldiers were released by Hamas today under the terms of a fragile ceasefire agreement between Israel and Gaza. The hostages—Naama Levy (20), Daniella Gilboa (20), Liri Albag (19), and Karina Ariev (20)—were handed over to the Red Cross in military uniforms and escorted out of Gaza.

Captured on October 7, 2023, the women were taken from the Nahal Oz military base, just one kilometre from the Gaza border. Their releases mark the second exchange in a ceasefire deal mediated by Qatar, Egypt, and the

United States.

Hamas released the soldiers in exchange for 200 Palestinian prisoners. Naama Levy and Daniella Gilboa appeared injured during their initial capture. Ceasefire negotiations facilitated by Qatar, Egypt, and the US led to this exchange. The agreement stipulates that 33 hostages believed to be alive will be returned over a 42-day truce in exchange for 1,900 Palestinian prisoners held in Israeli jails.

The deal has raised hopes for a more permanent resolution, though challenges remain. Displaced Gazans returning home

find themselves amidst devastating rubble. "Even if we thought about returning, there is no place for us to put our tents because of the destruction," shared Theqra Qasem, a displaced woman.

US President Donald Trump claimed full credit for the ceasefire via his Truth Social platform, calling it an "EPIC ceasefire agreement" following his election victory.

The next phases of the agreement will focus on reconstruction in Gaza and recovering the bodies of deceased hostages, as both sides work towards a permanent resolution.

Polio Returns To Pakistan, Afghanistan As Vaccinations Stall

The resurgence of poliovirus in conflict-hit regions underscores the urgent need

TPN Correspondent | Pakistan
The global fight against polio has faced a severe setback as cases rise sharply in Pakistan and Afghanistan. Once close to eradication, the disease is making a troubling comeback. In 2023, Pakistan recorded only six cases of wild poliovirus, but the number surged to 73 in 2024, highlighting a dramatic reversal in progress.

Pakistan's polio cases surged from six in 2023 to 73 in 2024, alarming global health experts. In Afghanistan, ongoing conflict and restrictions on female health workers hamper immunisation efforts. Regional collaboration and revised immunisation strategies are key to tackling the crisis. The resurgence of polio is closely tied to regional dynamics, with Afghanistan's conflict and governance issues



significantly influencing the spread of the virus. Zulfikar Bhutta, an expert in child immunisation strategies, confirms that genetic strains in Pakistan trace back to Afghanistan.

He attributes the spread to poor sanitary conditions, restricted healthcare access under Taliban rule, and inadequate immunisation coverage. Afghanistan's deteriorating health

infrastructure has also contributed to the rise of other infectious diseases, such as pneumonia, dengue, and measles, further complicating efforts to combat polio. Bhutta's observations underline the importance of addressing broader health challenges in conjunction with targeted polio eradication programs.

Challenges in Eradication Efforts

Pakistan has invested heavily in its immunisation efforts, spending \$10 billion since 2011. Yet, disparities in vaccination coverage persist, with rates as high as 85% in Punjab but as low as 30% in Balochistan. Bhutta emphasizes that achieving uniform coverage of at least 85-90% across provinces is essential for eradication. He calls for strengthening routine immunisation programs to tackle multiple infectious diseases, not just polio.

Collaboration for a Solution

Despite the challenges, Bhutta offers a pathway forward: fostering collaboration with the Taliban. Drawing from his experience of working with the group to deliver smallpox vaccines during negotiated peace periods, Bhutta stresses that the Taliban share common health concerns. He advocates for leveraging such shared priorities to facilitate healthcare delivery in conflict zones.

The resurgence of polio in Pakistan and Afghanistan is a stark reminder of the fragile gains in public health. A comprehensive strategy that combines international support, regional cooperation, and strengthened healthcare systems is vital to overcoming this crisis and eradicating poliovirus for good.

Money is Made When the Market is Rising, Wealth is Made When the Market is Falling



The financial markets are a reflection of human psychology, oscillating between optimism and fear, greed and caution. Every investor has heard the saying, "Buy low, sell high," but executing it effectively requires a nuanced understanding of market cycles. The statement, "Money is made when the market is rising, wealth is made when the market is falling," captures this dynamic beautifully. It emphasizes that while rising markets create opportunities for short-term gains, falling markets lay the groundwork for long-term wealth creation.

Riding the Bull: How Money is Made in Rising Markets

A rising market, often called a bull market, is characterized by growing investor confidence, economic expansion, and a positive outlook on corporate earnings. Stock prices climb steadily, and the market is often fueled by favorable news, low interest rates, or technological advancements. In these conditions, making money becomes relatively straightforward:

1. Momentum Investing: Investors capitalize on trends, buying stocks that are already performing well and selling them as prices climb higher.

2. Speculation: Many traders engage in speculative investments, betting on volatile stocks, IPOs, or cryptocurrencies to deliver exponential gains in the short term.

3. Leverage and Risk Appetite: During bull markets, even average investors are willing to take on more risk, leveraging their portfolios to amplify returns.

However, the gains made during a bull market often rely on timing and momentum. It's easier to generate profits, but the high valuations in such periods make it challenging to ensure sustainable growth. Many investors, lured by quick wins, often overpay for assets or chase speculative opportunities, leaving themselves exposed when the market eventually turns.

The Bear's Den: Building Wealth in Falling Markets

Bear markets, marked by declining prices and pervasive pessimism, are often viewed as times of doom and gloom. Yet, they are precisely when the seeds of wealth are sown. The reason is simple: during market downturns, assets are sold at discounts, and opportunities abound for those with a steady hand and a long-term

view.
Why Falling Markets Create Wealth:

1. Valuation Opportunities: High-quality companies with strong fundamentals often see their stock prices drop alongside the rest of the market, regardless of their intrinsic value. This creates an opportunity for investors to buy great businesses at bargain prices.

2. Dividend Reinvestment: For investors holding dividend-paying stocks, bear markets allow for reinvesting dividends at lower prices, leading to higher share accumulation. This enhances compounding over time.

3. Behavioral Edge: Bear markets test an investor's discipline. Those who stay invested, or better yet, invest more, reap the rewards when the market recovers.

Take the example of the 2008 financial crisis. Investors who bought into the market during the downturn – whether it was blue-chip stocks, index funds, or even real estate – saw remarkable growth over the next decade as the market recovered and expanded.

The Psychological Divide: Fear vs. Opportunity

The biggest barrier to building wealth in falling markets is fear. It's human nature to avoid risks when uncertainty looms, and this leads many investors to sell their assets in a panic. Conversely, those who understand market cycles see bear markets as a rare chance to acquire assets at a discount.

Warren Buffett's famous advice, "Be fearful when others are greedy, and greedy when others are fearful," speaks to this principle. Acting against the crowd during a bear mar-

ket requires a deep understanding of market fundamentals, a clear long-term strategy, and the emotional strength to withstand short-term losses.

Key Strategies for Wealth Building During Bear Markets



MURTHY NAIDU PAADAM
Stock Market Analyst
+91 988 555 9709

1. Focus on Fundamentals: Look beyond short-term price movements and focus on the intrinsic value of an asset. Companies with strong balance sheets, high cash reserves, and a competitive edge are likely to bounce back stronger after a downturn.

2. Diversification: Bear markets often reveal the weaknesses of over-concentration. A diversified portfolio across sectors, geographies, and asset classes can mitigate risks while providing exposure to opportunities.

3. Invest Regularly: Adopting a dollar-cost averaging strategy – investing a fixed amount regularly regardless of market conditions – ensures that you accumulate more shares when prices are low.

4. Build Liquidity: Having cash on hand during a market downturn is invaluable. It allows you to seize opportunities without being forced to sell existing assets.

5. Patience and Perspective: Bear markets don't last forever. Maintaining a long-term perspective helps you focus on the recovery ahead rather than the current downturn.

Bridging the Cycles: From Bull to Bear and Back

Investors who excel at building wealth are those who understand the interconnectedness of market cycles. Bull markets create money, but they often sow the seeds of overvaluation and complacency. Bear markets, while painful in the short term, reset valuations and create the conditions for

outsized returns.

Consider legendary investors like Peter Lynch, who famously remarked that "The key to making money in stocks is not to get scared out of them." Their success lies in their ability to navigate both bull and bear markets with a clear strategy and unshakable confidence in their long-term plans.

Lessons from History

History has shown us that every market correction or crash is eventually followed by recovery and growth. From the Great Depression in the 1930s to the dot-com bubble burst in the early 2000s, and even the COVID-19 crash in 2020, investors who stayed the course and invested during the downturns emerged significantly wealthier over time. For example, someone who invested in the S&P 500 during the 2008 crisis would have seen their portfolio grow manifold by 2021. Similarly, buying into real estate or undervalued businesses during economic slumps has historically yielded substantial wealth.

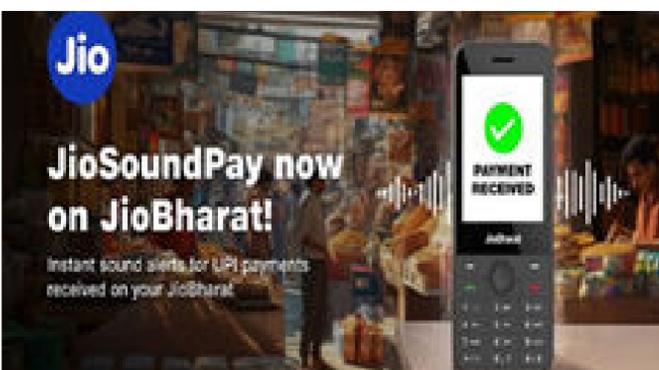
Conclusion

The phrase "Money is made when the market is rising, wealth is made when the market is falling" encapsulates a timeless truth of investing. Rising markets create an environment for quick gains, but true wealth is built through strategic decisions during downturns.

It's in the storms of the financial world that the seeds of fortune are planted. For those with the courage to invest in uncertainty, the patience to wait for recovery, and the discipline to stick to a strategy, bear markets transform fear into opportunity and opportunity into lasting wealth.

So, the next time the markets turn red, remember: it's not the end of the road; it's the beginning of a journey toward enduring prosperity.

Jio Introduces JioSoundPay for Small Merchants, Empowering India's Digital Economy



In a groundbreaking initiative that highlights Jio's commitment to empowering every Indian, the company has launched the JioSoundPay feature for its JioBharat device. This industry-first innovation will benefit 5 crore small-scale merchants across the nation, including kirana stores, vegetable vendors, and roadside eateries, making it easier for them to handle UPI payments. JioSoundPay revolutionizes the merchant experience by offering instant, multilingual audio confirmations for each transaction. The new feature enables small businesses to efficiently manage payments, overcoming language barriers and improving customer satisfaction. Traditionally, small and micro merchants paid around Rs 125 per month for a sound box. With JioSoundPay, JioBharat users can now save up to Rs 1,500 annually, as the feature will be provided completely free.

The JioBharat phone, which was launched over a year ago, continues to set the standard for affordability. Priced at just Rs 699, it is the world's most affordable 4G phone. Merchants who purchase the phone can recover its cost in just six months, making it an at-

tractive investment for business owners.

This move is aligned with Jio's focus on driving India's digital transformation, enabling entrepreneurs in even the remotest parts of the country to access technology that enhances their business operations. The introduction of JioSoundPay underscores Jio's dedication to a Digital India, ensuring that technology is accessible to everyone, including small-scale entrepreneurs. To mark the 75th year of India's Republic, Jio is also offering contemporary renditions of Vande Mataram on JioSoundPay, a tribute to India's rich musical heritage. These modern renditions can be set as JioTones via the MyJio app or JioSaavn.

Sunil Dutt, President of Jio, emphasized the company's mission, stating, "With JioSoundPay, we celebrate the spirit of India, empowering every Indian and furthering our commitment to a Digital India."

Reliance Jio Infocomm Limited, a subsidiary of Jio Platforms Limited, continues to drive innovation and digital accessibility across India.

IDFC FIRST Bank Reports Strong Q3 FY25 Results with Significant Growth in Key Areas

IDFC FIRST Bank has delivered a robust performance for Q3 FY25, posting a Profit After Tax (PAT) of Rs. 339 crore, despite challenges in the microfinance sector. The bank achieved a 15% YoY increase in core operating profit, driven by impressive growth in customer deposits and loans.

Key Financial Highlights:

Customer deposits surged by 28.8% YoY, reaching Rs. 2,27,316 crore as of December 31, 2024.

Retail deposits grew by 29.6% YoY to Rs. 1,80,752 crore, while CASA deposits increased by 32.3% YoY, standing at Rs. 1,13,078 crore.

CASA ratio remained strong at 47.7%. The cost of funds for the bank was 6.49% in Q3 FY25, with a stable deposit cost of 6.38%.

Loans and Advances:

Loans and advances grew by 22% YoY, reaching Rs. 2,31,074 crore by December 31, 2024.

The bank's retail loan book grew by

21.3%, while corporate (non-infrastructure) loans saw a 28.9% YoY increase.

The microfinance portfolio saw a slight decrease, contributing 4.8% of the total loan book, down from 5.6% in September 2024.

Asset Quality:

Gross NPA reduced to 1.94% from 2.04% YoY, with a stable net NPA of 0.52%.

Excluding microfinance, GNPA stood at 1.81%, down from 1.88% in Q2 FY25.

The bank's provision coverage ratio (PCR) improved to 73.6% from 66.9% YoY. Profitability and Revenue:

Net Interest Income (NII) grew by 14% YoY to Rs. 4,902 crore, with a stable Net Interest Margin (NIM) of 6.04%.

Fee and other income increased by 20% YoY, reaching Rs. 1,757 crore.

Operating income rose 15% YoY to Rs. 6,682 crore.

Microfinance and Provisions:

The bank continues to monitor its microfinance business closely, with a higher provisioning for Q3 FY25, impact-

ed by slippages in this segment.

Microfinance loans now have increased insurance coverage, with 58% of the portfolio insured by CGFMU.

Capital Position and Merger:

The bank's successful merger with IDFC Ltd in October 2024 strengthened its capital base, with total CRAR at 16.11% and a CET-1 ratio of 13.68%.

CEO's Comments: V Vaidyanathan, MD & CEO, stated, "We are seeing strong growth in both loans and deposits. The microfinance credit issues are transitional, and we are confident they will be resolved in the coming quarters. Our diversified banking model is performing well across all sectors."

About IDFC FIRST Bank: IDFC FIRST Bank, formed through the merger of IDFC Bank and Capital First, focuses on providing ethical, customer-friendly, and tech-driven banking solutions. The bank continues to prioritize financial inclusion and has a strong track record of serving underserved segments across India.

Staffing Firms Call For Cutting GST Rate To 5%

Staffing firms in India are pushing for a reduction in the Goods and Services Tax (GST) on employment services, advocating for a decrease from the current 18% to 5%. The Indian Staffing Federation (ISF) has highlighted the low-profit margins in the sector, emphasizing that a reduction in GST would significantly aid in promoting organized employment and supporting the growth of staffing solutions across the country.

The staffing sector, which plays a crucial role in providing temporary and contract-based labor, has faced challenges due to the high GST rate, which has resulted in increased costs for businesses. By lowering the GST rate, staffing firms argue that they would be able to pass on the benefits to clients, particularly small and medium-sized enterprises (SMEs), which often struggle with

compliance costs. This would encourage businesses to adopt organized staffing solutions and contribute to formalizing the labor market. The request for a reduction in GST comes alongside a plea for the staffing sector to be granted industry status. According to ISF, granting industry status would open doors for better access to financial resources, tax benefits, and other government incentives. It would also enhance the credibility of the sector, encouraging more businesses to adopt staffing solutions.

Staffing firms also argue that reducing GST would help align India with global practices, where the taxation on employment services is generally lower. Countries with favorable tax policies on staffing services have seen the sector thrive, with more businesses opting for flexible and cost-effective labor solu-

tions. Lowering GST in India could create a similar environment, driving the growth of staffing firms and expanding organized employment. In addition, the sector's growth could contribute to reducing the unemployment rate in the country by facilitating the creation of more job opportunities, especially in the informal labor market. The Federation believes that these measures will not only benefit staffing firms but also foster economic growth by improving efficiency and providing businesses with a more diverse talent pool. In conclusion, the staffing sector's call for a reduction in GST and the granting of industry status is aimed at promoting organized employment, enhancing growth, and creating a more conducive environment for businesses to scale their operations efficiently.

Bengaluru Is Closed : Social Media Post Reignites Kannada Language Debate

A recent post on social media has reignited the ongoing debate over the importance of the Kannada language in Bengaluru, Karnataka. The post, shared on X (formerly Twitter), made waves when it suggested that people from northern India and neighboring states who are unwilling to learn Kannada should avoid Bengaluru altogether. The user who shared the post argued that those who don't respect the local language and culture have no place in the city.



However, the post was met with criticism from others who see the call to learn Kannada as exclusionary, especially in a cosmopolitan city like Bengaluru, which is home to people from across the country and the world. Critics argue that the city thrives on its multicultural and diverse population, and imposing a single language requirement could lead to alienation. They point out that English and Hindi are commonly used in business, education, and daily communication, making it unnecessary for people to learn Kannada to function effectively in Bengaluru.

The statement quickly sparked a heated online debate, with supporters of the Kannada language arguing that learning it is a sign of respect for the local culture and identity. They believe that as Bengaluru continues to grow as a major urban hub, it is important for residents and newcomers to embrace the language that binds the local community together. Advocates say that speaking Kannada fosters a sense of belonging and helps maintain the city's unique heritage.

Canadian Photographer Sets Guinness World Record For Deepest Underwater Photoshoot

Canadian photographer Steven Haining has once again made waves in the world of underwater photography by setting a new Guinness World Record (GWR) for the deepest underwater model photo shoot. This time, the shoot took place on the deck of the Hydro Atlantic shipwreck, located off the coast of Boca Raton, Florida, USA, at an impressive depth of 50 meters (163.38 feet).



The Hydro Atlantic shipwreck was chosen for its unique challenges, as it lies beyond the decompression zone, adding an extra layer of complexity to the shoot. Haining, who previously held the record twice, reclaimed his title with this bold and ambitious effort. In 2021, Haining set the first record by shooting at a depth of 21 feet, and in September 2023, he raised the bar by capturing images at 30 meters. However, in December 2023, Canadians Kim Bruneau and Pia Oyarzun surpassed Haining's achievement by conducting their own photoshoot at a depth of 131 feet in the Bahamas, prompting Haining to embark on this daring underwater adventure to reclaim his crown.

The photo shoot was a formidable challenge for both the photographer and the model. Ciara Antowski, the model, went without an oxygen tank, wearing a flowing white gown and black boots, making the photoshoot even more challenging. The crew, including Antowski, underwent intensive training to ensure safety and precision while working at such great depths. This rigorous preparation was essential to ensure the success of the shoot, as underwater photography at this level requires impeccable coordination, timing, and safety protocols.

Brain Ageing Could Be Fault Of Mothers, Study Suggests



A new study has discovered that the X chromosome passed down from the mother may play a role in accelerating brain aging, potentially increasing the risk of conditions like Alzheimer's disease. The X chromosome, which carries a significant amount of genetic material, is unique in that females have two X chromosomes (XX) while males only have one X and one Y (XY). In females, one of the X chromosomes is randomly inactivated in each cell, a process that can impact brain function and aging.

er or lower levels of maternal X chromosomes in their cells, just by chance, and we know very little about the potential consequences of this."

To investigate further, the team conducted an experiment using female lab mice of different ages. Some of the mice had the paternal X chromosome silenced, leaving only the maternal X chromosome active. These mice were compared with others that had both maternal and paternal X chromosomes active.

The results showed that while the younger "Mom-X" mice exhibited cognitive abilities similar to those of their peers, the older mice experienced significant cognitive decline. In particular, the maternal X chromosome appeared to accelerate biological aging in the hippocampus, a region of the brain essential for memory and learning.

"This raises the possibility that women who express more of their mother's X chromosome, just by chance, could face more cognitive impairment as they age, or have an increased risk of developing Alzheimer's," explained Ms. Dubal.

Though women generally live longer than men and exhibit lower rates of dementia, Alzheimer's disease affects them at a significantly higher rate. Intriguingly, some studies have shown that women with Alzheimer's may survive longer than their male counterparts. Researchers have long been puzzled by these gender differences and have turned to the X and Y chromosomes for potential answers.

"Skewing of the X chromosome is common among humans," said Dena Dubal, the senior author of the study. "There are women who naturally have high-

Penguin 'Divorce' Study Reveals Impact on Breeding Success and Conservation

A decade-long study on little penguins on Philip Island has revealed fascinating insights into the complex social lives of these birds. While penguins are often thought to "mate for life," the study found that divorce, or changing partners after a poor breeding season, is not uncommon. In fact, the research found that penguins are more likely to seek new partners when faced with disappointing reproductive outcomes, but this quest for a better mate doesn't always lead to improved success.

The study, which spanned 13 breeding seasons and tracked around a thousand penguin pairs, found that approximately 250 divorces occurred over the course of the research. While this may seem like a strategy for improving breeding success, the data indicated that divorce often resulted in lower reproductive outcomes for the penguins involved.

"In good times, they largely stick with their partners, although there's often a bit of hanky-panky happening on the side," said Richard Reina, co-author of the study. He added that after a poor breeding season, penguins are more inclined to find a new mate to try to improve their reproductive success the following year.



However, the study also highlighted significant drawbacks to this behavior. Divorce often led to lost time spent searching for and courting new mates, which delayed reproduction and sometimes even prevented it entirely. This disruption can also result in penguin parents being forced to forage for food in challenging conditions when food availability is low.

Additionally, new penguin pairs may struggle with the coordination required for tasks like nest-building, egg incubation, and chick-rearing, which established pairs tend to handle more efficiently. In contrast, penguin pairs that remain together over multiple seasons tend to have increased reproductive success.

Meta Begins Testing Ads on Threads as Platform Surpasses 300 Million Active Users

Meta is set to begin testing ads on its social media platform, Threads, with a select group of brands in the U.S. and Japan. This marks a significant step as the app surpasses 300 million monthly active users. Starting on Friday, image ads will appear within the Threads home feed, placed between regular posts for a small percentage of users. The company emphasized that this is an early-stage test, and they will monitor the results closely before expanding it on a broader scale. Businesses will also be able to extend their current Meta ad campaigns to include Threads.

In addition to the image ads, Meta is also testing a new inventory filter for advertisers. Powered by AI, this feature allows businesses to control the sensitivity level of organic content alongside which their ads will be displayed. This move is aimed at en-



sure that ads appear next to content that aligns with the brand's values and image.

The timing of this ad launch, following Meta's recent content moderation updates, has raised some eyebrows in the advertising world. However, with the volatili-

ty surrounding TikTok, many brands are now seeking alternative platforms for ad placements, and Meta sees this as an opportunity to position Threads as a viable contender. Jasmine Enberg, a principal analyst at Emarketer, notes that the changes at TikTok have made advertisers more open to exploring other platforms, making Threads a promising option for Meta.

Threads was launched in July 2023 as a competitor to X (formerly known as Twitter), aiming to capture users from the microblogging platform during its turbulent period under Elon Musk's ownership. Despite its growth, Meta does not expect Threads to contribute significantly to 2025's revenue. Instead, the company is focusing on expanding its AI infrastructure, with a budget of up to \$65 billion for this year. This investment is aimed at strengthening Meta's position against rivals like OpenAI and Google in the rapidly advancing AI sector.

New Zealand Secures Direct Entry to ICC Women's World Cup 2025

New Zealand has secured a direct entry into the ICC Women's World Cup 2025 following Bangladesh's loss to the West Indies in their final ICC Women's Championship match on Friday in Basseterre. Both New Zealand and Bangladesh finished the 10-team tournament with 21 points, but New Zealand's superior number of wins—nine compared to Bangladesh's eight—earned them the coveted spot.

The tournament featured all teams playing eight three-match series—four at home and four away—and New Zealand's performance ensured their direct qualification. Along with the hosts India, the top five teams in the standings—Australia, India, England, South Africa, and Sri Lanka—have secured automatic berths for the upcoming World Cup.



Australia clinched the ICC Women's Championship title with an impressive 39 points, while India closely followed in second place with 37 points. England (32), South Africa (25), and

Sri Lanka (22) also guaranteed their spots for the World Cup, leaving the bottom four teams to battle for the remaining qualification spot through the upcoming World Cup Qualifier.

Bangladesh (21), West Indies (18), Pakistan (17), and Ireland (eight) will join Scotland and Thailand—ranked the highest as of October 31, 2024—at the Qualifier. The details for the Qualifier will be announced soon, with two spots available for the World Cup.

India will host the 2025 Women's ODI World Cup for the fifth time, marking the first global women's tournament held there since 2016 when India hosted the T20 World Cup alongside the men's event. The 2025 edition will be similar to the 2022 tournament, with eight teams competing across 31 matches.

Madison Keys stuns Aryna Sabalenka to win her first Grand Slam title

USA's Madison Keys captured her first Grand Slam title on Saturday with a thrilling 6-3, 2-6, 7-5 victory over world No. 1 Aryna Sabalenka in the final. Keys' win in Melbourne ended Sabalenka's impressive winning streak at the Australian Open, where the Belarusian was aiming for a third consecutive title.



later, Keys finally broke through to claim her maiden Grand Slam title. Her previous best result in a major was reaching the US Open final in 2017, where she was defeated by Sloane Stephens.

This win marked Keys' 46th appearance in the main draw of a Grand Slam, a remarkable achievement in itself. According to Opta, only Flavia Pennetta (49), Goran Ivanisevic (48), and Marion Bartoli (47) have made more main

draw appearances before winning their first Grand Slam singles title in the Open Era.

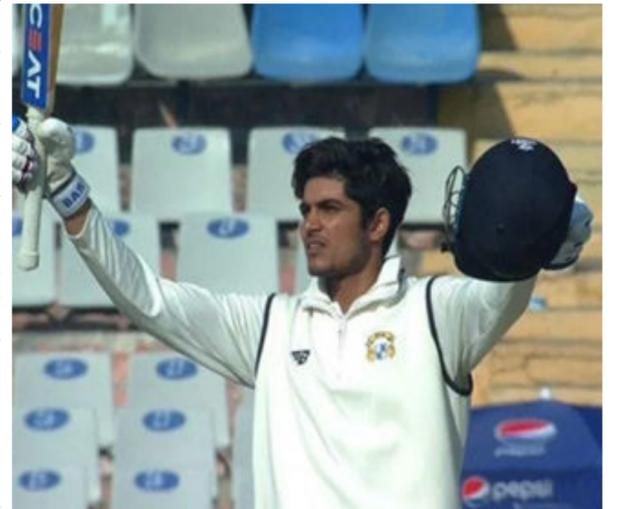
Keys' perseverance paid off in Melbourne, as she joins an exclusive list of players who have broken through to win their first Grand Slam after many attempts. The victory not only marks a major milestone in her career but also puts her among the elite players in tennis history.

It was a bitter-sweet moment for Sabalenka, the two-time defending champion, who had been on a high after an incredible run at the tournament. However, Keys fought back after losing the second set, showing great resilience and composure to win the match in a tense third set.

The victory was particularly emotional for Keys, who had come close in previous years, notably losing to Sabalenka in a hard-fought US Open semifinal in 2023. Just over a year

Shubman Gill's Century in Vain as Punjab Falls to Karnataka in Ranji Trophy

Shubman Gill's stylish century wasn't enough to save Punjab from a heavy defeat against Karnataka in their Ranji Trophy Group C match on Saturday. Despite Gill's determined knock of 102, Punjab succumbed to an innings and 207-run loss, with Karnataka's dominant performance overshadowing his efforts.



Gill, who resumed on 7, made a valiant effort in Punjab's second innings, scoring 102 runs from 171 balls. His innings featured 14 boundaries and three sixes, with the first 50 runs coming off 119 balls and the next 50 off just 40 balls. However, his dismissal as the eighth wicket left Punjab struggling at 213 all out in 63.4 overs, following a massive 420-run deficit from Karnataka's first innings.

Punjab had earlier been bowled out for a meager 55 runs in their first innings, with Gill contributing just four runs. At the end of day two, Punjab was already in deep trouble, sitting at 24 for 2 in their second innings. Despite Gill's efforts, they couldn't recover, and the team was dismissed for a second time, losing by a large margin.

Karnataka's formidable performance was built around Ravichandran Smaran's maiden first-class double century, as he scored an unbeaten 203 in his team's first innings total of 475/7 in

122.1 overs. Karnataka's bowlers, Yashovardhan Parantap and Shreyas Gopal, were key to Punjab's collapse, taking three wickets each in the second innings.

This defeat further highlighted Shubman Gill's recent struggles with form, following a disappointing run in the Border-Gavaskar Trophy against Australia. In five Test innings, the 25-year-old right-hander managed only 93 runs, with a highest score of 31, leading to his drop for the fourth Test before being recalled for the fifth, where he failed to impress with scores of 20 and 13.

Jammu and Kashmir Defeat Mumbai in Historic Ranji Trophy Victory

In a stunning upset, Jammu and Kashmir triumphed over defending champions Mumbai by five wickets in their ongoing Ranji Trophy Group A league match. This victory, coming after a decade-long wait, has almost sealed their spot in the knock-out phase of the tournament. Their last win against Mumbai was in December 2014 at the Wankhede Stadium, making this victory all the more significant.



struggling to stay grounded for long periods, and failed to make an impact on the game.

With 29 points from six matches, Jammu and Kashmir now lead Group A, and a single point in their final match against Baroda would confirm their spot in the knock-out rounds. Baroda, who are currently on 27 points from five games, are facing Maharashtra. If Baroda manages a first-innings lead against Jammu and Kashmir, Mumbai (with 22 points from six games) could be knocked out of the group league phase, even if they win their match against Meghalaya.

This impressive victory further cements Jammu and Kashmir's remarkable run in the tournament, and with only one match left, they are on the brink of a historic Ranji Trophy campaign.

Mumbai's squad boasted a star-studded lineup, including India's Test and ODI captain Rohit Sharma, former captain Ajinkya Rahane, ODI regular and IPL-winning skipper Shreyas Iyer, star opener Yashasvi Jaiswal, seasoned all-rounder Shardul Thakur, and off-spinner Tanush Kotian, who was a part of the Border-Gavaskar squad. Despite this powerhouse team, Mumbai was unable to hold their ground as Jammu and Kashmir outperformed them.

Rohit Sharma's return to the Ranji Trophy after a decade did not go as planned, with the opener managing just 31 runs across two innings. He appeared out of form,

Rohit Sharma Named Captain of ICC Men's T20I Team of the Year 2024

India's cricket captain Rohit Sharma has been named the skipper of the ICC Men's T20I Team of the Year 2024 after a remarkable year both as a leader and a batter. Sharma, who led India to their second ICC T20 World Cup title in June 2024, had an unforgettable run in the tournament and beyond, making significant contributions with the bat. He amassed 378 runs in 11 matches, with an average of 42.00 and a striking rate of over 160. Sharma played a key role in India's T20 World Cup triumph, including a match-winning 92 against Australia in the Super Eight stage. His leadership was instrumental in guiding the team through high-pressure situations, solidifying his legacy as one of India's greatest T20I captains.



The T20I Team of the Year also features other Indian cricket stars, including pacer Jasprit Bumrah, left-arm seamer Arshdeep Singh, and all-rounder Hardik Pandya. Pandya, with 352 runs and 16 wickets in 17 matches, reaffirmed his status as one of the world's finest all-rounders. His standout moment came in the T20 World Cup final against South Africa, where he defended 16 runs in the final over, leading India to victory. Bumrah returned to T20I cricket with a vengeance in 2024, claiming 15 wickets in eight matches at an incredible average of 8.26, with his lethal yorkers proving pivotal in India's success.

Arshdeep Singh emerged as India's most prolific wicket-taker of the year, with 36 wickets in 18 matches at an impressive average of 13.50. His performances, particularly his 4/9 against hosts USA in the T20 World Cup, made him a key figure in India's bowling attack.

The team also includes standout players from other nations: Australia's Travis Head, England's Phil Salt, Pakistan's Babar Azam, West Indies' Nicholas Pooran (wk), Zimbabwe's Sikandar Raza, Afghanistan's Rashid Khan, and Sri Lanka's Wanindu Hasaranga.

India's dominance in the 2024 T20I calendar is evident with the inclusion of so many players from the squad, making the year a standout for the Men in Blue.



Rajamouli Locked The Lion: SSMB29 New Adventure Begins with Mahesh Babu

Tollywood's highly anticipated project, SSMB29, is officially underway as director S.S. Rajamouli has shared an exciting update about the film. Fans of superstar Mahesh Babu and Rajamouli, who previously collaborated on the mega-hit Baahubali, have been eagerly awaiting news about this new venture, and the latest announcement has generated immense buzz in the industry.



In a recent video post, Rajamouli confirmed that the shooting for SSMB29 has commenced. The video, titled "Capture," shows a symbolic scene featuring a lion (representing Mahesh Babu) locked in a cage, unable to escape. The video's caption, "Capture," hints at the thrilling narrative of the film, which is expected to have an adventurous backdrop. Rajamouli's update suggests that the project is progressing well, with much of the pre-production work already completed.

Further adding excitement to the announcement, the film's heroine has been revealed as Priyanka Chopra. The Bollywood star's casting marks an exciting collaboration, and she responded to the update with a simple

yet enthusiastic "Finally." Mahesh Babu, too, expressed his excitement about the project, referencing his iconic Pokiri dialogue, "Once committed, I will not listen to myself," signifying his dedication to the film.

SSMB29 is set in an adventurous setting, with a plot revolving around the Amazon jungle. The project promises to be a high-octane thriller, combining Rajamouli's signature storytelling and visual grandeur with Mahesh Babu's charismatic presence.

As the production gears up, expectations are soaring for this action-packed film, which has already caught the attention of movie lovers and fans alike. With the shooting now underway, it's only a matter of time before we get more details about this exciting Tollywood blockbuster.

Payal Rajput Stuns in Revenge Drama 'Venkatalacchimi'



Actress Payal Rajput, who gained popularity with her performances in films like RX 100 and Mangalavaram, is back on screen with her latest venture, Venkatalacchimi. The film, which marks a significant milestone in her career, opened in Hyderabad on Friday, drawing attention for its gripping storyline. Payal plays the titular role in this revenge drama, which is set to release in six languages, aiming for a pan-India audience.

Directed by Muni, Venkatalacchimi tells the intense story of an Adivasi woman seeking vengeance. The narrative promises to keep viewers engaged, with Muni emphasizing the film's emotional depth and powerful narration. The film has garnered attention not just for its storyline, but also for the strong performance expected from Payal Rajput in a challenging role.

In a statement, Payal shared her excitement about the project, expressing that she was so moved by

the script that she believes the audience will start referring to her as "Venkatalacchimi" after seeing the film. She spoke passionately about how deeply connected she felt to the character and the emotional journey it takes.

The music of the film has been composed by Vikas Badisha, contributing to the film's intense atmosphere. The screenplay and direction are both handled by Muni, who is confident that the film's unique storyline and engaging execution will resonate with audiences.

Produced by SS Chowdhury and Muni Raja, Venkatalacchimi is a highly anticipated film for its intense portrayal of revenge, emotion, and the resilience of a woman fighting for justice. With its pan-India release and strong performances, it's expected to be a significant addition to Payal Rajput's filmography.

Venkatesh Unveils Telugu Trailer for Vishal's Pongal Hit Madha Gaja Raja

Kollywood star Vishal's comedy entertainer Madha Gaja Raja, which had been delayed for over 12 years, finally released during the Pongal festival, receiving a great response and grossing over Rs 50 crore at the box office. The film's success in Tamil has generated significant excitement, and now, the movie is set to hit Telugu theatres with the same title on January 31, 2025.



To mark the Telugu release, senior Tollywood actor Venkatesh launched the film's fun-filled trailer, giving fans a sneak peek of Vishal's comedic prowess. The trailer showcases a perfect blend of humor, action, and drama, making it clear that director Sundar C has packaged the film to

appeal to a broad audience. Vishal's comedic timing and entertaining performances have been a highlight, and fans are eagerly awaiting the film's Telugu debut.

The film also stars popular Kollywood comedian Santhanam, Anjali, Varalaxmi Sarathkumar, and

Sonu Sood in key roles, adding to the star power of the project. Madha Gaja Raja has been produced by Gemini Film Circuit and is being presented in Telugu under the Sathya Krishnan Productions banner. The soundtrack, composed by Vijay Antony, further adds to the film's appeal with energetic tunes.

With the successful reception of Madha Gaja Raja in Tamil, anticipation is high for its Telugu release, especially with the star-studded cast and the comedy-action genre that appeals to a wide audience. Fans are looking forward to the film's debut on January 31 and are hoping that the movie continues to perform well at the box office.



Naga Chaitanya's Thandel Trailer Drops on January 28 with a Fresh Poster

Tollywood actor Akkineni Naga Chaitanya is all set to entertain audiences with his upcoming film Thandel. Directed by Chandu Mondeti and produced under the prestigious Geetha Arts banner by Allu Aravind, the film has generated significant buzz in the industry. The movie, featuring the talented Sai Pallavi as the female lead, is set to hit theaters on February 7, 2025, and the team has already wrapped up shooting.

As excitement builds for the film's release, the makers have shared a major update about the trailer. The Thandel trailer will be unveiled on January 28, 2025, and the crew has released a new poster to mark the occasion. The poster promises an intriguing blend of action, drama, and romance.

The storyline of Thandel follows Naga Chaitanya's character, who travels to Veeraval, Gujarat, in search of a living. While fishing, he is caught by the Pakistan Coast Guard and impris-

oned. The film explores his daring escape from a Pakistani prison, with an added layer of love story and patriotism that elevates the film's narrative, making it an engaging commercial entertainer.

The film has piqued the interest of audiences with its thrilling premise, combining high stakes with emotional depth. Along with the action-packed sequences, Thandel will also showcase a strong patriotic theme, giving fans a dose of national pride while also tugging at their hearts with its love story.

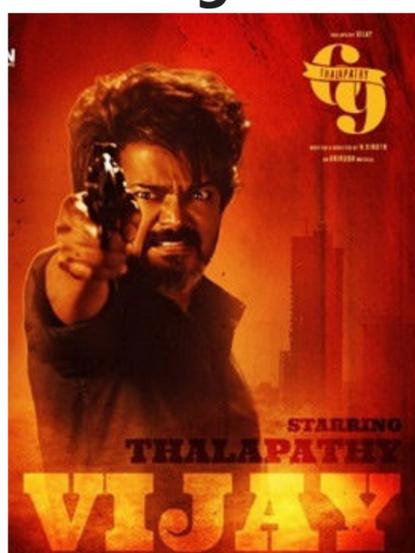
With its release date drawing closer, fans are eagerly awaiting the trailer's release on January 28. Thandel promises to be a captivating film, offering a mix of intense action, emotional drama, and a storyline filled with patriotic fervor. Naga Chaitanya's performance in this unique role is expected to be one of the highlights of the film.

Thalapathy Vijay's Thalapathy69 Aiming for Pongal 2026 Release

Thalapathy Vijay is gearing up for his final cinematic venture, Thalapathy69, which is currently in production. This highly anticipated film, a remake of the blockbuster Bhagavanth Kesari starring Balakrishna, is already making waves in the industry. The film's first look poster, featuring Vijay in a dynamic role, is set to be revealed on January 26, 2025, alongside the official title.

Initially, the makers had planned for a theatrical release in October 2025. However, recent buzz in trade circles suggests that the film's release could be delayed until the festive season of Pongal 2026. Fans and industry insiders are eagerly awaiting official confirmation on the release date, which could be clarified with the unveiling of the first look on January 26.

Pongal is a crucial time for Kollywood releases, with many films



targeting this lucrative period to maximize box office collections. If Thalapathy69 does indeed hit the screens during Pongal 2026, it is

poised to become a major industry hit, further solidifying Vijay's legacy as one of Tamil cinema's biggest stars.

The movie features an impressive ensemble cast, including Pooja Hegde, Bobby Deol, Mamitha Baiju, Prakash Raj, Priyamani, Narain, and Gautham Vasudev Menon in pivotal roles. Produced by KVN Productions, the film is expected to have a stellar soundtrack composed by the talented Anirudh Ravichander, whose music is already anticipated to be a hit.

With a star-studded cast, a highly anticipated release, and a powerful director at the helm, Thalapathy69 is shaping up to be one of the most significant films in Thalapathy Vijay's illustrious career. Fans are eagerly awaiting more updates as the release date approaches.