



Weather Forecast

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

Can't Divert Centre Funds to Implement Schemes, Says CM

- CM discusses financial issues, highlighting state debts and tax burden.
- Criticizes the previous government's spending and debt management.
- Emphasizes focus on development, growth rate, and recovery plans.

TPN | Correspondent
Amaravati, Jan 28

Andhra Pradesh Chief Minister Nara Chandrababu Naidu expressed concerns over the state's financial health, stating that if the financial situation does not improve, the burden of taxes will ultimately fall on the people, and development works will suffer. The CM made these remarks during a media conference where he discussed the findings from NITI Aayog's report for the 2022-2023 financial year, along with the State Fiscal Health Index-2025. The CM welcomed the NITI Aayog report, acknowledging its insights. He emphasized that a strong financial situation is key to supporting development projects and providing a better future for the people. He warned that if the state continues to struggle financially, there would be an adverse impact on development and welfare schemes. "We need to focus on growth, not just borrowing," he stated, criticizing the previous government's approach to handling debts and resources. Chandrababu highlighted that, during the YSRCP regime, the state saw an increase in debts by 16.5%, a decline in state income, and an unsustainable capital expenditure



model. He pointed out that Rs. 67,000 crores in loans were raised in 2022-23, but they were not used for development projects. The state's per capita income, he mentioned, was lagging behind neighboring states, and there was a significant loss in revenue during the last five years. Addressing the future, the CM outlined the Swarna Andhra 2047 goals, targeting a 15% growth rate and significant per capita income increase. He shared that the state has attracted investments worth Rs. 6,33,568 crore, which is expected to create 4.1 lakh jobs. With a renewed focus on growth and stability, Chandrababu emphasized that the recovery of the state's finances is critical, and the government remains committed to fulfilling its promises despite the challenges faced in the past.



Minister Nadendla conducts a ward tour in Tenali

- Promises justice for poor housing schemes neglected by the previous government.
- Focus on women's financial empowerment and modernizing public spaces.

2 PAGE |

"No One Should Hold the Same Position for More Than Three Terms"

TPN Correspondent
Amravati, Jan 28

Nara Lokesh, the National General Secretary of TDP, recently shared his thoughts on the importance of term limits in political positions. He expressed that no individual should occupy the same position for more than three terms, which he personally believes fosters fresh leadership and new perspectives. "This is my personal opinion, and we are currently discussing this in the new committee and political bureau,"



Lokesh stated. He also emphasized the need for the party to provide opportunities for others to rise within the ranks, with grassroots workers

having a chance to reach the level of Polit Bureau members. While Lokesh's proposal was welcomed by many political analysts as a positive long-term strategy for TDP, they acknowledged that implementing such a change would not be straightforward.

In the same vein, Lokesh elaborated on the challenges of being a minister, highlighting the difficulty in organizing regular padyatras. However, he assured that he continues to

2 PAGE |

Dy CM Pawan Kalyan Urges E-commerce Platforms to Ensure Transparency in Gift Card Transactions

- Pawan Kalyan suggests transparency and simplicity in gift card transactions.
- Advises users to register cards and contact customer service for expired card issues.
- Calls for easy solutions to avoid balance loss from unused gift cards.



TPN | Correspondent
Amaravati, Jan 28

Andhra Pradesh Deputy Chief Minister Pawan Kalyan has responded to the ongoing Amazon gift card issue, suggesting key measures to improve transparency and simplify transactions for users. In his address on social media, Pawan Kalyan emphasized the importance of registering Amazon gift cards and ensuring correct transaction practices. He recommended that users take the necessary steps to register their cards or UPI details and ensure proper transaction methods to avoid issues. For users facing difficulties with expired gift cards, Pawan Kalyan advised them to contact customer service and go through the necessary process to recover any balance. To prevent future losses, Pawan Kalyan proposed that unused balances on gift cards be transferred back to the linked bank account or the original source account. This, he argued, would save users time and help avoid the risk of losing funds. In his suggestions, the Deputy Chief Minister called on e-commerce platforms, particularly Amazon, to adopt more transparent and straightforward methods for handling gift cards. He stressed that fostering trust and ensuring user-friendly policies would increase consumer confidence across the millions of users relying on such platforms. Pawan Kalyan urged Amazon to find an easy solution to mitigate these ongoing issues faced by its consumers.

Switching Sides or Playing Both? Vidadala Rajini's Political Gymnastics Spark Debate



3 PAGE |

SHADOW FOR BONDA - WINDOW FOR COLLECTION



4 PAGE |



SC Directs Fast-Tracking of Jagan's Bail Case

- SC directed daily trial proceedings in Jagan's assets case under Telangana HC oversight.
- Petition for bail cancellation redirected to Telangana High Court.
- Apex Court ruled out transferring the case to another state.

TPN Correspondent
New Delhi, Jan 28

The Supreme Court on Monday issued key directives in the case concerning YSRCP leader YS Jagan Mohan Reddy's alleged illegal assets and the petition seeking the cancellation of his bail. A bench comprising Justice BV Nagaratna and Justice Satishchandra Mishra clarified there was no need for the Supreme Court to hear the bail withdrawal plea and advised petitioner

2 PAGE |

38 key YCP leaders and their followers joins Jana Sena Party

Leaders Joined in the Presence of Janasena Leader Naga Babu

TPN | Correspondent
Amaravati, Jan 28

The exodus of leaders from the YSR Congress Party (YSRCP) to parties in the ruling coalition shows no signs of slowing. In a significant political shift, 38 key YCP leaders and their main followers joined the Jana Sena Party on Monday in the presence of the party's General Secretary Nagababu at the Jana Sena Party office in Mangalagiri.

The defectors hail from Punganur, Chandragiri, Peeleru constituencies in the joint Chittoor district, and Nandigama constituency in the joint Krishna district. These leaders, who once played pivotal roles in YSRCP under senior figures like Peddireddy Ramachandra Reddy (Punganur) and Chevireddy Bhaskara Reddy (Chandragiri), have now shifted allegiance. This trend of migration follows a broader pattern of resignations by YCP leaders at various levels. Recently, senior YSRCP leader and Rajya Sabha member Vijayasai Reddy resigned from both his party position and political life, sparking debates within the party cadre about the future of YSRCP.

Notably, several MLAs and MPs have



already exited the party since the 2024 general and assembly elections. Prominent figures such as Mopidevi Venkataramana and Bida Mastan Rao joined the TDP, while R Krishnaiah moved to the BJP. Their resignations and subsequent alignment with coalition parties have further fueled speculation about YCP's stability under Former Chief Minister YS Jagan Mohan Reddy. Party insiders argue that the absence of stalwarts like Vijayasai Reddy, who

was instrumental in representing YSRCP in Delhi, could weaken the party's national influence. The ongoing defections are seen as a significant challenge to Jagan Mohan Reddy's leadership, with predictions of further migration from YSRCP in the coming months. This political upheaval marks a critical juncture for YSRCP as it faces mounting internal challenges and external pressures in the state's evolving political landscape.

IPS Bindu Madhav Takes Charge as SP of Kakinada District



- New SP Bindu Madhav visits Bhimeshwara Swamy Temple in Samarlakota.
- SP engages directly with the public during Public Grievance Redressal Platform.
- Assures direct access to the public without appointments.

TPN | K.S. Sekhar
Kakinada, Jan 28

Bindu Madhav IPS, the newly appointed Superintendent of Police (SP) of Kakinada district, marked his official start with a visit to the Samarlakota Kumara Rama Bhimeshwara Swamy Temple on Monday. Accompanied by his family, Bindu Madhav was warmly welcomed by temple EO Balla Neelakantam. The visit included offering Vedic prayers at the Nandi Mandal and receiving Tirtha prasada, as part of the temple rituals.

SP Bindu Madhav, who was recently transferred from Kurnool, expressed his commitment to ensuring the safety and welfare of the district. Peddapuram DSP Srihariraju, C.I Krishna Bhagwan, and Tropic S.I Adapa Garaga Rao were also present during the visit, signaling the beginning of Madhav's leadership role in the district.

Later, Bindu Madhav engaged directly with the public during the Public Grievance Redressal Platform at the Kakinada District Police Office. A total of 75 complainants attended, presenting their issues to the SP. Bindu Madhav responded by interacting with the concerned officers and providing immediate instructions to resolve the issues in a timely manner. He also assured that complaints could be submitted at local police stations, circle offices, or sub-division offices, with prompt action to be taken on all matters.

In a key address, SP Madhav assured the public that they could meet him directly without any prior appointment to voice their concerns. Having previously served as ASP in Rampachodavaram, he highlighted his strong presence and dedication to addressing law and order issues in the district.

SP Madhav made a firm commitment to reduce crime rates and ensure the safety of all, with a particular focus on combating atrocities against women and girls. He also addressed his jurisdiction, which includes the constituency represented by Deputy CM Pawan Kalyan, assuring that law and order in the area would be maintained smoothly.

The event concluded with a warm reception from senior police officers who welcomed the new SP with bouquets, marking the beginning of his leadership in Kakinada district.

State Election Commission Releases Notification for Vacant Municipal Posts

TPN | Correspondent
Amaravati, Jan 28

The State Election Commission has released a notification to fill vacant positions for chairpersons, vice-chairpersons, and deputy mayors in several municipalities and corporations across Andhra Pradesh.

As per the notification, elections will be conducted through the indirect method on the 3rd of next month. District collectors have been instructed to convene special meetings for the elections by January 30 to ensure a smooth process. Key posts to be filled include the deputy mayors of Tirupati, Nellore, and Eluru corporations, as well as chairperson positions in Nandigama, Hindupuram, and Palakonda municipalities. Elections will also be held for vice-chairpersons in Buchireddypalem, Nuziveedu, Tuni, and Piduguralla municipalities.

State Election Commissioner Neelam Sawhney stated that the notification aims to fill these vacant posts, which have arisen due to various reasons, ensuring the continuity of governance and development in the respective areas.

"No One..."

Continued from page 1

hold 'Praja Darbar' events to address public grievances and concerns. He stressed that while his focus has been on both development and welfare, his commitment to public service remains steadfast. "I will continue to work diligently to fulfill the responsibilities entrusted to me by Chief Minister Chandrababu Naidu," Lokesh affirmed, adding that as a dedicated worker, he would strive to preserve the party's honor and reputation. Chandrababu Naidu, known for his bold stance on dynastic politics, also made waves recently with remarks about leadership and family succession. He stated that success in any field – whether politics, business, or cinema – depends on seizing opportunities, further dismissing the notion of dynastic succession as a myth. Naidu also made it clear that his son, Lokesh, entered politics not for personal gain but to serve the public.

SC Directs...

Continued from page 1

Raghurama Krishnam Raju to approach the Telangana High Court for the matter. The Court also addressed concerns regarding expediting the trial and relocating the case to another state. It ruled that the Telangana High Court will continue to oversee the proceedings and reiterated its earlier directive that cases involving MPs and MLAs must be heard daily. The trial court handling the case is expected to adhere to this mandate under the guidance of the High Court. With these directions, the Supreme Court emphasized that there was no requirement to transfer the case to a different state, reinforcing its focus on ensuring swift and fair proceedings.

Minister Nadendla Manohar conducts a

TPN | Correspondent
Tenali, Jan 28

Andhra Pradesh State Food, Civil Supplies, and Consumer Affairs Minister Nadendla Manohar embarked on a padayatra in wards 1 and 2 of Aitanagar in the Tenali constituency on Monday morning. Starting at Perantamma Temple, the Minister visited various locations, including SBI Bank and SM Municipal High School, as part of his initiative to ensure transparent governance without political bias.

During his visit to the school, Minister Manohar interacted with teachers and children, addressing their issues on the spot. A key concern was the school's boundary wall, which was promptly leveled with soil to improve safety and aesthetics.

The padayatra aimed to review the welfare schemes being provided to the people and assess whether government assistance is reaching all beneficiaries equitably. Minister Manohar emphasized his commitment to fulfilling development promises made to the people and sought feedback on ongoing welfare programs.

Concerns were raised about the poor state of housing schemes initiated by the previous government, where lands worth ₹530 crores were purchased but left unused. Some houses were completed without basic facilities, while others remained incomplete, with only land allocated. The Minister assured that deserving beneficiaries would receive justice, and vigilance investigations would continue to address irregularities.

Plans were also announced to modernize parks in Aitanagar, including completing the ₹1.30 crore Speakers Park by summer. Additionally, the pond near Aitanagaram School in Higherpet will be developed, and walking tracks will be constructed to meet public demand.

To boost education, the Minister proposed a program to transition children from Anganwadi schools to government municipal schools within three years.

For women's financial empowerment, he promised special schemes to enhance savings societies and create income-generating opportunities. Minister Manohar assured residents that the government would undertake unprecedented development and welfare programs in the days ahead.

his word.

After years of managing the YSR Congress's backend operations, Sai Reddy has transitioned into agriculture. Sharing glimpses of his new journey, he recently posted pictures from a serene forest estate in Karnataka. Sai Reddy expressed his excitement about starting horticultural activities,



Minister Gottipati Ravi Kumar distributes bicycles to rural students in Addanki Announces Initiatives for Education

TPN | Correspondent
Addanki, Jan 28

Addanki, January 27, 2025: Andhra Pradesh Energy Minister Gottipati Ravi Kumar took a significant step toward promoting education among rural students by distributing bicycles to underprivileged girls from Addanki constituency. The event, held at the Addanki Government School, saw bicycles being handed over to girls of classes 8 and 9, funded by the Minister's personal contributions, the Netherlands Rotary Club, and other donors.

During his address, Minister Gottipati emphasized his dedication to ensuring education accessibility for all, particularly girls from rural areas. Highlighting the challenges faced by students in Prakasam district—one of the most backward regions in the state—he reiterated that no child's education should be hindered due to transportation issues or lack of resources.

The Minister announced plans to provide free bicycles to girls from 40 government schools in the constituency. He further assured that girls of classes 6 and 7 would also receive bicycles within 20 days. With an estimated need of 10,000 bicycles across Addanki, the Minister pledged to deliver them within a year, supported by ₹5 crore in funding from donors and Rotary partnerships.

In addition to transportation aid, the Minister promised the construction of five new classrooms in the Addanki Government School to address space constraints. The initiative was met with applause from students, parents, and school staff, who expressed gratitude for the support.

The program was attended by Assistant Director Jasti Ranga Rao, representatives from the Netherlands Rotary Club, and other dignitaries, marking a notable milestone in the government's efforts to uplift rural education.



Vijaya Sai: True to His Word, From Politics to Planting

TPN Correspondent
Andhra Pradesh, Jan 28

Former YSRCP MP Vijaya Sai Reddy, who recently resigned from his parliamentary post and distanced himself from politics, has lived up to his promise of retiring to focus on farming. Unlike his former YSRCP boss, Sai Reddy seems determined to stick to

Switching Sides or Playing Both?

Vidadala Rajini's Political Gymnastics Spark Debate

- Former Minister Vidadala Rajini plays dual roles in YSRCP and TDP politics.
- Family members of Vidadala Rajini involved in new political alliances.
- TDP leaders question the shift in allegiance of Vidadala Rajini's associates.

TPN | M. Narasimharao
Guntur, Jan 28

Former Minister Vidadala Rajini, once a staunch face of the YSR Congress Party (YSRCP), seems to have mastered the art of political acrobatics. Even after her electoral defeat, Rajini continues to maintain her stronghold in the party while simultaneously cozying up to the Telugu Desam Party (TDP) leadership, leaving everyone guessing her next big move. Rajini, who held the crucial Health Ministry in Jagan Mohan Reddy's government, appears to be a jack of all trades—balancing loyalty to YSRCP while cultivating relationships with Chandrababu Naidu and other TDP leaders. This unusual political dance has sparked whispers, chuckles, and outright questions about her true strategy. Is she mending fences, or building new ones altogether? Despite losing her ministerial seat, Rajini has remained active, managing YSRCP's affairs in the Chilakaluripet constituency. However, her family members seem to be giving her tough competition in the political drama department. Her husband, Kumaraswamy, and other relatives, including Vidadala Ramu and Gopi, have been seen rubbing shoulders with TDP heavyweights. Ramu, for instance, made headlines when he appeared alongside Chandrababu Naidu during a Davos visit—an encounter that has TDP loyalists scratching their heads and YSRCP leaders raising their eyebrows.



The plot thickens as former associates of Rajini, like Vidadala Gopi, appear to be switching gears. Once her shadow minister, Gopi is now carving out his own niche in political dealings. Meanwhile, TDP leaders in the Chilakaluripet constituency are wary of these shifting loyalties. After enduring what they allege was harassment under Rajini's tenure, they're now left to wonder if their party's doors are being opened to the same figures who

once targeted them. This political potboiler is playing out in full view of the public, with TDP cadres questioning why figures closely tied to YSRCP are now making friendly overtures toward their party. Is this a strategic realignment, or just a desperate scramble to stay relevant? Whatever the case, Rajini and her family have ensured that Chilakaluripet remains the talk of the town.

Davos Visit to Bring Huge Investments to the State - Minister Vasamsetty Subhash

TPN | Correspondent
Kakinada, Jan 28

State Labour Minister Vasamsetty Subhash expressed confidence that the recent four-day extensive tour of Davos by Chief Minister Nara Chandrababu Naidu and IT and Education Minister Nara Lokesh will open doors to huge investments for Andhra Pradesh. Minister Subhash emphasized that this visit is a crucial first step towards the realization of Swarnandhra-2047, the state's vision for robust economic development and growth. Subhash highlighted the successful discussions held with representatives from 15 major companies across various commercial sectors, including global giants like Swissmen, Orlycon, Angsfiester, Swiss Textiles, and transportation leader Maersk. Notable companies like LG Com of South Korea, Google Cloud, Petronas, Hindustan Unilever, and PepsiCo were also part of the discussions, ensuring that the state is positioned as a major hub for global investment.



A particularly notable interaction took place with Microsoft founder Bill Gates, which Subhash believes will pave the way for further investments. The minister also credited the flexibility of Andhra Pradesh's new industrial policies, including incentives provided to investors, as key factors driving investments into the state. In the last 7 months, the state government has already attracted investments worth a staggering Rs. 6 lakh 33,568 crore, which is expected to create employment opportunities for over 5 lakh people. Minister Subhash extended his gratitude to Chief Minister Chandrababu Naidu, Deputy CM Pawan Kalyan, and Minister Nara Lokesh for their tireless efforts in advancing the state's economic development, welfare, and reducing unemployment.

More "Loafers than Leaders" in YSRCP, Says Vasantha Krishna Prasad

TPN Correspondent
Mylavaram, Jan 28



MLA Vasantha Krishna Prasad, during a media conference at his office in Mylavaram, made pointed comments on the current political scenario in Andhra Pradesh. He criticized the YSRCP party's leadership, claiming that there are more "loafers than leaders" in YSRCP. Prasad also took a jibe at Former Chief Minister Jaganmohan Reddy, stating that Reddy's visit to Davos was overshadowed by his lack of seriousness in promoting the state. He humorously remarked that Reddy played PUBG during the Davos trip and was seen walking around in a sweater, more interested in finding "buzzers" than focusing on attracting investments to the state. The MLA expressed discontent over the YCP leaders' baseless criticisms regarding the Davos visit, highlighting that the real leaders dedicated to the state's welfare are Chief Minister Chandrababu Naidu and Deputy Chief Minister Nara Lokesh. He pointed out that business companies are hesitant to invest in the state due to Jaganmohan Reddy's behavior and lack of commitment to industrial growth.

Vasantha Krishna Prasad also drew attention to the recent defection of Vijayasai Reddy, a key leader in YSRCP, stating that the situation in the party is dire. He remarked that if Vijayasai Reddy, who held a prominent position in the party, could leave, it speaks volumes about the party's future. Drawing a comparison to the late YSR, Prasad noted that while YSR had a strong and committed soul in Ramachandra Rao, Jaganmohan Reddy's leadership is guided by the questionable soul of Vijayasai Reddy. He predicted that many more leaders would soon leave YSRCP, and within three months, the remaining leaders would likely follow suit. Prasad referred to YSRCP as a "sinking boat party," suggesting that the party's internal issues and lack of vision for the state's progress would lead to further defections. On the topic of industrial development in Krishna and Guntur districts, Prasad criticized Jaganmohan Reddy for sending industries to other regions of the state, hindering growth in the Krishna-Guntur belt. He emphasized that only a coalition government, with a balanced focus on both welfare and development, can lead Andhra Pradesh towards a brighter future. Prasad also addressed recent comments made about Nara Lokesh's social media presence, stating that there were orders from the party high command to refrain from commenting further on the issue. He clarified that any statements regarding this matter would be made by the Chief Minister and Deputy Chief Minister directly.

Chandrababu Spreading "Blatant Lies" about the State's Debt - Ambati Rambabu

TPN | Correspondent
Andhra Pradesh, Jan 28

Ambati Rambabu, the spokesperson for the YSR Congress Party (YSRCP), strongly countered the remarks made by former Chief Minister Nara Chandrababu Naidu regarding the state's financial situation. In a press statement, Ambati accused Chandrababu of spreading "blatant lies" about the state's debt, claiming that the former CM used the issue of debt to deceive voters during the election campaign. Ambati emphasized that the actual debt burden of the state, since its bifurcation, stands at 6 lakh crores, significantly lower than the 14 lakh crores that Chandrababu had previously mentioned. He also accused Chandrababu of failing to implement the promises made during his tenure, despite alleging that the debt would not hinder development. The YSRCP leader reiterated that under the current leadership of Chief Minister Y. S. Jagan Mohan Reddy, the debt level has been more controlled than what had been forecasted during the campaign, further highlighting the misleading nature of Chandrababu's claims.



CM Naidu Payed Proactive role in Davos - MP Sribharat

TPN | Correspondent
Andhra Pradesh, Jan 28

MP Sribharat, speaking at a public event, praised Chief Minister Chandrababu Naidu for his proactive role in Davos, stating that unlike the YSRCP government, where the CM was inaccessible to the public, CM Chandrababu has made himself accessible to industrialists and global leaders. Sribharat emphasized that Chandrababu played a key "Peddanna" role in Davos, serving as a guiding figure not just for the state but for the entire nation. He also expressed his optimism that the discussions and agreements made during the Davos trip would bring tangible benefits to Andhra Pradesh. Sribharat highlighted the significant contribution of Minister Nara Lokesh, who, through the Yuvagalam Padayatra, had gained a deep understanding of public issues. He also acknowledged Lokesh's connection with the people, particularly through the Praja Darbar held in Mangalagiri. Drawing inspiration from Minister Lokesh's outreach efforts, MP Sribharat stated that he and his team would also organize a Praja Darbar to engage directly with the public, aiming to replicate the successful model of connecting with the people and addressing their concerns.

Palla Srinivas Rao Accuses YCP of Driving Industrialists Away from the State

TPN Correspondent
Visakhapatnam, Jan 28



Telugu Desam Party (TDP) AP President Palla Srinivas Rao has sharply criticized the YSR Congress Party (YCP) government, accusing them of pushing industrialists to other states due to their actions. He raised concerns over the contents of the "Red Book," a document that allegedly contains details of mistakes made by YCP leaders and officials during their tenure. Srinivas Rao warned that those involved in wrongdoing, including former MP Vijayasai Reddy, would face consequences, emphasizing that resigning would not absolve them of their mistakes. He expressed frustration over the negative impact of the YCP regime, stating that many industrialists had fled the state due to unfair practices and a greed for commissions. The TDP leader further accused Chief Minister Jagan Mohan Reddy of undermining public sectors, claiming that the YCP government's policies were detrimental to the state's development. In contrast, he highlighted the efforts of former Chief Minister Chandrababu Naidu, who has been working diligently to bring investments to Andhra Pradesh by convincing the central government and promoting the state in international forums like Davos. Palla Srinivas Rao clarified that while Davos is not a venue for making agreements, it plays a crucial role in boosting the state's brand image and attracting industrial investment. He praised Chandrababu Naidu for his relentless efforts to engage with industrialists and ensure economic growth in the state.

SHADOW FOR BONDA - WINDOW FOR COLLECTION

- Chenchu Malyadri accused of acting as a "shadow MLA" in Vijayawada Central.
- Alleged misuse of power in town planning, ration depots, and local businesses.
- Bribes reportedly demanded for ration depots, food court operations, and land settlements.
- Party workers criticize MLA Bonda Uma for sidelining loyalists after 2019 elections.

TPN | VVS MADHU BABU
Vijayawada, Jan 28

Chenchu Malyadri, a businessman involved in the brick industry, is accused of exercising undue influence in Vijayawada Central, allegedly surpassing the authority of elected MLA Bonda Uma. Locals and political insiders claim that Malyadri has effectively taken control of several key aspects of governance, leading to him being referred to as a "shadow MLA." Despite lacking an official role, Malyadri's influence continues to grow, with accusations that he has usurped responsibilities typically managed by elected officials. Malyadri's rise to power is believed to be driven by his past experience as a division president, which has given him the political know-how to influence local governance. Allegedly, his control spans crucial matters such as town planning, land settlements, and the operation of local businesses. His growing influence has caused concern among residents and political figures, with many claiming that Malyadri's actions are detrimental to the region's democratic functioning. One area where Malyadri is accused of abusing his power is in town planning. It is alleged that he has demanded bribes as high as ₹1 crore for securing city planner positions within the municipal corporation. Furthermore, residents report that Malyadri's approval is required for construction projects, including Bhoomi Puja

ceremonies. These claims have led to widespread dissatisfaction, as many feel their ability to proceed with legal projects is being hindered by Malyadri's interference. In addition to his influence over town planning, Malyadri has been accused of controlling ration depots in the constituency. Allegedly, he demands bribes ranging from ₹3 to ₹4 lakh for ration depot allocations. Furthermore, Malyadri is said to collect ₹5 lakh per month from illegal ration businesses operating within the area. The impact of these actions on local residents has been significant, placing financial strain on those already struggling. Malyadri's control also extends to the Farmers' Bazaar, where it is claimed that stall allocations are made at his discretion, with officials reportedly following his commands without question. Malyadri's influence is said to extend into the food court operations in the constituency, where vendors reportedly pay ₹10,000 in monthly fees to operate. Allegations suggest that Malyadri has hired private security to enforce his control over the food court, strengthening his grip on local businesses. Additionally, Malyadri is accused of taking bribes of up to ₹1.5 crore for resolving land disputes tied to real estate mafias in the area, further exacerbating concerns over his control. In the political realm, Malyadri's influence has led to divisions within the local party structure. Many party loyalists and sec-



ond-tier leaders accuse MLA Bonda Uma of sidelining them in favor of Malyadri. These individuals feel marginalized and betrayed, claiming that their hard work has been ignored in favor of Malyadri's growing influence. This situation has weakened party cohesion and created tension within the constituency. The mounting allegations against Chenchu Malyadri raise serious questions about governance and accountability in Vijayawada Central. Locals and party members are calling for urgent intervention to address the growing concerns, restore proper governance, and ensure that the rule of law is upheld. Without corrective action, the political landscape in the constituency may suffer long-term consequences.

Lokesh's Yuvagalam, A Turning Point in AP's Future, Says MP Kesineni Shivanath



TPN | Correspondent
Vijayawada, Jan 28

Marking two years of Nara Lokesh's historic Yuvagalam Padayatra, MP Kesineni Shivanath (Chinni) hailed its transformative impact on Andhra Pradesh. Speaking at a media conference in Vijayawada, Kesineni praised Lokesh for leading a movement that addressed public grievances, strengthened democracy, and reshaped the state's future. The 3132 km Padayatra, spanning 97 assembly constituencies and 2,097 villages, rallied massive public support and ensured the coalition government's victory in 90 of these constituencies. Kesineni called the campaign a "movement of hope" that revived public confidence and brought a "people's government."

Kesineni commended Lokesh's leadership at the World Economic Forum in Davos, emphasizing his efforts to restore Andhra Pradesh's global image. Lokesh met with over 30 global industrialists, securing investments worth Rs. 6.33 lakh crore in just seven months of the coalition government, creating over 4 lakh job opportunities. Prestigious companies like TCS, Reliance, and ArcelorMittal are now investing in the state. Kesineni criticized the previous government for driving away investors and damaging AP's brand. "Chandrababu Naidu and Lokesh have worked tirelessly to attract industrialists and rebuild AP as an investment hub," he said. Concluding, Kesineni called Lokesh's Yuvagalam Padayatra and Davos efforts symbols of hope and progress. He expressed confidence in the coalition government's vision for AP, ensuring welfare and development for all.

Fluoride in Drinking Water Haunting Tribal Villages in NTR Dist

- Fluoride contamination in drinking water causing widespread kidney disease.
- Tribals in Kondur mandal suffer from kidney-related ailments due to contaminated borehole water.
- Tribals demand safe drinking water, pensions, housing, and more support for their health and livelihoods.

TPN | Correspondent
NTR Dist, Jan 28

In Kondur mandal, located in NTR District, tribal villages have been grappling with a deadly issue for years: high fluoride contamination in drinking water. The only source of water for these villages, coming from boreholes, has been causing severe health issues, particularly kidney diseases. The high fluoride levels in the water have led to a wave of kidney problems, with entire families affected, and tragically, some families have lost both the husband and wife due to kidney failure linked to fluoride consumption. The tribal residents, mostly daily wage workers with small farms, are now facing a grim situation. Despite the installation of mineral water systems, the water continues to contain dangerously high fluoride levels, and many of the residents experience leg pain and other ailments. The flu-



oride-laden water has become a curse for these communities, contributing to the epidemic of kidney disease. **In response, the affected villagers have made five demands to the coalition government:**

1. Provision of safe drinking water through the Krishna river.
2. A pension of ₹10,000 for kidney disease sufferers.
3. Construction of houses for the homeless.
4. The establishment of intermediate and

degree colleges to improve education access.

5. Livelihood opportunities or financial support for small businesses to sustain the youth.

Currently, about 200 to 300 families in the region are suffering from kidney diseases, and the villagers are urgently requesting a solution to this health crisis. They are calling for the swift supply of Krishna water to their areas as a long-term solution to their water contamination issues.

POINT Earns Commissioner's Praise!!

TPN | Correspondent
Vijayawada, Jan 28

Vijayawada Commissioner of Police, S.V. Rajasekhara Babu, lauded POINT News for its commitment to delivering high-quality and impactful news coverage. In recognition of this journalistic excellence, Mr. Murthy Naidu, Managing Director, and Mr. VVS Madhu Babu, AP Bureau Chief, presented a specially designed diary to the Commissioner on Monday. The gesture highlighted the mutual respect between POINT News and the city's law enforcement for their dedication to serving the public with integrity and professionalism.



MP Balashouri, MLA Buddhaprasad Initiated Development Works in Avanigadda Constituency

TPN | Correspondent
Avanigadda, Jan 28

MP Balashouri and MLA Buddhaprasad visited Avanigadda Constituency to inaugurate and lay foundation stones for several development projects aimed at improving essential infrastructure and drinking water facilities. During their visit, the officials laid the foundation stone for the modernization of protected drinking water schemes funded by BPCL CSR funds, including Rs. 15 lakhs each for Yandakuduru in Ghantasala Mandal and Kammanamolu in Nagayalanka Mandal. An additional Rs. 18.50 lakhs from BPCL CSR funds was allocated for constructing a 20,000-liter capacity Overhead Service Reservoir (OHSR) in Deendayalapuram, Nagayalanka Mandal. The delegation also initiated work on a fish landing center in Gullalamoda, Nagayalanka Mandal, funded with Rs. 1.65 crore from PFC CSR funds. This project aims to benefit the local fishing community and enhance their livelihood opportunities.

In Ramachandrapuram, Avanigadda Mandal, officials laid the foundation stone for safe drinking water scheme modernization works using Rs. 15 lakhs from BPCL CSR funds. Additionally, development works worth Rs. 12,08,300 were announced, alongside Rs. 17 lakhs allocated from Power Grid Corporation CSR funds for improv-



ing safe drinking water infrastructure. The leaders emphasized the importance of such initiatives in addressing drinking water issues and boosting local development. They thanked the corporations for their support and reaffirmed their commitment to further improving public amenities across Avanigadda Constituency.

Awareness Conference on Drugs at KL University



TPN | Correspondent
Vijayawada, Jan 28

An awareness conference on drug control was held at KL University, Tadepalli, under the auspices of the government's newly established Eagle department. The event was aimed at educating students and the general public about the dangers of drug abuse and the importance of maintaining a drug-free environment. Eagle IG A.K. Ravi Krishna addressed the audience, emphasizing the need for students to focus on their future and actively participate in drug control ef-

forts. He urged young people to contribute to the cause and lead by example, helping curb the growing issue of drug abuse in the state. The conference also saw the participation of Guntur District SP Satish Kumar, Eagle SP Nagesh, Additional SP, Guntur North Sub-Division DSP Murali Krishna, Tadepalli CI Kalyan Raju, and several other officials. They discussed strategies to raise awareness and engage the community in combating drug abuse, with plans for similar awareness conferences across the state as part of the Eagle department's initiative.

K.G.V. Saritha IPS Takes Charge as Admin DCP in N.T.R. Dist

TPN | Correspondent
Vijayawada, Jan 28

In line with general transfers issued by the Andhra Pradesh State Government, Smt. K.G.V. Saritha IPS, formerly the SP of the Women Protection Cell in CID, has officially taken charge as the Admin DCP of the N.T.R. District Police Commissionerate.

Upon assuming her new role, Smt. Saritha IPS visited the Admin DCP office at the Police Commissioner's Office in Vijayawada. Following her appointment, she paid a courtesy call on N.T.R. District City Police Commissioner S.V. Rajasekhara Babu IPS, marking the start of her responsibilities in the new position. This transfer is seen as part of ongoing efforts to strengthen the administrative and operational efficiency of the district police department. Smt. Saritha's experience in women's protection and crime investigation is expected to bring significant value to her new role.



Queue lines, Lighting and Facilities Reviewed

- Preparations for Mahashivratri Brahmotsavams in full swing.
- Queue lines, lighting, and facilities reviewed for devotees.

TPN | C. Sekhar
Srikalahasti, Jan 28

On the occasion of Mahashivratri, Srikalahasti Constituency MLA Bojjala Venkata Sudheer Reddy visited the Srikalahasti Swamy Temple this morning to inspect the preparations for the Mahashivratri Brahmotsavams. During the inspection, he reviewed the lighting arrangements, flower decorations, queue lines, and the facilities available for devotees. He issued necessary instructions to the temple engineering department to ensure that everything is in place for the grand celebrations. Town President Vijay Kumar Chenchaiyah Naidu, Durga Prasad, Vinay Praveen Balaji, and other prominent leaders participated in the inspection, highlighting their collective efforts to ensure a smooth and joyful experience for the thousands of devotees expected to visit the temple during the festivities.



V. Vishwanath Naidu Honored with Best SI Award in Tirupati

TPN | C. Sekhar
Tirupati, Jan 28

Buchinaidu Kandriga Mandal's SI V. Vishwanath Naidu was awarded the Best SI Award during the 76th Republic Day celebrations held in Tirupati. The award was presented by District Collector Venkateswar, recognizing Naidu's exceptional service and dedication in his role.

Alongside Naidu, Koneti Adimulam received a certificate of appreciation for his distinguished contributions, presented in the presence of District SP Harshavardhan. Naidu, in his remarks, credited his success to regular training, dedication, and punctuality, emphasizing that the recognition reflects his commitment to serving the community. Political party leaders and several other officials congratulated both Naidu and Adimulam for their outstanding contributions to public service.



Police Find Missing Girl Within Hours in Vizianagaram

TPN | A NARASIMHULU
Vizianagaram, Jan 28

Velama Charishma, an 11-year-old girl from Mangalapalem village in Kothavalasa mandal, went missing after attending Republic Day celebrations at Lakkavarapu Kota A.P. Model School on January 26. After the event, she went with a friend to her house in Jammadevipet and later took an RTC bus back to Mangalapalem bus stop.

In a phone call to her father from a medical shop, Charishma informed him she had arrived from school, and he asked her to return home. When she did not reach home by evening, her father grew concerned and filed a complaint with Kothavalasa police.

District SP Vakal Jindal, IPS, highlighted that the police responded immediately by registering a case and launching an investigation. Kothavalasa CI Shanmukharao shared the missing girl's photos with Visakhapatnam City Police to assist with the search.

A special team was formed under SI Sudarshana Rao, who questioned friends, medical shop staff, cart vendors, and locals for information. CCTV footage was reviewed, which led to the discovery that Charishma had traveled towards Pendurthi. After a thorough search in Pendurthi and surrounding areas, the police successfully located Charishma at the Pendurthi bus stop. She was safely returned to her relatives in Kothavalasa. District SP Vakal Jindal praised the swift and coordinated efforts of the police, marking a happy ending to the incident.



TDP Leaders Celebrate 2 Years For Lokesh's Yuva Galam Padayatra

Leaders From Tuni, Ramachandrapuram, Pithapuram actively participated in Celebrations

TPN | K.S. Sekhar
Kakinada Dist, Jan 28

On the occasion of the completion of two years of the Yuva Galam Padayatra, Telugu Desam Party leaders and supporters gathered in Tuni constituency to celebrate this significant milestone. Nara Lokesh, the TDP National General Secretary, unveiled a pylon at Thetagunta to mark the 3,000 km covered during the padayatra.

A special celebration was organized at the party office, where MLA Yanamala Divya attended as the chief guest. During the event, she cut a cake and distributed it to the attendees. She praised Nara Lokesh for successfully completing the padayatra despite the obstacles created by the previous government. Divya highlighted that Lokesh's leadership played a crucial role in the coalition government's rise to power.

Other prominent leaders such as Yanamala Rajesh, Surla Loveraju,



Chintamneedi Abbayi, Mothukuri Venkatesh, and several others participated in the celebrations, reflecting the party's strong presence and enthusiasm in the constituency.

In Ramachandrapuram

On the occasion of the completion of two years of Nara Lokesh's Yuva Galam Padayatra, coalition leaders in Ramachandrapuram celebrated his dedication towards the state's development. The event was held at the joint Telugu Desam Party office, under the guidance of State Labour Minister Vasamsetty Subhash and senior

party leaders including Garikapati Suryanarayana, Komarin Veerraju, and others.

A cake was cut to honor Nara Lokesh, with all attendees expressing their admiration for his leadership and the success of the padayatra, which covered over 3,000 kilometers. The leaders noted that Lokesh's contributions, particularly in IT and education, have brought vital changes to the state, including attracting Rs. 3 lakh crore in investments.

Additionally, they praised the major changes in the education system, such as the introduction of midday meals for intermediate students and efforts to create an educational hub in the state. The leaders also commended his provision of accident insurance for party workers and the successful registration of over one crore members.

In Pithapuram

In Pithapuram constituency, TDP

leaders, activists, and supporters celebrated the completion of one year of Nara Lokesh's Yuva Galam Padayatra. Under the leadership of former MLA Verma, a large padayatra began at the TDP office in Maharajakota and proceeded through various centers in the town. The participants cheered slogans like "Nara Lokesh Zindabad" and "Lokesh's leadership should flourish" throughout the route. Former MLA Verma expressed his support for Nara Lokesh, emphasizing that his leadership is crucial for strengthening the party and for guiding the next generation. Verma highlighted how the padayatra breathed new life into the party and was instrumental in making the party's presence stronger in the region. The celebrations reflected the strong backing of TDP's leadership in Pithapuram, with party members showing their dedication to the cause.

YMCA Tadepalligudem Wins Inter-School Football Tournament

- YMCA Tadepalligudem defeats International Delhi Public School 2-0 in final.

TPN | Correspondent
Tadepalligudem, Jan 28

In a thrilling final match on the occasion of Republic Day, YMCA Tadepalligudem triumphed over International Delhi Public School, securing a 2-0 victory in the Inter-School Invitation Football Tournament held at the International Delhi Public School, Tadepalligudem. The tournament saw intense competition from several local schools, but YMCA's performance stood out, earning them the first-place title. International Delhi Public School, despite a hard-fought match, finished as the runner-up in the tournament. Other



participating teams included Z P High School from Pallantla, Vadalakunta, Saraswathi Vidyalaya from Prathipadu, and Z P High School from Gopalapuram and Devarapalli. The event showcased the talents of students from various schools, creating a platform for them to demonstrate their skills and



sportsmanship. Principal N Uma Srinivas of International Delhi Public School expressed satisfaction with the successful organization of the event, which saw strong performances across the board. The event was a great success, promoting sportsmanship and teamwork among the students.

State Level Volleyball Competitions for the Disabled in Tuni

TPN | K.S. Sekhar
Tuni, Jan 28

The state-level volleyball competitions for the disabled kicked off on Monday at the Tuni Raja Ground, the constituency center. The event was formally inaugurated by Para Volleyball Association Andhra Pradesh President Bodapati Sivadhath and Vice President Anga Durga Prashanthi.

During the inauguration, Sivadhath highlighted that sports play a crucial role in boosting self-confidence among the disabled. He shared that the association's goal is to nurture the talent of disabled athletes and

help them excel in international competitions, including the Olympics. Vice President Durga Prashanthi expressed his pleasure in launching the fourth phase of the state-level Para Volleyball competitions in Tuni, emphasizing how such events will further empower the disabled community.

About 150 players from across the state gathered in Tuni to compete, showcasing their skills and determination. Durga Prashanthi also mentioned that the best performers would not only be selected for national and international competitions but would also receive train-



ing aimed at winning Olympic medals.

The event saw the participation of Vice President V Venu, Association Secretary CH Ganesh, Joint Secretary D Swarup, Treasurer JN Santosh Rao, and other notable figures, who collectively praised the government's efforts to encourage sports for the disabled.

TTD EO Inspects Surroundings of Tiruchanur Sri Padmavati Temple

TPN | C. Sekhar
Tirupati, Jan 28

TTD EO Sri J. Shyamala Rao, along with TTD JEO Sri V. Veerabrahmam and other officials, inspected the surroundings of Tiruchanur Sri Padmavati Ammavari Temple on Monday. The EO emphasized the need to further develop the temple area to better accommodate the growing number of devotees. Plans are being made to improve accessibility and comfort for visitors, in line with TTD's vision.

During the inspection, the EO instructed officials to prepare a master plan with the help of experts in architecture, engineer-



ing, and town planning. The plan will focus on enhancing the attractiveness and functionality of the temple surroundings, ensuring a more convenient and enjoyable experience for the increasing number of devotees.

The EO first visited Tolappa Garden, where he discussed the condition of the Kalyana Mandapa's

with engineering officials. These structures, built 60 years ago, need significant improvements to accommodate the growing crowds. The EO stressed the importance of upgrading these facilities to enhance the comfort of devotees.

Speaking to the media, the EO acknowledged the overcrowding at ticket and laddu counters and suggested relocating the existing PAC to another site. This move aims to ease congestion and make better use of the available space, providing a more comfortable experience for the 25,000+ devotees who visit the temple daily.

Following the Tolappa Garden inspection, the EO visited Friday

Garden and recommended exploring improvements to make the area more enjoyable for devotees. The team also assessed the TTD site near the temple and the four Mada streets to ensure all surrounding areas are developed to accommodate the growing number of visitors. The inspection was attended by F&CAO Sri Balaji, CE Sri Satyanarayana, Deputy EO Sri Govinda Rajan, Town Planning Special Officer Sri Ramudu, and other officials. Together, they discussed the ongoing development plans and how to improve the temple surroundings to better serve the growing number of devotees visiting Tiruchanur Sri Padmavati Ammavari Temple.



Religious Conversions in Andhra: A National Security Wake-Up Call

The phenomenon of religious conversions in Andhra Pradesh has reached a critical juncture, raising alarm over its implications for social harmony and national security. What was once perceived as an isolated religious choice has now transformed into a broader issue with far-reaching consequences. The activities of organizations involved in these conversions, especially those receiving foreign funding, warrant immediate and thorough investigation. Beyond personal beliefs, this matter has significant social, political, and security dimensions that require urgent attention.

Missionary organizations often frame their work as humanitarian, aiming to uplift marginalized communities. While this narrative garners support and funding, a closer look reveals more complex and potentially troubling motives. Many of these organizations, particularly those backed by foreign entities, appear to pursue calculated strategies to alter the demographic composition of Andhra Pradesh. These demographic shifts could disrupt the region's cultural and social balance, enabling political manipulation and increasing social tensions.

The implications of unchecked religious conversions extend beyond immediate demographics. The establishment of new religious worship sites in villages and mandals across Andhra Pradesh over the past five years signals an organized effort to influence the local populace. This has the potential to destabilize the region, leading to social unrest and even challenges to governance. As conversions increase, the resulting polarization could deepen existing divisions, making communities more susceptible to external influences and destabilizing national unity.

Urgent Need for Comprehensive Action
To address this growing challenge, the following areas must be investigated:

1. Sources of Funding

Transparency in funding is crucial to understanding the motivations behind these conversions. Are these funds gen-



Dr. Buragadda Srinadh

uinely for charitable purposes, or are they part of a larger strategy by foreign entities to destabilize the region? Identifying the origins of financial support is the first step in curbing any harmful agendas.

2. Oversight and Accountability

Local authorities and regulatory bodies must take responsibility for monitoring the activities of organizations involved in religious conversions. Are these entities adhering to local laws and regulations? A robust oversight mechanism is essential to prevent misuse of power or influence.

3. Nature of Activities

What events and programs are being conducted at these newly established worship sites? Are they solely focused on religion, or do they include political or divisive social agendas? Understanding the scope and intent of these activities will help identify potential risks.

4. Registration and Legitimacy

Proper registration and compliance with local laws are critical for ensuring transparency. Are these organizations operating legally, or are they bypassing regulations to further hidden agendas? Strengthening Legal and Regulatory Frameworks
The Foreign Contribution Regulation Act

(FCRA) must be enforced rigorously to ensure organizations receiving foreign funding adhere to national legal standards. Key measures should include regular audits, transparent reporting, and strict penalties for non-compliance. Additionally, central government agencies must enhance their oversight mechanisms to monitor NGO activities, ensuring they align with national priorities and ethical practices. Proactive Measures to Safeguard National Security

Given the scale of conversions and the potential risks, a multi-faceted approach is necessary:

1. Temporary Suspension of Foreign Funding

As a precautionary measure, suspend foreign funding to religious institutions until detailed audits confirm the transparency and legitimacy of their operations.

2. Public Disclosure of Funding Details

Funding sources for these organizations must be made publicly accessible to promote accountability and discourage misuse.

3. Strengthening Local Monitoring

Equip local authorities with the resources and authority needed to oversee the activities of organizations in their jurisdictions effectively.

The rise of religious conversions in Andhra Pradesh is more than a regional concern—it is a national wake-up call. Left unchecked, this trend could undermine India's social fabric, destabilize its political landscape, and threaten its security. By enforcing stringent regulations, fostering transparency, and enhancing oversight mechanisms, India can safeguard its cultural and social integrity. This is not merely a state-level issue; it is a matter of national importance that requires immediate and coordinated action to ensure long-term stability and harmony.



The People's Padma: How PM Modi Redefined India's Highest Civilian Awards

The Padma Awards, instituted in 1954, have long been a symbol of India's recognition of excellence in various fields such as arts, science, social service, and sports. Initially, the Padma Vibhushan was classified into three categories: Class I, II, and III, ranking just below the Bharat Ratna. Over time, the awards were restructured into three separate honours: the Padma Vibhushan, Padma Bhushan, and Padma Shri. However, under Prime Minister Narendra Modi's leadership, the Padma Awards have undergone a transformative shift, evolving into what can now be seen as true "People's Awards," celebrating inclusivity, democracy, and merit.

The most recent list of Padma Awardees underscores this evolution. It reflects a deliberate effort to recognize individuals from all walks of life, especially those contributing to society in the fields of social service, culture, and community welfare. Figures such as Nagaland's L. Hangthing, the "Fruit Man," who revolutionized fruit cultivation, and Bhim Singh Bhavesh from Bihar's Buxar district, a champion of the Musahar community, epitomize this shift. These unsung heroes, working quietly and selflessly, are driving real social change.

Noteworthy awardees like 106-year-old environmentalist Saalumarada Thimmakka, known as the "Mother of Trees," and Tulsi Gowda, a member of the Pakkali tribal community, are also celebrated for their tireless dedication to causes that go beyond personal fame. Their recognitions align with the original purpose of the Padma Awards—to honour those who embody service, dedication, and excellence, regardless of status.

A significant reform under PM Modi's leadership has been the democratization of the selection process. Prior to 2016, the awards were often seen as elitist and opaque, with selections influenced by political affiliations. In 2016, the nomination process was opened to the public, allowing any Indian citizen to nominate deserving individuals. This change has led to over 50,000 nominations annually, ensuring that selections are based solely on merit and contribution to society.

Indian Schools: Falling Short of Preparing Students for the Future

India's school infrastructure is at a critical juncture, where immediate attention is needed not only to address existing gaps but also to reimagine how schools can equip students for the challenges of the future. The Ministry of Education's recently released Unified District Information System for Education Plus (UDISE+) 2023-24 report paints a concerning picture of deficiencies in basic amenities such as drinking water, functional toilets, and electricity. But beyond these immediate concerns lies a much larger question: Are our schools ready to nurture future-ready students with the necessary skills to thrive in an increasingly complex world?



While technological advancements are reshaping education globally, Indian schools are struggling to meet even the basic needs for a future-oriented education system. Many schools lack essential infrastructure such as functional computer labs, science labs, and integrated learning devices. This points to the urgent need not just for foundational amenities, but also for advanced educational infrastructure that aligns with the demands of a rapidly changing world.

Digital Infrastructure in Schools

According to the UDISE+ report, only 57% of the 14.71 lakh schools in India have computer facilities, and of those, just 50.9% are equipped with functional systems for teaching purposes. Even more troubling is that only 8.1% of schools have integrated teaching-learning devices, and only 24.4% boast operational smart classrooms. This digital divide must be addressed immediately to ensure that no student is left behind in an increasingly digital world.

The COVID-19 pandemic has highlighted the critical role of digital tools in education, and while the need for digital infrastructure has grown, progress in upgrading this infrastructure has been alarmingly slow. Bridging the digital divide through affordable devices, reliable internet access, and teacher training should be a top priority to ensure that Indian students are prepared for future careers in a tech-driven world.

Skills for the Future

Beyond digital literacy, schools must equip students with critical skills like problem-solving, communication, adaptability, and analytical thinking. As technology continues to

redefine the workforce, subjects like coding, artificial intelligence, and data literacy should become an integral part of the curriculum. These competencies will enable students to thrive in an ever-changing global landscape.

Building Climate-Resilient Schools

As India faces the growing challenges of climate change, schools must prepare students to engage with environmental issues. The UDISE+ 2023-24 report reveals that only 10.5% of schools have solar panels, and 36.2% have kitchen gardens—resources that could play a vital role in teaching sustainability. Programs focused on waste management, renewable energy, and conservation could transform schools into hubs of environmental responsibility, providing hands-on experiences that foster practical learning.

Tinkering labs, which only 10.9% of schools currently have, are another critical resource for fostering creativity and problem-solving skills. Integrating environmental challenges into these labs could help students design sustainable solutions, bridging the gap between theoretical knowledge and practical application.

The Path Forward

The Ministry of Education must take a lead role in addressing these gaps and ensuring schools are equipped for the future. Investments should prioritize both foundational infrastructure—such as electricity, water, and sanitation—and advanced resources like computer labs, science labs, and smart classrooms. A focus on making schools future-ready is essential to providing equitable, high-quality education for all students.

Can India Redeem Itself in the 2023 Champions Trophy?

The ICC Champions Trophy, which India won in 2013, remains a fond memory for many cricket fans. With Shikhar Dhawan's player-of-the-tournament performance and Virat Kohli's iconic 'Gangnam Style' dance, that victory marked the last time India clinched an ICC ODI tournament. As the Champions Trophy returns in 2023 after a six-year hiatus, India faces a critical opportunity to redeem itself, especially after underwhelming performances in recent series against Sri Lanka, New Zealand, and Australia.



The upcoming Champions Trophy holds immense significance for India, particularly as the team looks to recover its confidence after a series of setbacks. Winning the tournament would reignite the euphoria from last year's T20 World Cup victory and provide a much-needed boost ahead of the 2023-2027 ODI cycle. For senior players like Virat Kohli and Rohit Sharma, this could be a make-or-break tournament. With their international futures intertwined with strong performances, both players must rediscover their form. Kohli, who once dominated the ODI format, will be aiming to put his recent struggles behind him. With over 14,000 runs and 50 centuries in this format, a strong showing in this tournament could help him reclaim his 'King Kohli' status. Similarly, Rohit Sharma, with his three ODI double centuries and impressive career stats, has the opportunity to rebuild his image and legacy.

Coach Gautam Gambhir, who took over the role just six months ago, also has a lot riding on this tournament. Though it's early in his coaching career, a Champions Trophy win could cement his credibility. For the team, the opportunity to clinch another ICC title, especially under his guidance, would be a significant achievement.

India's squad is looking strong on paper, particularly in the batting department, with a good mix of experienced and young players. However, the fast-bowling unit is a potential weakness. Jasprit Bumrah and Mohammed Shami are returning from injuries, and with no Mohammed Siraj in the squad, India's pace attack could face challenges.

Focused Governance: PM Modi's 'One Nation, One Election' Appeal To NCC Cadets

Shiromani Akali Dal demands probe into alleged misuse of public funds. Prime Minister Modi emphasizes the role of young voices in shaping India's political future.

TPN Correspondent | Delhi

Prime Minister Narendra Modi has urged India's youth to actively participate in the national debate on the "One Nation, One Election" proposal, which aims to synchronize Lok Sabha and state elections. Addressing a National Cadet Corps (NCC) rally in Delhi, Modi highlighted the significance of this reform for India's democracy, calling it a critical step toward policy stability and effective governance.

Historical Context: Modi pointed out that simultaneous elections were a norm post-independence but were disrupted over time, leading to frequent elections and their associated challenges, such as continuous campaigning and policy delays.

Global Comparisons: Referencing election practices in countries like the United States, Modi emphasized the benefits of streamlined elections.

Youth Involvement: The Prime Minister urged young people to engage in discussions about this initiative, stating, "This issue is directly linked to your future." He encouraged youth to contribute fresh ideas to politics, reiterating his vision of involving one lakh young leaders in gov-



ernance.

NCC Growth: Highlighting the increasing participation in the NCC, Modi noted the rise in cadet numbers from 14 lakh in 2014 to 20 lakh today, with a significant contribution from female cadets. President Droupadi Murmu also endorsed the "One Nation, One Election" initiative, emphasizing its potential to reduce financial burdens, prevent policy paralysis, and ensure consistent governance.

Controversy and Debate:

The proposal has ignited a spirited national conversation. Supporters, including the BJP, argue it could lead to cost-effective and stable governance, while critics, particularly opposition parties, warn about potential risks to India's federal structure and the independence of state legislatures.

As the discussion gains momentum, Modi's call to the youth aims to ensure the next generation is at the forefront of shaping India's evolving democratic practices.

Stalin gets relief in 'Sanatana Dharma' remark case

TPN Correspondent | Chennai

Tamil Nadu Deputy Chief Minister Udhayanidhi Stalin received a significant reprieve on Monday as the Supreme Court declined to entertain three writ petitions seeking criminal action against him over his controversial remarks on 'Sanatana Dharma.' The petitions were dismissed with the liberty for petitioners to seek alternative legal remedies.

Court's Decision:

The petitions, filed by B Jagannath, Vineet Jindal, and Sanatan Suraksha Parishad, alleged that Stalin's remarks equating 'Sanatana Dharma' to diseases like dengue and malaria constituted hate speech and hurt religious sentiments.

A bench comprising Justice Bela M. Trivedi and Justice Prasanna B. Varale questioned the maintainability of the petitions under Article 32 of the Constitution. Senior Advocate Dama Seshadri Naidu, representing the petitioners, sought permission to withdraw the petitions, which the court granted, allowing them to explore other legal remedies.

Stalin's Stance:

Udhayanidhi Stalin has consistently refused to apologise for his remarks made at the 'Sanatana Abolition Conference' in September 2023. He asserted that his statement was rooted in the ideologies of Dravidian leaders like Periyar, CN Annadurai, and M. Karunanidhi, and aimed to critique a system he believes opposes social justice and equality.

"My words were twisted," Stalin said, acknowledging the widespread criticism and legal actions. "Cases have been filed against me across India. They demanded an apology, but I stand by my words. I'm the grandson of Kalaingar, and I will not apologise."

The Controversy:

Stalin's comments, where he called for the "eradication" of Sanatana Dharma, sparked nationwide outrage, particularly from the BJP and Hindu organisations, leading to protests and multiple FIRs. His elevation to Deputy Chief Minister in September 2024 was reportedly delayed due to the backlash.



Mamta Kulkarni's Appointment Sparks Controversy Among Saints

TPN Correspondent | Delhi

The recent appointment of former Bollywood actress Mamta Kulkarni as the Mahamandaleshwar of the Kinnar Akhara during the Mahakumbh Mela in Prayagraj has ignited a debate among spiritual leaders. While some have celebrated her elevation, others have expressed strong reservations, citing her controversial past.

Kulkarni, now Shriyamai Mamta Nand Giri, was initiated into her new role by Laxmi Narayan Tripathi, the president of the Kinnar Akhara. The ceremony included traditional rituals that symbolized her integration into the spiritual community. However, this high-profile induction has divided opinion within the religious fraternity.

Several saints have questioned the decision, with Shri Swami Anand Swaroop Maharaj of Shambhavi Peeth calling it a "betrayal of Sanatan Dharma." Swaroop Maharaj advised Kulkarni to reconsider her path, suggesting that her appointment could tarnish her reputation and harm the Akhara's image.

Similarly, Mahamandaleshwar Balaknanda Ji Maharaj and Acharya Mahamandaleshwar Balaknanda Ji have expressed concerns, questioning Kulkarni's qualifications for the role and whether her past aligns with the spiritual ideals of the Akhara.

Despite the criticism, some members of the Kinnar Akhara and its supporters argue that transformation and redemption are key tenets of spiritual life. They believe that Kulkarni's journey could inspire others to embrace spirituality, regardless of their past. Mamta Kulkarni's appointment as Mahamandaleshwar has brought attention to the evolving dynamics within spiritual institutions. While the controversy highlights tensions between tradition and change, it also raises questions about the criteria for spiritual leadership and the possibility of personal transformation within Sanatan Dharma.



Rahul accuses BJP-RSS of insulting Ambedkar Constitution

TPN Correspondent | Mhow

Addressing the Jai Bapu, Jai Bhim, Jai Samvidhan rally, Rahul Gandhi accused the BJP and RSS of disrespecting Dr. B.R. Ambedkar and his vision of the Constitution. He alleged that the current government is systematically undermining the rights of marginalized communities.

Gandhi announced that the Congress would initiate a nationwide caste census upon returning to power at the Centre. He argued that such a census is essential to address historical inequities and ensure equitable resource distribution.

Gandhi accused Prime Minister Narendra Modi's administration of working for billionaires, claiming it is dismantling employment opportunities and concentrating the nation's wealth among a select few. He alleged that Dalits, tribals, and other marginalized groups are being pushed into modern-day slavery through economic policies that favor the elite.



Emphasizing Ambedkar's legacy, Gandhi stated, "The BJP-RSS aim to change the Constitution framed by Ambedkar. Their '400 paar' slogan from last year's polls reflects their intent to consolidate unchecked power." He urged Congress workers to actively safeguard the Constitution.

The rally is part of Congress's ongoing campaign to counter the BJP's narrative and mobilize support among Dalits, OBCs, and other marginalized groups. Gandhi's focus on caste-based issues aligns with the party's broader strategy to challenge the BJP in the upcoming Lok Sabha elections.

Rahul Gandhi's speech reflects the Congress party's attempts to position itself as the defender of Ambedkar's vision and the rights of marginalized communities. As the electoral battle intensifies, issues of caste, economic disparity, and constitutional integrity are expected to dominate political discourse.



AAP Releases 15-Point Manifesto Ahead of Delhi Assembly Elections

TPN Correspondent | Delhi

With the Delhi assembly elections approaching, Aam Aadmi Party (AAP) chief Arvind Kejriwal unveiled the party's manifesto on Monday, focusing on employment, women's welfare, and public transport reforms. The manifesto highlights 15 guarantees, reflecting AAP's commitment to fulfilling promises made to Delhi's residents.

Key Guarantees in the Manifesto:

Employment Creation:

Kejriwal's foremost promise is robust job creation for Delhiites, aiming to address unemployment in the capital.

Mahila Samman Yojana:

The manifesto introduces the Mahila Samman Yojana, pledging a monthly financial aid of ₹2,100 for women, emphasizing the party's focus on empowering women.

Sanjeevani Yojana for Senior Citizens:

AAP has promised free healthcare for senior citizens under the Sanjeevani Yojana, ensuring quality medical facilities without financial burdens.

Free Bus Travel for Students:

Extending its free public transport initiatives, AAP guarantees free bus travel for students and a 50% concession on metro fares to promote accessible and affordable commuting.

Water Bill Waivers and 24x7 Supply:

AAP pledged to waive outstanding "hiked" water bills and provide uninterrupted clean drinking water to every household in Delhi.

At the manifesto launch, Kejriwal took a jab at the BJP, saying, "We coined the term 'guarantee' in the country. After us, the BJP stole it, but the difference is, we fulfil our guarantees, and they do not." With its 15-point manifesto, AAP aims to retain power in Delhi by addressing pressing issues like unemployment, public transport, and women's welfare. As the capital gears up for elections next month, voters will weigh these promises against the party's past performance.

Indonesian Navy Chief Admiral Muhammad Ali's Visit to India Strengthens Defence Ties

TPN Correspondent | Delhi

Admiral Muhammad Ali, Chief of Staff of the Indonesian Navy, visited India alongside President Prabowo Subianto, who graced India's Republic Day Parade 2025 as Chief Guest. The visit underscored the growing defence and maritime cooperation between the two nations, highlighted by bilateral talks and significant advancements in the proposed USD 450 million BrahMos missile deal.

Admiral Ali engaged in talks with Admi-

ral Dinesh K. Tripathi, Chief of the Naval Staff of India, focusing on bolstering maritime collaboration and addressing regional challenges. Key topics included the enhancement of Exercise Samudra Shakti, cooperation in the Indian Ocean Region (IOR), and tackling illegal activities such as piracy and smuggling.

The Admiral also toured significant Indian maritime establishments like the Information Fusion Centre - Indian Ocean Region (IFC-IOR) and the Weapons and Electronics Systems Engineering Estab-

lishment (WESEE), reflecting the shared commitment to regional stability and technological collaboration.

A pivotal moment of Admiral Ali's visit was his interaction at BrahMos Aerospace Private Limited (BAPL), where discussions on advancing defence strategies took centre stage. Coinciding with President Subianto's meeting with BrahMos officials at a banquet hosted by President Droupadi Murmu, sources confirmed that negotiations for the \$450 million BrahMos missile system are nearing conclusion.

We Will Not Leave: Palestinians Slam Donald Trump's Idea To Clean Out Gaza

Trump's proposal to relocate Gazans sparks widespread condemnation



TPN Correspondent | Gaza City

The latest chapter in the Gaza conflict has seen Palestinian leader Mahmud Abbas and Hamas strongly denounce U.S. President Donald Trump's suggestion to relocate Gazans to neighboring countries. Trump's proposal, described as a plan to "clean out" Gaza, was met with universal rejection from Palestinian factions and neighboring states, who labeled it as an attempt at ethnic cleansing.

Hamas, along with Islamic Jihad, pledged to thwart such initiatives, recalling past resistance to displacement plans. Abbas reiterated Palestinians' steadfastness in their homeland, rejecting any project aimed at uprooting them. Trump suggested relocating Gaza's 2.4 million residents to Jordan or Egypt temporarily or permanently. The Arab League and regional powers labeled the plan as ethnic cleansing, with Jordan and Egypt issuing strong

denials. Displacement talks evoke memories of the Nakba, symbolizing the mass displacement of Palestinians in 1948.

The fragile truce between Israel and Hamas, entering its second week, remains under strain as disputes over hostage exchanges and humanitarian access persist. While recent swaps freed four Israeli hostages and 200 Palestinian prisoners, ongoing tensions over a civilian hostage, Arbel Yehud, have delayed the return of displaced Palestinians to northern Gaza.

The United Nations has reported dire humanitarian conditions in Gaza despite the recent surge in aid. The truce agreement, which includes phased exchanges of hostages and prisoners, offers a glimmer of hope for easing the prolonged crisis, though the path to lasting peace remains uncertain.

Neighboring Lebanon has also seen clashes, with Israeli forces reportedly targeting civilians attempting to return to border areas, further highlighting the region's volatility.

Donald Trump imposes 25 per cent tariffs on Colombia for refusing deportation flights

TPN Correspondent | Washington

Trade tensions between the United States and Colombia have flared after US President Donald Trump announced a 25% tariff on all imports from Colombia. The move comes in response to Colombia's refusal to allow two US deportation flights to land, carrying immigrants for repatriation.

Trump's Announcement:

On his social media platform, Truth Social, Trump expressed frustration over the incident, accusing Colombian President Gustavo Petro of endangering US national security and public safety. He outlined a series of punitive measures, including:

- An immediate 25% tariff on Colombian imports, with the potential to rise to 50% within a week.
- Visa bans and revocations targeting Colombian officials, their allies, and members of Petro's party.
- Enhanced customs and border inspections for Colombian nationals and goods under national security concerns.
- Sanctions under the International Emergency Economic Powers Act (IEEPA).

Petro's Response:

Colombian President Gustavo Petro defended his government's stance, insisting that deportation flights must adhere to protocols ensuring dignified treatment of migrants. He called for the use of civilian planes



rather than military aircraft for such operations.

In retaliation to Trump's tariffs, Petro announced a 25% tariff on US imports, directing Colombia's foreign trade minister to implement the measure immediately.

Potential Fallout:

The escalating tit-for-tat measures threaten to disrupt bilateral trade relations between the two nations, which have enjoyed strong economic ties. Key sectors such as agriculture, textiles, and industrial goods may face significant impacts if the situation continues to escalate.

Conclusion:

This developing dispute underscores the fragility of international diplomacy in addressing migration issues. As the US and Colombia exchange economic blows, the broader implications for trade and regional cooperation remain uncertain. Observers await further developments as both governments grapple with the fallout of their decisions.

South Korea's Impeached President Yoon Suk Yeol Indicted Over Martial Law Declaration

TPN Correspondent | Seoul

South Korean prosecutors have indicted impeached President Yoon Suk Yeol for rebellion following his controversial declaration of martial law on December 3, a decision that threw the nation into political upheaval.

The Seoul Central District Prosecutors' Office formally charged Yoon, accusing him of violating democratic norms through the decree. This follows his impeachment and arrest earlier this month, with the Constitutional Court now deliberating whether to permanently dismiss him or reinstate his presidency.

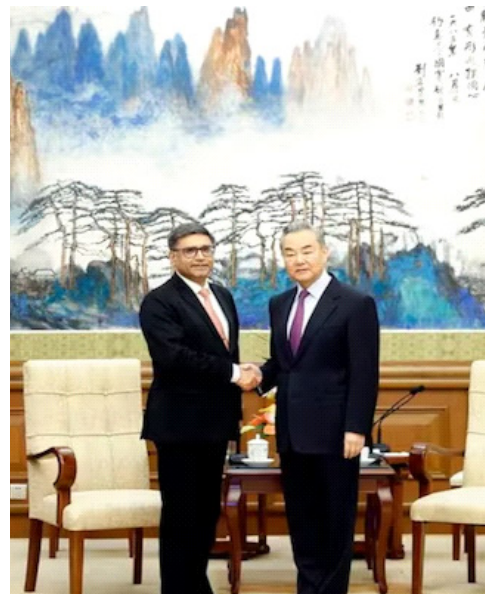
- Martial law triggered national unrest, with Yoon labeling the National Assembly a "den of criminals."
- The Constitutional Court's decision on Yoon's impeachment is still pending.



- Yoon justified his actions as a response to "North Korea followers" obstructing governance

Yoon, a staunch conservative, maintains that his declaration was a legitimate exercise of authority intended to combat what he described as anti-state forces and liberal interference in his administration. Critics, however, view it as a dramatic overreach that undermined democratic principles. South Korea's political landscape remains tense, with Yoon's actions sparking nationwide protests and raising concerns over the fragility of democratic institutions.

India and China Seek Common Ground Amidst Efforts to Strengthen Bilateral Ties



TPN Correspondent | Beijing

India and China are taking strides toward fostering improved relations, as highlighted in a meeting between Chinese Foreign Minister Wang Yi and Indian Foreign Secretary Vikram Misri on Monday in Beijing. Misri's two-day visit marks the second high-profile diplomatic engagement between the nations in less than six weeks.

Wang Yi underscored the necessity for both nations to embrace mutual understanding and cooperation rather than harboring mutual suspicion. He reiterated the importance of implementing the consensus reached by President Xi Jinping and Prime Minister Narendra Modi during their meeting in Russia last year, which aimed to reset ties strained by border tensions.

"India and China must commit to mutual support and understanding rather than suspicion," said Wang Yi. The relationship is pivotal for Asia's development and global South cooperation. Misri's visit follows talks between Wang Yi and Ajit Doval last month. Wang, also China's Special Representative for the India-China border mechanism, emphasized the broader significance of their relationship, noting its impact on the global South and contributions to peace, stability, and prosperity in Asia.

The visit included discussions with Liu Jianchao, head of the Communist Party's International Department, focusing on implementing leadership consensus, enhancing dialogue, and addressing regional and international issues of mutual concern. Misri's engagement comes ahead of China's Spring Festival and the Chinese New Year celebrations, symbolizing optimism for a new chapter in bilateral relations amidst challenges.



Preliminary Investigation Reveals Bird Strike as Possible Cause of Jeju Air Disaster

TPN Correspondent | Seoul, South Korea

A preliminary investigation into the catastrophic Jeju Air crash that occurred on December 29, 2024, suggests a bird strike as a potential cause. The Boeing 737-800, traveling from Thailand to Muan, South Korea, crash-landed and erupted into flames upon hitting a concrete barrier, killing 179 of the 181 passengers and crew.

Investigators discovered bird feathers and bloodstains in both engines of the ill-fated plane.

DNA analysis confirmed the remains belonged to Baikal teals, migratory ducks common in Korea during winter.

The pilots encountered a flock of birds while approaching runway 01, and the air traffic control tower had issued a warning about bird activity just before the crash.

The cockpit voice and data recorders ceased functioning one minute after the bird warning. Seconds later, the pilots declared a mayday, citing bird strikes, and attempted an emergency belly landing. Tragically, the plane collided with a concrete embankment, leading to an explosion.

The incident has raised concerns about the use of rigid concrete barriers at runways. Authorities have since announced plans to replace these barriers with "breakable structures" to enhance safety in case of similar emergencies.

Pilots' Experience and Questions Raised:

The captain, with over 6,800 flight hours, and the first officer, with 1,650 hours, were among the fatalities. Investigators are examining why the bird strike led to such catastrophic engine failure and why the concrete barricade was positioned at the runway's end.

This disaster, the deadliest on South Korean soil, underscores the need for improved bird strike prevention and airport safety measures.



Iran Adds Russian-Made Sukhoi-35 Fighter Jets To Its Combat Air Fleet

TPN Correspondent | Tehran

Iran has officially confirmed the purchase of Russian Sukhoi-35 fighter jets, marking a significant upgrade to its air force amidst heightened military cooperation with Moscow. Iran's air force, which comprises ageing US jets acquired pre-1979 and older Russian models, will see a considerable boost with the arrival of these advanced aircraft.

Ali Shadmani, deputy coordinator of the Khatam-ol-Anbia Central Headquarters, announced that military upgrades are underway, with outdated systems being replaced. While Shadmani did not confirm whether the Su-35 jets have been delivered, this is the first acknowledgment of the purchase by a senior Iranian official.

In November, Iran's Tasnim News Agency reported that arrangements to acquire the fighter jets had been finalized. This move aligns with a broader 20-year strategic partnership signed earlier this month between Iranian President Masoud Pezeshkian and Russian President Vladimir Putin in Moscow.

Key Clauses of the Strategic Partnership:

Mutual Defense Commitment: Neither nation will allow its territory to be used for acts threatening the other.

Military-Technical Cooperation: Though not explicitly mentioning arms transfers, the agreement emphasizes the strengthening of military collaboration.

Geopolitical Context:

Russia's involvement in Ukraine has strained its regional influence. Iran faces mounting Western sanctions and regional instability due to its conflict with Israel.

The collapse of Bashar al-Assad's regime in Syria has further weakened the strategic foothold of both Tehran and Moscow in the Middle East.

The purchase of Sukhoi-35 jets and the strengthening of military ties highlight Iran and Russia's shared need to counteract their geopolitical challenges, ensuring mutual security and influence in a rapidly shifting global landscape.

Market Mayhem: Sensex Sinks 824 Points, Nifty Breaches 23,000 Amid Global Headwinds



Domestic stock markets were in turmoil. Benchmark and broad indices were bleeding on Monday. All indices went into bearish territory as investors sold off shares across sectors. The indices started the morning gap-down on negative signals from Asian and international markets. Negative sentiment prevailed in the market after Nifty broke the key support zone of 23000. In addition, the start of the US Fed meeting, economic data to come, Trump's imposition of tariffs on Colombia, and the free release of China's own AI model to compete with Chat GPT had an impact. With this, Nifty fell by 260 points and Sensex by more than 820 points. Investors lost wealth worth Rs. 9 lakh crore on this day alone.

The BSE Sensex, which closed at 76,190 in the previous session, opened at 75,700 on Monday. It touched an intraday low of 75,267. It reached an intraday high of 75,925. It finally closed at 75,366, down 824 points. The NSE Nifty, which opened at 22,940, touched a low of 22,786 and a high of 23,007. It closed at 22,829, down 263 points. The Nifty Bank fell 303 points to settle at 48,064.

In Nifty50, 8 companies gained while 42 lost. Britannia, ICICI Bank, M&M, Hindustan Unilever, SBI were the top gainers. HCL Tech, Tech Mahindra, Wipro, Hindalco, Shriram Finance were the top losers. All sectoral indices were mixed today. IT and media fell by 3 to 4 percent. The rest fell by 2 percent. The banking index lost less. Fear Index India VIX rose by 8.28% to 18.13 percent.

Today, the market breadth on NSE completely turned in favor of bears. Out of 2955 stocks traded, 2535 lost. Only 352 gained. Shares of 20 companies reached a 52-week high. Shares of 452 companies reached a 52-week low.



MURTHY NAIDU PAADAM
Stock Market Analyst
+91 988 555 9709

The rupee weakened by 13 paise to settle at 86.33 against the dollar. JP Morgan has given an overweight rating to ICICI Bank with a target price of Rs 1500. LT Foods shares fell by 9 percent after disappointing results in the third quarter. JSW Group expands into non-ferrous metals mining. Bernstein maintains outperform rating on NTPC with a target price of Rs 440. Wonderla cuts net profit to Rs 20.3 crore from Rs 37.3 crore. Jafferries maintains buy rating on ICICI Bank with a target price of Rs 1600. IOC reports net profit of Rs 2874 crore, revenue of Rs 1.94 lakh crore. Shares, which rose 12% on 144% profit, finally closed at 2.16%. Pine Labs IPO likely in February.

1. Bank of India (BOI)



Consistent profit growth due to lower provisioning and better recoveries. High capital adequacy ratio (CAR > 15%), ensuring stability. Public sector banks are sensitive to macroeconomic risks. Lower growth compared to private-sector peers. Suitable for investors looking for value in PSU banks. Long-term growth depends on further improvements in operational efficiency and credit growth.

2. DCM Shriram



Diversified business model: Chemicals, fertilizers, sugar, and PVC. Strong presence in the agri and chemical sectors, benefiting from favorable government policies. Consistent dividend payouts. Exposure to cyclical industries like chemicals and sugar. Volatile input costs impacting margins. Good for medium- to long-term investors seeking exposure to the chemicals and agri-business sectors. Watch for margin trends and expansion plans.

3. Torrent Pharmaceuticals

Strong domestic portfolio, particularly in chronic therapies (cardiology, diabetes). Aggressive investments in R&D (~7-8% of revenue) for future growth. Geographical diversification with key markets in the US, Brazil, and Germany. US FDA compliance issues in manufacturing plants may



pose challenges. Best suited for long-term investors looking to benefit from its strong domestic franchise and international growth opportunities. Monitor regulatory develop-

ments.

4. Hindustan Unilever (HUL)

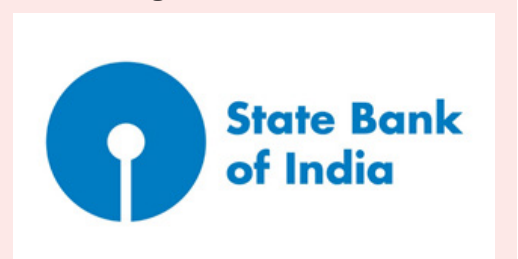
Market leader in FMCG with an extensive product portfolio. Steady revenue and profit growth driven by premiumization and rural penetration. Rural demand recovery remains sluggish. A stable, blue-chip stock for



long-term wealth creation. Ideal for conservative investors seeking steady returns with lower risk.

5. State Bank of India (SBI)

India's largest bank with a dominant



market share in retail and corporate lending. Strong asset quality (Net NPA ~0.8%) and credit growth (~16-18% YoY). Digital transformation driving operational efficiency. Vulnerability to macroeconomic shocks due to its size. Heavy reliance on government policy. A core portfolio stock for investors seeking exposure to the banking sector. Offers a mix of stability and growth potential.

Adani Total Gas Expands CNG Stations and Infrastructure, Reports Strong Quarterly Growth

Adani Total Gas (ATGL) has reported a strong operational performance in its quarterly earnings, with significant growth across multiple segments. The company increased its CNG stations to 605, adding 28 new stations during the October-December quarter. Additionally, the number of PNG home connections grew to 9.22 lakh, with 28,677 new households benefiting from the service. Industrial and commercial connections also saw an increase, with 167 new consumers, bringing the total to 8,913.

The company's cumulative steel pipeline network now spans 13,082 Inch Km, highlighting its ongoing infrastructure expansion. ATGL's combined CNG and PNG volume reached 257 MMSCM, marking a 15% year-on-year increase, underscoring the growing demand for natural gas.

In terms of financial performance, ATGL saw a 12% increase in revenue from operations, reaching Rs 1,397 crore. EBITDA stood at Rs 272 crore, while profit after tax (PAT) for the quarter was Rs 143 crore. These results reflect the company's ability to maintain a strong growth trajectory despite challenges in gas supply, including a reduction in APM gas allocation.

Suresh P Manglani, ED and CEO of ATGL, emphasized the company's focus on maintaining affordability for consumers while ensuring profitability. He also highlighted ATGL's commitment to expanding PNG and CNG infrastructure, particularly in its 34 Geographical Areas (GAs), including the recently added Jalandhar GA in Punjab.

ATGL is authorized in 34 GAs, with the remaining 19 GAs being operated through a joint venture with Indian Oil Corporation Limited under the name Indian Oil-Adani Gas Private Limited (IOAGPL). In addition to its core gas distribution business, ATGL has expanded into the E-Mobility and Biomass sectors with the formation of two wholly owned subsidiaries: Adani TotalEnergies E-Mobility Ltd (ATEL) and Adani TotalEnergies Biomass Ltd (ATBL). The company has also established a 50:50 joint venture, Smart Meter Technologies Private Limited, to manufacture gas meters.



India Poised to Expand Its Share in Global Pharma Manufacturing Beyond Generics: BCG Report

India is set to capture a larger share of the global pharmaceutical manufacturing market, moving beyond its traditional focus on generic drugs, according to a report by Boston Consulting Group (BCG). The report highlights that the ongoing "China+1" strategy, where companies are diversifying operations outside China, has created new opportunities for India to become a key player in the global pharmaceutical supply chain.

The report notes that with pharmaceutical companies looking to reduce their dependency on China, India is emerging as a competitive alternative due to its cost advantage. Indian pharmaceutical services are 20% cheaper than those offered by China, making it an attractive destination for manufacturing operations.

India's expanding role in the global pharma landscape is further supported by investments flowing into the country's pharmaceutical sector, enabling it to move beyond generics and explore other avenues such as biotechnology, digital health, and Med-Tech. According to the report, pharmaceutical and biotechnology investments have received USD 9.5 billion, while health services have garnered USD 12.1 billion in funding. Additionally, digital health has seen remarkable growth, securing USD 4.6 billion in investments over recent years.

India, along with Singapore, is also emerging as a prominent hub for healthcare innovation and investment in Asia. Since 2018, the pharmaceutical and biotech sectors in Asia have attracted USD



20 billion in private equity investments, with India receiving a significant share of USD 5 billion. This investment influx, coupled with India's competitive pricing and infrastructure development, positions the country for substantial growth in the global pharmaceutical market.

The report also emphasizes that Asia's healthcare market is projected to reach USD 5 trillion by 2030, contributing 40% of global sector growth. As India continues to attract investments and expand its pharmaceutical manufacturing capabilities, it is poised to play a transformative role in the global healthcare ecosystem, benefiting both the economy and global supply chains.

Industry Players Call for Pro-Manufacturing Policies Ahead of Union Budget 2025-26

As India prepares for the Union Budget 2025-26 on February 1, industry leaders from the manufacturing sector are urging the government to introduce policies that foster local production, reduce GST on consumer durables, and implement tax reforms that would increase disposable incomes, thereby stimulating consumer spending. The government has set an ambitious target of increasing the manufacturing sector's contribution to GDP from the current 17% to 25%. In light of this, industry representatives are hoping for financial incentives to expand the Production-Linked Incentive (PLI) schemes, support for sustainable manufacturing practices, and tax exemptions that can help bolster growth.

Simarpreet Singh, Executive Director and CEO of Hartek Group, acknowledged the positive strides made by the government in supporting the manufacturing sector but emphasized the need for continued fo-



cus on enhancing domestic production capacity. He advocated for policy measures that would make manufacturing more attractive and competitive, both for local businesses and foreign investors.

Manufacturers are particularly seeking reductions in GST rates for consumer durables, which would ease the financial burden on both producers and consum-

ers. Such measures are expected to boost consumer spending, helping to accelerate demand for manufactured goods. Additionally, a more favorable tax regime that increases disposable incomes will help generate higher demand for consumer goods, creating a positive cycle of growth. The industry is also calling for expanded PLI schemes that would encourage more investment in key sectors such as electronics, renewable energy, and automotive manufacturing. These sectors are seen as vital to India's economic transformation, and the government's support in the form of incentives and reforms would allow them to flourish further. With the government focused on boosting the manufacturing sector as a key driver of economic growth, industry players remain hopeful that the upcoming budget will address their concerns and provide the necessary policy framework to achieve these objectives.

Experium Eco-Friendly Park

A Groundbreaking Eco-Recreational Wonderland Opens in Hyderabad

TPN Correspondent | Hyderabad

In a stunning blend of nature, art, and adventure, Experium Eco Friendly Park is officially opening its doors to the public, set to become one of the most unique destinations for nature lovers and thrill-seekers alike. Located at Prodtur Village, Near Pragati Resorts, Chilukuru Balaji Temple Road, Hyderabad, this one-of-a-kind eco-recreational park promises an unparalleled experience that combines environmental education, rare botanical species, and adrenaline-pumping activities. The grand inauguration is set for January 28th, with the Chief Minister of Telangana, Revanth Reddy, Tourism and Culture Minister, Jupally Krishna Rao, and Mega Star Chiranjeevi gracing the occasion.

A Vision 25 Years in the Making



The park's visionary founder, Ramadugu Ramdev, shared the deeply personal story behind the creation of Experium. "My father was a forest contractor, involved in deforestation. This realization later led him to create a forest on 80 acres of land. Inspired by this, I developed a deep love for nature and plants," Ramdev recalled. "My background in fine arts helped me envision a place that blends art with nature." The journey to establishing Experium began 25 years ago, with the formal action plan crafted 12 years ago, and the park foundation laid six-and-a-half years ago. Ramdev's company, Unique Trees, specializes in sourcing rare plants and trees and has supplied them to notable personalities including Shah Rukh Khan, Rani Mukerji, and Mega Star Chiranjeevi. Over the years, Ramdev has traveled to 85 countries, collecting over 25,000 species of plants and trees, which are now showcased in the park.



Unique Features of Experium



Spread across 150 acres, Experium houses over 25,000 species of plants, many of which are rare and exotic, sourced from 85 countries including Argentina, Uruguay, Mexico, Spain, Thailand, and Australia. The park boasts several unique features, including:

- **Rare and Ancient Trees:** Valued between ₹1 lakh to ₹3.5 crores.
- **Sculptures and Rocks:** Sculptures worth ₹5 lakhs to ₹1 crore, natural rocks ranging from ₹50,000 to ₹50 lakhs, and a total sculpture collection worth ₹15 crores.
- **India's Largest Hampi Theater:** Seating up to 1,500 people.
- **Stainless Steel Sculptures:** 20 sculptures, standing 30 feet tall, making Experium India's only destination with this feature.
- **Honeymoon and Themed Cottages:** The

park features unique honeymoon cottages, first-night, and last-night cottages, catering to a variety of experiences.

- **Pre-wedding and Post-wedding Photo Spots:** A premier location for photo shoots, with 600 selfie spots across the park.
- **Michelin-Grade Restaurants:** Offering culinary delights from top-tier chefs.
- **Adventure and Immersive Experience:** The park boasts the largest snow park in India, a four-direction zipline stretching 1 km, India's first box cricket facility, and the world's first artificial mountain landscape.
- **Innovative Attractions:** Including the world's first tree coffee shop, an aquarium restaurant, a drive-in LED theater, and more.

A Symbol of Nature and Innovation

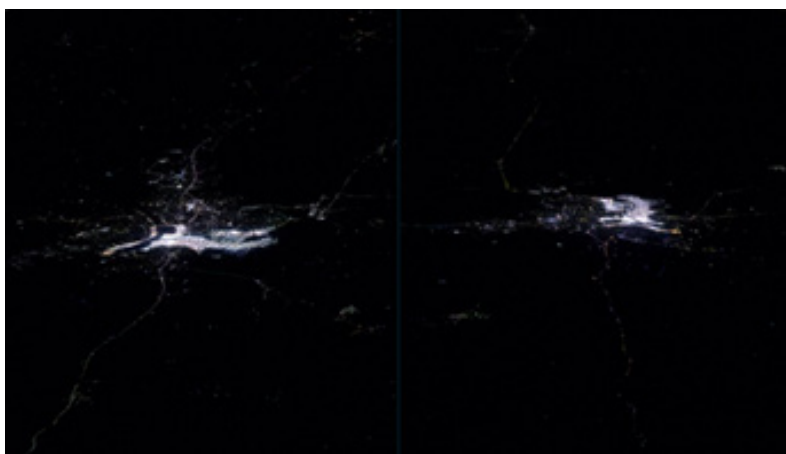
Experium is more than just a park; it is a celebration of nature's beauty and human creativity. "This park will spark curiosity and a greater appreciation for nature's wonders," says Ramdev, who has invested over ₹150 crores into the project. The park also features a glow garden created with an investment of ₹50 crores, a man-made beach spread over 12 acres, and a convention center with a capacity to host 10,000 people, currently under development.

Experium stands as a symbol of pride for the nation, a landmark for Hyderabad, and a true fu-



sion of art, nature, and cutting-edge innovation. It's not just a park; it's an experience that must be seen to be fully appreciated.

NASA Astronaut Shares Stunning Images of Maha Kumbh Mela from Space



The Maha Kumbh Mela 2025, returning to Prayagraj after 144 years, has drawn millions of devotees from around the world, all seeking spiritual solace and the chance to cleanse their sins in the holy waters of the Ganga, Yamuna, and Saraswati rivers. As photos and videos of the grand event flood social media daily, there is one perspective that offers an awe-inspiring view: that from space.

NASA astronaut Donald Pettit, currently aboard the International Space Station (ISS) as part of the Expedition 72 crew, has captured breathtaking images of the Maha Kumbh Mela from orbit. Sharing the photos on X (formerly Twitter), Pettit remarked, "2025 Maha Kumbh Mela Ganges River pilgrimage from the ISS at night. The largest human gathering in the world is well-lit." These images, taken at night, show the sprawling event in stunning detail, with the well-lit gathering of millions of devotees visible from space.

The Maha Kumbh Mela is

known as the world's largest human gathering, drawing pilgrims who come to take part in the sacred "Amrit Snan" (holy dip) at the confluence of the three rivers, seeking moksha (salvation). The event, which takes place every 12 years, is a grand display of devotion, spirituality, and tradition.

Pettit's photos reveal the scale of the event in a way that no ground-level camera can. The illuminated tents, roads, and pathways create a mesmerizing pattern that highlights the enormity of the Mela. The photos offer a rare and humbling view of the religious gathering, reflecting not only the sheer size of the event but also the deep spiritual connection that draws so many people from all over the world.

These images provide a unique window into the world's largest gathering of humans, showcasing the spiritual significance and unity of the Maha Kumbh Mela from a perspective that very few have ever seen.

US Company's Luxurious Underground Bunker To Protect From Disasters

A US-based company is offering an unprecedented level of security and luxury to ultra-wealthy clients with the launch of its doomsday bunker complex, the Aerie Project. Valued at \$300 million, these high-tech bunkers are designed to provide ultimate protection against disasters, including nuclear fallout. Slated for inauguration in 2026, the first glimpse of these fortified residences has been unveiled, sparking interest worldwide. The Aerie Project will be available across 1,000 locations globally, including 50 cities in the US, according to Forbes.

The Aerie bunkers promise White House-level security combined with lavish amenities. They will feature AI-powered medical suites, gourmet dining, wellness programs, and interactive spaces, blending luxury with defense. The first facility under this project is being built in Virginia and will be capable of housing 625 people



in the event of a global catastrophe.

Al Corbi, founder and president of Strategically Armored & Fortified Environments (SAFE), the company behind Aerie, explained that the project was created to ensure vulnerable clients are protected even when they leave their fortified homes or yachts. Each bunker is designed to be impenetrable, with SCIF-compliant (Sensitive Compartmented Information Facilities) environments for maximum privacy. The luxurious residences include multi-layer

biometric authentication and advanced security features like tactical mantraps to offer top-tier safety.

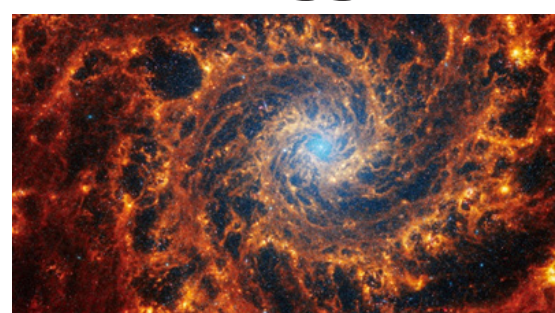
Aerie's bunkers are not just about protection; they are also about indulgence. Members will enjoy sprawling underground suites, including 2,000-square-foot individual suites and multi-level penthouses that span over 20,000 square feet. The facilities will boast unique features like panoramic lighting, a hyperbaric chamber, an underground swimming pool, an ice plunge room, an IV therapy room, and even a massage parlor.

Each Aerie residence is expected to cost up to \$20 million, and the exclusive nature of the project means only club members can purchase these properties. Before committing, potential buyers will be offered a taster experience to preview the luxurious, secure living space.

South African telescope discovers a giant galaxy that's 32 times bigger than Earth's

High above our heads, there's an ongoing cosmic party orchestrated by supermassive black holes. These enigmatic objects, which can have masses millions or even billions of times that of our Sun, are the driving force behind some of the most spectacular phenomena in the universe.

Astronomers believe that every galaxy harbors a supermassive black hole at its center. In many galaxies, vast amounts of interstellar gas spiral around these black holes, getting sucked in beyond the event horizon. This process generates immense friction and energy, leading to the release of enormous amounts of light across various wavelengths of the electromagnetic spectrum. It's this cosmic "rave" that's so captivating to scientists and sky-watchers alike.



In addition to the energy released from gas falling into the black hole, some supermassive black holes also eject vast jets of plasma that stretch millions of light-years across intergalactic space. These plasma jets are so hot that they consist of electrons moving at nearly the speed of light. The jets glow brightly in radio frequencies, making them visible through radio telescopes. When these jets are observed, they are called "radio galaxies," and their appearance can be likened to two glowing

sticks, each stretching out from the black hole like the arms of a cosmic dance.

As time passes, astronomers theorize that the plasma jets continue expanding outward, eventually growing into massive structures known as giant radio galaxies. These giant galaxies are incredibly rare, and by 2020, only about 800 of them had been identified, nearly 50 years after their discovery. For decades, they were considered exceptional outliers in the universe.

However, with the development of advanced radio telescopes and improved observational methods, a new generation of radio telescopes is uncovering more of these giant radio galaxies. Their existence hints at the vastness of the cosmos, where supermassive black holes continue to fuel the ongoing cosmic rave, lighting up the universe in dazzling ways.

Sumit Nagal, Rohan Bopanna Big Losers In Fresh ATP Rankings



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 impres-

sive 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.

Jasprit Bumrah Wins ICC Men's Test Cricketer of the Year 2024

India's fast-bowling ace, Jasprit Bumrah, has been named the ICC Men's Test Cricketer of the Year for 2024, thanks to a remarkable year with the ball. Bumrah claimed an impressive 71 wickets in 357 overs across 13 matches, with an outstanding average of 14.92. His achievements in 2024 make him only the fourth Indian bowler to take more than 70 wickets in a calendar year, joining the ranks of Ravichandran Ashwin, Anil Kumble, and Kapil Dev. Bumrah's sensational performance earned him the prestigious award, defeating stiff competition from Sri Lanka's Kamindu Mendis and England's Harry Brook and Joe Root.



Bumrah's exceptional year saw him shine in both home and away conditions, playing a key role in India's World Test Championship campaign, although they ultimately fell short of reaching the final. His 2024 campaign began with a standout performance in India's historic Test win in Cape Town against South Africa, where he took eight wickets. He followed this up with 19 wickets in India's 4-1 series victory over England, with a notable nine-wicket match haul in Visakhapatnam,

which helped India level the series.

However, Bumrah's crowning achievement in 2024 came during the Border-Gavaskar Trophy series in Australia, where he picked up 32 wickets in five matches at an incredible average of 13.06. His performance in Australia not only earned him the Player of the Series award but also saw him become the 12th Indian bowler to surpass the 200 Test wickets milestone. His best performance came in Perth, where he took eight wickets, including

a five-wicket haul in the first innings, propelling India to a dominant 295-run victory.

At just 31 years old, Bumrah's record-breaking year also saw him set a unique Test history milestone, becoming the only bowler with over 200 Test wickets to have an average under 20, with an impressive 19.4. His exceptional skill and consistency have solidified his place as one of the best fast bowlers in world cricket today.



Smriti Mandhana Named ICC Women's ODI Cricketer of the Year

India's charismatic opener, Smriti Mandhana, has been named the ICC Women's ODI Cricketer of the Year for 2024. The vice-captain of the Indian women's cricket team earned the prestigious honor after a stellar year, setting new personal milestones in One Day Internationals.

Mandhana, known for her elegant strokeplay and consistency, had an exceptional 2024, amassing 747 runs in just 13 innings. This tally made her the highest run-scorer among all women's ODI cricketers during the year. Her remarkable feat not only saw her surpass her own previous records but also placed her well ahead of other top performers in the format, including South Africa's Laura Wolvaardt (697 runs), England's Tammy Beaumont (554 runs), and West Indies' Hayley Matthews (469 runs).

Throughout the year, Mandhana's form was a standout feature in India's batting lineup, and she delivered key performances that helped her team in various

match-winning situations. Her ability to consistently score runs across different conditions highlighted her versatility as an opening batter and her importance to the Indian team.

Mandhana's achievement is a testament to her skill, hard work, and determination, making her one of the leading figures in women's cricket today. The left-hander's impressive 2024 campaign solidifies her position as one of the best in the world and further elevates her standing within the international cricket community.

This recognition comes as another milestone in Mandhana's already illustrious career, which has seen her garner praise for her technique and temperament in both limited-overs and longer formats. As she continues to break records and inspire future generations, Mandhana's remarkable year in 2024 will be remembered as one of the most outstanding individual performances in women's cricket history.

Barcelona Thrashes Valencia 7-1 in La Liga Rout

Barcelona secured a commanding 7-1 victory over Valencia on Sunday, snapping out of their recent slump in La Liga with an emphatic performance. Fermin Lopez played a starring role, scoring twice in the first half, as Barcelona took a dominant 5-0 lead into the break. Frenkie de Jong, Ferran Torres, and Raphinha also found the back of the net, while Valencia struggled defensively throughout the match.

The opening goal came early, just three minutes in, when De Jong converted a cross from teenage prodigy Lamine Yamal. Barcelona's second followed shortly after, with Torres scoring from Alejandro Balde's cross. Lopez then set up Raphinha for the third, and the Brazilian winger rounded the goalkeeper to slot in his 12th league goal of the season.

Lopez scored again for Barcelona with a well-timed volley after Raphinha's shot hit the post, sending them 5-0 up before



halftime. Valencia, missing the suspended Cristhian Mosquera, were unable to cope with Barcelona's attacking play. A potential penalty for Valencia was ruled out after a video review, further adding to their frustration.

Valencia pulled one back early in the second half when Hugo Duro scored from a Diego Lopez assist. However, Barcelona responded quickly, with Robert Lewandowski adding a sixth goal, his 17th of the season, after a through ball from Lopez. The seventh came when Cesar Tarrega deflected Torres' cross into his own net.

Despite the dominant scoreline, Valencia's coach Carlos Corberan faced harsh criticism for his side's performance. Valencia defender Jose Gaya expressed his disappointment, saying, "It was an enormous step backward," and urged his team to focus on the next match.

Barcelona's victory lifted them back on track in La Liga, but their coach, Hansi Flick, emphasized the importance of maintaining this momentum as they trail leaders Real Madrid by seven points.

Noman Ali Hat-Trick in vain as Pakistan Lost the match to West Indies

Pakistan's star spinner, Noman Ali, made history on Day 1 of the second Test against the West Indies in Multan by taking a remarkable hat-trick. This achievement, which came within the first hour of the match, placed Noman among an elite group of cricketers. He dismissed Justin Greaves (1), Tevin Imlach (0), and Kevin Sinclair (0), becoming the sixth player in Test cricket history to claim a hat-trick in the opening session of a match.

Notably, Noman is only the second-ever spinner to achieve this feat in Test cricket, following in the footsteps of Australia's Billy Bates, who accomplished it in 1883. At 38 years and 139 days old, Noman also became the second-oldest player to take a Test hat-trick, trailing only Sri Lanka's Rangana Herath, who was 38 years and 110 days when he achieved the same.



Despite Noman's historic performance, Pa-

kistan was unable to capitalize on his early breakthroughs, and the West Indies went

on to win the match by 120 runs. This victory allowed the West Indies to level the series 1-1, with spinner Jomel Warrican playing a key role in the win by taking five wickets. Warrican finished with nine wickets in the match, and an impressive 19 wickets in the series, leading the West Indies to their first Test win in Pakistan in nearly 35 years.

The last time the West Indies won a Test match in Pakistan was in November 1990 in Faisalabad. Despite tough tours in 1997 and 2006, the West Indies managed to defeat Pakistan on sharply spinning pitches, making this victory a historic one for the team.

West Indies captain Kraigg Brathwaite expressed his pride in the young squad, saying, "We haven't played in Pakistan for a number of years, but we haven't won here in a while, so to come here and do it as a young group is incredible."



The Powerful Eyes of Prabhas: First Look in 'Kannappa' to be Unveiled Soon

Rebel Star Prabhas is all set to make a memorable appearance in the upcoming devotional drama Kannappa, directed by Mukesh Kumar Singh and produced by Mohan Babu. Known for his intense screen presence, Prabhas will play a crucial role in the film, which has been generating significant buzz, especially with his extended cameo.

The teaser of Kannappa recently offered a sneak peek into Prabhas's character, showcasing his powerful eyes, leaving fans excited for more. To quench the thirst of eager audiences, the makers have now announced that the full first look of Prabhas will be unveiled on February 3, 2025. Along with this announcement, they released a pre-look poster that highlights Prabhas's intense gaze and the symbolic presence of a Trishul, adding to the intrigue surrounding his character.



While the official details about Prabhas's role are yet to be confirmed, sources hint that he may be playing Lord Shiva in the film. However, there's speculation that Prabhas will portray a different incarnation of Shiva, one who descends to Earth, distinct from the original form played by Akshay Kumar. Until the film's release, fans can only guess the true nature of Prabhas's role.

Apart from Prabhas, Kannappa features a star-studded ensemble cast, including Akshay Kumar, Mohanlal, and Kajal Aggarwal in extended cameos. The film also stars Mohan Babu, Sarathkumar, Preity Mukun-

dan, Madhoo, Brahmaji, and others in key roles, ensuring a diverse and dynamic performance lineup.

Slated for a worldwide release on April 25, 2025, Kannappa is a pan-India film that blends mythology and drama, with a captivating storyline and stellar performances expected to draw audiences from all corners. With the anticipation building around Prabhas's first look and his character's role in the film, fans are eagerly waiting for more updates.

Chhaava Director Removes Controversial Song Following Objections

Laxman Utekar, the director of the much-anticipated period drama Chhaava, has announced that a song featuring the film's lead actors, Vicky Kaushal and Rashmika Mandanna, will be removed following objections from various groups. The film, which centers on the life of Maratha ruler Chhatrapati Sambhaji Maharaj, sees Vicky Kaushal in the lead role, portraying the legendary king.



The decision to remove the sequence comes after concerns were raised by the Shiv Sena, the descendants of Shivaji Maharaj, and other stakeholders regarding the historical accuracy of the film. Specifically, the scene in question depicts Sambhaji Maharaj performing a Lezim dance with his wife, Maharani Yesubai, which drew criticism for its perceived inaccuracy and anachronism.

On Monday, Utekar confirmed that the makers of Chhaava had agreed to cut the scene following a meeting with Maharashtra Navnirman Sena (MNS) chief Raj Thackeray. In a statement to the media, Utekar expressed that the dance sequence, though a light-hearted moment in the film, was

insignificant when compared to the immense legacy of Chhatrapati Sambhaji Maharaj.

The director stressed that the film is made with respect and reverence for the Maratha king's legacy, and that historical authenticity is of utmost importance to the team. The removal of the scene reflects the filmmakers' commitment to ensuring that the portrayal of Sambhaji Maharaj remains true to his dignified legacy.

This development has sparked discussions about the challenges faced by filmmakers when portraying historical figures and events, particularly when it comes to balancing artistic freedom with historical accuracy and cultural sensitivities.

'L2E Empuraan' Teaser Promises an Epic Sequel to Lucifer

Mohanlal's 2019 blockbuster Lucifer became a landmark film in Malayalam cinema, and now the much-anticipated sequel, L2E Empuraan, is gearing up to take the saga to even greater heights. Directed by Prithviraj Sukumaran, who also starred in the original, the teaser for L2E Empuraan has finally dropped, and it promises a thrilling continuation of the gripping political drama.



at their continued partnership in this larger-than-life political saga.

The first installment of Lucifer ended with a major twist, revealing the dual identity of Steven Nedumpally as Abraam Khureshi, a political mastermind. L2E Empuraan appears to delve deeper into Khureshi's backstory, focusing on his role in the intricate political narrative unfolding in Kerala. While the teaser keeps the plot details under wraps, it showcases intense action sequences and provides a glimpse of the high stakes involved in the sequel.

L2E Empuraan is produced on an even grander scale than its predecessor, with a multi-lingual release planned for India. The film is set to hit theaters on March 27, 2025, and will be released in Malayalam, Telugu, Tamil, Kannada, and Hindi, ensuring it reaches a wider audience across the country. Produced by Lyca Productions and Aashirwad Cinemas, the film is set to raise the bar for Malayalam cinema and deliver an epic cinematic experience.

Mohanlal, despite his age, continues to exude charisma and strength in the teaser, leaving fans excited for his return as the formidable Steven Nedumpally. In a brief but impactful moment towards the end of the teaser, we catch a glimpse of Prithviraj as Mohanlal's trusted subordinate, hinting

at their continued partnership in this larger-than-life political saga. With its high-octane action, compelling storyline, and star-studded cast, L2E Empuraan is shaping up to be a worthy sequel to Lucifer, and fans can't wait to witness the next chapter of this thrilling political saga.

Bobby Deol's Poster Confirms Hari Hara Veera Mallu Sticks to Original Release Date

Amid speculation and rumors surrounding the release of Hari Hara Veera Mallu, Power Star Pawan Kalyan's much-awaited film, the team has officially confirmed that the movie will release as scheduled on March 28, 2025. The confirmation came with the release of a new poster featuring Bobby Deol, which was unveiled today to celebrate his birthday.



For weeks, there were discussions and concerns regarding potential delays in production, with some reports suggesting the film might be pushed back. These rumors were fueled by the lack of buyer interest at the movie's asking price. However, with the latest poster release, the makers have put these speculations to rest, assuring fans that Hari Hara Veera Mallu is on track for its planned release.

The new poster, which features a striking image of Bobby Deol, has added excitement to the an-

ouncement. After his success with Animal, Bobby Deol has been receiving numerous offers from the South film industry. He recently portrayed the antagonist in Kanguva and Daaku Maharaaj, and now he will be seen playing a key role in Hari Hara Veera Mallu.

For fans of Pawan Kalyan, the announcement has brought a sense of relief and excitement. It has been over a year and a half since the actor was last seen on the big screen, and his return in this highly anticipated historical drama has sparked significant anticipation. Hari

Hara Veera Mallu promises to be a grand spectacle, and with the confirmed release date, fans are eager to see the action unfold.

The film, directed by Krish, also stars Nidhi Agerwal and is produced by AM Ratnam. With its confirmed release on March 28, Hari Hara Veera Mallu is shaping up to be one of the major films of 2025.



Excitement Builds for 'Thandel': Trailer Launch Event Set for Vizag

The much-anticipated romantic drama Thandel, starring Akkineni Naga Chaitanya and Sai Pallavi, is all set to hit the big screens on February 7, 2025. Directed by Chandoo Mondeti, the film has been creating a buzz in Tollywood, with fans eagerly awaiting the trailer. In a bid to build even more excitement, the makers have shared details about the trailer launch event.

The trailer of Thandel will be unveiled at the Sri Rama Picture Palace (Rama Talkies Road) in Vizag, and the event is scheduled to take place on January 28 at 5 pm. The trailer launch is expected to be a grand occasion, with movie lovers and fans gearing up for an exclusive sneak peek into the film.

Thandel is based on real events that oc-

curred in Gujarat in 2018, adding a layer of intrigue to the narrative. The movie is produced by Bunny Vasu and presented by Allu Aravind under the banner of Geetha Arts. With Anirudh Ravichander composing the music and background score, the film is poised to offer an unforgettable musical experience alongside its compelling storyline.

This film marks the third collaboration between Naga Chaitanya and director Chandoo Mondeti, further raising expectations for a successful partnership. Their previous outings have already established a strong rapport with audiences, and with Thandel, anticipation is at an all-time high.

In the lead-up to the film's release, the makers have been gradually teasing au-

diences with individual song releases, increasing curiosity and excitement. Fans are especially looking forward to the chemistry between Naga Chaitanya and Sai Pallavi, both of whom are well-loved for their performances.

As the trailer launch event in Vizag approaches, the excitement continues to build for what promises to be one of the major romantic dramas of the year. Stay tuned for more updates as Thandel gets ready to take over the big screen on February 7!

This development has sparked discussions about the challenges faced by filmmakers when portraying historical figures and events, particularly when it comes to balancing artistic freedom with historical accuracy and cultural sensitivities.