

Weather Forecast

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

What about other MLA's corruption? Why don't you call them?

V.V.S Madhu Babu | TPN
Vijayawada, Jan 31

What about other MLA's corruption, and why don't you call them? These are the questions posed by Mr. Kolikapudi Srinivasa Rao, MLA of Tiruvuru. When he was called up for questioning by the disciplinary committee, he raised these questions. For those straight questions, the leaders of the disciplinary committee were shocked. They could not continue the discussion further after these questions, as per a buzz. This episode has exposed the corruption of ruling party MLAs once again.

We all know Mr. Kolikapudi is an intellectual. He has been involved in the long fight of Amaravati Farmers. At last, he got the assembly ticket for Tiruvuru and won it in the anti-wave of YS Jaganmohan Reddy. Being an intellectual and having an overdose of anger, his behavior has become very tough for the people and leaders of the constituency. Even journalists have also complained against him. As he knows the in and out of media houses, he has shown that open approach towards them.

People's emotions are very sensitive. And Mr. Kolikapudi, without caring about that sensitivity, behaved violently toward a few people. Here, his intentions are not a problem, only his approach has become a problem.



Two women attempted suicide after being hurt by his angry behavior. Allegedly, he raised his hand at the victim in the second incident. Because of that, the issue became serious, and due to media coverage, the TDP leadership was forced to call him for a disciplinary committee inquiry. But Kolikapudi questioned the disciplinary committee about why no action was taken against the MLAs of the district, who are openly running illegal sand, illegal liquor, and other activities. An MLA who is sincerely working for the people was called up for inquiry over an incident, while the MLAs who are openly engaging in corrupt activities are not being

called—why? This was the argument made by Kolikapudi inside, as per the buzz.

Here, we cannot assume that Mr. Kolikapudi is not corrupt. Yes, there are allegations that he has collected lakhs of rupees from liquor traders and even from police stations. Any SHO newly appointed to a station allegedly has to pay again. For any government post, Mr. Kolikapudi is allegedly making the decisions. One thing is sure: he is not as corrupt as the other MLAs of the district, allegedly. However, the questions raised by Kolikapudi have sparked a discussion among TDP political circles.

Visakhapatnam Steel Plant Will Not be Privatized - Union Minister Kumaraswamy

TPN Correspondent
Visakhapatnam, Jan 31

Union Steel Minister Kumaraswamy has assured that the Visakhapatnam Steel Plant will not be privatized and will instead undergo reconstruction to resolve its ongoing issues. Addressing the media alongside Union Minister Bhupathiraju Srinivasa Varma, State Minister Satyakumar Yadav, MPs Bharat, Kaliseti Appalanaidu, and MLA Palla Srinivasa Rao, Kumaraswamy emphasized that efforts are being made to restore the plant's productivity and tackle its mounting debt.

Kumaraswamy reflected on the plant's history, mentioning that 30 lives were lost during the establishment of the Visakhapatnam Steel Industry, and it was a symbol of pride for the region. He noted that the plant had performed well until 2013-



14 and achieved Navratna status in 2014. However, since then, due to an increase in production capacity, it faced significant losses and accumu-

lated a debt of Rs. 35,000 crores. He also pointed out that AP MPs had expressed concerns over the plant's plight, leading to reviews in recent years. Despite the 2021 proposal for disinvestment, the government has committed to revamping the steel plant rather than privatizing it. The Union Minister also highlighted India's position as the second-largest steel producer globally and shared the government's goal of achieving 300 million tons of steel production by 2030. To address the workers' issues, he assured that solutions would be found within three months. The focus will be on eliminating the plant's financial issues and improving its operational efficiency. The announcement has brought some relief to workers and local stakeholders who had been concerned about the plant's future and its impact on the region's economy.

Civic Services Now on WhatsApp in Andhra – A First in India



- AP launches WhatsApp governance with 161 services.
- More services to expand to 520 in Phase 2.
- Meta collaborates on "Mana Mitra" services.

TPN Correspondent
Amaravati, Jan 31

Andhra Pradesh has become the first state in India to introduce WhatsApp-based governance, bringing 161 essential services to citizens' fingertips. The initiative, aimed at enhancing transparency, speed, and accountability, will reduce the need for multiple visits to government offices.

Information Technology and Education Minister Nara Lokesh launched the service at his residence in Amaravati, fulfilling a promise made during his Yuvagalam Padayatra. The first phase covers services from departments like Endowments, Energy, APSRTC, Revenue, Anna Canteens, CM Relief Fund, and Municipal Administration. In the second phase, the number of services will expand to 520.

Highlighting the need for such an initiative, Lokesh recalled, "During my padayatra, people repeatedly asked why they had to apply multiple times for caste and income certificates or make frequent visits to pay power bills. This initiative ensures no one has to worry about such issues anymore." He added that all issued certificates would include QR codes for authentication, reducing the prevalence of fake documents.

Meta India Vice President Sandhya Devanathan expressed support for the project, stating that they would work closely with the Andhra Pradesh government to enhance the "Mana Mitra" WhatsApp services. Chief Minister N. Chandrababu Naidu, who reviewed the project at the Secretariat, emphasized that Andhra Pradesh is pioneering WhatsApp governance in India. He stressed the importance of data security and directed officials to implement strong cybersecurity measures to protect citizens' information.

The state government signed an agreement with Meta on October 22 last year to facilitate this initiative, marking a significant step in digital governance.

Green Signal for Huge Investments in Andhra Pradesh

- Rs. 44,776 crore approved in 15 projects during the SIPB meeting.
- 19,580 jobs expected from these investments.
- Key projects include power generation, renewable energy, and food processing units.



TPN Correspondent
Amaravati, Jan 31

In a significant development for Andhra Pradesh's economic growth, the State Investment Promotion Board (SIPB), chaired by Chief Minister N. Chandrababu Naidu, has approved investments worth Rs. 44,776 crore in 15 major projects across various sectors. These investments are expected to create 19,580 jobs in the state.

Among the approved projects, Ayana Renewable Power Limited has received the green signal for a massive Rs. 4,435 crore wind power project in Kurnool district, while Navayuga Engineering Limited has been approved for a Rs. 14,328 crore power generation project with a capacity of 2,300 MW in Alluri district. In the renewable energy sector, Ecorin Company and Kadapa Renewable Limited have secured approval for wind and solar projects worth Rs. 3,142 crore and Rs. 1,163 crore, respectively.

Additionally, Tata Power has been given the go-ahead for a 400 MW solar plant in Anantapur with an investment of Rs. 2,000 crore, while Coromandel International Limited will expand its fertilizer plant in Kakinada with an investment of Rs. 1,535 crore. Other significant approvals include a food processing industry in Koppurthi and investments in electronic manufacturing.

The CM emphasized the need for speedy execution of these projects and instructed officials to track and ensure the timely grounding of these investments. He also called for continuous engagement with national and international companies to further attract investment and strengthen Andhra Pradesh's industrial landscape.

The SIPB's approval reflects the state's commitment to fostering growth, enhancing infrastructure, and generating employment across sectors, especially renewable energy and industrial manufacturing.

CM Naidu Letter to Central Govt For Vijayawada and Vizag Metro Project

- 199 acres of land to be acquired for Metro Rail projects in Vijayawada and Vizag.
- Rs. 11,009 crores estimated for the initial phase of the projects.
- DPRs submitted to the Center, and Chandrababu Naidu seeks 100% funding from the Center.

TPN Correspondent Andhra Pradesh, Jan 31

The Andhra Pradesh government has taken significant steps towards advancing the Vijayawada and Vizag Metro Rail Projects. The District Collectors have been ordered to acquire a total of 199 acres of land, with 101 acres earmarked for Vijayawada and 98 acres for Vizag. To ensure the successful implementation of the projects, the government has estimated that the initial phase will require approximately Rs. 11,009 crores. In



an effort to secure the necessary funding, the Detailed Project Re-

ports (DPRs) for both metro rail projects have already been submitted to the Central Government for approval. Additionally, Nara Chandrababu Naidu has written to the Center requesting 100% funding for the projects, emphasizing the importance of these metro systems in improving urban transport and reducing congestion in the cities. The AP government is optimistic that with full support from the central government, the projects will enhance the state's infrastructure and contribute to economic growth.

Law and Order in the State Maintained Effectively - AP DGP

TPN Correspondent Amaravati, Jan 31

The Director General of Police (DGP) of Andhra Pradesh, in a statement on Thursday, outlined the significant improvements in the state's law and order situation, with crime incidents dropping by 5.7% in the last year, marking a successful reduction in overall crime rates. The DGP attributed the improvement to strategic policing and community engagement efforts. Notably, crimes against women and children saw a reduction of 9.5%, aided by stricter law enforcement and fast-tracked legal processes. A major milestone in enhancing public safety was achieved with a 5% reduction in road accidents, attributed to AI-driven traffic management and improved road infrastructure. The focus on technological integration in policing was highlighted as a key factor in transforming law enforcement strategies. The state has already implemented 28,500 CCTV cameras, with a goal to reach 100,000 by March 2025, significantly boosting surveillance capabilities.



Eluru, improving crime investigations and traffic management. Additionally, drone surveillance has more than doubled, enhancing crowd monitoring, intelligence gathering, and disaster response. On the forensic front, the Automated Fingerprint Identification System (AFIS) was successfully revived, leading to the resolution of numerous crimes, including 453 property offenses and 22 bodily offenses. The ₹7.25 crore worth of stolen property was recovered through these advancements. The Andhra Pradesh

Police has also committed to unbiased policing, focusing on transparency and accountability while ensuring that law enforcement remains free from external influences. Significant investments have been made in police welfare, including a ₹20 crore annual budget to improve working conditions and officer morale. The DGP's report underscores the Andhra Pradesh Police's commitment to maintaining law and order while embracing modern policing techniques to safeguard the state's citizens.

Union Minister Nitin Gadkari Approves Infrastructure Development on NH-216H

MP Putta Mahesh Kumar Met Union Minister

TPN Correspondent New Delhi, Jan 31

In a significant development for National Highway 216H, Union Minister for Road Transport and Highways, Nitin Gadkari, has informed Eluru MP Putta Mahesh Kumar that funds have been included for the construction of a service road, flyover, and culverts in the Detailed Project Report (DPR).



The proposed 6-kilometer service road will provide essential connectivity from Tukkuluru to the end of the Nuzvid Municipal Area, alleviating the heavy traffic congestion caused by freight vehicles headed to Machilipatnam Port. Additionally, a flyover is set to be constructed at the 69 km mark near Tukkuluru, and the culvert at 70.465 km will be replaced by a new one at 70.385

km to manage floodwaters, ensuring the protection of agricultural lands from damage during heavy rains. The move comes in response to a representation submitted by MP Mahesh Kumar to Union Minister Gadkari on September 25, 2024, requesting the infrastructure development. The Minister confirmed that the work is in-

cluded in the DPR and is under consideration for fund allocation in the current financial year's annual plan. MP Mahesh Kumar expressed his gratitude to the Central Government, Prime Minister Narendra Modi, and Union Minister Nitin Gadkari for their positive response and support in improving the infrastructure of the region.

Expert lectures on stress management and AI in healthcare at Care Dental College

- Dr. Shabbir Amanullah highlights burnout prevention stress management to dental and nursing students.
- He emphasized diet, exercise, perception of stress, and spiritual well-being as key factors in mental health.
- Dr. Vinay Singh discussed AI's growing role in healthcare, particularly in dentistry.
- He said AI is set to enhance clinical efficiency, personalized medicine, and early disease detection.



TPN Correspondent | Guntur

Care Dental College recently hosted two expert lectures addressing critical issues in healthcare and student well-being. Dr. Shabbir Amanullah, an expert in burnout prevention, delivered a talk on stress management for dental and nursing students. He highlighted the rising challenges of burnout, depression, and coping struggles among students, stressing the importance of structured interventions. Dr. Amanullah emphasized that well-being depends on key factors such as a balanced diet, regular physical exercise, and reframing stress as a challenge rather than a threat. He also advocated integrating traditional Indian practices like yoga and spiritual well-being from various belief systems to foster resilience. Praising

the institution's commitment to mental health, he encouraged continued focus through follow-up sessions. In another session, Dr. Vinay Singh spoke on the role of Artificial Intelligence in healthcare. He noted that AI will not replace healthcare professionals but will enhance their efficiency, particularly in dentistry, where precision and speed in diagnostics are crucial. AI's role in early disease detection and personalized medicine is becoming increasingly significant, especially given the shortage of healthcare workers. Dr. Singh also discussed various AI-driven advancements in India and globally, engaging with the college's staff and management on the potential of robotics research at the new AI in Healthcare Research Centre.

Steel Missing from AP State Housing Corporation Godown

TPN Correspondent Vijayawada, Jan 31

A significant case of steel theft has been reported at the Andhra Pradesh State Housing Corporation (APSHC) godown. According to the investigation by officials, 271 metric tons of steel worth an estimated Rs 1.95 crores went missing from the storage facility in June 2023. MD Sri Rajababu expressed serious concern over the incident, which has raised questions about internal security and accountability. In response, he suspended an assistant engineer involved in the matter. Furthermore, criminal cases have been filed against two employees linked to the theft. In addition to these actions, show cause notices have been issued to two Project Directors (PDs), two Executive Engineers (EILs), and four Deputy Executive Engineers (DEEs), holding them accountable for the oversight. The MD also ordered the

అంధ్రప్రదేశ్ రాష్ట్ర స్టాల్ దోచింపు సంఘటన, గొల్లపూడి సెంట్రల్ స్టాల్ దోచింపు సంఘటన గురించి వివరాలు ఇవ్వబడ్డాయి. అంధ్రప్రదేశ్ రాష్ట్ర స్టాల్ దోచింపు సంఘటన గురించి వివరాలు ఇవ్వబడ్డాయి. అంధ్రప్రదేశ్ రాష్ట్ర స్టాల్ దోచింపు సంఘటన గురించి వివరాలు ఇవ్వబడ్డాయి.

Sl. No	వివరాలు	నిర్దేశాలు
01	అంధ్రప్రదేశ్ రాష్ట్ర స్టాల్ దోచింపు సంఘటన	అంధ్రప్రదేశ్ రాష్ట్ర స్టాల్ దోచింపు సంఘటన
02	గొల్లపూడి సెంట్రల్ స్టాల్ దోచింపు సంఘటన	గొల్లపూడి సెంట్రల్ స్టాల్ దోచింపు సంఘటన

suspension of benefits for four retired officers associated with the corporation. The MD emphasized the immediate need for corrective action, reinforcing the government's commitment to ensuring transparency and integrity within public institutions.

Minister Gottipati Chairs Meeting on Profitability of DISCOMs

TPN Correspondent Amaravati, Jan 31

In a virtual meeting held on Thursday, Andhra Pradesh Power Minister Gottipati Ravi Kumar convened with the power ministers of Tamil Nadu, Karnataka, Rajasthan, Uttar Pradesh, and Gujarat. The key focus was to address the financial challenges facing DISCOMs and work toward their profitability. The ministers discussed various strategies to tackle the mounting debts of state-run power distribution companies (DISCOMs). They resolved to focus on reducing additional losses and expenses and aggressively collect outstanding dues owed to DISCOMs. Additionally, efforts to alleviate the financial pressure on these companies were discussed, including promoting PM Suryagarh and Kusum schemes.



Minister Ravi Kumar also appealed to the Central Government to increase the battery storage capacity from 1,000 MW to 2,000 MW, enhancing the sustainability of power storage. Furthermore, he requested an increase in the Green Energy Corridor grant to better utilize renewable energy across the state. The meeting was attended by key officials, including Genco MD Chakradhar Babu, Transco JMD Kirti Chekuri, and CP-DCL CMD Bhaskar.

Peddireddy's List of Sins is Bigger Than the List of Punganur Voters - Panchumarthi Anuradha

TPN Correspondent Andhra Pradesh, Jan 31

TDP MLC Panchumarthi Anuradha has sharply criticized former minister Peddireddy Ramachandra Reddy in light of the ongoing investigation into allegations of his land encroachments. Referring to Peddireddy's actions, Anuradha accused him of engaging in corruption by day and looting by night. She claimed that the former minister had embezzled funds through various means, including the sand, land, and wine mafias. Anuradha raised questions about why Peddireddy was granted anti-



patory bail if he had no involvement in the Madanapalle Sub-Registrar's

office fire, which had allegedly destroyed important documents. She further attacked Peddireddy for his alleged encroachment of 75 acres of forest land, on which she claimed he built a palatial structure and constructed roads. The MLC also pointed to 20 acres of government land near Renigunta airport, allegedly registered in Peddireddy's wife's name, accusing him of spreading his corrupt empire across the country. Calling the list of Peddireddy's wrongdoings more extensive than the list of voters in Punganur, Anuradha demanded accountability for the corruption and land grab committed under his leadership.

MLA Buchepalli Sivaprasad Reddy Criticizes CM Naidu Over Election Unfulfill Promises



TPN Correspondent Darsi, Jan 31

YSRCP District President and Darsi MLA Buchepalli Sivaprasad Reddy criticized Chief Minister Chandrababu Naidu for allegedly deceiving the public with empty promises during the 2014 and 2024 elections. Reddy pointed out that Naidu's promises, including the Super Six agenda, farmer loan waivers, and unemployment allowances, remained unfulfilled, accusing the former chief minister of cheating the people. Reddy raised questions about Naidu's contradictory statements, noting that Naidu had claimed a 12 lakh crore debt during the elections, but failed to explain why he could not fulfill the promises when the debt was later stated as 6 lakh crore. He also criticized Naidu's approach to healthcare, pointing out that while Jaganmohan Reddy set up medical colleges for the poor, Naidu was attempting to privatize them. Reddy asserted that while some individuals might shift parties for personal gains, those who truly serve the people in the YSRCP would remain united in their mission. Reddy concluded by expressing confidence that YS Jaganmohan Reddy would continue to lead the state, and the YSRCP would work together to ensure his re-election as Chief Minister.

Ambati Rambabu Accuses TDP of Buying YCP Corporators Challenges Union Minister Pemmasani



TPN Correspondent Guntur, Jan 31

Former minister Ambati Rambabu has strongly criticized the TDP for allegedly buying YCP corporators and bringing them into the party, likening the practice to buying cattle in a market. His comments came in response to remarks made by Union Minister Pemmasani Chandrasekhar, who claimed that YCP corporators were defecting to the TDP after witnessing the development work carried out by the coalition government. Pemmasani had dismissed Ambati's words as a mere microphone moment, claiming that no one with any brain power would buy corporators with money. In his response, Ambati rejected these claims, asserting that the people of Guntur would not believe the stories and fabricated claims of the Union Minister. Ambati challenged the TDP to swear on God that they had not resorted to bribing YCP corporators. He further mocked the TDP leaders, saying, "We will soon see how much brain power the TDP leaders truly have." He expressed his frustration over the contradictory actions of TDP leaders, accusing them of publicly denying any connection with the defected corporators while simultaneously welcoming them with yellow scarves. Regarding the Guntur municipal elections, Ambati made it clear that the TDP's failure to win the standing committee elections was not due to a lack of leadership but was a direct result of their illegitimate tactics. He also questioned whether the TDP would just sit idly by if it were the YCP engaging in similar political maneuvers. The ongoing battle between YSRCP and TDP in the region continues to heat up, with both parties making pointed accusations and challenging each other's integrity.



Bhumana Defends Peddireddy Aimed Allegations of Land Grab

TPN Correspondent Andhra Pradesh, Jan 31

Former TTD Chairman and YSRCP leader Bhumana Karunakar Reddy responded strongly to the allegations leveled against Peddireddy Ramachandra Reddy regarding the encroachment of forest lands. The state government has already ordered an inquiry into the matter. Reddy expressed his indignation over what he called poisonous propaganda being spread against Peddireddy, accusing certain media outlets and political factions of writing false and misleading articles. He emphasized that, even if the allegations were baseless, such negative narratives were being intentionally propagated. In his defense of Peddireddy, Reddy asserted that the former minister would emerge like a washed pearl from these false allegations, untainted and vindicated. He criticized alliance leaders for engaging in a smear campaign while failing to deliver on the promises they made to the public during their election campaigns. Bhumana also took aim at certain media outlets, accusing them of abandoning journalistic values and engaging in partisan reporting. He vowed that the fight against the coalition government would continue, with a focus on demanding the fulfillment of promises made to the people during the elections. The ongoing controversy surrounding Peddireddy Ramachandra Reddy and the forest land encroachment issue continues to spark political debates in the region, drawing both criticism and defense from various quarters.

Security Strengthened for EVM and VVPAT Warehouses in Mummdivaram

TPN Correspondent Mummdivaram, Jan 31

In line with the Election Commission's directives, the State Election Commission's Deputy Additional Chief Executive Officer, Tatabbai, has ordered heightened security measures for the storage of Electronic Voting Machines (EVMs) and Voter Verified Paper Audit Trails (VVPATs). On Thursday, Tatabbai, along with District Revenue Officer BLN Rajakumari, conducted an inspection of the EVM warehouses housed at the AIIMS College. The inspection team, which included officials from the Revenue Department and the Fire Department, reviewed the security arrangements for the sensitive equipment. In a statement, Tatabbai emphasized that these warehouses are inspected monthly as per Election Commission guidelines, with additional quarterly inspections involving political representatives. The team also reviewed CCTV footage to ensure the integrity of security measures. Tatabbai underscored that a comprehensive report should be submitted to the Election Commission following each inspection, ensuring constant vigilance throughout the election process. Tahsildar Subba Lakshmi, Deputy Tahsildar Shivraj Rammo-han Rao, and other officials participated in the inspection, which aimed to ensure the transparency and security of the upcoming electoral process.

MLA Pulivarthi Nani Warns Peddireddy Ramachandra Reddy Over Alleged Corruption

TPN Correspondent Chittoor, Jan 31

Chandragiri MLA Pulivarthi Nani has issued a stern warning to former minister Peddireddy Ramachandra Reddy, accusing him of being involved in significant land encroachments and corruption during the YSRCP government. Nani, visibly angered, stated that if Peddireddy continues to make disparaging remarks about Chief Minister Chandrababu Naidu and Deputy CM Pawan Kalyan, he would expose Peddireddy's wrongdoings and ensure he faces the consequences. Speaking to the media, Nani raised questions about how Peddireddy acquired hundreds of acres of land in the Mangalampeta forest area, accusing him of misusing public funds to build roads on these lands under the Rompicharla Agricultural Market Committee. Nani expressed his intention to expose the widespread land encroachments and corruption committed by not only Peddireddy but also several YSRCP leaders during their tenure. The Chandragiri MLA warned Peddireddy not to speak without reason, emphasizing that his corruption would not go unpunished, and that if further insults were made, he would ensure that the truth comes to light.

YS Sharmila Open Letter to CM Naidu, Demands Special Status for AP



TPN Correspondent Andhra Pradesh, Jan 31

YS Sharmila, the AP Congress President, has penned a sensational open letter to Chief Minister Chandrababu Naidu, urging him to demand special status for Andhra Pradesh during the upcoming Parliament Budget Session. In the letter, Sharmila stressed that without special status, it would be difficult to achieve substantial development and wealth creation in the state. Sharmila emphasized that special status is the lifeblood of the state's progress, stating that with this status, the central government would be required to contribute 30% of development funds. She pointed out that the state should not have to constantly beg for financial assistance but should instead be self-reliant, as the status would bring numerous benefits to industries and the general public. Sharmila also highlighted that the special status would result in subsidies for industries, tax exemptions, and lower electricity prices, which would, in turn, create lakhs of jobs. Citing the development of other states with special status, she argued that Andhra Pradesh, with its thousand-kilometer coastline, would experience unprecedented development if granted the status.

Former Dy CM Pushpa Srivani Demands Apology from Speaker Ayyannapatrudu

TPN Correspondent Andhra Pradesh, Jan 31

Former Deputy Chief Minister Pushpa Srivani held a media conference on Thursday, condemning Speaker Ayyannapatrudu's comments regarding the 1/70 Act, which safeguards the interests of the tribal communities. Srivani termed Ayyannapatrudu's remarks as outrageous and disrespectful to the tribals, specifically those residing in Parvathipuram Manyam district. The 1/70 Act is a key legal provision that ensures the protection of tribal land and their rights. Srivani expressed strong dissatisfaction with the Speaker's comments and demanded an immediate public apology from him to the tribals in the



district. Srivani emphasized that such insensitive statements undermine the welfare and dignity of the tribal community, which has long struggled for its rights and protections. She called for more respect and understanding towards the tribals and urged the government to ensure that the rights of these communities are upheld at all levels. The controversy over the 1/70 Act and Ayyannapatrudu's remarks has sparked widespread discussions in the region, especially in light of the growing political tensions between various factions in the state.

Oasis Fertility offers Free Fertility Camp in Vijayawada

- Oasis Fertility offers Free Fertility Camp in Vijayawada
- Treatments like IVF and IUI available at discounted rates.
- Oasis Fertility brings over a decade of expert care and a 70% IVF success rate.

TPN Correspondent
Vijayawada, Jan 31

Oasis Fertility is hosting a Free Fertility Camp today (Jan 31st Friday) at its Vijayawada center, aimed at addressing infertility challenges and offering hope to aspiring parents. The camp, running from 9 AM to 4 PM, will provide couples with free consultations from fertility experts, along with complimentary fertility scans and diagnostics.

In addition, Oasis Fertility is offering special discounts on advanced treatments:

- IVF at 20% off,
- IUI and Semen Analysis at 50% off.

Oasis Fertility, established in 2009, has earned the trust of over 100,000 families. With 30+ centers across India, it combines state-of-the-art technology with compassionate care to provide personalized fertility solutions.



The center's 70% IVF success rate far exceeds the global average, reflecting its commitment to providing the best possible outcomes. Oasis Fertility's patient-centric approach includes evening and Sun-

day appointments, making it easier for busy professionals to receive care. To book a free consultation, contact 9513731633.

Goyaz: India's Largest Luxury Silver Jewelry Store Now in Rajahmundry



TPN Correspondent
Rajahmundry | Jan 31

Goyaz, India's largest luxury silver jewelry store, opened its doors in Rajahmundry on Monday at 10:41 am near Symala Theatre. The grand inauguration was graced by Film Actress Meenakshi Chaudhary, marking a significant milestone in the brand's journey of redefining the silver jewelry category. Spanning over 3,000 square feet across two floors, the Rajahmundry store promises a luxury shopping

experience with an unmatched collection of silver jewelry. The event also saw the presence of notable dignitaries, including Sri K. Durgesh, Minister of Tourism, Culture & Cinematography, Andhra Pradesh, Sri G. Butchaiah Chowdary, MLA, Rajahmundry (Rural), and Sri A. Srinivas, MLA, Rajahmundry (Rural).

As part of its inaugural offers, Goyaz is providing exclusive deals:

- Buy Rs. 1,00,000 worth of silver jewelry and get 1 gram of 24 Carat gold free.

- Buy Rs. 50,000 worth of silver jewelry and get 0.5 gram of 24 Carat gold free.
 - Buy Rs. 25,000 worth of silver jewelry and get 0.25 gram of 24 Carat gold free.
- In addition to the Rajahmundry store, Goyaz is expanding its presence with upcoming stores in Tirupati (February 8th), Khammam, and two locations in Bengaluru. Goyaz is poised to become your ultimate luxury silver jewelry destination across South India.

VJBO Organized Manak Manthan on Solid Waste Management in Vijayawada

TPN | VVS Madhu Babu
Vijayawada | Jan 31

The Vijayawada Jilla Bureau of Organizations (VJBO) organized a Manak Manthan session on Solid Waste Management on 30th January, attended by around 250 participants from Municipalities and Municipal Corporations across Andhra Pradesh.

The event was inaugurated by K. Pattabi Ram, MLA and Chairman of the Swachha Andhra Corporation, who highlighted the role of the Bureau of Indian Standards (BIS) in developing Indian Standards for Solid Waste Management. He directed urban bodies to implement these standards in a phased manner and appreciated BIS for organizing the program.

Shri M. Ramakanth Sagar, Scientist-D & Joint Director at BIS, explained the program's objectives, focusing on the importance of waste segregation, collection, and safe disposal. He stressed that adopting these practices not only ensures regulatory compliance but also reduces pollution and fosters urban sustainability.

Shri D. Akhil, Scientist-C & Deputy Director at BIS, further elaborated on the technical aspects, presenting IS 18520: 2024—guidelines for solid waste management at commercial facilities, including segregation, collection, and recycling. He emphasized key principles such as segregation at source and safe disposal to reduce environmental damage.

The event served as an informative platform to promote best practices in solid waste management, contributing to the goal of a cleaner and more sustainable environment across Andhra Pradesh.



No Connection Between Pond Water and Dead Fish in Vissannapet – MPDO

TPN Correspondent
Vissannapet | Jan 31

On 24th January, there were allegations regarding the death of fish in Koneru pond in Vissannapet Gram Panchayat. Responding to these concerns, MPDO Chinna Ratnalu clarified that the pond water had no connection with the fish deaths.

The dead fish were sent for postmortem to a Vijayawada laboratory, costing around Rs 25,000. The results of the water test and the fish postmortem were received on Thursday, confirming no harmful elements in the water. The investigation has now been concluded, and the situation has been addressed.



TPN Correspondent
NTR Dist, Jan 31

In light of the Election Commission of India (ECI) releasing the schedule for the Pattabhadra constituency elections across the combined Krishna-Guntur districts, District Collector Dr. G. Lakshmi sha has directed all officials to ensure the strict implementation of the Election Code of Conduct (MCC). In a teleconference held on Thursday with RDOs, Tahsildars, MPDOs, Municipal Commissioners, and others, Dr. G. Lakshmi Sha outlined the election timeline:

- Notification Date: February 3

- Nomination Period: February 3–10
- Polling Date: February 27
- Counting Date: March 3

The Collector emphasized that the MCC would be in effect until March 8, and all officials are to follow the ECI guidelines. She highlighted the need for cooperation from political parties, ensuring the fair, peaceful, and transparent conduct of the elections.

Key directives included:

- Removal of political posters and symbols from government offices and public places.
- Prohibition of official events involving political party representatives.

- Formation of special teams to ensure compliance with the code.

Further, 78,238 voters are registered in the Pattabhadra constituency, and pending Form-18 applications for voter registration must be addressed before the election. Auxiliary polling booths should be proposed in areas with over 1,000 voters in a single polling station.

Officials participating in the teleconference included Vijayawada Municipal Corporation Commissioner HM Dhyanchandra, DRO M. Lakshmi Narasimham, Vijayawada RDO K. Chaitanya, and others.

Youth Should Work for National Integration



TPN Correspondent
Avanigadda, Jan 31

On the occasion of Mahatma Gandhi's death anniversary, a special program was organized at the Challapalli Gandhi Memorial Park by the Gram Panchayat. Avanigadda MLA Mandali Buddhaprasad spoke at the event, highlighting the need for on Thursday's youth to draw inspiration from Mahatma Gandhi and work towards national integration.

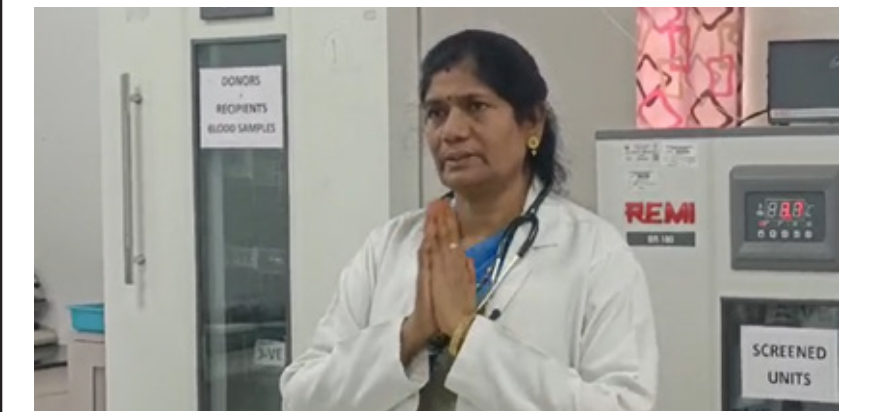
In his address, MLA Buddhaprasad stated that it is the duty of the current generation to follow Gandhi's ideals of unity and harmony, urging individuals to rise above caste, religion, and regional differences. He reminded the gathering that Mahatma Gandhi gave his life for the cause of national integration.

The MLA reflected on Gandhi's profound impact, noting his role

as a social reformer who fought against the caste system and worked to empower women, especially in a time when women had limited access to education. Gandhi's contributions to the freedom struggle and social reforms were celebrated as key elements of the nation's progress. Religious leaders from various faiths—Hindu, Christian, Islamic, and Buddhist—offered prayers at the memorial park, fostering a sense of unity. The MLA paid floral tributes to Gandhi's statue, symbolizing respect and honor for the Father of the Nation.

The program was chaired by Sarpanch Paidipamula Krishnakumari and attended by prominent leaders including Challapalli DC President Nidamanuri Dilip Kumar, MPP Kota Vijaya Radhika, Vice MPPs, and MPTCs, along with a large number of local leaders, students, and villagers.

Gudivada Hospital Encourages Public to Utilize Govt Services



TPN Correspondent
Gudivada, Jan 31

In a media conference held on Thursday, Indira Devi, Superintendent of the Gudivada Government Area Hospital, emphasized the importance of utilizing the hospital's services, especially for economically disadvantaged individuals. She urged the public to dispel misconceptions about government hospitals and avoid unnecessary expenditures at private medical facilities.

Indira Devi highlighted the hospital's active role in supporting the community, particularly through a blood donation camp organized by MLA Venigandla Ramu at the Gudivada NTR Stadium in honor of NTR's death anniversary. A total of 79 blood samples were collected, and after testing, 53 blood packets were distributed to private hospitals to assist patients in criti-

cal conditions. An additional 13 blood packets were supplied to patients in government hospitals.

She underscored the growing demand for blood, especially during accidents and surgeries, stating that such efforts are vital for maintaining healthy blood circulation and heartbeat. Indira Devi also clarified that while there are requests for rapid blood testing, such practices are against the Drugs and Cosmetics Act 1940 and the Drugs and Cosmetics Rules 1945, which stipulate that blood samples must undergo appropriate testing before being used for transfusions.

She reiterated that the government hospital's services are both affordable and reliable, calling on people to make full use of them instead of seeking more expensive private options.

Strict Implementation of Election Code of Conduct Ordered - NTR Dist Collector

Apply for Self-Employment Units in Chittoor - MLA Gurajala Jagan Mohan



TPN | C. Sekhar
Chittoor, Jan 31

As part of the state government's initiative to promote self-employment, various corporations have sanctioned self-employment units for youth and women, Chittoor MLA Gurajala Jagan Mohan announced on Thursday.

A total of 398 units have been approved in the Chittoor Assembly constituency, with funds amounting to ₹8.54 crore sanctioned through the BC Corporation and other allied corporations. The sanctioned units include:

- BC Corporation - 302 units (including 3 medical units)
- Brahmin Corporation - 4 units
- EBC Corporation - 15 units
- Kamma Corporation - 13 units
- Kshatriya Corporation - 2 units
- Reddy Corporation - 11 units
- Vysya Corporation - 2 units
- Kapu Corporation - 45 units
- MSME (Kapu) - 1 unit

Of the total ₹8.54 crore sanctioned, ₹4.24 crore will be provided as subsidy, while another ₹4.24 crore will be disbursed as loans.

To be eligible for self-employment units, applicants should be between 21 and 60 years old, while for Kapu Corporation, the age limit is 21 to 50 years. The deadline for applications is February 7, and interested individuals can apply through their village/ward secretariats or online at <https://apobmms.dev.nidhi.apcfss.in/>. MLA Gurajala Jagan Mohan urged eligible youth and women to take advantage of this opportunity and apply before the deadline.

MLA Kolla Lalitha Kumari's Car Blocked by Protesters

- Villagers of Athava village on a three-day fast demanding a road to their village.
- Tension arose between villagers and MLA's supporters.



TPN | A. Narasimulu
Vizianagaram | Jan 31

S. Kota MLA Kolla Lalitha Kumari was attacked by villagers during a tense protest in Athava, Vepada Mandal, where villagers have been on a three-day fast demanding the construction of a road to their village.

As the MLA passed through the area,

villagers blocked her car, demanding an explanation for when the road would be built. The protesters were angry at the MLA's inaction and refused to end their fast until the issue was addressed.

The situation escalated, resulting in a struggle between the two groups, with the villagers blocking the car and preventing it from moving forward.

MLA Lalitha Kumari was ultimately escorted away by the police to ensure her safety.

The villagers expressed anger over the MLA's handling of the situation and vowed to continue their protest until their demand for the road is met.

Kuppam to be Developed into a Modern Municipality - Kada PD Vikas Marmat

TPN | C. Sekhar
Kuppam, Jan 31

Efforts are being made to transform Kuppam Municipality into a modern urban center, with officials actively unifying development projects across the town. Kada PD Vikas Marmat emphasized the importance of public cooperation, particularly in road expansion works, which are being planned to enhance the town's infrastructure.

As part of the initiative, officials have engaged with local shopkeepers to gather their opinions and ensure a smooth expansion process. Chief Minister Nara Chandrababu Naidu is taking special initiatives to accelerate the development of his own constituency, reinforcing his commitment to Kuppam's progress.

The event saw participation from Kada PD Vikas Marmat, RDO Srinivasa Raju, Municipal Commissioner Srinivasa Rao, and TDP leaders Suresh Babu and Raj Kumar, among



others. Officials urged the public to extend their support for these developmental activities, which are set to modernize Kuppam and improve civic infrastructure.

Special Plans for Sanitation Work in the City

TPN | C. Sekhar
Kuppam, Jan 31

Municipal Commissioner N. Maurya announced that special plans are being implemented to improve sanitation and drinking water supply in the city. Addressing a meeting with Engineering and Health Department officials at the Municipal Corporation office on Thursday afternoon, the Commissioner acknowledged complaints regarding sanitation management and assured that necessary measures are being taken.

To enhance sanitation efficiency, the Commissioner proposed the formation of special teams to handle gang work and address specific problem areas. He emphasized that merged panchayats in the city are facing greater challenges and require a separate implementation strategy to resolve sanitation issues effectively.



The meeting was attended by Superintendent Engineer Shyamsunder, Municipal Engineers Tulasi Kumar and Gomathi, DEs, Sanitary Supervisors, Mestris, and other officials. The Commissioner urged the officials to ensure the swift execution of the proposed sanitation plans for a cleaner and healthier city.

₹10 Lakh Donated to Sri SV Sarva Shreyas Trust



TPN | C. Sekhar
Tirumala | Jan 31

Sri M. Suryanarayana Reddy, Chairman of Bliss

Hotels Group, Tirupati, along with his wife, donated ₹10,00,116 to the TTD SV Sarva Shreyas Trust on Thursday.

The donation cheque was formally presented to TTD Additional EO Sri CH Venkaiah Chowdhury at the Additional EO Camp Office in Tirumala. TTD Board Member Sri G. Bhanuprakash Reddy was also present during the occasion.

The Sri SV Sarva Shreyas Trust, operated by Tirumala Tirupati Devasthanams (TTD), undertakes various welfare and service programs. This generous contribution will support initiatives aimed at the well-being of devotees and underprivileged communities.

District Collector Reviews Drinking Water Supply for Summer Preparedness

TPN | N. Kasirao
Markapuram | Jan 31

Prakasam District Collector A. Tamim Ansaria emphasized the need for continuous monitoring of the drinking water situation to prevent problems, especially with the upcoming summer season.

She held a special review meeting with relevant officials at the Markapuram Sub-Collector's office on Thursday, along with Sub-Collector Sahadith Venkat Trivina.

The Collector instructed that repairs to CPWS, MPWS, DP, and hand pumps be started from February 1 and completed within 45 days to ensure smooth water supply. She also addressed the issue of water supply through tankers in areas lacking adequate water resources.

A key directive was to ensure there are no irregularities in the tankers' water distribution. Officials were told to en-

ter detailed records in an app to ensure quick bill payments for tanker services. The Collector warned that strict action would be taken against anyone found responsible for irregularities in tanker water supply.



Additionally, special teams consisting of MPDOs, Tehsildars, RWS AEs, and Engineering Assistants will be deployed to monitor the situation on the ground. These teams will particularly focus on areas that faced water issues last year, with special attention given to Markapuram, Erragondapalem, Tarlupadu, Dornala, Kekemita, Giddaluru, Donakonda, and Podili mandals in the western region of the district.

The Collector also announced the establishment of a call center at the division level to allow residents to quickly report any drinking water problems to the authorities.



3.23 Lakh Fish Released Under PMMSY Scheme

TPN | Sk. Gani
Rajanagaram | Jan 31

Under the Pradhan Mantri Matsya Sampada Yojana (PMMSY), the Fisheries Department has released 3,23,820 fish into 46 minor irrigation tanks across five constituencies in the district, benefiting fishermen's cooperative societies. District Collector P. Prashanthi inaugurated the fish release program on Thursday at Adusumilli Venkayya Cheruvu in Nandarad Gram Panchayat, Rajanagaram Mandal, along with officials.

Speaking on the occasion, the Collector stated that the state government is providing fish free of cost to fisheries cooperative societies to boost fish production in minor irrigation ponds. This initiative will enhance livelihoods for 5,300 families across 32 fisheries cooperative societies by increasing employment opportunities and utilizing water resources effectively.

She emphasized that purchasing fish from external sources is a financial burden for societies, and the government's support will ensure faster growth of fish within three to four months, leading to income generation. Additionally, increased fish availability in rural areas will provide affordable and protein-rich food, ensuring nutritional security for the people. The Collector also mentioned that subsidies will be provided for fish ponds in aqua zones under the PMMSY scheme, and efforts are being made to extend subsidies to those with ponds in non-aqua zones as per government guidelines.

The program saw the participation of District Fisheries Officer V. Krishna Rao, District Fisheries Cooperative Society President Balasadi Ranga Rao, society members, and other officials.

Certificate of Appreciation Presented to Kiran Kumar

TPN | C.N.MURTHY
P. Gannavaram, Jan 31

The Eti Koppaka doll show presented by Andhra Pradesh at Kartavyapath in Delhi during the Republic Day celebrations on January 26 won third place.

On Thursday, Union Minister of State for Defence Sanjay Seth congratulated the Eti Koppaka artists, including Pasupuleti Nagababu of Mukkamala and the team members, for their impressive performance.

In recognition of their achievement, a certificate of appreciation was presented to Kiran Kumar, Joint Director of Information, for his contribution to the success of the event.



MLA Jyothula Nehru Invited to Thantikonda Venkateswara Swamy Brahmotsavams

TPN | V. Ananthkumar
Jaggampeta | Jan 31

The Brahmotsavams of Sridevi Bhudevi Sametha Venkateswara Swamy, situated on the Silver Hill in Thantikonda village, Gokavaram Mandal, will be held from February 4th to 7th with grandeur.

As part of the preparations, Jaggampeta MLA and TTD Board Member Jyothula Nehru was formally invited to the celebrations. The invitation was extended

at the residence of Jaggampeta Mandal Irripaka MLA Badireddy Achanna Dora, former chairman of Thantikonda Devasthanams.

On this occasion, Vedic scholars honored Jyothula Nehru by adorning him with the sacred robe of the Lord and offering Tirtha Prasad as a blessing.

The program saw the participation of Dasari Seetharamakrishna, Malireddy Venkata Sridhar (Siri), Chintala Nageswara Rao, and other prominent individuals.



How PM Modi Has Taken Gandhi's Khadi Dream To New Heights

In 2023, Prime Minister Narendra Modi addressed a gathering of over 3,000 students, stating, "Many foreign-made objects have encroached on our lives, and getting rid of them is important for saving the country." This statement echoes the ideals of Mahatma Gandhi, who envisioned Khadi as a symbol of self-reliance, economic empowerment, and resistance to colonial rule. For Gandhi, Khadi was more than just fabric; it represented a movement—one that could unite India, uplift rural artisans, and promote the Swadeshi spirit.

Over the past decade, Khadi has witnessed remarkable growth, thanks to initiatives supporting the 'Make in India' and 'Vocal for Local' missions. The Khadi industry has seen record-breaking achievements, with sales turnover in the financial year 2023-24 surpassing Rs 1.5 lakh crore—an increase of around 400% from Rs 31,154.20 crore in 2013-14. The production value of Khadi products grew by 315%, from Rs 26,109.08 crore in 2013-14 to Rs 1,08,297.68 crore in 2023-24. Khadi fabric production alone increased by approximately 295%, and sales rose by 501%.

Khadi's expansion has also had a significant social impact, creating over 10.17 lakh jobs, with half of them in rural areas, and 80% of Khadi artisans being women. This growth is a testament to Khadi's role in empowering rural communities, particularly women, and contributing to local economies.

To boost Khadi's appeal, the government has taken several steps, including replacing rebates with the Market De-



velopment Assistance (MDA) scheme, which offers incentives to spinners and weavers. Khadi has also gained attention through collaborations with various government sectors, including railways and defense, and by showcasing products in major events like the IITF 2022 and Lakme Fashion Week. Social media and collaborations with design institutes such as NIFT have also played a role in rebranding Khadi as a contemporary fabric.

Internationally, PM Modi has used forums like the G20 Summit to promote Khadi, gifting Khadi shawls to world leaders. His advocacy for Khadi extends to the youth, encouraging them to embrace it as a symbol of self-respect and national pride. "Khadi is not just a piece of cloth, but a weapon for those with self-respect, who are proud of the nation, and who dream of Aatmanirbhar

Bharat," he said in August.

Khadi's low environmental footprint makes it even more appealing. The fabric's production uses no machines or energy, contributing to a minimal carbon footprint. It is skin-friendly, breathable in summer, and warm in winter. The water usage for producing Khadi is significantly lower than that of mill-produced fabric, which further underscores its eco-friendly nature. However, one of the biggest challenges facing Khadi is adoption. Many Indians still hesitate to make Khadi their go-to fabric. If more people embrace Khadi, it could drive significant economic, environmental, and social change, benefiting rural communities and reinforcing India's Aatmanirbhar mission. Turning Khadi into a global brand could be a transformative step towards a sustainable and self-reliant future for India.

Champions Trophy: Pakistan's Mess Is Shocking, But Not Surprising



When a country secures the hosting rights for a global sports tournament, the last thing it wants is to fall behind in preparations. Unfortunately, Pakistan is currently facing that nightmare scenario as it races against time to complete the renovation work on venues set to host the Champions Trophy matches, excluding those involving India. The country has already missed two deadlines—December 31 and January 25—and is now set to miss a third deadline on January 31. Renovation work at Lahore's Gaddafi Stadium, one of the key venues, is now expected to finish by February 2, just weeks before the tournament begins.

Reports suggest that the Pakistan Cricket Board (PCB) had to restrict journalists from entering stadiums in Karachi and Lahore to save face, as work was still incomplete. As of January 25, Gaddafi Stadium, which is scheduled to host four matches including the Australia vs England game on February 22, had unfinished seating and digital screen installations. The slow pace of renovation has sparked widespread criticism, with several social media videos showing the poor state of the venues.

The situation became more apparent after the issue of India's participation in the tournament was resolved. Many argue that the PCB could have directed more energy toward accelerating venue work rather than focusing solely on ensuring all matches would take place in Pakistan.

While the blame for the delay initially falls on the PCB, the International Cricket Council (ICC) shares some responsibility. The resignation of Geoff Allardice as ICC CEO just weeks before the tournament began raised eyebrows. Allardice was responsible for overseeing the preparations, and his departure is seen as a direct consequence of the delays. Additionally, the failure to plan for a hybrid model, where India could play its matches at a neutral venue, is considered a significant oversight by both the ICC and the PCB.

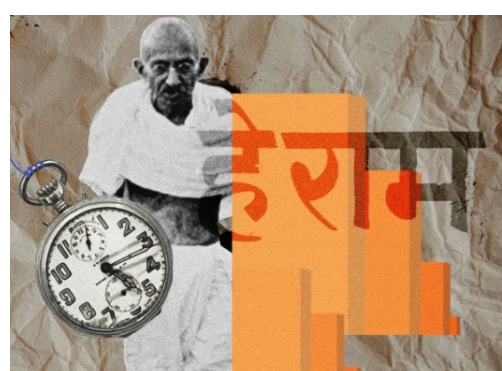
The mishandling of the Champions Trophy preparations highlights broader governance issues within Pakistan's sports ecosystem. Once known for excellence in sports like cricket, hockey, squash, and boxing, Pakistan's global sporting performance has steadily declined. Failures in administration, political interference, corruption, and lack of forward-thinking systems have hampered the country's sports development.

Despite manufacturing high-quality sports equipment, Pakistan has struggled to maintain a competitive edge in global sports. Cricket, the country's most popular sport, has been particularly affected by mismanagement. The PCB has seen frequent changes in leadership, with allegations of political interference and vested interests undermining its effectiveness. These issues were evident when Australian cricketer Jason Gillespie resigned as Pakistan's Test coach in December, citing poor communication with the PCB.

The current situation around the Champions Trophy serves as a stark reminder of Pakistan's struggles to maintain its sports infrastructure and governance. The PCB's large-scale renovation efforts, the most significant since 1996, are under intense scrutiny as the tournament approaches. The question remains: how will the ICC and the new leadership respond to the lessons learned from this fiasco? The tournament's success or failure may serve as a turning point for both the PCB and international sports governance in Pakistan.

The Complicated Legacy of Nathuram Godse and the Politics of Hindutva

On January 30, 1948, Nathuram Godse assassinated Mahatma Gandhi, an act that remains one of the darkest chapters in India's history. Godse's motivations were rooted in his belief that Gandhi's relentless efforts to reconcile with Pakistan and his policy of appeasement were harmful to Hindus and India's sovereignty. Godse's confession during his trial reflected his view that Gandhi's actions—particularly his insistence on compensating Pakistan—were tantamount to betrayal, fueling his decision to end Gandhi's life.



This ideological bond between the two figures is undeniable, yet the political complexities surrounding Godse's assassination of Gandhi make it challenging for the BJP to publicly acknowledge or reject one without implicating the other.

Interestingly, Gandhi and Savarkar had crossed paths earlier, and their differing philosophies on violence and politics were evident. In 1909, Gandhi expressed his regret after meeting Savarkar in London, particularly over Savarkar's advocacy for violence as a political tool. This philosophical divide would continue throughout their lives, with Gandhi's non-violence contrasting sharply against Savarkar's support for militant Hindu nationalism.

The question of how contemporary political leaders, such as Modi, who claim allegiance to Swami Vivekananda's teachings, also venerate Savarkar is troubling. Swami Vivekananda, who championed spiritual and intellectual growth, stood in stark opposition to violence as a political tool. Savarkar, on the other hand, espoused a doctrine of violence, rejecting democracy, and aligning himself with fascist ideologies.

Seventy-seven years later, Godse's legacy continues to stir controversy in India. While Prime Minister Narendra Modi and Bharatiya Janata Party (BJP) leaders routinely honor Gandhi's memory, publicly offering prayers at Rajghat, there remains a lingering, uncomfortable connection with Godse within their ranks. Some BJP members have expressed admiration for Godse, a stark contrast to the party's official disavowal of him.

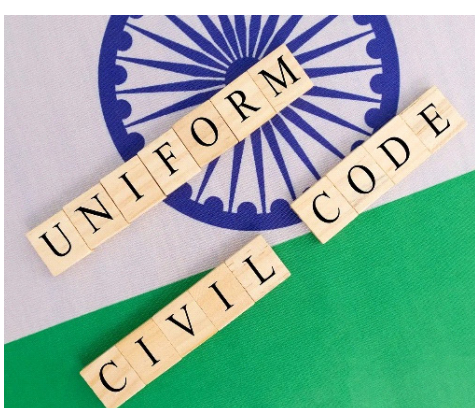
This dichotomy is particularly evident when considering the ideological link between Godse and his mentor, Vinay-

ak Damodar Savarkar, the founder of Hindutva. While the BJP has embraced Savarkar as the party's intellectual forebear, they are compelled to distance themselves from Godse, whose actions and confessions are too controversial to embrace publicly. In his pre-trial statement, Godse insisted that Gandhi had failed in his duty as the Father of the Nation and blamed him for the Partition and the creation of Pakistan.

Godse's relationship with Savarkar was deeply symbiotic. Under Savarkar's influence, Godse became a fervent advocate of Hindutva and played a key role in establishing underground organizations like the Hindu Rashtra Dal in Pune, aimed at advancing the ideology.

Uttarakhand Implements Uniform Civil Code: A Postcolonial Perspective

On January 27, the Uttarakhand government made history by promulgating a Uniform Civil Code (UCC), becoming the first state in India to do so since independence. Goa, however, has been following a form of UCC since colonial rule, based on the Portuguese Civil Code of 1967. Uttarakhand's move marks a significant postcolonial development that warrants a closer look, both in terms of its contextual relevance and the merits of the proposal.



Contextual Significance

The Bharatiya Janata Party (BJP) has long championed the idea of implementing a Uniform Civil Code nationwide. The BJP's political agenda, inherited from its Hindu Right predecessors, has centered around two key

other BJP-ruled states, such as Assam, Haryana, Karnataka, Madhya Pradesh, Maharashtra, and Uttar Pradesh, have either expressed intentions to do so or have already initiated steps toward its implementation. However, Uttarakhand's small size and unique demographic landscape make it an interesting case study.

Demographic and Political Landscape

Uttarakhand's population is predominantly Hindu, comprising over 80% of the state's residents. Muslims account for about 14%, while other religious communities, including Buddhists, Christians, Jains, and Sikhs, make up around 3%. Scheduled Tribes (STs), though a minority, also hold significance in the state, and the UCC

exempts them from its scope. This demographic composition plays a crucial role in the implementation of the UCC, particularly when considering that the state's majority population is Hindu.

The BJP's push for a UCC, particularly in a state with such a clear Hindu majority, seems less contentious compared to other regions with more religious diversity. Nevertheless, the implementation of a UCC is deeply political, aligning with the BJP's vision of a nation unified under a common legal framework that transcends personal laws based on religion.

Merits of the Case

The argument for a UCC is rooted in the desire for equal treatment under

the law, irrespective of religious or cultural affiliations. Proponents argue that a UCC would bring much-needed uniformity to family laws, including marriage, inheritance, and property rights. It could potentially eliminate discrepancies between personal laws that often treat individuals based on their religious background, especially in cases of divorce or property disputes.

However, critics of the UCC raise concerns about its impact on India's pluralistic society. They argue that the imposition of a uniform law may not respect the diverse cultural and religious practices followed by various communities. For instance, many Muslim and Christian groups view their personal laws as an essential part of their religious identity.

RG Kar rape-murder victim's parents withdraw plea for fresh investigate

West Bengal BJP Chief Alleges Evidence Tampering, Vows to Meet Family

TPN Correspondent | New Delhi

BJP's West Bengal president Sukanta Majumdar on Wednesday strongly condemned the alleged mistreatment of the victim's family in the RG Kar rape-murder case in Kolkata. He accused the Kolkata police of mishandling the initial investigation and vowed to visit the victim's family to express his solidarity.

"It is shameful to malign the family. That is why I will go to their house and meet them... For five days, when Kolkata police were investigating the case, evidence was destroyed, preventing justice from being served," Majumdar said.

Meanwhile, the victim's parents withdrew their plea from the Supreme Court seeking a fresh investigation into the case. The Court, after reviewing the submissions, advised Senior Advocate Karuna Nundy to withdraw the application and file a new one if necessary, as the original plea had been filed before the trial and conviction.

The case saw a major development on January 20 when a Sealdah Civil and Criminal Court convicted and sentenced Sanjoy Roy to life imprisonment for the rape and murder. However, the verdict has sparked an outcry among doctors and medical workers, who are calling for the death penalty. There are also growing demands



- Majumdar alleges crucial evidence was destroyed in the first five days of the probe
- Victim's parents withdraw their Supreme Court plea seeking reinvestigation
- Doctors and medical workers demand the death penalty for the convict

for a reinvestigation, citing concerns over the way evidence was handled during the initial probe.

As legal battles continue, the political storm surrounding the case intensifies, with BJP leaders questioning the ruling party's role in ensuring justice.



ED Attaches ₹1.45 Lakh Crore Worth of Assets Under PMLA

TPN Correspondent | Delhi

The Enforcement Directorate (ED) has attached assets worth ₹1.45 lakh crore under the Prevention of Money Laundering Act (PMLA) till date, with ₹21,370 crore seized in the first nine months of FY 2024-25 alone. The federal agency, which has ramped up its crackdown on financial crimes in the last decade, has also facilitated the restitution of ₹22,737 crore in attached assets to banks and victims.

Since Prime Minister Narendra Modi took office in 2014, the ED has significantly increased its actions against money laundering, attaching assets worth ₹1.19 lakh crore in the last decade. The agency has pursued major economic offenders such as Vijay Mallya, Nirav Modi, and Mehul Choksi, recovering funds linked to high-profile financial fraud cases.

Apart from PMLA, the ED also operates under the Fugitive Economic Offenders Act (FEOA) and the Foreign Exchange Management Act (FEMA). Enacted in 2018, FEOA targets individuals charged with high-value economic frauds who flee the country to escape legal proceedings. To date, 23 FEOA applications have been filed, with 13 individuals declared fugitive economic offenders. The Financial Action Task Force (FATF), a global anti-money laundering watchdog, recognized India's strong compliance with counter-money laundering and terror financing standards in June last year, further reinforcing the country's efforts in combating financial crimes.

Manipur Govt Orders Major Reshuffle of 70 Officers After New Governor Takes Charge

TPN Correspondent | Manipur

The Manipur government on Tuesday carried out a major bureaucratic reshuffle, transferring a total of 70 officers, including 60 from administrative services and 10 from police services. The move comes just days after Ajay Kumar Bhalla, a former Union Home Secretary, took charge as the state's new governor.

Among the significant changes, senior IAS officer Paudunthang Vaiphei has been appointed as Additional Chief Secretary and Director General of the State Academy of Training (SAT), while IAS officer Arurak Bajpai will now serve as Additional Chief Secretary for Textiles, Commerce, and Industries alongside his existing role as Principal Chief Conservator of Forests (PCCF).



The reshuffling is expected to bring administrative efficiency and reinforce governance in the state amid ongoing political and security challenges. These changes will remain in force until further notice, ensuring a streamlined approach under the leadership of Governor Bhalla.

Gujarat Reports Eighth Case of Human Metapneumovirus in Ahmedabad

TPN Correspondent | Ahmedabad

A 4-year-old boy from Ahmedabad has tested positive for human metapneumovirus (HMPV), raising the number of cases in Gujarat to eight, health officials confirmed on Thursday. The child, from the Gota area, is currently undergoing treatment at a trust-run hospital in the city, and his condition is reported to be stable.

The child was admitted to SGVP Hospital on January 28 after experiencing fever and a persistent cough. A test conducted the same day confirmed that he was infected with HMPV. According to Bhavin Solanki, the medical officer from Ahmedabad Municipal Corporation, the boy has no history of recent foreign travel, indicating that the virus was contracted locally.



Before this case, Ahmedabad had already recorded six instances of HMPV, with three patients coming from other regions but seeking treatment in the city. All six previous patients have since been discharged following full recovery.

With the addition of this new case, Gujarat now has eight confirmed HMPV cases, with seven in Ahmedabad and one in Sabarkantha district.

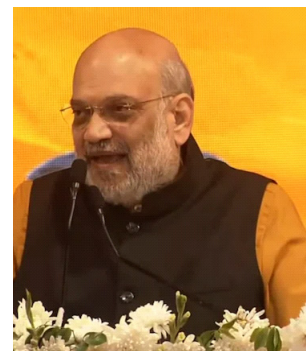
HMPV, discovered in 2001, is a virus belonging to the Paramyxoviridae family and is closely related to the Respiratory Syncytial Virus (RSV). The symptoms of HMPV include cough, fever, nasal congestion, and shortness of breath, and it primarily spreads through respiratory droplets when an infected person coughs or sneezes. It can also spread through touching contaminated surfaces or direct contact with infected individuals.

Amit Shah-Led Committee Approves ₹3,027.86 Crore for Disaster Mitigation

TPN Correspondent | Delhi

A High-Level Committee (HLC), chaired by Union Home Minister Amit Shah, has sanctioned ₹3,027.86 crore for disaster mitigation projects across several states. This funding, drawn from the National Disaster Mitigation Fund (NDMF), is aimed at addressing drought, lightning, and forest fire risks. The committee includes Finance Minister Nirmala Sitharaman, Agriculture Minister Shivraj Singh Chouhan, and the Vice Chairman of NITI Aayog. ₹2,022.16 crore allocated for drought-prone districts across 12 states ₹186.78 crore earmarked for lightning safety projects in 10 states.

₹18.92 crore approved for forest fire risk management in 144 districts. The 12 drought-affected states—Andhra Pradesh, Bihar, Gujarat, Jharkhand, Karnataka, Madhya Pradesh, Maharashtra, Odisha, Rajasthan, Tamil Nadu, Telangana, and Uttar Pradesh—will receive catalytic assistance, with the central government contributing ₹1,200 crore. The lightning mitigation initiative covers Andhra Pradesh, Bihar, Chhattisgarh, Jharkhand, Madhya Pradesh, Maharashtra, Meghalaya, Odisha, Uttar Pradesh, and West Bengal.



A comprehensive forest fire risk management scheme has also been sanctioned for 19 states, including Himachal Pradesh, Kerala, Mizoram, Nagaland, and Uttarakhand, with the goal of transforming India's approach to forest fire prevention and response. These efforts align with Prime Minister Narendra Modi's vision for a disaster-resilient India. The government has significantly bolstered disaster risk reduction mechanisms, with prior approvals including ₹3,075.65 crore for urban flood mitigation, ₹150 crore for glacial lake outburst floods (GLOF) management, and ₹1,000 crore for landslide mitigation in 15 states.

Supreme Court PIL Seeks Reforms After Maha Kumbh Stampede

Advocate Petitions Court for Coordinated Crowd Management Efforts

TPN Correspondent | Mahakumbh

A public interest litigation (PIL) was filed in the Supreme Court on Thursday, alleging administrative failures by the Uttar Pradesh government over the recent Maha Kumbh stampede that claimed at least 30 lives and injured over 60 devotees. The petitioner, advocate Vishal Tiwari, has urged the court to direct state governments to collaborate on enhanced safety measures for religious gatherings.

Tiwari mentioned his plea before Chief Justice of India Sanjiv Khanna, requesting an urgent hearing. The CJ instructed him to submit a formal urgency letter



outlining reasons for immediate court intervention. The petition highlights critical measures, including setting up facilitation centres to provide pilgrims with essential safety guidelines and deploying small medical teams in coordination with the Uttar Pradesh government. It emphasizes the need for state collaboration to ensure secure travel for devotees and effective crowd control at one of the world's largest religious events.

The tragic incident occurred in the early hours of Wednesday when surging crowds at Prayagraj's Sangam broke past police barricades, trampling by-

standers as millions rushed toward the riverbank for the Mauni Amavasya ritual. Authorities acknowledge lapses in managing the massive gathering, bringing scrutiny to administrative preparedness.

Uttar Pradesh Chief Minister Yogi Adityanath has ordered a judicial probe into the tragedy, appointing a three-member panel led by retired judge Harsh Kumar, along with former DGP VK Gupta and retired IAS officer DK Singh. A separate police inquiry has also been initiated to investigate the cause of the stampede and potential lapses in security arrangements.

Donald Trump Questions Tactics Behind Washington DC Plane and Helicopter Collision

President Critiques Military Helicopter and Air Traffic Control in Social Media Post

TPN Correspondent | Washington

Donald Trump expressed strong concerns about the tragic plane crash near Washington DC, claiming that the incident "should have been prevented." In a post on his Truth Social platform, Trump questioned the actions of the military helicopter and air traffic controllers, both of which fall under his presidential oversight during his tenure.

In his post, Trump detailed his observations of the crash, explaining that the airplane was on a "perfect and routine line" toward the airport, while the helicopter flew directly at the plane for an extended period of time. He noted that the clear night sky should have made the plane easily visible, prompting the question of why the helicopter didn't adjust its course. He also criticized air traffic control for failing to provide proper guidance to the helicopter. He expressed further sorrow, stating, "What a terrible night this has been. God Bless you all!" The tragic incident, which occurred



- Trump raises doubts about the coordination of agencies involved in the crash.
- Incident involved a collision between an American Airlines jet and an Army helicopter.
- The FAA launched a search-and-rescue operation after multiple fatalities were reported.

as an American Airlines jet was preparing to land at Ronald Reagan National Airport, involved a collision with a Sikorsky H-60 (Black Hawk) helicopter. The FAA confirmed that the crash occurred around 9 pm, leading to a large search-and-rescue operation in the Potomac River. Though reports mention "multiple fatalities," details on the total number of victims

remain unclear.

The crash has led to significant disruption at the airport, with all take-offs and landings halted while authorities investigated the cause of the collision. An audio recording of the final communication between the pilot and the air traffic controller before the crash has since gone viral online.

India Highlights Serious Investigation Into Pro-Khalistan Group Ahead of Modi's US Visit

TPN Correspondent | Delhi

Ahead of Prime Minister Narendra Modi's proposed visit to the US, the Indian government has emphasized the seriousness of its ongoing investigation into the pro-Khalistan separatist group "Sikhs For Justice" (SFJ). The group, led by US-based lawyer Gurpatwant Singh Pannun, faces over 100 cases across India, with 96 registered in states like Punjab, Delhi, and Haryana, and eight cases under investigation by the National Investigating Agency (NIA). The Delhi High Court tribunal recently upheld the five-year ban on SFJ.



Pannun himself has 104 cases registered against him. The group has been involved in several subversive activities, including threats against high-profile Indian leaders such as PM Modi, Home Minister Amit Shah, and NSA Ajit Doval. Investigations have revealed that SFJ has raised sig-

nificant funds to carry out terrorist activities aimed at destabilizing the government and promoting the creation of a "Khalistan" state. The group has also allegedly compiled a list of children of police officers and politicians abroad, which it intends to use as leverage in case its activists are targeted or tortured.

SFJ's activities have extended to circulating photographs of Indian diplomats, including Ambassador Vikram Duraiswami and former Ambassador Tranajit Singh Sandhu, making them vulnerable to attacks. Last month, the group issued a new threat against Indian Ambassador Vinay Kwatra.

The Delhi High Court tribunal, which was formed in August 2023, confirmed the extension of the SFJ's ban on January 3, 2024, with the ban set to last until July 2024. The government has also highlighted the SFJ's links with other separatist and radical elements, supporting violent extremism and militancy in Punjab. Even while the tribunal's proceedings were ongoing, SFJ continued its hostile activities, including offering a reward for information on former Indian High Commissioner to Canada Sanjay Kumar Verma, who was allegedly linked to the killing of Khalistani terrorist Hardeep Singh Nijjar in Canada.

Elon Musk Nominated for Nobel Peace Prize 2025 for Defense of Free Speech

TPN Correspondent | United States

Billionaire entrepreneur and CEO of Tesla and SpaceX, Elon Musk, has been nominated for the Nobel Peace Prize 2025. The nomination, confirmed by European Parliament member Branko Grims, was submitted to the Norwegian Nobel Committee in recognition of Musk's significant contributions to the defense of free speech and human rights.

Grims, who shared the news in a Facebook post, emphasized Musk's efforts in advocating for the fundamental principles of free speech, particularly through his acquisition of the social media platform X (formerly known as Twitter). Musk's purchase of X was largely framed as a move to protect and promote free speech, with Musk asserting that his goal was to allow speech that aligns with legal standards. This stance on free speech has sparked both praise and controversy, but it has also positioned Musk as a significant figure in the broader debate over online expression and censorship.



In addition to his role as the head of Tesla and SpaceX, Musk is currently serving as the head of the Department of Government Efficiency (DOGE) in the new Trump administration, further solidifying his influence in both the business and political realms. His involvement in shaping policy related to government efficiency and his outspoken views on free speech have played a central role in the rationale behind his Nobel nomination.

Syria Appoints Ahmed al-Sharaa as Interim President After Bashar al-Assad's Ouster

TPN Correspondent | Damascus

Syria's new authorities announced on Wednesday that Ahmed al-Sharaa has been appointed as the interim president following the ousting of Bashar al-Assad last month. Sharaa, leader of the Islamist group Hayat Tahrir al-Sham (HTS), was tasked with forming a transitional legislature and guiding the country through this pivotal phase.

On December 8, a swift offensive led by HTS and allied rebel factions resulted in the ousting of Assad, ending the 50-year reign of the Assad family. Following this, a transitional government was set up to steer the country until March 1, with Sharaa stepping into the presidential role during this period. State media, quoting military official Hassan Abdel Ghani, confirmed that Sharaa would represent Syria in international forums and was entrusted with forming a temporary legislative council until a permanent constitution could be established.

The Assad-era parliament was dissolved, and the 2012 constitution was suspended, marking a significant shift in Syria's governance. The announcements were made during a conference celebrating "the victory of the Syrian revolution," which was attended by Sharaa, Foreign Minister Asaad al-Shaibani, and heads of various armed factions. Abdel Ghani also revealed the dissolution of all factions involved in the removal of Assad, including the former government's military and security apparatus. The Baath party, which had been in power for decades, was also dissolved, and a new security apparatus would be formed to ensure citizens' safety and to rebuild the Syrian army.



Canadian Report Clears India of Involvement in Hardeep Singh Nijjar's Killing

TPN Correspondent | Canada

A Canadian commission report has cleared the Indian government of any involvement in the killing of Sikh activist Hardeep Singh Nijjar, dismissing allegations made by Canadian Prime Minister Justin Trudeau in 2023. The 123-page report, released on Tuesday, concludes that there is no definitive link between India and the murder of Nijjar, a Khalistani separatist, in June 2023.

The report, titled 'Public Inquiry Into Foreign Interference in Federal Electoral Processes and Democratic Institutions', also highlighted the disinformation campaign that followed Trudeau's public accusations regarding India's potential involvement in the murder. Commissioner Marie-Josée Hogue stated that "disinformation is used as a retaliatory tactic" when states feel their interests are being challenged.

Trudeau's allegations had escalated tensions between India and Canada, with India strongly denying any involvement in the killing. The report emphasized that while the allegations sparked a disinformation campaign, no conclusive evidence connected any foreign state to Nijjar's death.

Nijjar, who was killed in a parking lot near a Gurudwara in Surrey, British Columbia, in June 2023, was a prominent supporter of the Khalistan movement, which is banned in India but has significant support within the Sikh diaspora in Canada.

The report also touched upon the expulsion of six Indian diplomats in the wake of the allegations. The legal proceedings regarding the case have been slow, with four Indian nationals arrested in connection with the murder, though the trial has been adjourned multiple times.



Trump Signs Executive Order to Combat Antisemitism and Deport Protestors

TPN Correspondent | Washington DC

US President Donald Trump signed an executive order aimed at combating antisemitism, which includes a controversial pledge to deport non-citizen college students and others who participated in pro-Palestinian protests. The executive order, issued Wednesday, outlines "immediate action" by the Justice Department to prosecute criminal acts such as "terroristic threats, arson, vandalism, and violence against American Jews," following the surge in antisemitic incidents after the October 7, 2023, attack on Israel by Hamas.

The fact sheet accompanying the order emphasizes the growing antisemitism on US campuses and streets, spurred by the ongoing Israel-Palestinian conflict. In a strongly worded statement, Trump declared that non-citizens involved in "pro-jihadist" protests would face deportation, warning, "We will find you, and we will deport you." He further promised to cancel student visas for individuals he deemed to be Hamas sympathizers, citing a radicalized atmosphere on US college campuses.

The executive order has drawn significant criticism from rights groups and legal experts. Civil rights advocates argue that the order infringes upon the constitutional rights to free speech and political expression. Carrie DeCell, a senior attorney at the Knight First Amendment Institute at Columbia University, stated, "The First Amendment protects everyone in the United States, including foreign citizens studying at American universities." The Council on American-Islamic Relations (CAIR) also expressed concerns, warning that the order could lead to a legal battle if implemented.

Pro-Palestinian protests, triggered by the escalation of violence between Israel and Hamas, have taken place on various US college campuses, often accompanied by accusations of antisemitism. Many protesters, however, have clarified that their actions were against Israel's military tactics in Gaza, not support for Hamas. Maya Berry, executive director of the Arab American Institute, warned that conflating criticism of Israel with antisemitism could have a chilling effect on free speech in the US.

Stock Markets See Volatile Session Amid Budget Session and Profit Booking

Domestic stock markets witnessed huge volatility today. Mixed signals from international markets, the start of the Budget session and profit-taking are the reasons for this. The indices, which started flat in the morning, swung to huge gains in the afternoon. They fell into losses again as investors took profit-taking at daily highs. They recovered somewhat in the end as buying resumed. Reality, energy and pharma shares were the main drivers of this. Overall, the Sensex gained 226 points and the Nifty gained 86 points. The Nifty has a strong resistance at 23300. If it is broken, the index may recover a little more.

The BSE Sensex, which closed at 76,532 in the previous session, opened at 76,598 today. It touched an intraday low of 76,401. It reached an intraday high of 76,962. It finally closed at 76,759, up 226 points. The NSE Nifty, which opened at 23,249 on Thursday, touched a low of 23,139 and a high of 23,322. It closed at 23,249, gaining 86 points. The Nifty Bank rose 146 points to settle at 49,311.

In the Nifty50, 35 companies gained and 15 lost. BEL, Power Grid, Hero Moto, Bharti Airtel, Cipla were the top gainers. Tata Motors, ITC Hotels, Adani Enterprises, Shriram Finance, Bajaj Finserv were the biggest losers. Auto, IT, Media, Consumer Durables, Oil & Gas indices rose today. Bank, Finance, FMCG, Pharma, Healthcare, Oil & Gas indices were in the red.



Market breadth on NSE today slightly shifted in favour of buyers. Out of 2091 stocks traded, 1549 gained and 1256 lost. Shares of 18 companies reached 52-week highs while 64 reached 52-week lows.

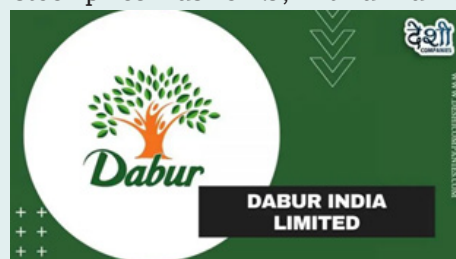
The rupee weakened slightly against the dollar and settled at 86.62. Wari Energies' net profit in the third quarter rose 36.2% to Rs 492 crore from Rs 361 crore. Coromandel International's net profit rose to Rs 511 crore from Rs 231 crore. HSBC has maintained a buy rating on Bajaj Finance with a target price of Rs 8900. It is noteworthy that Nomura has given a reduce rating to JSW Infra. Dabur India's net profit was recorded at Rs 516 crore. Max Healthcare's revenue grew by 35% to Rs 2281 crore from Rs 1689 crore. Wellspun Living's net profit fell by 31.7% to Rs 120 crore from Rs 176 crore. GAIL India's net profit was recorded at Rs



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3870 crore with a growth rate of 36%. Revenue was recorded at Rs 34,960 crore. It declared a dividend of Rs 6.5 per share. Adani Enterprises' net profit fell by 97% to Rs 57 crore. Despite an increase in mining and airport revenue, foreign exchange losses of Rs 296 crore were a drag. Bharat Electronics' profit rose 47% to Rs 1316 crore from Rs 893 crore.

Dabur India Ltd.
Dabur is a leading FMCG company specializing in natural and Ayurvedic products. As of January 26, 2025, its stock price was ₹521.9, with a market



capitalization of ₹92,497 crore. The company has shown resilience in maintaining its market position.

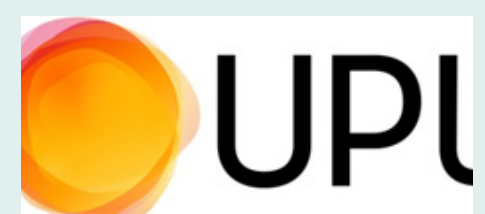
Bharti Airtel Ltd.
Bharti Airtel is a major telecommunications provider in India. In a recent open market transaction, Bharti Telecom, a promoter group company, increased its stake in Bharti Airtel by 1.35% for ₹8,301 crore, bringing its total stake to 39.7%. Analysts anticipate that Bharti Airtel will continue to raise tariffs in the coming years, which could enhance its EBITDA.



Hero MotoCorp is the world's largest manufacturer of two-wheelers. In the quarter ending September 30, 2024, the company reported a 14% year-on-year increase in standalone profit to ₹12.04 billion, surpassing market expectations. This growth was driven by a 7% rise in sales volumes, particularly in mid-range motorcycles, and the introduction of

premium models like the "Karizma XMR." Revenue for the quarter increased by 11% to ₹104.63 billion.

UPL Ltd.
UPL is a global agrochemical company specializing in crop protection solutions. As of January 30, 2025, UPL's stock price was ₹650. The company has a strong international presence and continues to focus on sustainable agricultural practices.



Colgate-Palmolive (India) Ltd.
Colgate-Palmolive is a leading provider of oral care products in India. In the quarter ending September 30, 2024, the company reported a 16% increase in net profit to ₹3.95 billion, driven by strong demand for premium personal care products and expansion into rural markets. Sales grew by 10% to ₹16.09 billion during the same period.



India's Rising Dependence on Imported Crude Oil: A Growing Concern for the Economy

India's reliance on imported crude oil has been steadily increasing, reflecting the country's rising energy demands and the gap between domestic production and consumption. This trend poses significant challenges for the Indian economy, which is already grappling with inflationary pressures and the impact of global energy prices.



Despite efforts to boost domestic production through exploration and development of new oil reserves, the country still remains heavily dependent on crude oil imports.

The growing import dependency also raises questions about the long-term sustainability of India's energy strategy. To mitigate risks and reduce the economic impact of imported oil, India has been focusing on diversification strategies such as expanding the use of renewable energy sources and promoting electric mobility. However, it will take time for these initiatives to make a significant impact on the country's overall energy consumption patterns.

As India's oil import dependency continues to rise, addressing this issue will be crucial for ensuring the nation's energy security and economic stability in the years ahead.

According to recent data from the Petroleum Planning & Analysis Cell (PPAC) of the oil ministry, India's oil import dependency surged to 88.1% in the first nine months of the current financial year. This marks an increase from 87.5% during the same period last year and 87.8% for the entire financial year 2023-24 (FY24). These figures highlight the nation's increasing dependence on foreign crude oil to meet its growing energy needs.

This growing dependency is a cause for concern as it makes India vulnerable to fluctuations in

global oil prices. Since crude oil is one of the largest import items for India, any spike in international oil prices can lead to higher import bills, thereby straining the country's current account deficit and putting pressure on the value of the rupee.

India's domestic oil production has not been able to keep up with the rapidly increasing demand for energy. As the world's third-largest oil importer, India faces the dual challenge of balancing its energy security needs while keeping costs under con-

ommend securities.

In addition, SEBI clarified that individuals engaged in purely educational activities cannot provide any direct or indirect advice or recommendations related to securities unless they are registered advisors. This is in line with SEBI's commitment to maintaining market integrity by ensuring that only qualified and registered entities provide investment advice.

One of the key provisions of the draft circular also focuses on the conduct of non-registered influencers, forbidding them from making explicit or implied claims about stock returns or performance. The idea is to prevent misleading information from reaching the public, which can unduly influence retail investors.

To combat the growing influence of "finfluencers" (financial influencers) promoting stock tips on social media under the guise of "educational purposes only," India's market regulator, the Securities and Exchange Board of India (SEBI), has introduced a draft circular. This new measure seeks to regulate the spread of unverified financial advice and reduce the risk posed by individuals with limited expertise in the stock market.

The draft circular stipulates that individuals who claim to offer financial education must refrain from using real-time stock price data from the last three months. The guideline prohibits them from discussing, displaying, or mentioning any securities, whether by name or code, if they intend to make predictions, offer advice, or rec-



SEBI has emphasized that violations of these guidelines could lead to pen-

Adani Ports Reports 32% Growth in Net Profit for 2024-25, Expansion & Sustainability Highlighted

Adani Ports and Special Economic Zone Ltd (APSEZ) reported a remarkable 32% growth in its net profit for the first three quarters of the financial year 2024-25. The company's net profit for the period from April to December 2024 stood at Rs 8,038 crore, compared to Rs 6,089 crore during the same period in the previous year. In the October-December quarter, APSEZ's ports business also showed strong performance, with a 14% increase in net profit, reaching Rs 2,518 crore, up from Rs 2,208 crore in the year-ago quarter.

A key development for the company was the successful closure of the Gopalpur and Astro Offshore transactions, valued at over Rs 4,600 crore, during the October-December quarter. APSEZ's performance was further bolstered by a prestigious recognition from S&P Global CSA, which ranked the company among the Top 10 most sustainable global companies in the transport and infrastructure industry.

Ashwani Gupta, Whole-time Director and CEO of APSEZ, shared his enthusiasm, citing exceptional execution across three main areas: market share gains, growth in the logistics vertical, and operational efficiencies. Gupta

also highlighted the company's focus on integrated transport solutions, with the launch of a new trucking platform as part of its commitment to becoming a comprehensive Transport Utility. On the domestic front, APSEZ saw an 11% year-on-year revenue growth in its ports, coupled with a significant increase in EBITDA margin. The company also achieved a 27.2% share in India's cargo market and 45.2% in the container market. The logistics segment grew by 22%, driven by strong container and GPWIS volumes. Additionally, APSEZ expanded its international operations, with a 16% increase in revenue driven by the Astro and Tanzania operations, as well as the commencement of Vizhinjam Port's operations.

APSEZ continues to focus on expanding its marine assets and aligned with India's "Make in India" and "Atmanirbhar Bharat" initiatives, placing large orders for harbor tugs. The company's total cargo volume in the first nine months of FY25 rose by 7%, led by strong growth in containers and liquids and gas. APSEZ's strategic investments and operational efficiency are set to continue driving its expansion in both domestic and international markets.



towards safeguarding retail investors from the risks posed by unqualified individuals sharing stock tips that may not be based on solid research or expertise.

This move is part of a broader regulatory effort by SEBI to address the issue of influencers, who have gained prominence on social media platforms. Many of these individuals have been accused of manipulating stock prices or providing biased advice with limited understanding of the market dynamics. Last year, SEBI had already amended its norms to regulate unregistered entities offering financial advice. With this new draft circular, SEBI is reinforcing its stance against the unregulated financial content circulating online.

alties, suspension, cancellation of registration, or debarment. This is a step

Study Reveals 4-Month-Old Babies Can Distinguish Language Sounds



A new study published in *Developmental Science* challenges previous beliefs about language development in babies, showing that infants as young as four months can distinguish sounds from languages they've never heard before. This finding provides insight into the early stages of language acquisition and could have important implications for identifying potential speech and language delays.

The research suggests that babies, even before they begin focusing on their native language, are already adept at sorting through a variety of sounds in the world around them. In the first six months of life, infants are able to differentiate between sounds from languages they've never encountered. For instance, babies raised in English-speaking households can recognize

tonal differences in Mandarin or subtle contrasts in Hindi, which can be challenging for adult English speakers.

This discovery shakes up the previous understanding that babies don't start recognizing language-specific patterns until they are between six and twelve months old. Prior to this, it was believed that infants only began to focus on their native language sounds around the age of six months through a process called *'perceptual attunement'*, where they tune in to the sounds they hear most often.

However, the new study suggests that this process begins much earlier. Babies at four months are already learning how sounds are made physically, such as the difference between a

sound produced with the lips and one made with the tongue. This early ability to recognize sound patterns may lay the foundation for later language development.

Around six months, babies begin fine-tuning their ability to focus on the sounds they encounter most frequently, particularly vowels. By the age of ten months, they become more attuned to consonants. This narrowing of focus allows them to hone in on the specific sounds that are essential for their language.

These findings not only deepen our understanding of language development but also offer an earlier window for intervention for babies at risk of speech or language delays.

8 Best Theme Parks in the World for an Unforgettable Adventure



From magical fairy tales to heart-racing roller coasters, the world's theme parks offer thrilling experiences for all types of adventurers. Whether you're visiting for a dedicated vacation or adding a day of fun to your travels, these top parks promise to deliver something unforgettable. Here are the eight best theme parks around the globe:

As part of the Walt Disney World Resort in Orlando, Magic Kingdom is a must-visit for Disney fans. Its iconic Cinderella Castle and attractions like "Pirates of the Caribbean" and "It's a Small World" offer a blend of nostalgia and excitement, making it one of the most visited theme parks in the world.

Tokyo Disneyland, the first Disney park outside the US, features seven themed lands including the charming "World Bazaar" and "Westernland." Unique rides like "Pooh's Hunny Hunt," which uses trackless technology, make this park an enchanting destination.

Set in Kaatsheuvel, Efteling is a fairy-tale-themed park that brings Dutch folklore to life. Visitors can stroll through the "Fairytale Forest" or experience thrilling rides like the "Baron 1898" dive coaster, all while surrounded by beautiful storybook architecture.

For car enthusiasts, Ferrari World offers a high-speed adventure with the world's fastest roller coaster, "Formula Rossa." The park also features

interactive exhibits and driving simulators, celebrating Ferrari's legendary automotive legacy.

Located on Sentosa Island, Universal Studios Singapore offers thrilling rides based on popular movies and TV shows. From the "Battlestar Galactica" dueling coasters to "Transformers: The Ride," this park provides cinematic experiences for all ages.

With attractions like "The Wizarding World of Harry Potter" and "Super Nintendo World," Universal Studios Japan brings pop culture and video game worlds to life. It's a perfect destination for movie buffs and gamers alike.

As the original Disney park, Disneyland in Anaheim offers classic attractions such as "Space Mountain" and "Haunted Mansion." This park seamlessly combines nostalgia with modern magic.

Germany's largest theme park, Europa-Park, offers a tour of Europe with 15 themed areas, each representing a different country. Highlights include the "Silver Star" coaster and the "Voleterium" flying theater.

What It Costs To Spend A Night At The World's Only "10-Star" Hotel

The Jumeirah Burj Al Arab, often hailed as the world's only "10-star" hotel, epitomizes luxury and extravagance. Officially recognized as a 7-star hotel, the Burj Al Arab is one of Dubai's most iconic landmarks, known for its sail-shaped design and unparalleled hospitality. Completed in 1999 and designed by architect Tom Wright, the hotel stands on a man-made island, rising 321 meters above the Arabian Gulf, making it one of the tallest hotels in the world.

Since its opening, the Burj Al Arab has become a symbol of luxury, attracting global celebrities, VIPs, and elite travelers. Its stunning design features lavish interiors adorned with 24-carat gold leaf, extravagant chandeliers, and spacious duplex suites that span two floors. With only 202 suites, each featuring Hermes amenities and breathtaking views of the sea, the Burj Al Arab ensures an exclusive experience.

A stay at the Burj Al Arab is reserved for those seeking the highest level of luxury, with rates soaring to over Rs 10 lakh per night during peak seasons. Guests enjoy a royal welcome with chauffeur-driven Rolls-Royce limousines or even helicopter transfers from the airport.

The hotel offers a host of world-class amenities, including a private beach, infinity pools, and a luxurious spa that features treatments like gold facials and diamond massages. Every guest is assigned a personal butler available around the clock, ensuring that their every need is met. The staff-to-guest ratio of 8:1 guarantees unmatched service and attention to detail.

For relaxation, the Burj Al Arab boasts a 10,000-square-meter terrace with stunning views over the sea, complete with an infinity pool. Fitness enthusiasts can take advantage of a fully equipped gym and personal trainers.

Guests can indulge in gourmet dining at one of the hotel's eight exceptional restaurants, including an underwater dining experience that offers views of marine life through a massive aquarium window.

With its unmatched luxury, personalized service, and breathtaking views, the Burj Al Arab truly deserves its reputation as a "10-star" hotel.



Bengaluru Company Seeks Chief Dating Officer for Unique Role

In a world where job titles are constantly evolving, one Bengaluru-based mentorship platform has introduced a role that has caught the attention of many – the Chief Dating Officer (CDO). Topmate, known for its coaching and mentorship services, has posted a job listing for this intriguing new position, sparking a viral reaction online.

According to Nimisha Chanda, Topmate's marketing lead, the company is looking for a candidate who understands the ins and outs of modern dating culture, rather than someone with a traditional business background. The posting humorously states, "We are looking for someone who lives and breathes dating culture. The self-proclaimed matchmaker who can decode 'ghosting,' 'breadcrumbing,' and every new dating buzzword in the book."

Unlike many corporate roles, the Chief Dating Officer doesn't require an MBA or a background in strategic planning. Instead, the company wants someone who has experience navigating the world of online dating, with a deep understanding of the dynamics that shape modern romantic relationships. Topmate's CDO will need to possess a flair for offering relationship advice, guiding others through the complexities of the dating world, and staying up-to-date with the latest trends in the

Nimisha Chanda
@NimishaChanda

Hiring Alert!

We are looking for a Chief Dating Officer.

Are you the go-to friend for dating advice? We're hiring someone who lives and breathes dating culture.

The self-proclaimed matchmaker who can decode "ghosting," "breadcrumbing," and every new dating buzzword in the book? Well, we just swiped right on you.

Requirements:

- Should have experienced at least 1 breakup, 2 situationships and 3 dates (Receipts not required, but we'll ask for the stories!)
- Should have knowledge of all the new dating terms and be daring enough to create new ones.
- Should have tried at least 2-3 dating apps (we're looking for hands-on experience, no catfishing allowed!)

Think you've got all the love intel we need? Submit your application here - lnkd.in/gzvGewnb

PS: The best pitches will receive dates(khajoor) from the topmate team :p

realm of love and online dating.

The company's job post, which has become a hot topic of conversation, suggests that the ideal candidate should have hands-on experience with at least two to three dating apps. This may seem unusual, but it reflects the growing role that technology and digital platforms play in contemporary romantic relationships. Whether it's decoding modern dating terminology, helping others navigate virtual rela-

tionships, or offering expert advice on avoiding pitfalls like ghosting, the Chief Dating Officer will be at the forefront of managing dating culture for the platform.

Topmate's playful job listing stands out not only for its unique title but also for its unconventional approach to tackling one of the most pervasive elements of contemporary social life – modern romance. If you're an expert in swiping right, this might just be the job for you.

Mumbai Startup Offers Unique Service for Payments With Just a Missed Call

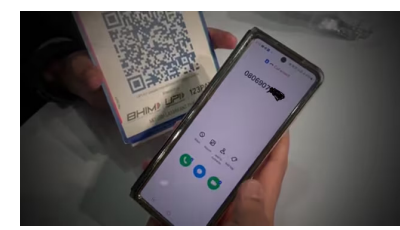
In a world where digital payments have become the norm, Unified Payments Interface (UPI) apps like PhonePe, Google Pay, and Paytm have made money transfers simpler than ever—though they do require a stable internet connection. However, a Mumbai-based startup is introducing a groundbreaking method for making payments without the need for internet connectivity: MissCallPay.

Founded by Mitesh Thakkar, MissCallPay offers users the ability to make payments by simply giving a missed call. The process is straightforward and designed to cater to users who may not have access to smartphones or a reliable internet connection.

Here's how it works: After placing the missed call, users will receive a call asking them to

input the name of the beneficiary, followed by the amount to be transferred. Finally, the transaction is completed once the user enters their UPI PIN, mimicking the standard UPI payment process.

What makes MissCallPay especially innovative is that it is compatible with basic keypad phones, expanding the reach of digital payments to those without access to smartphones or high-speed internet. The service is also free of charge, with no additional costs involved in making payments via a missed call, further simplifying access for



people across various economic backgrounds.

Mitesh Thakkar was inspired to create MissCallPay after observing the challenges faced by rural populations, where many people do not own smartphones or have regular internet access. The goal behind the service is to provide a fast, efficient, and simple solution for people in these areas to make money transactions without the usual technological barriers.

MissCallPay represents a huge step in financial inclusion, offering a user-friendly alternative to traditional digital payment methods. In regions where internet connectivity remains a challenge, this innovative solution could revolutionize how people send and receive money, making digital payments accessible to all.

Thousands Turning Up For Kohli's Ranji Trophy Return

TPN Correspondent | New Delhi

Virat Kohli's return to domestic cricket after 12 years turned the Arun Jaitley Stadium into a carnival, with thousands of fans flocking to witness the cricketing icon in action. As Delhi faced Railways in the Ranji Trophy, what was expected to be a routine fixture transformed into a spectacle, driven by Kohli's sheer presence. Fans had gathered outside the stadium from the previous night, and each glimpse of the batting maestro was met with deafening cheers.

During the match, an interesting moment off the field caught attention when journalist Rohit Juglan revealed that Kohli's lunch choice was a simple yet special one—chilli paneer from the local DDCA canteen. The revelation quickly went viral as fans eagerly absorbed every detail about their favorite cricketer.

Sanjay Jha, a regular chef at the DDCA canteen who prepared Kohli's meal, shared in an interview that the cricketer insisted on eating from the canteen rather than ordering from outside.



"Bahar se nahi, yahi canteen se hi khaaunga (No, not from outside. I'll have lunch from the canteen)," Jha recalled. In another interview, Jha expressed his surprise and admiration for Kohli, who personally met him, requested chilli paneer, and even addressed him with respect. "He called me 'Sanjay ji.' Itna badaa aadmi ban gaya hai, lekin mera naam yaad hai usko (He has become so big, yet he remembers my name.),"

Jha said. The anticipation for Kohli's appearance exceeded all expectations. The DDCA initially estimated a crowd of around 10,000 for the match—a remarkable figure for a Ranji Trophy fixture. However, Kohli's presence drew far larger numbers, forcing officials to open additional stands to accommodate the surging crowd. The 6,000-seat Gautam Gambhir Stand, originally designated for spectators, soon proved insuffi-

cient, prompting authorities to open the 11,000-capacity Bishan Singh Bedi Stand.

"I have been involved in Delhi cricket for over 30 years, but I have never seen such excitement for a Ranji game. Kohli's popularity is truly unmatched," said DDCA secretary Ashok Sharma. Even a former India cricketer present at the venue admitted he had never witnessed such a massive turnout for a domestic match.

Adding to the logistical challenges, Prime Minister Narendra Modi's cavalcade passed by the stadium just as fans were entering, leading to heightened security measures. "The VIP movement coincided with the crowd surge, making it even more challenging. The police instructed us to open another stand to ensure smooth entry," Sharma explained.

Kohli's impact on the game extended far beyond the boundary ropes. His simple yet heartfelt gesture at the DDCA canteen and his unmatched draw among fans reinforced why he remains one of the most beloved figures in Indian cricket.



Australia Crush Sri Lanka with 654-6 Declaration, Hosts Reeling at 44-3

Australia dominated Sri Lanka in the first Test, posting a massive 654-6 declared, thanks to Usman Khawaja's maiden double century (200) and Josh Inglis' debut ton (102). Sri Lanka crumbled to 44-3 at stumps on Day 2.

Australia's innings saw Steve Smith (141) and Khawaja put on a 266-run partnership before Smith reached 10,000 Test runs. Josh Inglis, making his debut, smashed 102 off just 90 balls, celebrating before getting dismissed in the next over. Alex Carey remained unbeaten on 46, while Mitchell Starc (19 not out) was at the crease when the declaration came.

Sri Lanka's bowling attack, led by spinners Prabath Jayasuriya and Jeffrey Vandersay (three wickets each), struggled as the visitors batted for 154 overs. Khawaja faced 352 balls, registering 16 fours and a six, celebrating his first double ton in Sri Lanka by kissing the turf.

In response, Sri Lanka lost three early wickets. Oshada Fernando (7) fell lbw to Matthew Kuhnemann, Dimuth Karunaratne (7) was caught at gully off Starc, and Angelo Mathews (8) was dismissed by Nathan Lyon.

By stumps, Dinesh Chandimal (9 not out) and Kamindu Mendis (13 not out) were battling to rebuild, with Sri Lanka trailing heavily. With Australia in a dominant position, Sri Lanka faces an uphill task on Day 3.

International Masters League 2025 to Begin on February 22

Cricket fans are set for an exciting tournament as the International Masters League (IML) 2025 is scheduled to begin on February 22. The much-anticipated inaugural season will feature six teams—India, Australia, England, South Africa, Sri Lanka, and the West Indies—with matches kicking off at 7:30 PM IST.

The opening match will be a thrilling clash between India, led by Sachin Tendulkar, and Sri Lanka, captained by Kumar Sangakkara. Speaking ahead of the tournament, Tendulkar expressed his excitement:

"IML will be a celebration of cricket's unique and enduring legacy. I can't wait to step back onto the



field with my contemporaries in an intense and competitive league." Sangakkara also shared his en-

thusiasm: "The IML is a tribute to cricket's timeless charm. This is a wonderful opportunity for former

cricketers to relive old rivalries and reconnect with fans."

Broadcast and Venues The tournament will be broadcast live on Disney+ Hotstar, Colors Cineplex (SD & HD), and Colors Cineplex Superhits, ensuring global reach.

- Navi Mumbai will host the first five matches.
- Rajkot will stage the next leg of the league.
- Raipur will host the semi-finals and final.

JioStar's Rohan Lavsi, Head of Hindi Movies Business, called the IML "a reunion of greatness," promising thrilling action, expert commentary, and nostalgia.

ICC Women's U-19 T20 World Cup 2025: India Eye Dominant Show Against England in Semis

The Indian Women's U-19 team will look to continue their dominant run as they face England in the semi-finals of the ICC Women's U-19 T20 World Cup 2025 on Friday. The Niki Prasad-led side has been in red-hot form, remaining unbeaten in the tournament.

India started their campaign with a 10-wicket thrashing of hosts Malaysia, followed by a 60-run win over Sri Lanka, an eight-wicket victory against Bangladesh, and a massive 150-run demolition of Scotland in their final Super Six match.

Opener Gongadi Trisha has been in sublime form, scoring 110 off 59 balls against Scotland, including 13 fours and four sixes. Her opening partner G Kamalini also made a solid 51 off 42 balls. With scores of 4, 27, 49, 40, and 110*, Trisha is the tournament's leading run-scorer with 230 runs at an average of 76.66, far ahead of England's top batter Davina Perrin, who has 131 runs in four games at 32.75.

India's bowling has been equally dominant. Against Scotland, they bowled them out for just 58 runs in 14 overs, with Vaishnavi Sharma (3/5), Aayushi Shukla (4/8), and Trisha (3/6) leading the attack. Vaishnavi and Aayushi have taken 12 and 10 wickets respectively, making them key threats for England. England, on the other hand, has



had an inconsistent run in the Super Six stage, winning two and losing two matches. They will be wary of India's batting firepower and bowling attack, as their own batting lineup has struggled in patches.

With India in supreme form across all departments, they head into the semi-final as strong favorites. England will

need a near-perfect performance to challenge this unbeaten Indian squad.

Squads: India: Niki Prasad (c), Sanika Chalke, G Trisha, Kamalini G, Bhavika Ahire, Ishwari Awasare, Mithila Vinod, Joshitha VJ, Sonam Yadav, Parunika Sisodiya, Kesari Drithi, Aayushi Shukla, Anandita Kishor, MD Shabnam,

Vaishnavi S.

England: Abi Norgrove (c), Phoebe Brett, Olivia Brinsden, Tilly Corteen-Coleman, Trudy Johnson, Katie Jones, Charlotte Lambert, Eve O'Neill, Davina Perrin, Jemima Spence, Charlotte Stubbs, Amuruthaa Surenkumar, Prisha Thanawala, Erin Thomas, Grace Thompson.



Hockey India Announces 32-Member Squad for FIH Pro League 2024-25 in Bhubaneswar

Hockey India has announced a 32-member Indian Men's Hockey squad for the Bhubaneswar leg of the FIH Pro League 2024-25, set to be played at the Kalinga Hockey Stadium from February 15 to 25.

Harmanpreet Singh will continue as the captain, with Hardik Singh as his deputy. India will face Spain, Germany, Ireland, and England, playing each team twice in this leg.

The squad includes first-choice goalkeeper Krishan Bahadur Pathak, alongside Suraj Karkera and Princdeep Singh. The defensive line-up features experienced players like Jarmanpreet Singh, Amit Rohidas, Sumit, Jugraj Singh, and Varun Kumar.

The midfield will be led by Hardik Singh, with support from Manpreet Singh, Vivek Sagar Prasad, Rajkumar Pal, and Nilakanta Sharma. In the attack, Abhishek, Sukhjeet Singh, Mandeep Singh, Lalit Kumar Upadhyay, and Gurjant Singh will spearhead India's goal-scoring efforts.

Youngsters Angad Bir Singh (22) and Arshdeep Singh (20) have earned their first senior team call-ups, impressing in the junior team and Hockey India League. Head Coach Craig Fulton expressed confidence in the squad, stating:

"I believe this team can win matches and play an impressive brand of hockey. I am looking forward to seeing them compete against some of the best international teams."

Pushpa 2: The Rule Becomes Highest Ticket-Selling Film

Reloaded Version Hits OTT

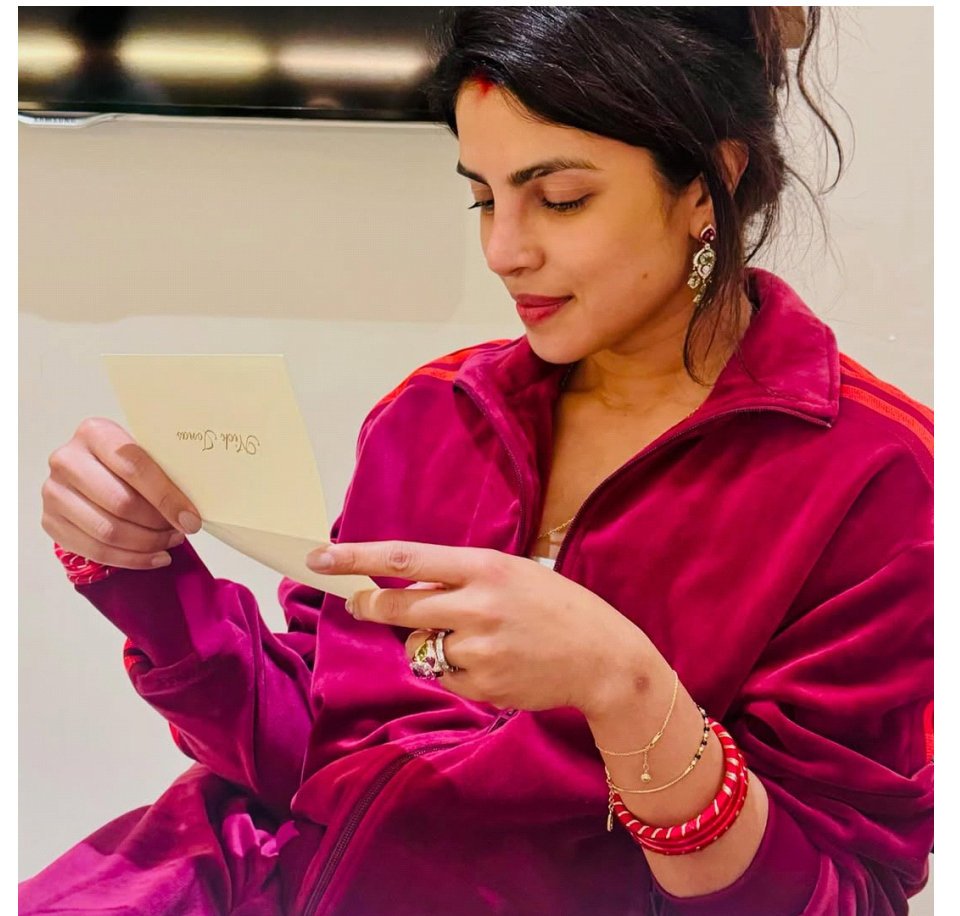
Pushpa 2: The Rule, directed by Sukumar and starring Allu Arjun and Rashmika Mandanna, has officially become the highest ticket-selling film ever, surpassing previous records. The film, which stormed the box office last year, has now sold over 20 million tickets on BookMyShow, outpacing K.G.F: Chapter 2. Ashish Saksena, COO of Cinemas at BookMyShow, highlighted the film's extraordinary success, stating, "Pushpa 2: The Rule has truly redefined cinematic milestones with over 20 million tickets sold, making it the most-watched film on BookMyShow." He also noted its massive appeal across cities like Hyderabad, Mumbai, Bengaluru, and Delhi-NCR.



The film's advance sales broke records, with 107,000 tickets sold in just one hour, surpassing Baahubali 2. Saksena emphasized that 35% of viewers experienced the film in single-screen the-

atres, reinforcing the enduring appeal of the traditional movie-going experience. Meanwhile, the Reloaded Version of Pushpa 2 dropped on Netflix today, featuring an additional 24 minutes of

footage. It is available in Telugu, Hindi, Malayalam, and Tamil. The film has so far collected ₹1,232 crore in India and ₹1,738 crore worldwide, according to Sacnilk.



Priyanka Chopra Bags ₹30 Cr for Mahesh-Rajamouli Film?

Though not officially confirmed, reports suggest that Priyanka Chopra Jonas will play the female lead in Superstar Mahesh Babu's upcoming film, directed by SS Rajamouli. The actress is currently in Hyderabad, reportedly preparing for the film. According to the latest buzz, the makers have finalized a ₹30 crore remuneration for her role.

Priyanka, who started her career in Bollywood before achieving global fame, initially demanded a higher fee, but negotiations led to the final figure. While ₹30 crore might seem steep, it's hardly a concern for the producers, given Rajamouli's track record of delivering massive blockbusters.

With Rajamouli at the helm, the film carries immense commercial potential even before its release. His ability to steer projects from inception to global recognition ensures strong pre-release business, making such deals viable.

Touted as an African adventure, the film aims to bring in international actors, and Priyanka's presence enhances its appeal both in India and overseas. Given her selective approach to roles in recent years, her inclusion has already generated significant buzz.

For a film of this scale, Priyanka's ₹30 crore deal is seen as a strategic investment rather than an expense.



Shahid Kapoor Praises Deva Co-Star Pooja Hegde

Shahid Kapoor, currently promoting his upcoming film Deva, lauded his co-star Pooja Hegde, acknowledging her hard work and independent rise in the industry.

Speaking at a promotional event, Shahid said, "She has worked hard to be where she is. Not everyone can make it on their own, and I appreciate that about her. She also has a charming way of dancing, which I enjoy."

Directed by Rosshan Andrews, Deva features Shahid Kapoor as a police officer and Pooja Hegde as investigative journalist Diya, with Pavail Gulati in a key role. The film's trailer and Bhasad Macha soundtrack have already received a positive response.

Apart from Deva, Shahid Kapoor will star in Arjun Ustara, directed by Vishal Bhardwaj, alongside Triptii Dimri and Randeep Hooda. Produced by Sajid Nadiadwala, the action thriller is set for a December 5, 2025 release.

South vs North – Regina Adds Her Voice!

Regina Cassandra, who is gearing up for the release of Vidaamuyarchi, has shared her thoughts on Bollywood's evolving approach toward South actors. During a recent interview, she reflected on the struggles South actors once faced in securing roles in Hindi cinema.

"Earlier, Bollywood rarely welcomed South actors, but now, they actively seek them to expand their films' reach to a larger audience. The scenario has completely changed post-pandemic," Regina stated. She also revealed that she has personally not faced such challenges and has recently signed a Bollywood film.

Regina plays a key role in Vidaamuyarchi, directed by Magizh Thirumeni and starring Ajith and Trisha. The film is set to release on February 6, 2025.



'Thandel' Censor Report

A 152-Minute Love Saga with Emotional Depth

Director Chandoo Mondeti, fresh off the success of Karthikeya 2, is set to captivate audiences once again with Thandel, starring Naga Chaitanya and Sai Pallavi. Backed by Geetha Arts, with Bunny Vasu as the producer and Allu Aravind presenting, the film has now cleared censorship with a U/A certificate.



With a runtime of 152 minutes, including ads and titles, Thandel promises a gripping love story infused with intense emotions. Inspired by real-life events, Chandoo Mondeti has crafted a narrative that blends romance with patriotism, complemented by a dramatic sea storm sequence that adds to the cinematic spectacle.

The chemistry between Naga Chaitanya and Sai Pallavi is expected to be a major highlight, making the emotional journey

even more compelling. Adding to the film's appeal is Devi Sri Prasad's music, with tracks like Bujji Thalli, Shiva Shakti, and Hilessa already winning hearts. His background score is set to amplify the film's impact. With strong buzz and high expectations, Thandel is all set for a grand release on February 7.

Hrithik Roshan Honoured at Joy Awards 2025

Alongside Morgan Freeman, Matthew McConaughey



Hrithik Roshan was recently honoured at the Joy Awards 2025 in Riyadh, Saudi Arabia, marking his 25-year journey in the film industry. Sharing the stage with Hollywood icons Morgan Freeman and Matthew McConaughey, the Bollywood star called the moment "overwhelming and humbling."

Expressing his gratitude, Hrithik wrote on Instagram, "What a joy it was to be at the Joy Awards 2025 in the presence of some of the best talents from across the globe! Thank you Turki Alalshikh for

having me be a part of this celebration of global entertainment and cinema."

A video snippet from the event showed Freeman and McConaughey acknowledging their honours before Hrithik took the stage. The actor, visibly moved, said, "This doesn't make sense. Me holding an award amid such great legends—it's truly humbling."

The event featured several international stars, including Shradha Kapoor, Amanda Seyfried, Hans Zimmer, Anthony Hopkins, Cuba Gooding Jr., Christina Aguilera, Andrea Bocelli, Michael Bublé, Guy Ritchie, Mike Flanagan, and Martin Lawrence.

On the work front, Hrithik was last seen in Fighter alongside Deepika Padukone. He also appeared in The Roshans, a Netflix documentary showcasing his family's journey in cinema.