

POINT

Weather Forecast

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

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GAMBLING STARS IN AP

Bhargav is the present gambling star of Vijayawada.

KL Vasu was caught in a drugs party in Bangalore.

Gutta Suman was caught at Manchirevula.

Chikoti Praveen Kumar was caught in Thailand.

Bhargav allegedly manages the Task Force Police.

Has he become the dictator of the gambling business in Vijayawada?

Allegedly, Bhargav is spoiling the lives of many women for business.

Allegedly, Bhargav is harassing women with secret videos.



G Avinash | TPN
Amaravati, Jan 03



The stars who were on high in Hyderabad and Bangalore are now camped in AP. After the change of government in Andhra Pradesh, a big change in gambling is allegedly being witnessed by all. Actually, when the state was divided, all the small gambling groups were vanished by the government under KCR's rule. Mr. KCR has stated many times on this issue openly. But, gambling has changed its format and become a big game. Pooling all the rich people at one place and conducting gambling has become a big business. To conduct these games and pool rich people, gambling stars have risen in the field. Presently, Mr. Bhargav is the gambling star of Vijayawada. If we remember other gambling stars, we can realize the nature of those gambling stars and the present star, Mr. Bhargav.

We have witnessed Mr. Chikoti Praveen Kumar, who was accused of gambling. He is a big shot in that game and became famous for those games only. His name was heard when ex-Minister Kodali Nani conducted a large-scale gambling camp at Gudivada on the occasion of the Sankranti Festival. Later, he was arrested in Thailand for the same issue. Mr. Gutta Suman, who is known as a businessman, was also exposed as a gambling star by Hyderabad police. He was caught when the police conducted a raid on a camp at Manchirevula. Then, the actual story was revealed that he had big deals with gambling in the circle of rich people. Mr. KL Vasu, who conducted a drug party in Bangalore where actress Hema was caught, and the case is still ongoing, is also from Vijayawada.

Now, we are getting the name of Mr.

Bhargav in Vijayawada. Here, in the capital city of AP, Bhargav has become famous for gambling camps. One more issue is that nobody can conduct gambling except Bhargav, and the task force police, who should raid those camps, do not visit. If any new person or others conduct the same gambling camp, the task force police will raid and seize the cash. But, if it is Mr. Bhargav, no police will be seen there, allegedly. At the gambling camps, liquor and women are quite common. Using these as baits, gambling stars attract rich people and celebrities. In this aspect, Mr. Bhargav is not only an expert but also very cruel, allegedly. He has conducted two spa centers and run a skin business, allegedly. When Mr. Kranthi Rana Tata was working as CP of Vijayawada, he raided and closed the businesses of Mr. Bhargav. But now, again, he has opened his gambling camps on a huge scale in Vijayawada, allegedly. One more serious allegation on Bhargav is that he spoils women's lives in the name of business and blackmails them with secret videos of them. But, knowing all his activities, the police are maintaining silence by taking cash from him, allegedly.



A TELUGU MAN, PRIDE OF GRENADA, A CARIBBEAN COUNTRY

TPN EXCLUSIVE

It's really a U-turn... Yes, he has made a U-turn, but not to retreat. Instead, he came back with a bang and an honorable, respectable designation. Mr. Gita Kishore Kumar Pasupulati, High Commissioner of Grenada to The Republic of India, is a big inspiration to the present generation of young entrepreneurs, without a doubt. He visited India to attract investments for his country, Grenada. Yes, his country is Grenada—just as he says. During his visit, he stopped by POINT's office and gave a valuable interview, sharing his tremendous journey. Mr. Gita Kishore Kumar was born and brought up in Tenali. His father, Veera Swamy, was a mason, and his mother, Manemma, motivated him to excel in his studies. He completed his matriculation at Haliya College. "Though all the students were from a Muslim minority background, I was the only Hindu student who became student president," Mr. Kishore Kumar proudly shared. He pursued his graduation at Nizam College, where he had contemporaries like Mr. V. Hanumantha Rao of Congress and Mr. Indraseena Reddy and Mr. Lakshman of the BJP. He was also acquainted with Mr. Bandaru Dattatreya, the current Governor of Haryana. Mr. Kishore Kumar revealed that, even in his 20s, he was interested in politics and aspired to become a political leader. He went on a hunger strike advocating for the formation of the Telugu Academy when Mr. Madali Venkata Krishna Rao was the Minister for Education, even landing in Chanchalguda Jail for the cause. He also attempted to contest the Musheerabad Assembly constituency from the Congress Party. However, the party demanded one lakh rupees for him to contest, which became a turning point in his life.



"To earn that one lakh, I went to Grenada. My plan was to return with one lakh, but circumstances made me settle in that country," Mr. Gita Kishore Kumar shared with a smile. He began working in a Sindh businessman's shop for three months for Rs. 200. Eventually, he started his own departmental store, which marked the beginning of his business journey at the age of 23. Now, he operates Kumar Departmental Stores, offering everything from pins to larger goods—a wholesale and retail business with four outlets. He imports products from China, Panama, Brazil, India, Hong Kong, and other countries. But how did an Indian outsider become the official representative of Grenada? His credibility played a key role. "I ran the business with sincere efforts, paid taxes regularly without manipulation, and invested my profits back into the country where I lived. That's why they appreciated me and my character. Grenada is a great country where they value character over mon-

ey," he explained with heartfelt sincerity.

Among the 33 Caribbean countries of CARICOM, Mr. Gita Kishore Kumar stands out as the only Telugu industrialist. His qualifications, BSC and MBE, are printed on his card. Here, MBE refers to the prestigious award, "Member of the British Empire," also conferred on Ratan Tata. Mr. Kishore Kumar is the only Telugu man to receive this honor, which he achieved in November 2003 in the Business category.

He proudly states, "The Prime Minister of Grenada and other Ministers hold me in high regard and entrusted me with the responsibility of High Commissioner. My current trip to India is to attract investments for Grenada, where young entrepreneurs have immense opportunities to grow their businesses. Agri-business and agriculture-related investments can begin with just 1 to 3 crores. Investments are safe, and land can be leased for business purposes. Grenada is reachable via a 16-hour flight," he elaborated.

Indeed, we are immensely proud to have Mr. Gita Kishore Kumar as the High Commissioner to Grenada, as he represents India first.

AP Cabinet: BPCL Refinery, Green Ammonia Plant, and ₹1.82 Lakh Crore Investments by SIPB

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Borugadda Case: HC Statements Shake YSRCP Social Media Teams

Arjuna Award For Telugu Athletes Yarraji Jyoti and Jeevanji Deepthi

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AP Cabinet: BPCL Refinery, Green Ammonia Plant, and ₹1.82 Lakh Crore Investments by SIPB



- Construction of two engineering colleges in Amaravati at Rs. 2,733 crore
- Municipal Law Amendment Ordinance transfers building permissions to municipalities
- Expansion of Tirupati ESI Hospital with an increase in beds to 100

TPN Correspondent
Amaravati, Jan 03

The Andhra Pradesh Cabinet, led by

Chief Minister Chandrababu Naidu, has approved several important decisions in its latest meeting. Notably, the Cabinet sanctioned the construction of two engineering colleges in Amaravati, with the project estimated to cost Rs 2,733 crore. The CRDA also gave its approval to two significant works during its 44th meeting.

In a significant move, the Cabinet approved the Municipal Law Amendment Ordinance, which now places the responsibility of issuing building and layout permissions in the hands of municipalities.

The meeting, held at 11 am on Thursday at the Secretariat in Velagapudi, saw

the participation of Deputy CM Pawan Kalyan, ministers, CS Vijayanand, and government advisors. Key decisions included the creation of 19 new posts in the Pithapuram Area Development Authority.

Additionally, the Cabinet approved the proposal to expand the beds at the Tirupati ESI Hospital to 100. Other ongoing discussions include the BPCL refinery in Ramayapatnam, the establishment of a green ammonia plant in Kakina, and an investment of Rs 1,82,162 crore approved by SIPB. Land allocation for the establishment of the Home Ministry's IR battalion in Chittoor district is also under consideration.

AP Cabinet Approves Key Projects: ₹65,000 Crore Investment by Reliance

TPN Correspondent
Amaravati, Jan 03

The Andhra Pradesh Cabinet, chaired by Chief Minister Chandrababu Naidu, has approved several significant projects, signaling a boost to the state's energy and infrastructure sectors.

Reliance Industries has committed to setting up 500 compressed biogas plants across the state with an investment of ₹65,000 crore. The cabinet has sanctioned the allocation of necessary land for these projects, marking a major step toward renewable energy adoption.

In addition, the cabinet has approved the establishment of solar and wind energy plants in Dapa, Nandyal, and Kurnool districts. A green ammonia plant in Kakina has also been given the green light, further emphasizing the government's focus on sustainable energy solutions.

To accelerate the development of the state capital, the cabinet approved infrastructure works worth ₹2,700 crore under the Cap-



ital Region Development Authority (CRDA). Minister for Housing and Information & Public Relations, Parthasarathy, highlighted the government's efforts to transform Andhra Pradesh into a hub of development and innovation.

"The coalition government is committed to ensuring Andhra Pradesh is no longer seen as a state without a capital, a perception that tarnished the state during the previous administration," the minister stated.

These initiatives are expected to generate significant employment opportunities and strengthen the state's economy.

Borugadda Case: HC Statements Shake YSRCP Social Media Teams



TPN Correspondent
Andhra Pradesh, Jan 03

The Andhra Pradesh High Court has dismissed the bail petition of rowdy sheeter Borugadda Anil, issuing strong remarks against his actions. The court observed that the accused appeared to have made it his job to post obscene content on social media and concluded that such behavior cannot be excused.

This decision adds to the ongoing troubles faced by the YSR Congress Party's social media teams, which have been under significant pressure over the past six months. Following the government's intensified crackdown on abusive social media posts, several activists associated with the party have landed in legal trouble. Courts have been unyielding in these cases, often denying bail, leaving many activists languishing in jail.

Adding to their woes, activists face multiple cases filed across various parts of the state, forcing them to navigate a complex legal web. Once salaried employees of AP Digital Corporation and AP Fibernet, these individuals have not

received payments since the party's electoral defeat. The promised legal support from the party has also proven inadequate, compounding their struggles.

Many prominent social media accounts linked to the party have either gone silent or deactivated due to the fear of legal repercussions. Activists initially believed that courts would dismiss these cases under the banner of 'Freedom of Speech,' but the judiciary has taken a firm stand instead. The situation is further aggravated by the recently implemented Bharat Nyaya Sanhita (BNS). Key provisions like Sections 196 and 197 criminalize hate speech and incitement of violence on social media, while Section 356 penalizes defamatory or false posts that harm an individual's reputation. Offenders face up to three years of imprisonment and fines under these sections.

For YSR Congress's social media teams, this legal framework, combined with strict judicial action, poses a significant challenge. The repercussions of these developments are likely to be felt deeply in the party's online operations in the coming days.

Arjuna Award For Telugu Athletes Yarraji Jyoti and Jeevanji Deepthi



TPN Correspondent
New Delhi, Jan 03:

Two Telugu athletes, Yarraji Jyoti and Jeevanji Deepthi, have been selected for the prestigious Arjuna Awards, as announced in the National Sports Awards by the Centre. Yarraji Jyoti, hailing from Visakhapatnam, Andhra Pradesh, excelled in athletics, while Jeevanji Deepthi, a para-athlete from Warangal district, Telangana, brought recognition to the region in para-athletics. This year, 32 athletes have been chosen for the Arjuna Awards, highlighting their exceptional contributions to sports. Among other notable selections, Manu Bhaker, Gukesh, Praveen Kumar, and Harman Preet Singh have been

awarded the Khel Ratna. In addition, Sucha Singh (Athletics) and Muralikant Petkar (Para-Swimming) have been honored with the Arjuna Award for Lifetime Achievement. Coaches Subhash Rana (Para-Shooting), Deepali Deshpande (Shooting), and Sandeep Sangwan (Hockey) have been recognized with the Dronacharya Award for their outstanding mentorship.

The Ministry of Sports released the full list of National Sports Awards 2024 winners today. The awards ceremony will take place at Rashtrapati Bhavan on the 17th of this month, where the honorees will receive their awards from the President of India, Draupadi Murmu.



TTD Hundi Earnings in 2024: Rs 1365 Crore

TPN Correspondent
Tirumala, Jan 03

In 2024, Tirumala's TTD saw remarkable offerings, with nearly 99 lakh devotees offering their hair to the deity. Around 6.3 crore devotees received annadanam, and a total of 12.14 crore laddoos were sold throughout the year. Contributions to the temple came in diverse forms, including farm produce, gold, foreign currency, cattle, precious gems, and even land. Notably, a record 150 crore worth of immovable assets were donated to the temple.

The daily hundi collections saw a significant increase since the pandemic, averaging Rs 3 crore or more. In 2024, the daily hundi income was Rs 3.6 crore on weekdays and Rs 3.85 crore on weekends. On December 31st, a record Rs 4.10 crore was deposited into the hundi. Despite the previous YSRCP government's restrictions limiting the number of devotees to 70,000 per day, the hundi income remained steady at approximately Rs 1200 crore annually. Devotees have expressed concerns, requesting an increase in the daily number of devotees to 80,000 and raising issues about the current break darshan timings.

Dy CM Pawan Kalyan Launches Mobile Cancer Screening Van in Krishna District

TPN Correspondent
Krishna, Jan 03:

State Deputy Chief Minister Shri Pawan Kalyan inaugurated a mobile cancer screening van to serve the residents of Krishna district. The initiative, spearheaded by Machilipatnam MP Shri Vallabhaneni Balashowry and funded by Bharat Electronics Limited (BHEL) under CSR contributions worth ₹2 crore, aims to detect cancer at an early stage through free screenings. The van, equipped with seven advanced diagnostic tools, will operate in seven constituencies of the district, conduct-

ing free tests for three days in each mandal. These include ultrasound, mammograms, blood tests, X-rays, chemical analyses, and colonoscopies. Medical experts estimate the initiative could prevent up to 40,000 cancer-related deaths annually.

Deputy CM Pawan Kalyan praised BHEL and MP Vallabhaneni Balashowry for their commitment to social welfare. He emphasized the van's critical role in offering timely treatment for cancer patients. The launch event saw participation from several dignitaries, including Minister Sri Kollu Ravindra, Legislative Council Whip Sri Pidugu



Hariprasad, Krishna District Collector Sri D. K. Balaji, and local MLAs and officials.

Nara Lokesh Signs Landmark Insurance MoU for TDP Cadre

TPN Correspondent
Amaravati, Jan 03

In a historic move, TDP National Secretary and Minister Nara Lokesh has signed a Memorandum of Understanding (MoU) to provide insurance coverage for 1 crore TDP workers. The agreement, signed with United India Insurance Company at his Undavalli residence, marks the first time any political party has undertaken such a large-scale welfare initiative.

The insurance scheme, effective from January 1, 2025, offers accident coverage of ₹5 lakh per worker. For the first phase, covering the period from January 1, 2025, to December 31, 2025, the

TDP has allocated ₹42 crore. This groundbreaking initiative aims to provide financial security to party workers and their families in times of need.

Since assuming the role of coordinator for the party's welfare fund, Lokesh has launched several innovative schemes to support TDP cadre. Under his leadership, ₹138 crore has already been spent on various welfare measures. Lokesh has also established a legal cell to assist workers facing legal challenges from the previous government's regime and a dedicated support system for cadre involved in accidents.

Additionally, Lokesh has prioritized the education of children of deceased party workers.

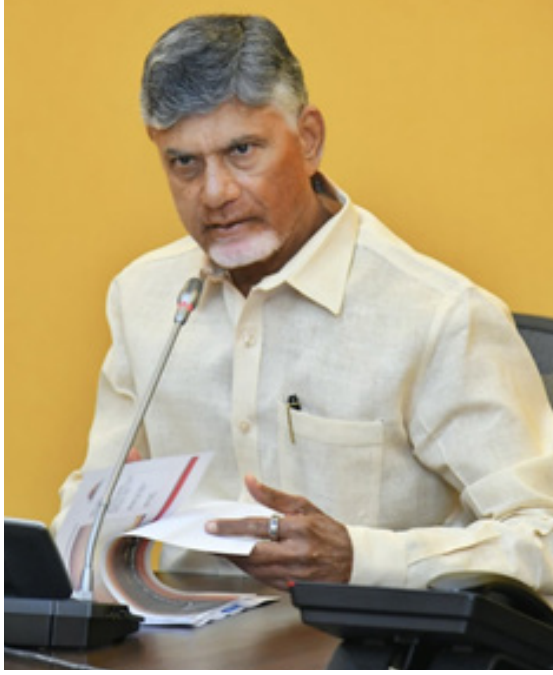
CM Chandrababu Naidu Reaffirms Commitment to Super-6 Promises and Development Goals

TPN Correspondent
Amaravati, Jan 03

Chief Minister Chandrababu Naidu held a chichat discussion with the media at the Telugu Desam Party's central office in Mangalagiri, where he outlined the progress of the coalition government and criticized the previous administration for its shortcomings.

Reflecting on the historic victory of the coalition government in the 2024 elections, Naidu stated, "The people placed their trust in us after enduring five years of misrule under Jagan Reddy's government, which destroyed systems and halted development. Our government has been working tirelessly to restore stability and confidence among the people."

He highlighted the challenges inherited from the previous government, citing stalled projects such as Polavaram and Amaravati. "Jagan Reddy's anarchic policies created numerous obstacles for crucial projects. Within six months, we have addressed technical issues, secured funds from the Center, and are moving forward step by step to resolve these issues," Naidu said.



Naidu emphasized the government's focus on law and order, stating that crimes had surged during the prior administration. "The previous government became synonymous with heinous crimes and destruction. We are now repairing those damages and ensuring effective governance," he said, assuring that stringent action would be taken against those who misuse social media for obscene posts.

The Chief Minister promised to deliver on the "Super-6" commitments made during the elections, including addressing key development priorities. "You will see the CM of 1995 again—focused, result-oriented, and committed to the state's progress," he said, drawing parallels to his earlier

tenure renowned for Hyderabad's development. Highlighting achievements, Naidu noted that significant investments had been brought into the state within six months, surpassing the progress made during the previous regime. He reiterated, "We are not just addressing past mistakes but are laying the groundwork for a brighter future. We will fulfill every promise made to the people."

MLA Parthasarathi Accuses Jagan Govt. of Mismanaging River Linking and Temple Funds

TPN Correspondent
Vijayawada, Jan 03

BJP Adoni MLA Dr. Parthasarathi has made strong accusations against the YSRCP government and its handling of key issues like river linking and temple management. Speaking on the occasion of Vajpayee's centenary, Parthasarathi emphasized the importance of river linking, a project initially proposed by the late former Prime Minister Atal Bihari Vajpayee. He argued that the river linking initiative, which includes transferring water from the Godavari to the Krishna River, is a game changer and crucial for the state's development. The initiative aims to provide drinking water to 80 lakh people, irrigation for 7.5 lakh acres, and stabilization of 22.5 lakh acres, alongside 20 TMC of water for industrial use.

Dr. Parthasarathi criticized the YSRCP government's handling of the irrigation system, claiming that the system had been worsened under the current administration. He claimed that Chief Minister Nara Chandrababu Naidu, in his coalition government, was taking necessary steps to restore the state's irrigation system to its potential.

Turning his attention to the temple management, the BJP MLA accused the Jagan government of misusing



temple funds. He alleged that the temple income was being diverted for other purposes under shady GOs. He expressed his concern over the Endowment Department's lack of devotion to God, with funds from the Hundi being misused for welfare schemes instead of being reinvested into temple upkeep. He lamented that many temples were facing challenges due to a lack of offerings and incense.

Parthasarathi also announced that the Hindu Sankharavam event, scheduled for January 5, 2025, would attract two lakh participants, including temple heads, as part of a nationwide movement to protect temples. He further stated that the event was being organized by the Vishwa Hindu Parishad to ensure that temple funds are used properly and beyond political interference.

1.8 Lakh Petitions on Land Issues Received - Revenue Minister

Minister Criticized YCP's Governance Failures

TPN Correspondent
Andhra Pradesh, Jan 03

The state has received 1.8 lakh petitions regarding land-related issues, with 13,000 complaints resolved on the spot, according to a government minister addressing revenue conferences. The minister attributed the large-scale land disputes to the alleged misgovernance and "sins" of the previous YSRCP government.

"Land issues across the state have primarily arisen due to the irresponsible decisions of the past regime. The sheer number of petitions submitted at the revenue conferences underscores the magnitude of the problem," the minister stated.

The ongoing revenue conferences have witnessed significant public participation, with 6 lakh people attending these meetings to voice their grievances. Among the



received petitions, over 1 lakh complaints were specifically about errors in the Record of Rights (ROR).

The minister assured the public that the government is committed to addressing all land-related issues systematically. "Every complaint will be thoroughly examined, and we will ensure justice for those affected," he said, adding that the government is prioritizing transparency and efficiency in resolving these disputes.

The revenue conferences, which serve as a platform for addressing public grievances, have been lauded as a proactive initiative to engage directly with citizens and find solutions to long-standing issues. The minister emphasized that the government's efforts would restore confidence among the people regarding land administration in the state.

MLC Varudu Kalyani Accuses CM Chandrababu of Betraying All Sections of Society

TPN Correspondent
Visakhapatnam, Jan 03

MLC Varudu Kalyani made sharp allegations against Chief Minister Nara Chandrababu Naidu, accusing him of deceiving people across all sections, especially women. Speaking at a press conference held at the YSRCP office in Visakhapatnam on Thursday, she claimed that more than 50 percent of women in the state have been cheated under Chandrababu's leadership.

Kalyani stated that the year 2024 would be remembered as "the year of back pain" for the struggles people have endured. She criticized the Chief Minister's governance, comparing it to that of "Ghajini," referencing inconsistency and a lack of direction.



"Chandrababu's seven-month rule has caused widespread distress among people. He stands first among the worst-performing Chief Ministers in the country," Kalyani asserted. The MLC further challenged the TDP to engage in an open debate

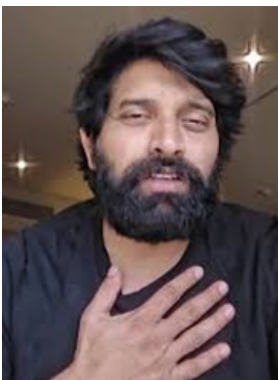
on their "Super Six" promises, expressing confidence in exposing the failures of the TDP government. Her remarks add to the growing criticism of Chandrababu's leadership and policies, particularly from opposition ranks. Kalyani's fiery comments highlight the political tensions as the coalition government continues to face scrutiny and challenges from the opposition.

Johnny Master Opens Up About Jail Experience: "Even Enemies Should Not Face Jail"

TPN Correspondent
Andhra Pradesh, Jan 03

Tollywood choreographer Johnny Master reflects on life, family, and support during challenging times.

Johnny Master, a renowned choreographer in Tollywood, recently shared his emotional journey after facing a legal challenge that landed him in jail. His arrest became a widely discussed topic on social media, sparking debates about his personality and professional life. Now out on bail, Johnny spoke candidly in an interview with 'Jafar,' revealing the emotional turmoil he endured.



"After I went to jail, I didn't understand what was happening in my life. Every evening, I would think about my children, my wife, and my mother, whose health was declining. It was a confusing and painful time," Johnny said. He admitted to breaking down in private. "There were many people around me, but I would cry alone in the washroom, fearing others might judge me if they saw me," he

confessed.

Despite the ordeal, Johnny expressed gratitude for his wife, Sumalatha. "I always knew she would stand by me, no matter what," he said, acknowledging her unwavering support.

Johnny emphasized that he wouldn't wish the experience of jail on anyone, not even his enemies. "Jail is not something I want to face again, and I don't want even my enemies to go through it," he said, reflecting on the profound impact it had on his life.

Johnny also addressed rumors about the silence of prominent Tollywood figures like Pawan Kalyan and Ram Charan during his ordeal. "They were silent because they believed in me. Sometimes silence speaks louder than words," he explained, expressing gratitude to Nagababu and his fans for their vocal support on social media. Grateful and optimistic, Johnny remains focused on his career and cherishes the support of his loved ones and admirers.

Chandrababu's So-Called 'Super Six' has completely flopped - Ambati Rambabu

TPN Correspondent
Guntur, Jan 03

Guntur District YSR Congress Party (YSRCP) President Ambati Rambabu launched a scathing attack on Andhra Pradesh Chief Minister Chan-

drababu Naidu during a media conference. Rambabu criticized the Chief Minister's "Super Six" promises, labeling them a failure and accusing Chandrababu of fostering factionalism and corruption during his tenure.

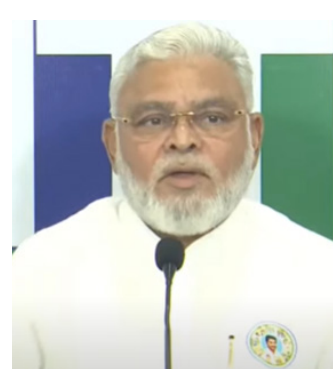
"Chandrababu's so-called 'Super Six' has completely flopped. If lies were a competition, he would be in the Guinness Book of World Records," Rambabu claimed. He pointed to a recent announcement by an organization labeling Chandrababu as the richest Chief Minister in India as evidence of his alleged illegal earnings.

Rambabu further accused Chandrababu of monetizing elections, stating, "No one in this country has commercialized elections as much as Chandrababu Naidu has." He alleged that Chandrababu's six-month rule has seen no development or welfare initiatives but has instead been marred by factionalism. Citing specific examples, Rambabu said, "The midnight demolition of the completed

YSRCP office in Mangalagiri and the vandalization of YS Jagan's name on the Ambedkar statue were clear acts of factionalism. Attacks on YSRCP workers and filing false cases against them further demon-

strate this." He also accused the Chief Minister of targeting IPS officers and claimed that Chandrababu manipulates the system for his benefit. "Chandrababu's words are deceptive. When he says there is no factionalism, it means the opposite. He was even caught live admitting to attempts to buy a single MLC, yet managed to escape consequences," Rambabu stated.

The YSRCP leader urged the public to see through Chandrababu's alleged facade and expressed confidence in the party's ability to expose his wrongdoings.



Orientation Program Held for First-Year Pharmacy Students at Atmakur Nirmala College of Pharmacy



TPN Correspondent
Mangalagiri, Jan 03

An orientation program was conducted at Atmakur Nirmala College of Pharmacy under the Mangalagiri Tadepalli Municipal Corporation to mark the commencement of classes for first-year B. Pharmacy and Pharma D students. The program saw the participation of 428 students, along with their parents and teachers.

The event began with a welcome speech by Dr. SK Asha Begum, Head of the Regulatory Affairs Department, who inaugurated the session. Dr. Pratyusha Subbarao, a Senior Psychologist, was the chief guest at the event. She delivered an inspiring speech, offering motivational messages to students, parents, and teachers.

Dr. Subbarao emphasized the importance of discipline in education and urged students to view challenges as opportunities for growth. She also

highlighted the crucial role of teachers in not only facilitating academic development but also providing emotional support to students.

Addressing the parents, she advised them to create a positive environment at home that encourages learning without imposing undue pressure.

Sister Shourilu, the College President, encouraged parents to actively engage with the college and track their children's academic progress. The program was attended by key faculty members, including Sister G. Nirmala Jyothi, College Secretary and Correspondent, Dr. B. Pamula Reddy, Principal, along with Dr. U. Spandana, Dr. Narasimha Nayak, G. Sai Sri-lakshmi, and the Heads of all departments.

The event was a significant step in ensuring that the new batch of students begins their academic journey with the right guidance and support.

Minister Nara Lokesh to Launch Dokka Seethamma Midday Meal Scheme on January 4

Officials Inspect Venue Ahead of Midday Meal Scheme Launch

TPN Correspondent
Vijayawada, Jan 03

Minister Nara Lokesh is set to launch the prestigious Dokka Seethamma Midday Meal Scheme at Payakapuram Government Junior College on Saturday, January 4.

Director of Intermediate Education Dr. Kritika Shukla,

District Collector Dr. G. Lakshmi, Samagra Shiksha Project Director B. Srinivasa Rao, and Vijayawada Municipal Commissioner HM Dhyanaachandra inspected the venue to ensure smooth execution of the event. They reviewed arrangements and provided instructions to officials to prepare the college premises for the launch.

The program includes a virtual interaction between the ministers and students from various government junior colleges. Minister Lokesh will also have lunch with the



students to mark the commencement of the scheme.

Higher authorities emphasized the need for coordination among field officers and departments to ensure the event's success. The initiative is a significant step towards enhancing student welfare and improving nutrition for junior college students.

Other key attendees at the review meeting included District Intermediate Education Officer C. Shiva Satyanarayana Reddy and Vijayawada RDO Kavuri Chaitanya.

Vijayawada Municipal Commissioner Inspects Sanitation and Infrastructure

TPN Correspondent
Vijayawada, Jan 03

Vijayawada Municipal Corporation (VMC) Commissioner Dhyanaachandra has directed officials to ensure proper maintenance and cleanliness of public toilets and improve overall sanitation management in the city.

During a field inspection on Thursday, the Commissioner visited Patamata, Bandar Road, Waradhi, National Highway, Labbipet Water Tank, RTC Labor Colony, and Nizam Gate. At Labbipet, he inspected the water tank, while at Governorpet, he examined the condition of public toilets, emphasizing the need for immediate repairs, cleanliness, and regular monitoring.

In the 44th division, he reviewed the ongoing construction of the outfall drain in the RTC Labor Colony and urged officials to expedite its completion. Similarly, at Nizam Gate in the 55th division, he instructed coordination with the Railways to construct an outfall drain.

The Commissioner also inspected the central divider at Visalandhra Road, directing measures to increase its height and enhance greenery to improve aesthetics



and reduce pollution in this busy area. He stressed the importance of reducing environmental pollution and creating a healthier atmosphere by increasing greenery across the city.

Senior officials, including Chief Engineer R. Srinath, In-charge Chief Medical Health Officer Dr. Suresh Babu, Superintending Engineers P. Satyanarayana and P. Satyakumari, and Executive Engineers Venkateswara Reddy, Srinivas Reddy, and Samarayam, accompanied the Commissioner during the inspection.

These initiatives aim to enhance sanitation, safety, and environmental quality for the residents of Vijayawada.

Distribution of Cheques to Poor Students in West Constituency Led by Peteti Nancharayya

In a heartening initiative, Jana Sena Party leaders organized a program on Wednesday in Sai Puram Colony, Gollapudi, to provide financial assistance to poor students and individuals facing health challenges.



Under the leadership of Jana Sena senior leader Peteti Nancharayya, the program aimed at alleviating the burden on families who struggle to afford education and healthcare.

Speaking at the event, Jana Sena Party AP IDC Director Mandali Rajesh emphasized the importance of supporting students, particularly those with health issues. He praised Peteti Nancharayya for following in the footsteps of Jana Sena Party President Pawan Kalyan and spearheading numerous service programs in the community.

Rajesh expressed gratitude for the Peteti family's decision to offer financial support to those unable to afford necessary medical treatments. He assured that Jana Sena Party members stand with the Nancharayya family in

their mission, pledging further support for such initiatives.

The event also saw the presence of several prominent leaders, including Jana Sena Party Mylavaram constituency in-charge Akkala Gandhi, along with leaders Srikanth, Mallepu Vijayalakshmi, corporators Mahadevapu Appaji, Marupilla Rajesh, and other party leaders Atthuluri Pedababu, Tirupati Suresh, and Tirupati Anusha. Together, they distributed cheques to those in need, reaffirming their commitment to supporting service programs aimed at assisting the underprivileged.

The leaders also expressed optimism for more such initiatives in the future and reassured the gathering that the coalition government will continue to assist poor students in their educational journey.

Massive "Hindava Shankharavam" Meeting Planned in Kesarpalli

TPN Correspondent
Vijayawada, Jan 03

Preparations are in full swing for the "Hindava Shankharavam," a grand public meeting organized by the Vishwa Hindu Parishad (VHP) on January 5, 2025, in Kesarpalli, Krishna District's Gannavaram Constituency. Gannavaram MLA Yarlagadda Venkat Rao, Adoni MLA Parthasarathi, and VHP State Fund President Durga Prasad Raju inspected the arrangements, ensuring all facilities are in place for the large-scale event.

MLA Yarlagadda Venkat Rao emphasized the meeting's primary goal of protecting temples, temple lands, and properties. He expressed gratitude for the cooperation of local coalition leaders and lauded Adoni MLA Parthasarathi for overseeing arrangements over the past ten days.

Adoni MLA Parthasarathi and VHP Fund President Durga Prasad Raju outlined the key objectives of the meeting:

- Demanding autonomy for temples in the country.
- Urging the government to free



temples from the endowment department to safeguard their sanctity.

- Raising public awareness about participating in the protection of Dharma.

The event is expected to draw over two lakh devotees from across the state. Special arrangements have been made, including:

- A 30-acre venue for the meeting and 150 acres allocated for parking.
- Participation of 150 Swamijis and invitations extended to 175 MLAs, 25 MPs, and state cabinet ministers.
- Transportation via 5,000 buses, 20,000 cars, and 10 special trains.
- Trains from across the state will be redirected to Uppuluru railway station, with further transit arranged to the Kesarpalli venue.

This massive event signifies a powerful movement to demand temple autonomy and encourage collective efforts to protect and uphold Hindu Dharma.

Grievances Filed at TDP Office Over Land Seizure, Police Inaction, and Exam Mistakes

TPN Correspondent
Mangalagiri, Jan 03

Several residents from various districts of Andhra Pradesh have filed grievances at the TDP central office, seeking justice over land disputes, police inaction, and errors in recruitment exams.

Ananda Rao, a disabled man from Gurajala in Palnadu district, appealed for intervention after his land, allocated by the government in 1992, was seized by YCP land grabbers during the previous government. Rao claimed that he and other victims were threatened with violence and that the land was being sold without registration. Police later accused the victims of attempting to burn down the land grabber's house. TDP leaders Kambhampati Rammohan and Arimilli Radhakrishna vowed to take action and ensure the victims regain their land.

In Tadikonda mandal, Palla Venkateswara Rao of Ponnekallu village reported that his land was seized by Maheshwar Reddy. Venkateswara Rao requested



TDP leaders to intervene and resolve the issue.

Meanwhile, Reddappa Reddy from Cherukuvipalli in Chittoor district alleged that his house and belongings were set on fire by unknown assailants during the previous YSRCP government. Despite reporting the incident to the police, they not only dismissed his complaint but filed a case against him.

He urged an investigation into the matter and action against the perpetrators.

Kakthi Naveen from Secunderabad also filed a complaint about land fraud in Guntur, where his purchased land was illegally transferred.

Additionally, candidates who were disqualified from constable recruitment exams due to errors in the question papers appealed to the TDP leaders to rectify the mistake and give them another chance to participate in the recruitment process.

The TDP leaders assured the petitioners that they would work with the authorities to address their grievances.

Revised Train Timings Announced: Vijayawada Division Issues Travel Advisory

TPN Correspondent
Vijayawada, Jan 03

The Vijayawada Division of South Central Railway has announced revised train timings within its jurisdiction effective from January 1, 2025, as per PR No.213 dated December 31, 2024. This update coincides with the implementation of the new public time table for South Central Railway.

Passengers are strongly advised to verify the updated timings before their journey to avoid any inconvenience. The revised schedule affects several trains operating across the Vijayawada Division.



Official Channels for Updated Train Timings:

- IRCTC Website
- National Train Inquiry System (NTES)

Mangalagiri Tadepalli Municipal Corporation Begins Cow Impoundment and Relocation to Shelters

TPN Correspondent
Mangalagiri, Jan 03

The Mangalagiri Tadepalli Municipal Corporation has initiated a drive to impound cows roaming freely on the roads and relocate them to cow shelters. The move follows repeated attempts by the municipal authorities to address the issue, including several meetings with cow owners and public notices, but with little response from the concerned individuals.

As part of the operation, municipal staff began taking into custody cows that were causing traffic congestion and accidents within the city limits on January 2, 2025. These cows, whose owners could not be identified, were creating severe disruptions to both vehicle and pedestri-



an movement. To ensure public safety and prevent further incidents, the authorities decided to relocate the cows to shelters. So far, 14 cows have been moved to the cow shelter located in Markandeya Colony, Mangalagiri. The municipal corporation plans to continue relocating the remaining cows in phases.

Municipal officials have appealed to the citizens for their cooperation in this effort. The initiative is part of the larger plan to maintain public welfare and reduce the dangers posed by stray cattle in urban areas.

Mangalagiri Tadepalli Municipal Corporation Commissioner urged all residents to support this initiative for the safety and convenience of the public.

Dense Fog Disrupts Flight Operations at Gannavaram Airport

TPN Correspondent
Vijayawada, Jan 03

Dense fog blanketed Gannavaram Airport in Krishna District, causing significant disruptions to flight operations on January 2. The poor visibility delayed the arrival of flights from Hyderabad, Bangalore, Visakhapatnam, and Delhi, leaving passengers stranded and inconvenienced.

The delays led to long wait times and logistical challenges for travelers, many of whom expressed frustration over the unexpected disruptions. Airport authorities are closely monitoring weather conditions to resume normal operations as soon as visibility improves.

Passengers are advised to stay updated with airline notifications and plan their travel accordingly during this period of dense fog.

Overcrowding Crisis at Visakhapatnam Jail: Capacity Strained Beyond Limits

TPN Correspondent, Visakhapatnam : Visakhapatnam Central Jail is grappling with severe overcrowding, housing 2,076 prisoners despite its capacity of 950. Officials highlight that the prison's facilities and supervision have become challenging due to the overwhelming number of inmates. Of the total prisoners, only 440 are convicted, while the remaining 1,636 are remand prisoners, including 1,145 individuals arrested in marijuana-related cases.



Prisoners and their families have voiced concerns over the deteriorating living conditions. A prisoner reportedly shared with his relatives that cramped rooms have made daily life extremely difficult. In response, relatives recently staged a protest outside the jail. Authorities are now ar-

ranging to transfer 200 inmates to Rajahmundry Central Jail to alleviate the pressure.

The overcrowding stems from intensified police action against drug-related offenses, with many accused being sent to Visakhapatnam Jail on court orders. The facility comprises 16 barracks, initial-

ly designed to accommodate 950 inmates. Currently, these spaces house more than twice the intended number, creating a dire situation.

Adding to the challenges is a staffing shortage. Despite regulations requiring 150 staff members, the jail currently operates with only 90. Officials

have appealed for an additional 30 personnel to address the supervision difficulties. Authorities have announced plans to expand the jail infrastructure. The Union Home Ministry has approved ₹26 crores for constructing a new building, while the state government has allocated ₹15 crores for an open jail, potentially accommodating an additional 250 prisoners. Furthermore, ₹75 lakhs have been set aside for enhanced security measures.

Meanwhile, over 40 prisoners eligible for amnesty await their release, with the list remaining unannounced for three years. Efforts to resolve the overcrowding crisis are underway, but immediate solutions are urgently needed to improve the prison's living conditions.

Tension Erupts in Malakcheruvu Over Mandal General Assembly Meeting

TPN Correspondent, Annamayya Dist: A volatile situation unfolded in Malakcheruvu, Annamayya district, as activists from the Telugu Desam Party (TDP) and Yuvajana Sramika Rythu Congress Party (YSRCP) gathered in large numbers at the mandal office, creating a tense atmosphere.



The Telugu brothers, supported by TDP leaders, vowed to block the mandal general assembly meeting, accusing YCP leaders of rushing to hold the meeting now that they are out of power. TDP leaders questioned why such meetings were not conducted during the past five years when YCP held sway over the administration.

Supporters from both parties gathered at the venue, with YCP leaders determined to proceed with the assembly and TDP leaders resolute in their opposition. Heated exchanges were reported between activists

from both sides, escalating the tension in the area. Local authorities and police were deployed to prevent any untoward incidents and maintain order. Despite the political friction, efforts were being made to ensure that the situation remained under control and that the general assembly meeting could be conducted without further disruption.

The incident underscores the intensifying political rivalry between TDP and YCP, particularly as both parties gear up for upcoming elections. The situation continues to be closely monitored by local officials.

DRI Officers Raid Srisailam, Illegal Coral Trade Busted



TPN Correspondent, Srisailam: In a swift operation, officers from the Directorate of Revenue Intelligence (DRI) conducted a lightning raid in Srisailam, targeting the illegal collection and sale of corals found in the seabed. Acting on a tip-off, the officers uncovered a smuggling network that extended across multiple districts.

The raids were part of a coordinated effort, following information provided by suspects apprehended in Karnataka. Subsequent operations were carried out in Ongole and Nandyal districts, leading to the identification of shops in Srisailam selling these protected marine resources.

During the raid, two individuals, Venkata Ramana and an auto driver named Ramanjaneyulu from Sunnipenta, were arrested and remanded in custody. Officials emphasized that the collection and sale of corals violate the Wildlife Protection Act, with penalties akin to those for poaching animals like tigers, lions, and deer.

According to local forest officials, the corals were being marketed under the guise of possessing magical and attractive properties, misleading buyers and fueling the illicit trade. The authorities have reiterated that such activities pose a serious threat to marine ecosystems and are punishable under stringent wildlife laws.

The raid serves as a warning to those involved in the illegal trade of protected species, with the DRI and forest departments vowing to continue their crackdown on such activities.

Grand Arrangements for Mukkoti Ekadashi at Simhachalam Temple

TPN Correspondent, Visakhapatnam: Visakhapatnam's Simhachalam Temple is set to host a grand celebration of Mukkoti Ekadashi on the 10th of this month, with elaborate arrangements in place for the event. Executive Officer (EO) V. Trinadarao shared that preparations are being made to ensure a seamless experience for devotees. The temple will open for darshan at 4:00 AM, allowing ordinary devotees to have a devotional experience throughout the day. As per tradition, the family members of temple chairman Ashok Gajapathi Raju will have the first darshan of the deity. EO Trinadarao estimated that around 50,000

devotees are expected to visit the temple on this auspicious day, entering through the sacred Uttara Dwara. To accommodate the large number of visitors, extensive arrangements are being made in coordination with officials from various departments.

Key highlights of the preparations include:

- **Devotee Comfort:** Steps are being taken to ensure devotees do not face any inconvenience during the festival.
- **Prasadam Distribution:** Free prasadam and Anna Prasadam will be provided to all devotees.
- **Special Facilities:** Dedicated galleries have been set up for protocol VIPs to streamline



their visit. EO Trinadarao emphasized the temple administration's commitment to making this a memorable and spiritually enriching experience for everyone. Devotees are encouraged to arrive early to participate in the rituals and enjoy the festive atmosphere.

Leopard Sighting Sparks Fear at SV University in Tirupati



TPN Correspondent, Tirupati: A leopard sighting near the Botanical Garden of Sri Venkateswara University (SVU) in Tirupati has caused widespread concern among students, particularly those staying in the H, E, and F hostels. The big cat has been reportedly prowling the area for the past three days, instilling fear on the campus.

University officials promptly reported the issue to the forest department, which responded by setting up 10 trap cameras around the suspected area. The cameras have confirmed the presence of the leopard, leading to intensified monitoring and tracking efforts.

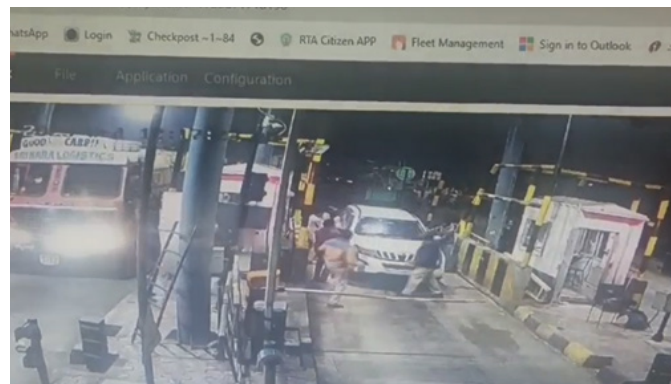
Students have expressed their concerns and suggested lighting bonfires around the hostels as a precautionary measure to deter the leopard from approaching the residential areas. While forest officials work on capturing the animal, the students are living in a state of heightened alert.

SVU and forest officials are coordinating efforts to ensure the safety of students and staff. Authorities have urged everyone to remain vigilant, avoid venturing into secluded areas, and report any sightings immediately. Steps are being taken to mitigate the risk and resolve the situation as quickly as possible.

Ganja Smugglers Create Chaos at Krishnavaram Tollgate in Kakinada Dist

TPN Correspondent, Kakinada Dist: A dramatic incident unfolded in Kakinada district as a gang of ganja smugglers wreaked havoc at the Krishnavaram Tollgate on the night of December 31. In a shocking act of desperation, the smugglers ran their car over two constables attempting to inspect their vehicle, leaving one officer seriously injured.

Police were conducting vehicle checks at the toll plaza following a tip-off about the transportation of ganja. However, the smugglers, in an attempt to evade capture, used their car as a weapon, mowing down constables Lowa Raju and another officer,



who sustained minor injuries. The entire incident was captured on CCTV cameras, showing the smugglers fleeing

the scene. Four police teams immediately launched a pursuit, chasing the gang from the tollgate. The smugglers eventually abandoned their vehicle near Kalavacherla Canal in Rajanagaram and escaped into the night. The incident has raised alarm over the bold tactics employed by ganja smugglers in the region and the risks faced by law enforcement officers. Investigations are underway to track down the gang, with police vowing to bring the culprits to justice. Constable Lowa Raju is receiving treatment for serious injuries, while officials are reviewing security measures to prevent similar incidents in the future.

Major Fire Breaks Out at Private Bus Depot in Anantapur

TPN Correspondent, Anantapur : A significant fire incident occurred at the JC Diwakar Reddy Private Travels bus parking depot near the RTC bus stand in Anantapur city. The fire was triggered when a high-tension electric wire passing above the buses snapped, setting the parked vehicles ablaze.

The fire spread rapidly, engulfing the area in thick smoke and causing panic

among nearby residents. One bus was completely burnt, while another sustained partial damage. Fortunately, no casualties were reported, bringing relief to the locals and authorities.

Police and fire brigade personnel were swiftly alerted and rushed to the scene. Their prompt response prevented further damage, as they managed to control the fire before it spread to other parked

buses. Firefighters worked diligently to extinguish the blaze, ensuring minimal loss of property and safeguarding lives.

The incident highlights the need for stringent safety measures around high-voltage electric lines in urban areas. Authorities are investigating the cause of the wire snapping and assessing the overall damage caused by the fire.





Shankaravam: A Call for Hindus to Unite and Rise

- **Hindus must unite to address threats to their temples and heritage.**
- **Government control and misuse of temple resources for political purposes must end.**
- **Collective action is essential to safeguard religious freedoms and temple autonomy.**
- **Unity is crucial to preserve sacred spaces and protect Sanatana Dharma for future generations.**



By Dr. Buragadda Srinadh

The Shankaravam meeting is a wake-up call for Hindus to unite and protect their temples and heritage. This gathering is not just another event but a pivotal moment for believers of Sanatana Dharma to address the challenges confronting their faith. It is essential for every Hindu to understand the alarming national and international circumstances threatening the sanctity of our religious institutions. These challenges are not isolated; they are part of a larger conspiracy aimed at undermining the very foundation of our spiritual heritage.

A key issue is the government's control over Hindu temples and their assets. The sacredness of these temples and the resources that sustain them should remain with the community that upholds these traditions. However, the government is seizing temple resources, diverting their income to fulfill election promises and provide incentives. This not only hampers the maintenance and development of temples but also erodes the spiritual essence they represent. Such interference poses a severe threat to the autonomy of our religious institutions.

The time has come for Hindus to stand as a unified force to defend their rights and cultural identity. The Shankaravam meeting offers a crucial platform for dialogue, strategic planning, and collective action. It is imperative to mobilize the community, spread

awareness about these pressing issues, and push for policies that respect religious freedoms. By working together, Hindus can ensure their voices are heard and their temples remain centers of faith, culture, and service.

This is not a time for passivity. Hindus must actively engage in discussions, participate in initiatives, and support movements dedicated to reclaiming temple autonomy from government control. Educating ourselves and others about the significance of preserving our religious heritage is a critical step in this mission. United efforts are necessary to secure a future where temples flourish without external interference.

The success of the Shankaravam meeting relies on the collective awakening and unity of the community. This is a moment to honor traditions, safeguard sacred spaces, and ensure that future generations experience the richness of our faith without constraints. Together, Hindus can rise to this challenge, committing to a cause that preserves the spiritual and cultural essence of their temples.

How should India Tackle Social Media Addiction?

A decade ago, during a conversation with Park Won-soon, the former Metropolitan Mayor of Seoul, we shared a light moment at a conference in South Korea. At the time, I was the Deputy Mayor of Shimla, and we were discussing various urban challenges. I brought up the need for rehabilitation centres for drug addiction, but Park misunderstood it as a reference to 'digital addiction.' He then shared his plans for establishing centres in Seoul to combat the overwhelming use of mobile phones among the youth—an issue that is now increasingly mirrored in India's cities.

In today's urban India, the challenge of digital addiction is becoming impossible to ignore. Public spaces, such as metro trains, are often filled with passen-

gers who are glued to their mobile devices. Social media consumption, in particular, is at the heart of this growing concern. As mobile and internet penetration continues to rise, policymakers in India must address the consequences of excessive digital consumption, especially among the younger demographic.

As of April 2024, India had a relatively modest social media penetration of 35 percent, a stark contrast to the United Arab Emirates' global high of 115 percent. Despite this, India still boasts the largest number of Facebook users in the world, with over 300 million active users. WhatsApp usage is even more pronounced, with 535 million active users, a number expected to grow to nearly 800 million by 2025.



The Modi Government's 25 Key Tasks for 2025

As India steps into 2025, the Modi government has an opportunity to address critical challenges facing the country. Inspired by the tradition of setting goals for the year, here is a list of 25 urgent tasks the government must focus on for meaningful progress in 2025.

1. Tackle Inflation: Retail inflation reached a 14-month high of 6.21% in October 2024. The government must implement measures to control rising prices and alleviate the burden on citizens.

2. Boost GDP Growth: With GDP growth estimates revised downward, the government should focus on policies to stimulate economic growth and drive productivity.

3. Attract Foreign Investment: Foreign direct investment has decreased in recent years. Strategies must be introduced to enhance India's attractiveness as an investment destination.

4. Strengthen the Rupee: The rupee hit an all-time low of 85.27 against the US dollar in December 2024. Addressing currency depreciation is crucial to stabilize the economy.

5. Create Jobs: Youth unemployment has been at 10% for years. Employment generation must be a priority to ensure meaningful work for India's young population.

6. Support the Common Man: While significant loan write-offs were given to the industrial sector, agriculture and small businesses need more attention and relief.

7. Ensure Food Security: Malnutrition remains a critical issue, with millions of Indians suffering from food-related diseases. The government must ensure access to adequate nutrition for all citizens.

8. Equal Pay for Equal Work: Wages in rural areas have stagnated. Efforts must be made to ensure fair compensation for all workers, especially in agriculture and unorganized sectors.

9. Support Farmers' Welfare: With high suicide rates among farmers, it's vital to provide them with better support, including legal guarantees for MSP (Minimum Support Price).

10. Prioritize Women's Safety: Gender-based violence remains a significant issue, with marital rape still unrecognized in law. Legal reforms are essential to protect women's rights.

11. Ensure Dignity for Marginalized Groups: Manual scavenging remains a concern, despite legal prohibitions. The government must take stronger action to eradicate this practice.

12. Protect Press Freedom: Journalists face increasing threats, with numerous attacks in recent years. The government must ensure the safety and freedom of the press.

13. Enhance Gender Representation: Women's representation in Parliament remains low, and

efforts should be made to increase their participation in decision-making.

14. Improve Legislative Scrutiny: Over 100 bills were passed in a rushed manner without adequate consultation. A more transparent legislative process is needed.

15. Fill the Deputy Speaker Position: The office of the Deputy Speaker has remained vacant for a full term. It's crucial to maintain the integrity of parliamentary functioning.

16. Respect Opposition Voices: Suspension of opposition MPs has increased, undermining democratic discourse. A more inclusive approach to dissent is necessary.

17. Strengthen Institutions: Several key commissions, such as those for backward classes and child rights, remain without vice-chairs. It's essential to fill these vacancies.

18. Support Scheduled Castes, Tribes, and Backward Classes: Several educational initiatives for marginalized communities are underfunded or non-operational. These need urgent attention.

19. Complete Census Timely: The 2021 Census remains delayed. The government must prioritize this to ensure accurate demographic data for policy-making.

20. Improve Fund Utilization: A significant portion of the Beti Bachao Beti Padhao fund was spent on media rather than interventions in health or education. Proper allocation is key.

21. Release State Dues: The government owes substantial funds to states, directly affecting social welfare programs like MGNREGS. Clearing these dues is crucial for smooth governance.

22. Address Manipur's Crisis: The ongoing violence in Manipur has displaced thousands. Immediate intervention and the Prime Minister's visit are necessary to address the humanitarian crisis.

23. Protect Minorities' Rights: Communal violence continues to rise, and the government must take stronger steps to protect minority communities and ensure their welfare.

24. Improve Public Infrastructure Safety: Infrastructure failures, such as train accidents and bridge collapses, highlight the need for stronger safety protocols in public works.

25. Ensure Digital Security: The rise of cyber frauds has led to massive financial losses. The government needs to fast-track digital data protection regulations to secure online transactions.

In 2025, the Modi government has a full agenda to address these critical issues. By focusing on economic stability, social justice, and security, India can move towards a stronger, more inclusive future.

India's Unspoken Cricket Farewells: Why Our Legends Deserve Better

Cricket in India is more than just a sport—it is a passion that unites millions. Over the years, India has produced numerous cricketing legends who have left an indelible mark on the game. From Kapil Dev's World Cup triumph to Sachin Tendulkar's unmatched career and MS Dhoni's leadership, these players have etched their names in history. Yet, one unsettling aspect of their careers has often been their retirement: the lack of a proper farewell.

As players end their careers, many ex-

press frustration over the absence of a dignified exit. MS Dhoni, for instance, made a sudden retirement from Test cricket in 2014, leaving fans longing for a formal farewell match. Similarly, Yuvraj Singh and Zaheer Khan, after their stellar contributions, were sidelined without the recognition or celebration they deserved.

The issue is not just personal; it reflects a broader flaw in the Indian cricketing system. The system is often criticized for being overly focused on results, with little regard for honoring

past players. The relentless pursuit of victory and the influx of younger talent frequently overshadow the achievements of seasoned cricketers. This results in a lack of appreciation for the legacy these legends have built over years of dedication.

The problem lies in the way the cricket system operates. Often, players who have served the country for decades are suddenly replaced without any formal recognition. The constant pressure to perform and win titles often sidelines the emotional and

symbolic importance of celebrating a player's retirement. The hectic cricket calendar further exacerbates this issue, as there is little room to give players the send-off they deserve.

There are times when it seems like the cricketer is to blame, especially if they don't make their retirement clear or request a farewell match. However, the truth is that these players are often so focused on staying fit and performing at their peak that they rarely consider their departure. A farewell should not be something a player has

to request; it should be an automatic part of the system, acknowledging their invaluable contributions to the sport.

India's obsession with discovering the "next big thing" in cricket should not overshadow the need to honor our legends. We need to shift the culture around retirement, ensuring that it's a celebration of a player's legacy, not just an end. The system must evolve to include retirement plans that allow cricketers to bow out with the respect and recognition they deserve.

First Cabinet Of 2025 Dedicated To Enhancing Prosperity Of Farmers: PM Modi

TPN CORRESPONDENT NEW DELHI
JANUARY.3

Prime Minister Narendra Modi on Wednesday expressed his strong support for the Union Cabinet's decision to extend crucial agricultural welfare schemes, including the Pradhan Mantri Fasal Bima Yojana (PMFBY) and the restructured Weather-Based Crop Insurance Scheme, along with a special package for Di-Ammonium Phosphate (DAP) to benefit farmers across India.

PM Modi highlighted the government's unwavering commitment to improving the lives of farmers. He said, "Ours is a government fully committed to furthering the welfare of farmers. We are proud of our farmer sisters and brothers who work hard to feed our nation. The first Cabinet of 2025 is dedicated to enhancing prosperity for our farmers." He added that the Cabinet's decision on extending the one-time special package on DAP would ensure affordable fertilizer prices for farmers.

The Union Cabinet has approved the continuation of PMFBY and the Re-structured Weather-Based Crop Insurance Scheme until 2025-26, with a total allocation of ₹69,515.71 crore. This extension will provide risk coverage to farmers facing non-preventable natural calamities, ensuring financial security during unpredictable weather conditions.



A key initiative in the decision is the establishment of the Fund for Innovation and Technology (FIAT), with a corpus of ₹824.77 crore. FIAT aims to foster technological advancements to enhance transparency in claim settlements and improve the efficiency of the schemes. The technology-driven Yield Estimation System using Technology (YES-TECH) and the Weather Information and Network Data Systems (WINDS) are central to this innovation.

YES-TECH, which uses remote sensing technology for yield estimation, will

be expanded to more states, reducing reliance on traditional crop cutting experiments. WINDS, which involves setting up automatic weather stations and rain gauges at block and panchayat levels, aims to provide hyper-local weather data to assist farmers in making informed decisions.

Union Agriculture Minister Shivraj Singh Chouhan and Uttarakhand Chief Minister Pushkar Singh Dhami also praised the cabinet decisions, emphasizing their positive impact on farmers' financial security and agricultural productivity.

Lalu Yadav's Dreams: Devendra Fadnavis On "Doors Open For Nitish Kumar" Remark

TPN CORRESPONDENT MUMBAI
JANUARY.3

Maharashtra Chief Minister Devendra Fadnavis responded sharply to Rashtriya Janata Dal (RJD) supremo Lalu Prasad Yadav's recent remark that the doors for a political alliance are always open for Bihar Chief Minister Nitish Kumar. Fadnavis dismissed the statement as mere "dreams" and said that they would remain unfulfilled, referring to it as "Mungeri Lal ke Haseen Sapne" after a popular Hindi phrase for unattainable dreams.

Fadnavis made the comments after a Cabinet meeting in Mumbai, following Lalu Yadav's statement suggesting that the opposition alliance was open to Nitish Kumar. The remark stirred reactions within political circles, as Nitish Kumar, once part of the NDA, now leads an alliance in Bihar with the RJD.

Meanwhile, Union Minister and JD leader Lallan Singh reiterated his party's stance, asserting that they remain firmly aligned with the National Democratic Alliance (NDA). "We are with the NDA, and there is no change in our position," Singh said, adding that while individuals can express their opinions, his party's commitment to the NDA remains steadfast.

Tejashwi Yadav, Lalu's son and the Deputy Chief Minister of Bihar, downplayed his father's statement, suggesting that Lalu was merely trying to pacify the media with his



remarks. "You keep asking him this; what else would he say?" Tejashwi said, implying that the statement was made to calm the situation.

Bihar Deputy Chief Minister Samrat Chaudhary also weighed in, calling Lalu's statement an act of "fear." Chaudhary said, "Nitish Kumar knows Lalu Prasad Yadav inside out... Lalu is just scared."

In a related political development, Tejashwi Yadav laid out his vision for Bihar in 2025, vowing to tackle unemployment and migration from the state. He promised that a new government would focus on improving education, healthcare, income, irrigation, and strengthening administrative reforms. The Bihar assembly elections are expected to take place in October-November 2025.

CPI Demands Manipur CM's Resignation Over Handling of Ethnic Strife Crisis

TPN CORRESPONDENT IMPHAL
JANUARY.3

The Communist Party of India (CPI) has called for the resignation of Manipur Chief Minister N Biren Singh, claiming that his apology over the ongoing ethnic strife in the state is insufficient. The party stated that the crisis in Manipur reveals an "absolute breakdown of governance," accusing the state government of failing to maintain law and order, protect citizens, and provide justice, leading to widespread suffering and insecurity.

The CPI, in a statement, argued that the Chief Minister's apology was an acknowledgment of the severity of the crisis, but it also reflected the complete failure of the state government in addressing the challenges faced by the people of Manipur. The party emphasized that despite the apology, the government had failed to take effective steps to manage the situation or provide relief to the affected communities.

Additionally, the Left party criticized the government for not taking meaningful actions toward reconciliation, noting that there had been no concrete efforts to promote dialogue between the conflicting communities or heal the deep social rifts caused by the ongoing violence. They expressed concerns over the lack of initiatives aimed at fostering peace and rebuilding trust between the communities.

The CPI also accused Biren Singh's government of showing a "lack of willingness" to involve all parties in the process of finding a comprehensive political solution to the crisis. The party stressed that the government should prioritize inclusivity and work towards a political solution that involves all stakeholders, rather than continuing to operate in a silo.

The ongoing ethnic conflict in Manipur has escalated tensions between different communities, and despite the apology from the Chief Minister, the CPI has called for stronger and more tangible actions to resolve the crisis and restore peace in the region.



Border Force BSF Letting Infiltrators Enter Bengal, Claims Mamata Banerjee

TPN CORRESPONDENT WESTBENGAL
JANUARY.3

West Bengal Chief Minister Mamata Banerjee has accused the Border Security Force (BSF) of allowing infiltrators from Bangladesh to enter the state, claiming that goons are being sent through areas like Islamapur, Sitai, and Chopra. She alleged that these activities are part of a "blueprint" by the Union Government to create unrest in West Bengal.

The BSF, which is responsible for securing the Indo-Bangladesh border, and the Centre have not yet responded to Banerjee's claims. Since the political turmoil in Bangladesh, particularly following the ousting of Sheikh Hasina, the BSF has increased its vigilance along the Bangladesh-India border, particularly in West Bengal, Assam, and other northeastern states, amid a reported influx of refugees.

Banerjee made the remarks during an administrative meeting with district magistrates and other top officials. She pointed out that West Bengal Police had recently uncovered a fake passport racket in the state, arresting seven individuals who had allegedly entered India illegally from Bangladesh using fraudulent documents. She attributed the illegal border crossings to the porous nature of the boundary, exacerbated by the unrest in Bangladesh.

The Chief Minister also took aim at District Magistrates (DMs), criticizing them for not taking action against BSF practices. "They (BSF) torture women, but why haven't you protested?" Banerjee remarked. She stressed that border security is the responsibility of the BSF and not the state government, adding, "When people enter, where are they going? The DMs have information on where they are going."

West Bengal shares a 2,272 km-long border with Bangladesh, making it the most vulnerable to cross-border infiltration, with other northeastern states also facing similar challenges. Mamata Banerjee announced plans to send a protest letter to the Union Government, asserting that while the Centre has the authority to make decisions, her government would not tolerate any actions that support terrorism or destabilize her state.

Kejriwal Claims Centre Aiming to Implement Revoked Farm Laws Through Backdoor



TPN CORRESPONDENT DELHI
JANUARY.3

AAP convener Arvind Kejriwal on Thursday held the Bharatiya Janata Party (BJP) responsible for any harm that might come to the farmers protesting in Punjab. The farmers, led by Jagjit Singh Dallewal, are on an indefinite fast demanding a legal guarantee on Minimum Support Price (MSP) and protesting against the Centre's new agricultural policies. Kejriwal stated that the BJP would be held accountable if anything happened to the fasting farmers, as they continue their struggle for their rights.

Kejriwal also criticized the BJP-led central government for attempting to

implement the now-repealed three controversial farm laws "through the backdoor," under the guise of a new "policy." He revealed that the Centre has sent drafts of this new "policy" to all states for feedback. This move, according to Kejriwal, is an attempt to reintroduce the farm laws that were repealed after a yearlong farmers' protest.

Farmer leader Jagjit Singh Dallewal has been fasting for over a month and has refused medical aid to draw attention to the issue. The Punjab government, led by the Aam Aadmi Party (AAP), has condemned the new "National Policy Framework on Agricultural Marketing," calling it a backdoor entry for the three farm laws, which had been passed in 2020 and repealed in 2021 due to the massive farmer protests.

Kejriwal accused the BJP of arrogance, asserting that the central government had previously accepted the farmers' demands three years ago but had now backtracked on its promises. He emphasized that despite the farmers being on the brink of death in Punjab, the BJP government was not engaging with them to resolve the issue, showing a lack of empathy and concern for their welfare. The standoff between farmers and the government continues to intensify as the farmers persist in their protest, demanding the legal guarantee on MSP.

"Expect J&K Statehood To Be Restored Soon"

TPN CORRESPONDENT SRINAGAR
JANUARY.3

National Conference (NC) leader and Jammu and Kashmir Chief Minister Omar Abdullah expressed optimism about the restoration of statehood to the region, which was stripped of its special status and statehood in 2019. Speaking today, Abdullah emphasized that the region's transition into Union Territories (UTs) was a temporary phase.

"We have been in power for more than two months

now. Initially, it took us time to understand the functioning of a government in a UT. But it has been easier than we expected. We remain committed to the promises we made during the elections, which earned us the mandate to form the government. The restoration of statehood will be one of our top priorities," Abdullah stated.

He added, "The UT status is a temporary phase. The people of J&K participated actively in the assembly elections, and the Union Government had promised to restore statehood as soon as possible. We believe

that it will not take much longer."

Abdullah also referred to the Supreme Court's direction for the restoration of statehood, issued over a year ago, as a positive sign of progress. The 2024 assembly elections marked the first since the revocation of Article 370, and were notably the first elections where members of the banned Jamaat-e-Islami party participated. The National Conference emerged victorious, securing 42 out of the 90 seats in the legislative assembly.



Ukraine Preparing To Resume Diplomatic Ties With Syria: Zelenskyy

KYIV: Ukrainian President Volodymyr Zelenskyy announced on Thursday that Ukraine is preparing to restore diplomatic relations with Syria, following the recent overthrow of President Bashar al-Assad's government, which had been a close ally of Russia. This statement came after a visit to Syria by Ukraine's Foreign Minister Andrii Sybiha and Agriculture Minister Vitaliy Koval. During their visit, Ukraine sent a shipment of food aid, further indicating its intent to foster new relations.

"We are preparing to resume diplomatic relations with Syria and to cooperate within international organisations," Zelenskyy said, expressing confidence about the future direction of Ukraine's foreign policy towards Syria.

Ukraine severed diplomatic ties with Syria in June 2022 after the Syrian government, led by Assad, recognized the independence of the Russia-occupied regions of Donetsk and Luhansk in Ukraine's eastern territories. This recognition came amid the Russian invasion of Ukraine and led to a diplomatic rift between the two nations.

However, following the recent overthrow of Assad's regime by rebels, Ukraine has begun reassessing its stance towards Syria, focusing on building ties with the new Islamist rulers who have taken control. Russia,



which invaded Ukraine in 2022, had been a strong supporter of Assad, providing him with political and military backing. Assad's regime also received political asylum in Russia following the regime change in Syria.

Zelenskyy's announcement highlights a significant shift in Ukraine's foreign policy, as it seeks to expand its influence and strengthen ties with new powers in the Middle East following the regime change in Syria. The re-

sumption of diplomatic relations with Syria also reflects Ukraine's broader efforts to gain support from international actors outside the Russian sphere of influence.

With diplomatic relations set to resume and a focus on international cooperation, Ukraine's efforts to rebuild its alliances in the region underscore its continuing pursuit of diplomatic avenues to counter Russia's ongoing aggression.

Picked Wrong Vehicle: Elon Musk On Cybertruck Explosion Outside Trump Hotel



DELHI: Billionaire Elon Musk has labeled the explosion involving a Tesla Cybertruck outside the Trump International Hotel in Las Vegas as an act of terrorism. Musk emphasized that the electric vehicle's design played a key role in minimizing the blast's damage, claiming that the Cybertruck contained the explosion and directed the force upwards, preventing significant harm to the hotel. "The evil knuckleheads picked the wrong vehicle for a terrorist attack. Cybertruck actually contained the explosion and directed

the blast upwards. Not even the glass doors of the lobby were broken," Musk posted on X.

The explosion took place early Thursday morning when a 2024 Tesla Cybertruck, reportedly rented via the car-sharing platform Turo, caught fire outside the hotel's main entrance. The blast resulted in one death and seven injuries, Las Vegas police confirmed. While the injuries were described as minor, the hotel was evacuated as a precautionary measure.

Investigations revealed that the explosion was caused by materials stored in the truck's bed, including fireworks, gas tanks, and camping fuel, all linked to a detonation system believed to have been activated by the driver. Jeremy Schwartz, the FBI's special agent in charge of Las Vegas, confirmed that the agency's joint terrorism task force is leading the investigation.

The timing of the explosion has raised concerns about a potential connection to a separate attack in New Orleans. Earlier, a man drove a pickup truck into a crowd of New Year's revelers, killing at least 15 people and injuring many more. The attacker, identified as 42-year-old Shamsud-Din Jabbar, a US citizen and former military IT specialist, was believed to have been inspired by the Islamic State group.

Both vehicles involved in the Las Vegas and New Orleans incidents were rented through Turo. A spokesperson for the company stated that Turo is fully cooperating with law enforcement and highlighted that neither renter had any criminal history that would have raised security concerns.

Impeached SK President Yoon Suk Yeol Vows to "Fight to the End" Amid Arrest Warrant

SOUTH KOREA: Impeached South Korean President Yoon Suk Yeol issued a defiant statement to hundreds of conservative supporters gathered outside his residence in Seoul, pledging to "fight to the end" against what he termed "anti-state forces." His remarks came as police prepared to arrest him over his controversial martial law decree last month.



Yoon's statement was delivered as law enforcement was set to detain him following a Seoul court's issuance of an arrest warrant on Tuesday. The Corruption Investigation Office for High-Ranking Officials has a week to execute the warrant after Yoon defied multiple requests to appear for questioning and obstructed investigations into his actions, including a suspected power grab during his short-lived martial law imposition on December 3. In his speech to the gathered supporters, Yoon criticized his opponents,

claiming that they were "violating our sovereignty" and endangering the nation. He praised the protesters for their efforts to safeguard South Korea's "liberal democracy and constitutional order," and acknowledged their ongoing demonstrations via live YouTube broadcasts.

Yoon's impeachment, driven by the liberal opposition Democratic Party, came after his decision to impose martial law, which the opposition

labeled as an unlawful attempt to extend his power. The impeachment vote on December 14 was followed by an escalating political crisis. Yoon's critics now accuse him of trying to rally his supporters to resist his impending detention.

The Corruption Investigation Office's chief prosecutor, Oh Dong-woon, warned that police might need to intervene if Yoon's security forces attempt to obstruct the arrest. However, it remains uncertain whether Yoon can be compelled to submit to questioning.

As of Thursday morning, Yoon's supporters continued to gather near his home, waving South Korean and American flags while holding signs opposing his impeachment. A heavy police presence remained in place as the political standoff continued to unfold.



Bangladesh Court Denies Bail To Jailed Hindu Monk Chinmoy Krishna Das

DHAKA: A Bangladesh court on Thursday denied bail to Chinmoy Krishna Das, a Hindu monk and spokesperson for the Bangladesh Sammilite Sanatan Jagran Jote, who is facing sedition charges. The decision was made by Chattogram Metropolitan Sessions Judge Md Saiful Islam following a 30-minute hearing under heightened security measures.

Das, a former member of the International Society for Krishna Consciousness (ISKCON), has been incarcerated for over a month after being arrested in Dhaka on November 25 in connection with a sedition case. His legal team, consisting of 11 lawyers, argued that the monk, who suffers from diabetes and respiratory issues, was falsely implicated in the case.

In his bail petition, Das' lawyers emphasized his deteriorating health and the unsubstantiated nature of the charges against him. Despite these concerns, the court refused to grant him bail, leaving his supporters disheartened.

Radha Raman Das, Vice President of ISKCON Kolkata, expressed disappointment over the ruling, calling the development "sad." He urged the Bangladesh government to ensure justice for the Hindu monk, particularly as the world had been watching closely in hopes of his release. He expressed his frustration over the fact that after 42 days of detention, Das had still not been granted bail, despite public expectations of his freedom in the new year.

Chinmoy Krishna Das' arrest is linked to an incident on October 25 in Chittagong, where he was allegedly seen raising a saffron flag above Bangladesh's national flag. This action led to the filing of sedition charges and ignited protests, with violent clashes erupting outside the Chattogram Court on November 27. Tragically, the unrest resulted in the death of a lawyer.

The monk's arrest and the ongoing legal battle have stirred tensions, drawing attention to the broader political and religious issues within Bangladesh, particularly regarding the treatment of minority groups.



Just As Battlefield: Israel's Sacked Defence Minister Yoav Gallant Quits Politics

JERUSALEM: Yoav Gallant, the former Israeli Defence Minister, announced his resignation from parliament on Wednesday, ending a turbulent chapter marked by his disagreements with Prime Minister Benjamin Netanyahu and his far-right coalition partners. Gallant had been a prominent figure in Netanyahu's government until his dismissal in November 2024, following months of tensions over the conduct of the war against Hamas in Gaza.

Gallant's resignation from the Knesset, however, came after he had retained his seat despite being ousted from his ministerial role. In a televised statement, Gallant explained that, just as in military strategy, there are moments in public service when one must reassess and make critical decisions to achieve the broader objectives. This decision signals a decisive shift in his political career.

Throughout his tenure, Gallant frequently clashed with Netanyahu, particularly on issues related to the military and political direction of the government. One major point of contention was his opposition to exemptions granted to ultra-Orthodox Jewish men from compulsory military service, which had been a highly controversial issue in Israeli politics. Gallant also opposed Netanyahu's controversial judicial reforms, including a plan to limit the powers of the Supreme Court. Gallant's vocal opposition to this reform in March 2023 led to his initial firing by Netanyahu, which triggered large-scale protests across Israel. Netanyahu later backtracked on the reform following the public backlash.

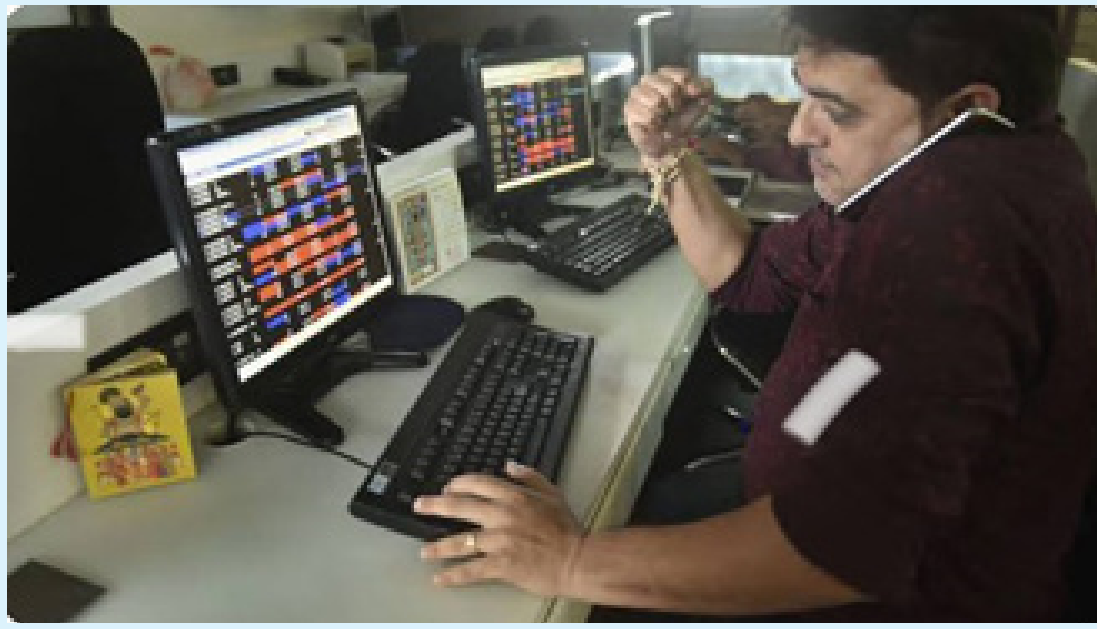
Gallant's resignation comes at a time when he is facing international scrutiny. The International Criminal Court (ICC) has issued arrest warrants for both Gallant and Netanyahu, along with a Hamas leader, on charges of war crimes and crimes against humanity related to the ongoing Gaza conflict. Israel has contested these accusations, further complicating Gallant's already controversial legacy. Gallant's departure from the Knesset marks the end of a significant political career, amid a complex and shifting landscape for Israel's political future.

Sensex Surges Above 80,000 as Markets Rally on Positive Sentiment

Domestic stock markets were dusty today. They ended Thursday with huge gains. The indices, which started with moderate gains in the morning, moved in a range-bound manner for a while. Then, as the bulls suddenly entered the field, they rose sharply. They showed strength to make up for the drought of many years. The Sensex rose by 1400 points and the Nifty by 400 points. The better sales of auto companies in December, good GST collections, aggressive IT shares, and signs of a rebound in the economy that had reached the bottom filled the market with positive sentiment. Technically, the indices also rebounded from key support levels. After many days, the Sensex settled above 80 thousand. The decline in the India Vicks is a good sign.



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ders worth Rs 78 crore.

The BSE Sensex, which closed at 78,507 in the previous session, opened at 78,657 today. It touched an intraday low of 78,542. It reached an intraday high of 80,032. It finally closed at 79,943 with a gain of 1436 points. The NSE Nifty, which opened at 23,783 on Thursday, touched a low of 23,751 and a high of 24,226. It rose by 445 points in total and closed at 24,188. The Bank Nifty rose by 544 points and settled at 51,605.

48 companies gained and 2 lost in the Nifty50. Eicher Motors, Bajaj Finserv, Bajaj Finance, Maruti, Shriram Finance were the top gainers. Sun Pharma and Britannia lost the most. All sectoral indices rose today except media. Auto, finance, IT, FMCG, private bank, realty, consumer durables rose sharply.

Fear Index India Vicks fell 5.30 percent to 13.74. Market breadth in NSE today turned in favor of buyers. Out of 2911 shares traded, 1824 rose. 997 fell. 66 shares touched 52-week highs. Only 24 reached 52-week lows.

Rupee weakened by 10 paise to settle at 85.75 against the dollar. Experts say to exit Easy Trip Planners and hold shares of NCC, NHPC, SJVN, and Wari Renewables. AP CM Chandrababu Naidu has made it clear that Adani Green Energy contracts will not be cancelled until evidence is available. Royal Enfield sales rose 25% in December on increased demand for 350 cc bikes. TVS Motor shares fell slightly from their peak as sales fell in December. 12.8 lakh shares changed hands in a block deal in Jio Financial. Udaipur Cement shares rose as BSE and Sensex did not object to the amalgamation. Jaicorp shares fell 20% after Reliance Industries sold 5,286 acres of land worth Rs 2,200 to it. Nifty Auto rose 4% in three sessions. Nomura expects ITC Hotel shares to list in the Rs 200-300 range. Railtel shares gained for the third consecutive day on or-

1. Bajaj Finance (BAJFINANCE)

Bajaj Finance is one of India's leading NBFCs, focusing on consumer finance, SME lending, and commercial financing. It operates across multiple segments, including personal loans, home loans, and insurance distribution. Increasing consumer financing penetration. Robust digital initiatives improving customer acquisition. Expanding rural and semi-urban reach. Dependency on interest rate cycles. Macroeconomic uncertainties affecting loan repayments. Long-term growth potential for aggressive investors. Consider for portfolio diversification within the financial sector.



2. Kotak Mahindra Bank (KOTAKBANK)

Kotak Mahindra Bank is a well-established private-sector bank in India, offering services in retail banking, corporate banking, and wealth management. Expanding retail and digital banking footprint. Rising market share in wealth management and corporate banking. High competition in the private banking space. Suitable for conservative investors seeking stability and steady growth.



3. Trent Ltd.

Trent operates in the retail segment through its flagship brands Westside and Zudio, targeting the mid-to-premium con-

sumer segment. Aggressive store expansion plan. Increasing urbanization and rising consumer spending. High valuations increase market sensitivity. Dependency on consumer discretionary spending. High-growth potential but suitable for investors with a high-risk appetite.



4. TVS Motor Company (TVSMOTOR)



TVS Motor is a leading two-wheeler manufacturer in India with a diversified product portfolio, including electric vehicles (EVs). Expanding EV portfolio. Increasing exports to international markets. Competitive pressure from other two-wheeler and EV players. Raw material price volatility. Suitable for investors betting on the growth of EVs and export markets.

5. HCL Technologies (HCLTECH)



HCL Technologies is a global IT services leader specializing in software development, digital transformation, and infrastructure management. Increasing adoption of cloud and digital services. Expansion in high-margin consulting services. Currency fluctuations impacting margins. High competition in the IT services industry. Stable investment for moderate-risk investors seeking exposure to the IT sector.

India's GST Collections Rise 7.3% , Slower Growth Than November



India's Goods and Services Tax (GST) collections saw a 7.3% year-on-year increase in December, reaching ₹1.77 lakh crore, according to official data released on Wednesday. While the growth is still positive, it marks a slowdown compared to the 8.5% rise recorded in November.

The December GST collections reflect the ongoing recovery in economic activities, though the slower growth suggests that the pace of expansion may be easing slightly. Despite the deceleration, the collections remain robust, indicating that the economic engine is still functioning at a steady rate.

The GST is a critical source of revenue for the Indian government, and the consistent growth in collections signals continued tax compliance and economic momentum. The GST revenue for December is a sign that consumption is holding up, with the year-end festival season typically boosting demand for goods and services.

Experts attribute the slowdown to a combination of factors, including high inflationary pressures, which may have led to some strain on consumer spending, and base effects from last year's high collections. In addition, some sectors may be feeling the effects of global economic challenges, impacting both domestic and international trade volumes.

The government is expected to continue monitoring GST revenue trends closely, as it plays a pivotal role in financing public expenditure and developmental projects. The authorities will likely adjust fiscal strategies to ensure that the tax system remains resilient, even in the face of potential economic headwinds.

In comparison to previous years, the GST collection growth trend is still positive, underscoring the broad-based recovery in India's economy post-pandemic. As the country heads into the new year, policymakers will be focusing on sustaining this growth while ensuring that tax compliance remains strong across all sectors of the economy.

Vodafone Idea Set to Launch 5G Services in March with Competitive Pricing

Vodafone Idea (Vi) is gearing up to launch its 5G mobile broadband services in March, aiming to offer competitively priced plans to take on industry giants Reliance Jio and Bharti Airtel, according to a report in *The Economic Times*. Vi's 5G plans are expected to be around 15% cheaper than its rivals, who already have extensive 5G networks across India.



The company's 5G rollout is supported by substantial financial backing, including ₹24,000 crore in equity funding and plans to raise an additional ₹25,000 crore through debt. The government's recent move to waive bank guarantee requirements has further eased Vi's fundraising process, giving it the financial leverage to compete in the rapidly expanding 5G market.

Vi's initial 5G service launch will target 75 major cities across its 17 priority telecom circles, focusing on industrial hubs with high data consumption. The company is also exploring ways to optimize distribution costs and increase dealer commissions in an effort to attract high-value customers.

According to a senior telecom analyst, Vi may increase its payouts to dealer commissions and promotional spending to

capture 5G prepaid users from its larger competitors. In the 2023-24 financial year, Vi spent ₹3,583 crore—8.4% of its sales—on dealer commissions, a significantly higher amount than Jio's ₹3,000 crore (3% of sales) and Airtel's ₹6,000 crore (4% of sales).

As of September 2023, Reliance Jio and Bharti Airtel lead the 5G market, with 148 million and 105 million users, respectively. However, Vi is committed to closing the gap with strategic agreements worth \$3.6 billion with Nokia, Ericsson, and Samsung for 5G equipment. The company plans to deploy 75,000 5G sites over the next three years, strengthening its position in the competitive 5G landscape and offering affordable alternatives to the current market leaders.

India Becomes 6th Largest Textile Exporter with 7% Growth in FY 2024-25

India has emerged as the 6th largest exporter of textiles and apparel globally, with a market share of 3.9%. The sector contributes 8.21% to the country's total exports, highlighting its crucial role in the international textile supply chain.

During the first half of FY 2024-25, India's textile and apparel exports reached USD 21,358 million, reflecting a 7% increase compared to the same period last year. According to the Ministry of Textiles, the Ready Made Garments (RMG) category led the charge, accounting for 41% of the total exports, valued at USD 8,733 million. Cotton textiles followed closely with 33% of exports (USD 7,082 million), while man-made textiles contributed 15% (USD 3,105 million).

Key export destinations for Indian textiles include the United States and the European Union, which together account for approximately 47% of total textile exports. The growth in textile exports is attributed to the strong demand for Indian products, even amid global geopolitical uncertainties like the Red Sea crisis and the Bangladesh crisis, which initial-



ly slowed exports in early 2024. However, demand rebounded in the latter half of the year, especially for key categories.

Export data from April-October 2024 shows growth across nearly all major textile categories, including a 12% rise in RMG exports, a 1% increase in cotton textiles, and a 5% boost in man-made textiles. However, certain categories faced declines, such as wool and handloom products, which saw a 19% and 6% drop in exports, respectively. Conversely, silk exports surged by 40%, and carpets experienced a healthy 12% growth.

India's imports of textiles and apparel dropped by approximately 15% in FY 2023-24, falling from USD 10,481 million in FY 2022-23 to USD 8,946 million. This decline signifies India's increasing self-reliance in the textile sector, with the country meeting more of its raw material requirements domestically. For FY 2024-25, imports in the first half amounted to USD 5,425 million, marking a slight 1% decrease from the previous year.

Meta Plans to Introduce AI Bots on Facebook and Instagram

Artificial Intelligence has already transformed how we search for information and interact online, and now it seems Meta has big plans to further integrate AI into its social media platforms. According to a recent report by the **Financial Times**, the tech giant, led by Mark Zuckerberg, is exploring the idea of introducing AI bots across platforms like Facebook and Instagram.

The report suggests that Meta is focusing on AI-driven tools as a way to retain its existing user base while also appealing to younger audiences. One of the major new features will allow users to create their own AI characters on both Instagram and Facebook, offering a more personalized and interactive experience on these platforms.

Connor Hayes, Meta's Vice President of Product for Generative AI, shared insights with **Financial Times**, explaining that these AI characters will eventually become an integral part of the platforms. He stated that they "expect these AIs to actually, over time, exist on our platforms, kind of in the same way that accounts do." This implies that, much like personal profiles, users could interact with AI-driven accounts on a regular basis, with these bots playing roles similar to those of regular users or entities on the platform.



Meta's move comes as part of a broader effort to integrate cutting-edge technologies into its ecosystem. By leveraging AI, the company hopes to engage users in new and innovative ways, from content creation to interaction with bots that can provide personalized experiences. This also reflects a trend where AI is becoming an increasingly significant part of social media, enabling platforms to offer unique and immersive experiences for users.

As Meta continues to develop and refine these AI products, the tech industry will be watching closely to see how these tools reshape social media dynamics and what new opportunities they may create for users and creators alike.

How Alcohol Affects Your Blood Sugar Levels: Surprising Facts

Alcohol is often a staple at many social gatherings, whether it's a birthday, promotion celebration, or a casual weekend hangout. Despite being aware of its many health risks, many still indulge, considering it a way to unwind or socialize with friends. While its effects on the liver, sleep, and weight are well-known, one question that often gets overlooked is: How does alcohol impact blood sugar levels? For those who believe that consuming one or two drinks isn't a big deal, the answer may surprise you.



The short answer is no. When you consume alcohol, your body treats it as a toxin or poison, which is why it starts metabolizing it immediately. According to nutritionist Amita Gadre, your body prioritizes processing alcohol over its other functions, including regulating blood sugar.

Alcohol metabolism requires glucose, which your body uses in place of sugar to break down the alcohol. As a result, your blood sugar levels are more likely to decrease than increase. However, this doesn't mean alcohol is harmless to your blood sugar. If you drink cocktails or mix alcohol with sugary beverages, your blood sugar will rise due to the added sugars in those mixers.

The reality is, no amount of alcohol is truly

safe for the human body. Whether you consume one drink or an entire bottle, alcohol still poses health risks. According to a 2023 report by the WHO and Lancet, alcohol is a leading cause of various disorders, including liver cirrhosis, heart conditions, and other non-communicable diseases. This includes any form of alcohol, whether it's neat, in a cocktail, or in sugary mixed drinks.

Furthermore, the WHO report indicates that no study supports the idea that even light or moderate drinking is harmless, reinforcing that any amount of alcohol can negatively impact your overall health. So, while you may enjoy a drink now and then, it's important to be aware of its long-term effects on your body.

Top Quick Commerce Apps in India for Lightning-Fast Deliveries

In today's fast-paced world, quick commerce apps have become a go-to solution for instant deliveries. Whether you need snacks, groceries, or daily essentials, these apps ensure that you get what you need in a flash. However, not all quick commerce platforms are created equal, and some offer unique features that cater to specific needs. Here's a look at five quick commerce apps in India and what sets them apart.

Swiggy Instamart

Swiggy Instamart is one of India's leading quick commerce platforms, and it's incredibly convenient because it's integrated into the Swiggy app, which most users already have. With Swiggy Instamart, you can have everything from groceries to snacks delivered to your doorstep in just a matter of minutes, depending on your location. The service prides itself on offering a wide range of products, and its fast delivery times make it a popular choice for those who need something in a hurry.

Blinkit (formerly Grofers)

Blinkit is another major player in the quick commerce space, offering rapid delivery of groceries, household items, and even personal care products. The app has built a reputation for being incredibly efficient, with delivery times often within 10-20 minutes. Blinkit's strength lies in its ability to offer a broad selection of products, catering to both everyday essentials and specialty items.

Zepto

Zepto has made a mark with its promise of 10-minute deliveries. Known for its quick and reliable service, Zepto specializes in groceries and everyday essentials. The app operates in several key cities, focusing on speed and convenience. With its ex-



tensive network of dark stores, Zepto ensures that products reach you faster than many competitors.

Dunzo

Dunzo is a versatile delivery app that goes beyond just groceries and snacks. It offers everything from electronics to medicines and even pick-up and drop-off services. Dunzo stands out for its flexibility, offering users the ability to request a wide range of deliveries, all while ensuring speedy service.

BigBasket Express

BigBasket Express is the quick commerce arm of the popular grocery delivery platform BigBasket. With BigBasket Express, you can receive groceries and fresh produce delivered within a short time frame. The service aims to provide a similar experience to that of Swiggy Instamart but focuses more on food and grocery items, making it an ideal choice for those who prefer shopping for essentials in bulk.

Each of these apps offers unique features tailored to different user needs, ensuring that whether you're looking for speed or variety, there's an option for you.

The Hidden Dangers of Oversleeping and How to Fix Your Sleep Cycle

Getting enough quality sleep is essential for both mental and physical health, as it significantly improves your overall well-being and quality of life. While most people are aware of the risks associated with insufficient sleep, it's equally important to understand that oversleeping can also have negative effects on your health. Excessive sleep can lead to several health complications and may be a sign of an underlying issue. If you've found yourself sleeping more than usual this winter, it's important to be aware of the potential side effects.

One of the major risks of oversleeping is its impact on mental health. Studies suggest that excessive sleep is often linked to depression and anxiety. Individuals who sleep for extended hours tend to feel more tired, experience lower energy levels, and have frequent mood swings. In addition, oversleeping can increase the risk of developing chronic health conditions such as cardiovascular disease, diabetes, and persistent headaches.

Physical discomfort is another concern. Sleeping for long periods without sufficient movement can contribute to back pain due to a lack of physical activity. Incorporating regular exercise into your routine can help alleviate this issue and prevent other health problems related to inactivity.

Another consequence of oversleeping is its effect on weight. When you sleep too much, it can disrupt your daily routine, leading to changes in eating habits and reduced physical activity. Both of these factors can contribute to weight gain.

For most adults, the recommended amount of sleep is between 7 and 9 hours per night. However, indi-



vidual needs can vary depending on factors such as age, lifestyle, and physical activity levels.

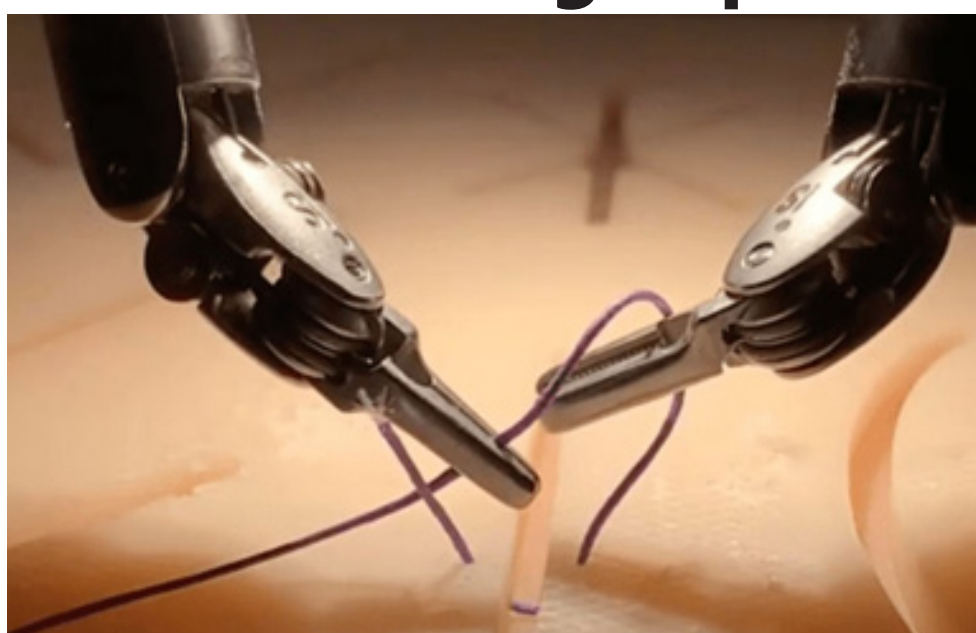
If you've been sleeping excessively, it's important to address the issue to avoid long-term health problems. Start by adjusting your sleep schedule—try to go to bed and wake up at the same time each day. Regular physical activity, such as exercising for at least 30 minutes a day, can also help regulate your sleep. Additionally, avoid consuming caffeine, alcohol, and heavy meals before bedtime to ensure better sleep quality.

If oversleeping continues to be an issue, it's advisable to consult a healthcare professional to determine any underlying causes and make necessary adjustments.

Researchers Train Robot to Perform Complex Surgeries by Watching Expert Surgeons

Researchers at Johns Hopkins University have made a breakthrough in robotic surgery by successfully training a robot to perform complex surgical tasks by simply watching expert surgeons. Using a technique called imitation learning, the researchers taught the da Vinci Surgical System robot to execute three fundamental surgical tasks: manipulating a needle, lifting body tissue, and suturing. This approach eliminates the need for programming the robot with specific movements, bringing robotic surgery closer to achieving full autonomy.

The development was presented at the Conference on Robot Learning in Munich, a leading event for robotics and



machine learning. According to Axel Krieger, the senior author of the study and an assistant professor at Johns Hopkins University's Department of Mechanical Engineering, the process is "magical." The researchers fed the robot camera inputs from surgical procedures performed by experienced doctors, and the robot was able to predict the necessary movements for these tasks.

Krieger explained that the model exceeded their expectations, even learning behaviors they hadn't directly programmed. For instance, when the robot dropped a needle, it was able to automatically pick it up and continue with the task without any human intervention. This level of autonomous

learning showcases the potential of machine learning in enhancing robotic capabilities, particularly in surgery.

This innovation marks a significant step toward making robotic surgery more autonomous, reducing reliance on human programming for every individual action. The work done by the Johns Hopkins team could eventually lead to robots capable of performing complex surgeries with minimal oversight, revolutionizing the field and improving surgical outcomes. The potential to train robots in real-time, simply by showing them expert techniques, could change the landscape of surgery and medicine in the future.

Manu Bhaker, D Gukesh, Harmanpreet Singh, and Praveen Kumar to Receive Dhyan Chand Khel Ratna Award

The Indian Sports Ministry has announced that four outstanding athletes, including Olympic medalist Manu Bhaker and chess prodigy D Gukesh, will be awarded the prestigious Dhyan Chand Khel Ratna Award. Along with Bhaker and Gukesh, men's hockey captain Harmanpreet Singh and Paralympic gold medalist Praveen Kumar have also been selected for the highest sporting honor in India.

The Khel Ratna Award is recognized as the pinnacle of sporting achievement in the country, and the announcement on January 2, 2025, has been widely celebrated. The Ministry also revealed that 32 athletes, including 17 para-athletes, will receive the Arjuna Awards for their exceptional contributions to sports.

Manu Bhaker, a double Olympic medalist in shooting, has been a prominent figure in Indian sports. She made history in the 2020 Tokyo Olympics by winning two medals, becoming independent India's first athlete to achieve this feat



in a single Olympic edition. Bhaker's bronze medal in both the 10m air pistol individual and mixed team events made her a household name.

D Gukesh, at just 18 years old, made history as the youngest-ever World Chess Champion. He also helped the Indian chess team secure a historic gold medal at the Chess Olympiad. His achievements have been a source of immense pride for the Indian chess community.

Harmanpreet Singh, the captain of the men's hockey team, led the Indian squad to its second consecutive bronze medal at the Tokyo Olympics, showcasing his leadership and determination. Meanwhile, Praveen Kumar's inspiring journey in the Paralympics culminated in a gold medal in the T64 high jump category, where athletes use prosthetic legs. His victory in the Paris Paralympics made him a national hero.

The awardees will receive their honors in a ceremony at Rashtrapati Bhavan on January 17, 2025, where President of India will present the awards.

Djokovic Teams Up with Murray to Take On Tennis Newcomers

After a relatively quiet 2024, with only a Paris Olympics gold medal to his name, Novak Djokovic has revealed his plan to face the rising stars of tennis. With the help of his new coach, Andy Murray, the 37-year-old former world No. 1 aims to fine-tune his game ahead of the upcoming Australian Open, starting January 12.

Despite his status as one of the greatest tennis players of all time, Djokovic faces stiff competition from younger talents like 23-year-old Jannik Sinner, who claimed the Australian Open and US Open titles in 2024, and 21-year-old Carlos Alcaraz, the world No. 3 who won Wimbledon and the French Open. In response, Djokovic is preparing to take on the new wave of tennis talent with a series of strategic adjustments.

"I'm not looking to completely transform my game," Djokovic said after his first-round win at the Brisbane International, where he defeated Australian wild-card entry Rinky Hijikata 6-3, 6-3. "But I definitely want to improve, even if it's just a slight improvement on every shot."

Ahead of the Australian Open, Djokovic plans to spend time analyzing videos of his young rivals, focusing on tactics and court po-



sitioning. With Murray's input, Djokovic is looking to tweak his game for maximum effectiveness against players like Sinner and Alcaraz.

Although Djokovic isn't looking to make radical changes, he's committed to improving his skills. "It's about improving even the smallest details," he said. "Tactics, court positioning, and transition play will be key in facing these younger guys."

Djokovic is preparing mentally and physically for the challenge, emphasizing that he's ready to put in the necessary hours on the practice court. With an eye on a record-breaking 25th Grand Slam title, Djokovic's attention to detail and focus on strategy could be the key to competing against the sport's new generation.

Vaishali Clinches Bronze at World Blitz Chess Championship



India's R Vaishali secured a bronze medal in the women's section of the World Blitz Chess Championship, adding another impressive performance to the country's stellar showing in the event. Vaishali's achievement follows her compatriot Koneru Humpy's triumph in the rapid event, showcasing India's rising dominance in the global chess scene.

In the quarterfinals, Vaishali overcame China's Zhu Jiner with a 2.5-1.5 victory. However, she was knocked out in the semifinals by another Chinese opponent, Ju Wenjun, losing 0.5-2.5. Despite her semifinal exit, Vaishali's impressive run earned her a well-deserved bronze medal. The championship was predominantly dominated by Chinese players, with Ju Wenjun going on to claim the title after defeating her compatriot Lei Tingjie 3.5-2.5 in the final.

India's chess legend and FIDE vice-president, Viswanathan Anand, congratulated Vaishali on her remarkable achieve-

ment. "Congratulations to Vaishali for taking bronze. Her qualification was truly a power-packed performance. Our Waca Chess mentee (West-Bridge Anand Chess Academy) has done us proud," Anand posted online. "What a way to wrap up 2024. In 2021, we thought we would get stronger chess players, but here we have it—a World Champion (Humpy) and a Bronze medalist (Vaishali)!"

In the open section, world No. 1 Magnus Carlsen and Russia's Ian Nepomniachtchi were declared co-champions after three sudden-death games failed to determine a winner. This was the first time the blitz title was shared between two players, as Carlsen suggested the possibility of a joint victory due to the deadlock.

Vaishali's bronze medal not only highlights her exceptional skill and determination but also marks a significant milestone for Indian chess, as the country continues to make its mark on the global chess stage.

Rupinder brace gives Bengal Tigers 2-1 win over Gonasika

Rupinder Pal Singh showcased his experience and skill, scoring a brace to lead Shrachi Rarh Bengal Tigers to a 2-1 victory over Team Gonasika in their Hockey India League match. The veteran defender, who is known for his lethal penalty corner and stroke conversions, proved crucial for his team's win with goals in the 31st and 48th minutes.

Singh opened the scoring for the Tigers with a well-executed penalty corner in the first half, putting his side ahead 1-0. The game remained tense as both teams fought for control, but it was in the second half that Singh once again made his presence felt. In the 48th minute, he converted a penalty stroke to double his side's advantage and secure a commanding 2-0 lead for the Bengal Tigers.



Team Gonasika, however, weren't without response. In the 56th minute, Manpreet Singh found the back of the net for Gonasika, reducing the deficit to 2-1 and

setting up an exciting finish to the match. Despite a valiant effort from Team Gonasika in the closing minutes, Shrachi Rarh Bengal Tigers held firm to their lead, ensuring they took all three points from the encounter.

The victory not only highlighted Rupinder Pal Singh's continued importance to the Tigers but also underscored the team's resilience and tactical discipline. Singh's brace proved the difference in a match that saw both sides battle fiercely for supremacy.

Shrachi Rarh Bengal Tigers will be pleased with their performance as they continue their pursuit of success in the Hockey India League, while Team Gonasika will look to bounce back in their upcoming matches.

Kusal Perera Sets Record with 46-Ball Century as Sri Lanka Beat New Zealand

Kusal Perera made history with a blistering 46-ball century, guiding Sri Lanka to a thrilling seven-run victory over New Zealand in the third and final T20I in Nelson. Sri Lanka posted a formidable total of 218/5 in their allotted 20 overs, and New Zealand responded with 211/7, falling just short in their chase.

Perera's explosive knock of 101 was the fastest T20I century ever scored by a Sri Lankan, comprising 13 fours and 6 sixes. Despite being dropped twice — once on 15 and again on 60 — Perera took full advantage of the opportunities. His innings featured a series of stunning shots, and he was eventually dismissed in the penultimate over by Rachin Ravindra, caught at point off Daryl Mitchell.

Reflecting on his record-breaking knock, Perera said, "It was a wake-up call when I edged the first ball I faced. I had to back myself and execute my normal game.



The coach had reminded me that if I get a start, I need to finish it well."

Sri Lanka's captain, Charith Asalanka, praised the team's resilience, especially after suffering defeats in the first two matches of the series. "It's a good win for us. We've been playing good cricket

throughout the series, but today we managed to get the win," he said.

Perera's 101 was supported by a solid partnership of 41 with Avishka Fernando (17) and a brilliant 100-run stand with Asalanka, who contributed a quick-fire 46 off just 24 balls, smashing five sixes and one four.

New Zealand's chase was led by Ravindra, who scored a well-played 69 off 39 balls, while Tim Robinson added 37 off 21 and Daryl Mitchell struck a quick 35 off 17 balls, including four sixes. However, Sri Lanka's bowlers, particularly Asalanka, kept the pressure on, with the latter claiming 3 wickets for 50 runs.

The victory gave Sri Lanka some consolation in the series after New Zealand had already clinched the first two games. The teams will now shift focus to a three-match ODI series, with the first game scheduled in Wellington on Sunday.



Game Changer Trailer: Impactful with Solid Visuals and Ram Charan's Mass Avatar

The first pan-Indian film of the new year, **Game Changer**, is set for a grand release on January 10, and fans are eagerly awaiting its trailer. After more than three years of anticipation, director Shankar is ready to showcase Ram Charan in three distinct roles, making the film one of the most highly awaited releases of the year. Produced by Dil Raju for his 50th film, the movie is made on an extravagant budget, promising a cinematic experience to remember.



The trailer was unveiled today at the AMB Mall, with celebrated director Rajamouli as the chief guest, alongside the lead actor Ram Charan and the rest of the cast. The 2.5-minute trailer has certainly lived up to the immense expectations.

From the trailer, we get a glimpse into the storyline where Ram Charan plays Ram Nandan, an IAS officer known for his integrity. Whether as a Collector or a Police Officer, his commitment to duty is unshakable. However, his life takes a drastic turn when he crosses paths with a corrupt Chief Minister, Mopidevi (played by SJ Surya), who is depicted as a parasitic figure. As the story unfolds, Ram Nandan's connection with his father, Appanna (also played by Ram Charan), be-

comes central to the power struggle between them. The film focuses on Ram's triumph in this political game, with Shankar's iconic visual storytelling amplifying the narrative.

The trailer brings back Shankar's signature style, sure to evoke nostalgia among his fans. For Ram Charan's supporters, the trailer is a visual treat, with the actor delivering powerful performances across various getups. The intense character portrayals, especially Ram Charan's mannerisms, Appanna's role, and the face-off with SJ Surya, are gripping. The impactful dialogues by Sai Madhav Bura and the electrifying background score by Thaman further elevate the scenes.

With the trailer hinting at high drama and mass appeal, **Game Changer** is shaping up to be a significant release, and fans can't wait for its premiere.

Revisiting Love: 7/G Brindavan Colony 2's Challenge to Recreate a Classic

7/G Brindavan Colony remains one of the most beloved romantic films in South cinema, earning the status of a "Cult Classic" for its poignant portrayal of unrequited love between a teenage boy and his crush. Directed by Selvaraghavan, the 2004 film starred Ravi Krishna and Sonia Aggarwal in lead roles. Its heartfelt story and unforgettable performances resonated with audiences, particularly the youth of the 2000s, making it a box-office hit and a film that continues to be remembered fondly.

Sequels typically come with heightened expectations, but **7/G Brindavan Colony 2** carries an additional weight due to the lasting impact of its predecessor. The original film's portrayal of lead characters' bitter-sweet love story continues to resonate with movie lovers, ensuring that anticipation for the sequel is at an all-time high.



Now, nearly two decades later, the sequel to **7/G Brindavan Colony** is set to make its debut. The new film will once again feature Ravi Krishna in the lead role, reprising his iconic character. This time, Yaariyan 2 actress Anaswara Ranjan steps into the role of "Anitha," a character originally played by Sonia Aggarwal. As the shooting for the sequel nears completion, the team is gearing up for a release later this year. Selvaraghavan returns as director, promising to bring the same emotional depth and cinematic magic to the sequel that made the original so memorable.

The unforgettable performances of Ravi Krishna and Sonia Aggarwal were central to the film's success, with Ravi Krishna's raw and intense portrayal of a "good-for-nothing" guy and Anitha's bold yet glamorous presence leaving a lasting impression. Their sizzling chemistry was a major highlight that captivated youth audiences.

However, creating a sequel to such a beloved classic is no easy feat. Director Selvaraghavan and producer AM Ratnam have taken a bold risk in attempting to continue this story. With inevitable comparisons to the first film in terms of story, performances, and music, the question remains: Can the sequel meet expectations and replicate the success of its predecessor? Only time will tell.

Sukumar's Daughter Shines in Award-Winning Film Gandhi Tatha Chettu



Sukriti Veni Bandedi, the daughter of renowned director Sukumar of **Pushpa 2** fame, has impressed audiences with her remarkable performance in the award-winning film **Gandhi Tatha Chettu**. The young, school-going artist has already received critical acclaim for her acting skills, winning the Dadasaheb Phalke Award for Best Child Artist and earning recognition at various prestigious film festivals worldwide.

The filmmakers are dedicated to delivering an organic, authentic storytelling experience that resonates with the audience. At its heart, **Gandhi Tatha Chettu** is grounded in Gandhian ideals, focusing on the importance of non-violence and the power of peace. The film's visuals and promotional stills suggest a tender, heartfelt narrative that aims to connect with viewers emotionally in a world facing increasing challenges.

Directed by Padmavathi Malladi, **Gandhi Tatha Chettu** is a family-oriented, children-friendly movie that carries a strong message of peace and non-violence. Produced by Mythri Movie Makers, Sukumar Writings, and Gopi Talkies, the film is set to release in theatres on January 24th. The announcement of the release date was made today by producers Naveen Yerneni, Y Ravi Shankar, and Sessa Sindhu Rao, with Tabitha Sukumar presenting the film. The music for the film is composed by Ree.

The film has already garnered significant recognition, securing the Best Picture Award at the 11th Noida International Film Festival. It also won Jury Best Film and Best Regional Film at the New Delhi Film Festival, as well as Jury Best Film honors at both the Jaipur International Film Festival and the 8th Indian World Film Festival.

With its powerful message, strong performances, and accolades, **Gandhi Tatha Chettu** is poised to make an impact on audiences when it hits theatres this January.

Ram and Bhagyashri Borse Shine in New Poster for Upcoming Film Rapo 22

In celebration of the New Year, a fresh poster from Ram Pothineni's much-awaited upcoming film, directed by Mahesh Babu P, has been unveiled. The poster showcases the lead pair, Ram and Bhagyashri Borse, captivating the audience with their chemistry and visual appeal.



The striking aesthetic of the poster immediately draws attention, with both Ram and Bhagyashri exuding a natural charm that promises great on-screen synergy. The duo make a stunning pair, and their palpable chemistry hints at a heartwarming love story. Ram, who was recently introduced as Sagar—a carefree, happy-go-lucky college student—appears relaxed and charming, while Bhagyashri's portrayal of Mahalaxmi, his love interest, radiates beauty and grace.

The poster's design evokes a sense of nostalgia, and director Mahesh Babu P has skillfully crafted this feel through the visual elements, from the character names to the overall vibe. Ram's serene and youthful presence complements Bha-

gyashri's elegance, creating an image that perfectly captures the essence of the upcoming film. This nostalgic touch aligns with the celebratory mood of the New Year, making the poster a fitting tribute to the season.

Currently under production, the film has already completed its first schedule, with Mythri Movie Makers backing the project on a grand scale. The production quality is evident, with renowned producers Naveen Yerneni and Y Ravi Shankar at the helm. The talented musical duo, Vivek-Mervin, is composing the soundtrack, while Madhu Neelakandan is handling the cinematography, and Sreekar Prasad is working as the editor.

As the film continues its production journey, more promotional material will be released in the coming months, offering fans more insight into this exciting project. The chemistry between Ram and Bhagyashri, along with the strong production team, makes this film one to watch out for in the future.

Dhanush Unveils First Look of Idli Kadai

After a remarkable year with superhit films like *Captain Miller* and *Rayan*, Dhanush continues to make waves in the entertainment industry. With *Rayan*, he not only captivated audiences but also proved his mettle as a director. Now, Dhanush is set to once again take the reins as both the lead actor and director in his upcoming film *Idli Kadai* (also known as *Idli Kotu*), a project that has already generated significant buzz.



Produced by Don Pictures, *Idli Kadai* features Dhanush in the lead role alongside the talented Nithya Menen, who plays the female lead. As a special treat for his fans, the film's team unveiled the first look of the movie as a New Year gift. The poster suggests that the film is set in a rural backdrop, giving it an authentic and rustic charm. The design and visual appeal of the first look have left fans excited, promising a fresh and engaging cinematic experience.

Idli Kadai is scheduled for a grand release on April 10, offering a perfect

summer treat to moviegoers. With Dhanush at the helm of direction and acting, expectations are high for this project, as it showcases his versatility and creativity. Alongside *Idli Kadai*, Dhanush is also working on several other exciting projects, including Ilayaraja's biopic and Shekhar Kammula's *Kubera*, adding to the anticipation surrounding his upcoming work.

As the release date draws near, fans eagerly await more details about *Idli Kadai* and are hoping for yet another standout performance from Dhanush in both acting and direction. With his track record of delivering quality films, this upcoming movie is sure to be another success in his already impressive career.

From Suriya With Love, A Retro Gift For Fans

Suriya kicked off 2025 in style by gifting his fans a glimpse of his upcoming film *Retro* through a brand-new poster. The actor took to Instagram to share his excitement for the new year, posting the vibrant poster with the caption, "Happy 2025! Lots of love, lots of light and lots of happiness! #retro."



In the poster, Suriya looks effortlessly stylish, sporting a sea-blue jacket and denim, exuding a cool, relaxed vibe. He strikes a pose next to a car on a vast open field, with sheep grazing nearby, perfectly capturing the nostalgic and serene tone of the film. The poster's tagline, "Love, Laughter, and War," hints at a compelling storyline that blends light-hearted moments with intense drama.

Retro, directed by Karthik Subbaraj, features Suriya in a leading role alongside Pooja Hegde. Fans can expect an engaging cinematic experience, with the film promising a mix of emotions and thrilling action. This thoughtful gesture from Suriya to his fans on New Year's Day has only heightened anticipation for the film's release, making it one of the most talked-about upcoming projects in Tamil cinema.

As the year begins, Suriya's *Retro* is poised to become a memorable cinematic experience, combining the actor's charm and the director's vision into a retro-themed narrative that promises both entertainment and depth.