



A TELUGU MAN, PRIDE OF GRENADA, A CARIBBEAN COUNTRY

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. Indrasena 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 Sindhi 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 money," 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.

TPN
EXCLUSIVE

HYDRAA Chief Defends New Year's Eve Demolitions Amid Criticism

TPN Correspondent, Hyderabad : Hyderabad Disaster Response and Assets Protection Agency (HYDRAA) chief AV Ranganath has defended the demolition drive carried out at Thoutoni Kunta and Bhageerathamma Cheruvu, Khajaguda, on December 31. The move, conducted amid public and political criticism, was based on complaints from local residents about illegal encroachments.

In a statement, Ranganath explained that HYDRAA officials, after receiving complaints, inspected the areas and confirmed violations. "Final notification for Thoutoni Kunta and preliminary notification for Bhageerathamma Cheruvu on Full Tank Level (FTL) and buffer



zone demarcation were issued around eight years ago," he stated.

The HYDRAA chief also disclosed that a meeting with stakeholders, including commercial shop owners, real estate developers, and Shikham Pattedars, was held

on December 28, 2024. During the meeting, encroachments were highlighted, supported by evidence from Google Earth imagery showing violations within the FTL and buffer zone boundaries.

Ranganath pointed to ACE Corp Group's involvement,

noting that the real estate company recently acquired seven acres of encroached land from Shikham Pattedars for development. The demolition, he asserted, was a necessary step to protect public assets and restore water bodies.

Following the demolition, ACE Corp Group filed a lunch motion in the Telangana High Court, challenging HYDRAA's actions. The demolition drive, though controversial, underscores the agency's commitment to addressing illegal encroachments and safeguarding natural resources. However, the legal battle initiated by ACE Corp Group may shape the next steps in this contentious issue.

Weather
Forecast

HYDERABAD

TEMPE
RATURE

H 28 ° C

L 22 ° C

VIJAYAWADA

TEMPE
RATURE

H 29 ° C

L 24 ° C

TIRUPATHI

TEMPE
RATURE

H 26 ° C

L 24 ° C

Rythu Bharosa Scheme to Begin from Sankranti

Applications Open from January 5-7

Satellite Mapping to Identify Eligible Lands

Scheme Estimated to Cost ₹6,000 Crores



TPN Correspondent, Hyderabad : The Telangana government is set to implement a major agricultural support initiative, the Rythu Bharosa Scheme, starting from January 14. The Cabinet Sub-Committee has decided to provide financial assistance exclusively to active farmers under the scheme. Applications will be accepted from January 5 to 7, and the assistance will be limited to agricultural lands actively under cultivation.

To ensure the right beneficiaries receive the support, the government will use satellite mapping to identify eligible agricultural lands. Telangana currently has about 1.53 crore acres of agricultural land according to Dharani records, and after excluding non-cultivated lands, the scheme is expected to benefit farmers cultivating 1.30 crore acres.

In a shift from previous schemes, Rythu Bharosa will focus only on active farming, and farmers cultivating crops throughout the year may only receive the benefit once annually. A final decision on this approach is expected after the state Cabinet meeting on January 4.

The government also discussed excluding farmers cultivating lands owned by income tax payers, which could reduce the financial burden of the scheme by approximately ₹350 crores. The state plans to provide ₹6,000 per acre initially, with the amount gradually increasing to ₹7,500 per acre in line with Congress' election manifesto. With 1.30 crore acres eligible, the estimated financial implication for the state is ₹6,000 crores annually.

The full details of the Rythu Bharosa Scheme, including its final structure and operational guidelines, will be announced following the Cabinet meeting. This initiative reflects the Telangana government's ongoing commitment to support farmers and enhance agricultural productivity.

Arjuna Award For Telugu Athletes Yarraji Jyoti and Jeevanji Deepthi

2nd page

BLN Reddy Seeks Extension for Formula E Race Investigation

5th page

Protests Erupt at CMR Engineering College Over Girls' Hostel Video Scandal



Hostel Video Scandal

continued from P-1

Medchal ACP Srinivas Reddy indicated that there was clear negligence on the part of the college management, as workers cooking food in the hostel had access to the girls' bathroom's ventilator. The police have assured the students that the investigation will continue and that justice will be served. Authorities are working to ensure that no further incidents of such nature occur, while the female students and the protesting union leaders remain resolute in their demand for a thorough investigation and strict action against the perpetrators.

As tensions continue to mount, the Telangana Women's Commission and local police have promised to leave no stone unturned in getting to the bottom of this serious violation.

Jeevanji Deepthi

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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.

NHRC Issues Notices to DGP, Hyderabad CP on Sandhya Theatre Issue

TPN Correspondent, Hyderabad : The National Human Rights Commission (NHRC) has issued notices to the Director General of Police (DGP) and the Hyderabad Commissioner of Police, seeking a detailed action-taken report (ATR) regarding the tragic stampede at Sandhya Theatre on December 4. The incident, which occurred during the premiere of "Pushpa 2," led to the death of a woman and injuries to two children, including the deceased woman's son.

The NHRC notice comes in response to a complaint filed by advocate Rama Rao Immaneni. The commission has provided a four-week deadline for the report, which must include an explanation of the police's actions, particularly the alleged lathi charge that reportedly exacerbated the chaos. According to reports, a large crowd



had gathered outside Sandhya Theatre to catch a glimpse of actor Allu Arjun, leading to a dangerous situation as security measures appeared inadequate to manage the

surge. The police's alleged use of force has drawn criticism, with advocates and human rights groups questioning the response.

The NHRC's notice aims to identify accountability for the stampede and address lapses in crowd control and security arrangements. The commission has asked for specific details regarding the role of the "erring" police officials involved in the incident.

This tragic event has raised broader concerns about safety measures at high-profile events and the preparedness of authorities to manage large crowds. As investigations continue, the NHRC's intervention underscores the need for accountability and improved planning to prevent such incidents in the future.

The police are yet to issue an official statement regarding the notice, while the families of the victims await justice and transparency in the investigation.

Danger Looms Over Srisaillam Left Bank Hydropower Station

TPN Correspondent, Hyderabad : Concerns are mounting over the safety of the Srisaillam Left Bank Hydropower Station, as water leakage has been reported near the draft tube on the zero floor of the plant. The issue has raised alarms among engineers and experts, who fear significant damage if immediate action is not taken. The Srisaillam and Nagarjuna Sagar projects, constructed on the Krishna River, play a vital role in providing electricity, irrigation, and drinking water to the Telugu states. While the Nagarjuna Sagar project is built with stone and is considered structurally robust, the Srisaillam project's location on riverbanks has made it more vulnerable, especially during periods



of increased water flow.

The current water leakage is causing operational disruptions and highlighting a lack of coordination and monitoring among water plant officials. Experts warn that fail-

ure to address this issue promptly could lead to extensive damage to the plant, potentially impacting its power generation capacity.

Some engineers have formally requested the government to intervene by initiating an inquiry through a special committee of technical experts. They emphasize the need for immediate repairs and enhanced safety measures to prevent further complications.

The situation underscores the importance of proactive maintenance and robust monitoring systems to safeguard critical infrastructure, ensuring continued benefits for the region.

Arjuna Award For Telugu Athletes Yarrajy Jyoti and Jeevanji Deepthi

TPN Correspondent, New Delhi : Two Telugu athletes, Yarrajy Jyoti and Jeevanji Deepthi, have been selected for the prestigious Arjuna Awards, as announced in the National Sports Awards by the Centre. Yarrajy 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.



chosen for the Arjuna Awards, highlighting their exceptional contributions to sports. Among other no-

table 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.

This year, 32 athletes have been

Govt Entrusts Additional Collectors with Gurukul Oversight

IAS Officers to Inspect Girls' Hostels for Comprehensive Reports
Enhanced Oversight to Ensure Quality Education and Welfare in Gurukuls

TPN Correspondent, Hyderabad : The Telangana government has assigned Additional Collectors the responsibility of overseeing Gurukul schools, residential schools, government schools, and hostels across the state. These institutions, which operate under government auspices, have faced various challenges recently, often becoming focal points for opposition criticism.

In response, the state has taken decisive steps to improve their administration. Chief Secretary Shanti Kumari issued orders last night, mandating that female IAS officers spend nights in girls' hostels



to assess conditions and compile detailed reports on facilities. These reports will be submitted to the respective District Collectors.

Going forward, the responsibility for ensuring quality education,

proper welfare measures, nutritious food, and a conducive environment for students rests with the Collectors. This move aims to address long-standing issues and enhance the management of Gurukuls and related institutions.

The government's decision reflects its commitment to improving educational infrastructure and addressing the concerns raised by stakeholders. The involvement of senior officials is expected to bring much-needed oversight and accountability to these schools, ensuring better living and learning conditions for students.

Actress Hema Granted Relief by Karnataka High Court

TPN Correspondent, Hyderabad : The Karnataka High Court has granted relief to Telugu film actress Hema, staying further proceedings in a drug-related case linked to a rave party held at a farmhouse in Bengaluru in May last year.

The case against Hema was registered under charges of consuming MDMA at the event, leading to her arrest and subsequent remand. She is currently out on bail.

Justice Hemant Chandana Gowder, presiding over the case, noted the absence of evidence proving that Hema consumed MDMA at the party. He observed that the charge sheet was primarily based on the confessional statement of a co-accused, which lacks independent corroboration.

Hema had filed an interlocutory application seeking a stay on the charge sheet proceedings pending before the 8th Additional District and Sessions Judge, Spe-



cial Judge for NDPS Cases, Bangalore Rural. After reviewing the petition, the high court ruled in her favor, staying further proceedings.

This decision provides temporary relief to Hema, although the case continues to draw attention due to the broader implications for celebrity involvement in drug-related incidents.

HC Grants Interim Relief to Pushpa 2 Producers

Producers Deny Allegations, Assert No Role in Stampede Incident
Court Directs Police to Continue Investigation Without Arrests
Focus on Public Safety Measures in High-Profile Film Events

TPN Correspondent, Hyderabad : The Telangana High Court has granted interim relief to "Pushpa 2" producers Yelamanchili Ravishankar and Yerneni Naveen, shielding them from arrest in connection with the stampede incident at Sandhya Theatre. The tragic incident, which led to the death of a woman, prompted the Chikkadapally police to register a case against the producers.



Justice K. Sujana, during a hearing on Tuesday, reviewed arguments from the petitioners' lawyer, N. Naveen Kumar, who maintained that the producers were not connected to the stampede. He argued that none of the allegations in the FIR were applicable to the producers and emphasized that actor Allu Arjun's arrival at the theatre had been communicated to both theatre staff and police officials.

Senior police officers, including an ACP and DCP, had visited the venue earlier to assess the security arrangements. The lawyer further contended that the producers had fulfilled their responsibilities, and the incident occurred despite adequate measures.

The court allowed the investigation to proceed but restrained the police from arresting the producers. Justice Sujana

directed the producers to cooperate fully with the investigation and instructed the police to file a counter-affidavit. Notices were also ordered to be issued to the complainant.

The court's interim orders have provided significant relief to the producers, ensuring they can participate in the investigation without facing immediate arrest. The case highlights the ongoing scrutiny over public safety and accountability in large-scale events in the film industry.

The producers expressed their commitment to cooperating with authorities to resolve the matter promptly. Meanwhile, the police investigation continues to determine the cause and responsibility for the unfortunate incident.

Cherlapally Railway Station Inauguration on January 6; PM Modi to Attend Virtually

TPN Correspondent , Hyderabad : The much-awaited Cherlapally Railway Station, designed to ease congestion at Hyderabad’s major railway stations, will officially open on January 6, 2025. Prime Minister Narendra Modi will inaugurate the station virtually, while BJP leaders and Union ministers Ashwini Vaishnaw and Kishan Reddy will participate in the ceremony directly. The inauguration, originally scheduled for December 28, 2024, was postponed due to the passing of former Prime Minister Manmohan Singh, with the central government observing a seven-day mourning period. This new terminal, costing approximately Rs 430 crore, is a significant addition to Hyderabad’s railway infrastructure. It is designed to reduce pressure on existing stations like Secunderabad, Nampally, and Kacheguda, improving the efficiency of



rail travel in the city.
Key Features:
• **Nine Platforms:** The station boasts nine platforms, including four newly constructed high-level platforms, and can accommodate 20 long-distance trains.
• **State-of-the-Art Amenities:** Facilities include separate waiting areas for men and women, an executive lounge, cafeterias, and restaurants, providing a comfortable environment for travelers.

• **Accessibility:** The station is equipped with lifts, escalators, and two foot-over bridges (FoBs) for easy movement between platforms.
• **Eco-friendly Features:** Solar panels, rainwater harvesting pits, LED lighting, and electric vehicle (EV) charging stations have been incorporated to ensure sustainability.
Connectivity & Development:
• The Greater Hyderabad Municipal Corporation (GHMC) is working on widening roads and creating new



routes to improve access to the terminal.
• The Telangana State Road Transport Corporation (TSRTC) is coordinating bus services from various city depots to ensure smooth connectivity.
• The station’s strategic location near the Outer Ring Road (ORR) will

provide better access for passengers from suburban areas such as LB Nagar and Uppal. With its modern infrastructure, Cherlapally Railway Station is expected to significantly enhance rail travel efficiency, passenger comfort, and overall connectivity within the city.

Kavitha Criticizes CM Revanth Reddy’s Handling of Rythu Bharosa Scheme Kavitha Questions Conditions on Farmers’ Aid Criticizes Congress Government’s Approach to Welfare Mocks CM Revanth Reddy’s Unfulfilled Promises



TPN Correspondent , Telangana : TRS MLC Kalvakuntla Kavitha launched a strong attack on the Congress government and Chief Minister Revanth Reddy during a meeting with key party workers from Bodhan constituency, Nizamabad district, in Hyderabad on Thursday. Kavitha sharply criticized the Congress government’s implementation of the Rythu Bharosa scheme, particularly the conditions imposed on farmers to access the benefits.

Kavitha questioned why conditions were being imposed on farmers, stating, “Why should those who feed the

country be forced to ask the government for help?” She demanded that the Rythu Bharosa funds be provided to all farmers without any restrictions and condemned the government’s decision to require applications for the scheme, calling it a disgrace. Kavitha raised concerns about the bureaucratic hurdles that farmers might face in accessing the benefits, doubting the fairness of the process.

In her broader criticism of the Congress government’s governance, Kavitha highlighted the growing public discontent and stated that in just one year, the Congress party had already lost significant support. She also mocked CM Revanth Reddy for failing to fulfill the promises made during the election campaign, claiming that the Chief Minister has “raised his hands in failure.”

Kavitha’s remarks underscore the political divide and reflect the mounting frustration among TRS leaders regarding the Congress government’s approach to farmer welfare and governance.

TPCC President Criticizes Kavitha’s Dharnas; Accuses BRS of Hypocrisy

TPN Correspondent , Telangana : Telangana Pradesh Congress Committee (TPCC) President Mahesh Kumar Goud has sharply criticized BRS MLC Kavitha over her planned dharna on January 3rd at Indira Park, calling it a “hypocritical drama.” Kavitha, who is demanding BC reservation and calling for local body elections, is set to hold the protest on the occasion of Savitribai Phule Jayanti.



Mahesh Kumar Goud accused the BRS and its leadership, including Kavitha, of misleading the BC community for years. He pointed out that the BRS government, during its 10 years in power, failed to allocate funds for BCs as promised, and instead, the community was ignored and deprived of the support it rightfully deserved.

“The BRS has shown nothing but deceit towards the BCs, and now, after losing power, the Kalvakuntla family is shedding crocodile tears in an attempt to gain political relevance,” Goud remarked. He further criticized Kavitha, linking her involvement in the liquor scam to her loss of political importance within the BRS, and suggested that the dharna was an attempt to maintain her political presence.

Goud went on to state that the Congress Party is the only party that has consistently worked for the welfare of the BCs, mentioning his own appointment as TPCC President as evidence of Congress’ commitment to BC empowerment. He also reminded Kavitha that BCs were given significant roles and representation under the Congress government, questioning whether the BRS would ever appoint a BC leader as its party president.

“This is the same party that humiliated the BCs at every step during its rule, and now they are pretending to fight for their rights,” Goud said, accusing the BRS of trying to regain BC support through false promises. He called on Congress supporters to expose these tactics and hold the BRS accountable for their hypocrisy.

Congress workers will ensure the party’s success in Local Body Elections

TPN Correspondent , Telangana : Minister Ponnamm Prabhakar has called on Congress workers to ensure the party’s success in every village during the upcoming local body elections. Addressing key leaders and workers in Saidapur Mandal of Karimnagar district on Thursday, the minister stressed the importance of electing Congress candidates, particularly Sarpanches and MPTCS.

Prabhakar expressed confidence that 2025 would usher in positive



developments and promised to further enhance the prestige of Husnabad. He urged Congress workers to focus on strengthening the party and ensuring its success in the elections.

The minister highlighted his priorities for the constituency, including improving education, healthcare, and irrigation facilities. He reaffirmed his commitment to ensuring irrigation water through the Flood Flow Canal for Chigurumamidi and Saidapur mandals. Additionally, Prabhakar emphasized the need to communicate the government’s welfare schemes to every household in the villages and reiterated his pledge to complete the Rs. 2 lakh loan waiver for farmers as promised.

Kadiyam Srihari: Entire Kalvakuntla Family Will be In Jail

TPN Correspondent ,Telangana : Congress leader and Station Ghanpur MLA Kadiyam Srihari has launched a scathing attack on BRS chief K. Chandrashekar Rao (KCR) and his family, accusing them of large-scale corruption during the decade-long rule of the BRS in Telangana. Srihari alleged that KCR’s family has committed a “new type of corruption,” and questioned the BRS leadership over the growing number of corruption allegations against them.



Srihari specifically mentioned KCR’s daughter, MLC Kavitha, who was involved in the liquor scam and spent time in Tihar Jail. He also made a sensational claim that KCR’s son, K. T. Rama Rao (KTR), will soon be jailed in connection with the ongoing Formula case.

The Congress leader further slammed KCR and Harish Rao, accusing them of making several technical mistakes in the implementation of the Kaleshwaram project, which he argued led to significant issues and

He also criticized the BRS leadership for allegedly taking commissions under schemes like Dalit Bandhu, and dismissed their calls for ethics as “ridiculous,” given the alleged corruption and irregularities in their constituency.

In response, BRS leaders urged Kadiyam Srihari to provide evidence for his claims instead of making unsubstantiated allegations. They emphasized that accusations without proof only undermine the credibility of those making them.

Maheshwar Reddy Criticizes Congress Government Over Rythu Bharosa

Who is preventing this payment from being made?

TPN Correspondent ,Telangana : BJP leader Aleti Maheshwar Reddy has strongly criticized the Congress government in Telangana for failing to fulfill its promises to farmers, even after a year in power. Speaking about the Rythu Bharosa scheme, Reddy questioned whether the funds meant for farmers were being diverted to contractors. He highlighted that despite the government’s assurances, no Rythu Bharosa payments were made to farmers during the last Kharif season, and the government has also failed to provide payments during the ongoing Rabi season.



Reddy further criticized the government’s commitment to farmer welfare, citing the unfulfilled promise made by Deputy CM Bhatti to provide Rs 12,000 annually to agricultural workers. He asked, “Who is preventing this payment from being made? Were the funds

set aside for farmers being diverted elsewhere?”

Additionally, Reddy pointed to the formation of a committee for Rythu Bharosa, which was supposed to provide a report within 15 days. However, after 4-5 months, no report or guidelines had been issued. Reddy demanded that the government clarify when it would release the funds, especially since the budget allocated only Rs 15,000 crore, while Rs 46,000 crore is required to cover both seasons. He urged the Congress government to provide answers regarding its financial commitments.

US Consulate in Hyderabad Announces Full-Time Job Openings



TPN Correspondent , Hyderabad : The US Consulate in Hyderabad is inviting qualified professionals to apply for job vacancies in their press and media teams. The open position is for a Public Engagement Assistant at the

Public Diplomacy Office, with a 40-hour work week.

Eligibility Criteria:
To apply, candidates must meet the following requirements:

- A university degree in journal-

ism, communications, international relations, political science, economics, or marketing.

- A minimum of four years of relevant experience in the field.
- Fluency in Telugu and English (Applicants must specify proficiency level for each language).
- Knowledge of US foreign policy objectives and American interests in India, especially in the Hyderabad consular district.
- Security and medical clearance checks are required.

Salary & Benefits:

- Annual Salary: Rs 14,79,291.
- Additional benefits as per the consulate's policies.

Application Process: Interested candidates can apply by clicking the "Apply to This Vacancy" button on the official con-

sulate website. Applicants should ensure to address all relevant experience, education, language skills, and job-related skills in their application.

Important Dates:

- Application Deadline: January 16, 2025.

Documents to be submitted include:

- Residency Permit or Valid Government ID (Mandatory)
- Work Permit (if applicable)
- University Degree (if applicable)
- Resume/CV (if applicable)

For more details, visit the official US Consulate website. Don't miss out on this opportunity to work at one of the most prestigious diplomatic missions in Hyderabad!

Governor Flags Off Winter Relief for Tribal Villages



TPN Correspondent , Hyderabad : The Hon'ble Governor of Telangana, Shri Jishnu Dev Varma, today flagged off four vehicles loaded with winter relief materials to support tribal villages adopted by the Governor. This initiative is part of the year-long observance of the 150th birth anniversary of Bhagwan Birsa Munda, celebrated as Janajatiya Gaurav Diwas.

The programme was organized by the Indian Red Cross Society (IRCS), Abhay Foundation, and Smile Foundation, who have generously collaborated to provide relief to tribal communities.

At the Raj Bhavan, the Governor received the donations and handed them over to representatives of the Indian Red Cross Society for distribution.

In his address, the Governor praised the donors for their generosity, calling it an inspiration for others to serve those in need. He highlighted the significance of this initiative in honoring Bhagwan Birsa Munda's legacy and supporting the welfare of tribal communities.

This relief effort aims to provide warmth and support to the tribal villages during the winter season.

Hyderabad Airport to Host First-Ever Flower Show 'PushpUtsav'25' from Jan 10-12



TPN Correspondent , Hyderabad : Hyderabad's Rajiv Gandhi International Airport (RGIA) is gearing up to host its first-ever flower show, PushpUtsav'25, from January 10 to January 12, 2025, at the Aero Plaza. The event will feature stunning floral displays and creative arrangements, offering a unique opportunity for horticulture enthusiasts, families, and nature lovers to explore innovative art-

istry and get gardening inspiration.

The entry-free event will showcase installations by expert florists and aims to foster community engagement while celebrating the beauty of nature. Visitors are encouraged to bring their friends and family to enjoy this vibrant experience.

Hyderabad Airport Plans for Second Terminal to Meet Growing Demand

As Hyderabad's Rajiv Gandhi International Airport (RGIA) continues to experience rising air passenger traffic, plans are underway for a second terminal and an additional runway. The airport, which recently reached 3 crore passengers, is projected to handle 4.5 crore passengers by 2030.

SGK Kishore, Executive Director (South) and Chief Innovation Officer of GMR Airports, shared that the airport's ultimate target is to handle 10 crore passengers. The second terminal and increased flight movements—currently at 43 per hour, with plans to reach 55 in the next few years—will support this growth.

In addition, Union Civil Aviation Minister Ram Mohan Naidu recently inaugurated a new AI-enabled digital platform and the Airport Predictive Operation Centre (APOC), designed to integrate various airport stakeholders, including airlines, ground handlers, and air traffic control. This digital twin platform will soon be adopted at Delhi airport and later at other GMR-operated airports.

Hyderabad Woman Defrauded of Rs 1.58 Crore, Rs 70 Lakh Recovered by Police

TPN Correspondent , Hyderabad : In a major breakthrough, Rachakonda cybercrime police successfully recovered Rs 70.01 lakh of the Rs 1.58 crore defrauded from a 65-year-old woman by cybercriminals. The victim, Geeta Upadhyay, a resident of Uppal, fell prey to a sophisticated scam, where fraudsters posing as cybercrime officers extorted her savings.

The incident began on December 8, 2024, when Geeta received a WhatsApp call from an unknown number. The caller, Sunil Dutt Dubey, claiming to be a cybercrime officer from Mumbai, accused Geeta of being involved in criminal activities linked to her SIM card. He fabricated a fake FIR (MH 1045/2024) and threatened her with legal action, coercing her to reveal her personal and bank account details.

Under the threat of legal repercussions and public exposure, Dubey managed to extort nearly Rs 1.58 crore from Geeta, including her fixed deposits, provident fund, and savings. Fearing further consequences, Geeta did not immediately report the matter, but later realized she had been scammed and filed a complaint with the Rachakonda cybercrime police.

Under the leadership of ACP S Shiva Shankar, the investigation team traced the funds to an ICICI Bank account in Moradabad, Uttar Pradesh. Following quick action, the stolen amount was frozen, and Rs 70.01 lakh was recovered.

Rachakonda DCP Cybercrime Nagalakshmi, along with senior officers, commended the swift response of Inspector Maqbool Jani and his team. The cybercrime police also issued a public warning urging citizens to be cautious of unsolicited calls and messages, and to report any suspicious activity to the 1930 toll-free helpline.



Hyderabad Man Arrested for Possessing Narcotics Worth Rs 8 Lakh

TPN Correspondent , Hyderabad , : A 27-year-old man, Jhawar Kishan Gopal, was arrested for allegedly possessing illegal narcotics worth Rs 8 lakh. The police seized 30 grams of cocaine valued at Rs 7.5 lakh, 6 grams of MDMA worth Rs 72,000, and a mobile phone from the accused.



Gopal, a resident of Banjara Hills, reportedly acquired the drugs with the intent to sell them during the New Year celebrations in Hyderabad. He had turned to drug dealing after suffering heavy financial losses from a betting addiction and subsequently established contact with a Nigerian narcotics supplier based in Mumbai.

Acting on credible information, the Commissioner's Task Force, along with the West Zone team and Masab Tank police, intercepted Gopal before

he could distribute the drugs.

The accused had planned to sell the narcotics at various New Year parties in the city. A case has been registered against him, and further investigation is underway. Authorities are working to uncover the full extent of his drug trafficking network.

This arrest highlights the ongoing efforts by Hyderabad police to curb drug-related activities, especially during festive seasons.

Court Imposes Unusual Punishment on Young Couple in Drunk and Drive Case

TPN Correspondent , Hyderabad : In a surprising legal decision, a court has imposed an unusual form of punishment on a young couple involved in a drunk and drive incident in Jubilee Hills. The couple, who had been granted bail, were ordered to serve a penalty for their reckless behavior.

The incident occurred recently when the couple, under the influence of alcohol, drove recklessly, resulting in an accident in the Jubilee Hills area. In addition to their actions on the road, their disrespectful behavior towards the police led to a case being registered against them at the Jubilee Hills police station.

As part of their bail conditions, the court mandated that the couple attend the police station daily for 15 days and serve a two-hour duty at the reception. This punishment was designed to serve as a corrective measure and to remind the couple of the serious consequences of drunk driving and improper conduct towards law enforcement.

The couple complied with the court's directive and began serving their unusual punishment at the Jubilee Hills police station. This case highlights the legal consequences of drunk driving and the importance of respecting law enforcement authorities.



Rachakonda Police Impose Section 163 Restrictions Near TSPSC Exam Centres



TPN Correspondent , Hyderabad : The Rachakonda police have imposed restrictions under Section 163 of the Bharatiya Nagarik Suraksha Sanhita (BNSS) around examination centres for the Telangana Public Service Commission (TSPSC) Computer-Based Recruitment Test (CBRT) scheduled for January 3, 4, 6, and 7.

These restrictions, as directed by Rachakonda Police Commissioner G. Sudheer Babu, aim to prevent the assembly of five or more individuals near the exam centres during the TSPSC exams for the posts of Child Development Project Officer (CDPO) and Extension Officer (Supervisor) Grade-1 in the Women Development and Child Welfare Department. The restrictions will be in effect from 6:00 am to 8:00 pm on the designated dates.

Exemptions to these restrictions include police personnel, army officers on duty, state home guards, Telangana educational department officials, and funeral processions. This move is intended to ensure the smooth conduct of the exams and maintain public order around the examination centres during the TSPSC CBRT.

NHAI Team Meets Chief Secretary to Discuss Southern Regional Ring Road

TPN Correspondent , Telangana : A team from the National Highways Authority of India (NHAI), led by officials Shivashankar and Nageswar Rao, met with Chief Secretary Shanti Kumari today to discuss the progress of the Southern Regional Ring Road (RRR) project. The two-hour meeting focused on critical issues such as land acquisition, forest clearances, and other project-related concerns.

Minister Komatireddy and his team have been actively advocating for the development of the Southern RRR. The Telangana government has already proposed that the central government take over the project, with Chief Minister Revanth Reddy sending a formal request letter



regarding this matter.

This meeting follows the commencement of tendering work for the Northern RRR. The successful completion of both the Northern and Southern RRRs is expected to significantly improve Hyderabad's infrastruc-

ture, boosting its growth and urban development. The NHAI team is scheduled to meet with Chief Minister Revanth Reddy tomorrow to discuss further progress and explore the possibility of central government involvement in the Southern RRR project.

BLN Reddy Seeks Extension for Formula E Race Investigation

**BLN Reddy's Request for Extension Granted
ED Promises Revised Schedule for Investigation
Formula E Race Case Under Intensified Scrutiny**

TPN Correspondent, Hyderabad, : In a significant development in the Formula E race investigation, former HMDA Chief Engineer BLN Reddy has requested additional time to appear before the Enforcement Directorate (ED). Reddy, who is considered a key figure in the ongoing probe, missed the scheduled session with ED officials today.

Reddy made the request via email to the Joint Director over-

seeing the case. In response, the ED acknowledged his request and granted an extension, assuring Reddy that a new date for his appearance will be communicated.

The Formula E race case has garnered attention due to allegations of irregularities in its planning and execution. BLN Reddy's role is under close scrutiny as part of the broader investigation. The ED's decision to grant an extension highlights



their flexible approach in handling the investigation process. Further updates are expected as the case progresses, with the ED continuing efforts to uncover any discrepancies related to the event. This extension provides Reddy an opportunity to prepare while ensuring his cooperation with the authorities.

MLA Vamsikrishna Visits Ancient Antharganga Shiva Temple in Nallamalla Forest

TPN Correspondent , Nagar Kurnool: MLA Dr. Vamsikrishna visited the ancient Antharganga Shiva Temple located near Telugu Palli village in the Amrabad Mandal of Nagar Kurnool district. During his visit, he performed special prayers at the temple, which is known for its historical and spiritual significance.



In his address, MLA Vamsikrishna highlighted that the Antharganga Shiva Temple is one of the oldest temples in the Nallamalla forest, with a history dating back several centuries. He mentioned that ancient sages had meditated at this sacred location, and the Shiva Lingam here is constantly bathed with water flowing from natural springs, making it a unique site. The temple, known for its mysterious and secluded location,

has earned the name "Antharganga," he explained. The MLA emphasized that devotees from distant areas visit this temple for its divine blessings. He also stated that there are many such temples in the Nallamalla region, and plans are in place to develop these sites into a tourism hub, contributing to the local economy and preserving their cultural heritage.

Governor Attends Phase-V of Yuva Sangam Programme

TPN Correspondent , Telangana : The Hon'ble Governor of Telangana, Sri Jishnu Dev Varma, attended Phase-V of the Yuva Sangam Programme as Chief Guest, organized jointly by the National Institute of Technology (NIT), Hamirpur, Himachal Pradesh, and Maulana Azad National Urdu University, Hyderabad. The event was hosted at Raj Bhavan, Hyderabad.

In his address, the Governor highlighted the importance of student exchange programs under the Yuva Sangam initiative, emphasizing that they offer students the opportunity



to explore the cultural diversity and heritage of different states. He noted that the program helps participants gain a deeper understanding of India's rich cultural fabric. During the event, the Governor interacted with students

from Himachal Pradesh visiting Telangana as part of the program. Faculty members and students from both universities shared their enriching experiences and insights gained through the Yuva Sangam initiative.

Minister Konda Surekha Applauds Para-Athlete Deepti Jeevangi for Arjuna Award

TPN Correspondent , Warangal : Minister Konda Surekha expressed her joy and pride over the announcement of the Arjuna Award to Deepti Jeevangi, a para-athlete from Orugallu who won a bronze medal in the 400-meter race at the Paris Paralympics. Despite facing mental challenges, Deepti overcame adversity and showcased her extraordinary abilities to the world, inspiring many, said Minister Surekha.

She praised Deepti for her determination and resilience, stating that her journey serves as a beacon of hope for others. The Minister further assured that Deepti would continue to receive full support from the government in her future endeavors and wished her more success in her athletic career.

Minister Surekha also emphasized the government's commitment to strengthening sports in Telangana, under the leadership of Chief Min-



ister Revanth Reddy. She highlighted recent developments such as the approval of the Young India Physical Education and Sports University bill and the launch of the CM Cup competitions to unearth rural talent. Telangana is poised to become a sports hub with the introduction of an outstanding sports policy soon.

Theft at Naga Deva Temple in Bhainsa Town: Two Arrested

TPN Correspondent, Nirmal : A media briefing was held by the District SP, Janaki Sharma, at the SP Camp Office near the Old Police Station in Bhainsa. During the briefing, the SP revealed details of a recent theft that took place at the Naga Deva Temple located near the Bhoker Road in Bhainsa. The theft was carried out by two friends, Vishal and Sangh Ratan, both from Chuchund village in Bhainsa Mandal. According to the SP, the two committed the theft due to lack of funds for celebrating the New Year. They broke open the temple's donation box and took small change, as well as the temple bells.

The accused attempted to sell the bells in town, but were caught due to CCTV footage from the temple, which showed traces of tur-



meric and vermilion on their clothes. Based on this evidence, they were arrested, and the stolen items were recovered. The SP lauded the efforts of Bhainsa ASP Avinash Kumar and the Town CI Gopinath for cracking the case within 48 hours. Both accused were remanded following their arrest.

Car Overtakes in Nagar Kurnool, Woman Killed in Tragic Accident



TPN Correspondent , Nagar Kurnool: A tragic accident occurred in the Nagar Kurnool district, where a car lost control at high speed and overturned near Pedda Muddanur. The car, while flipping, struck a woman named Lakshamma (40), who was walking along the roadside.

The impact of the accident caused Lakshamma's immediate death at the scene. The car's driver sustained severe injuries in the crash. A video of the incident, showing the car overturning and hitting the

woman, has gone viral.

Local authorities have registered a case and initiated an investigation into the incident. The police are examining CCTV footage from the area to gather further evidence.

This unfortunate event has brought attention to the dangers of speeding and the need for increased road safety measures in the area. The authorities are focusing on determining the cause of the accident and holding those responsible accountable.

Protests Erupt at CMR Engineering College Over Girls' Hostel Video Scandal

**Women's Commission takes up CMR College issue suo moto
Immediately conducts inquiry CP ordered to submit report
The police have already arrested five people in this case**

TPN Correspondent, Hyderabad : Tension ran high at CMR College of Engineering's girls' hostel in Medchal after allegations emerged that staff members had secretly recorded over 300 videos of students in the bathroom. The discovery of hidden cameras in the washrooms sparked protests from the female students, who were joined by members of the Akhila Bharatiya Vidyarthi Parishad (ABVP). For the second consecutive day, the students demanded justice and the arrest of those responsible for the disturbing violation.

The Telangana State Commission for Women (SCW), led by Chairperson Sharada A Nerella, took swift action by urging the Cyberabad Commissioner of Police to conduct a fair and prompt



investigation into the matter. The commission has also called for a detailed report to be submitted as soon as possible.

According to the protesters, approximately 300 private videos of students were recorded over the past three months. The students suspect that hostel staff members may have been involved in the crime, and they allege that the college management attempted to suppress the issue by intimidat-



ing students with warnings of severe consequences if they spoke out.

In response to the escalating protests, the police intervened and arrested four suspects who work at the hostel and live in close proximity to the building. Authorities seized their phones for forensic examination to retrieve any potentially deleted videos. Police have confirmed that no video recordings have been found yet, but they are continuing their investigation.



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.**

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



By Dr. Buragadda Srinadh

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.

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



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-

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.

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 Islamampur, 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.

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 JDU 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.

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 co-operate 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 co-operation, 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 Sammilit 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.

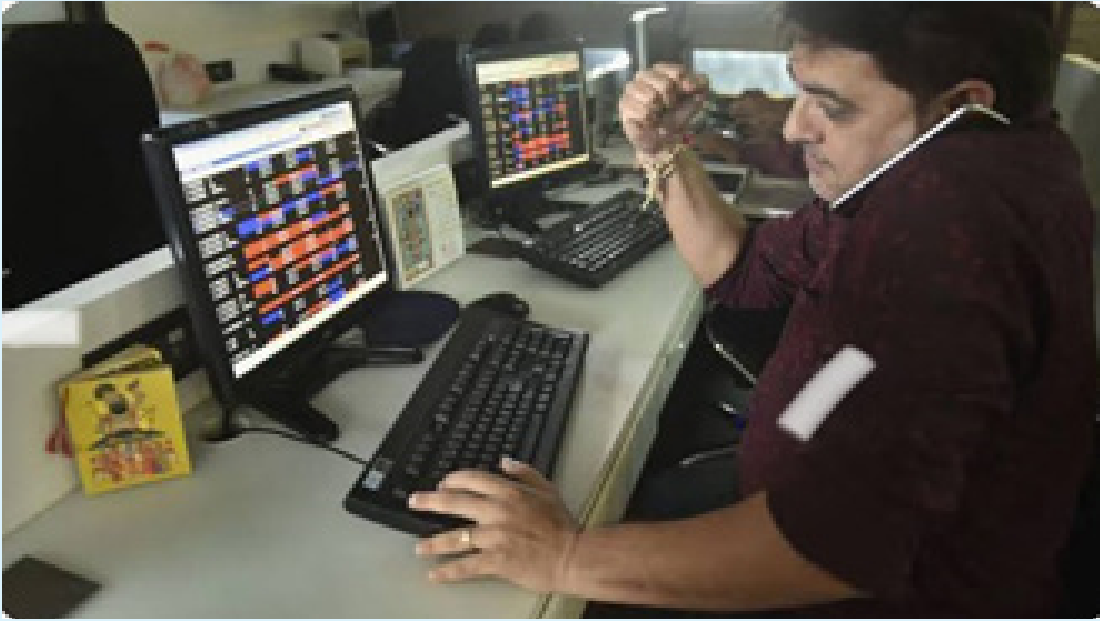
Gallant's resignation from the Knesset, however, came after he had retained his seat despite being ousted from his ministerial role. In a televised statement, Gallant explained that, just as in military strategy, there are moments in public service when one must reassess and make critical decisions to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



ders worth Rs 78 crore.

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.



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.

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-

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 16th 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.

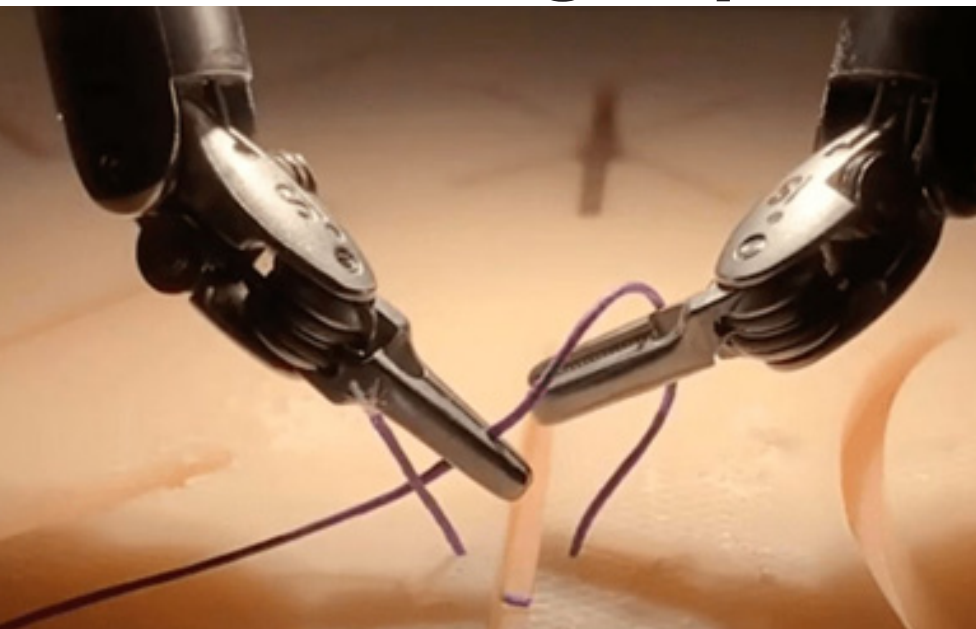
If you've been sleeping excessively, it's important to address the issue to avoid long-term health problems. Start by adjusting your sleep schedule—try to go to bed and wake up at the same time each day. Regular physical activity, such as exercising for at least 30 minutes a day, can also help regulate 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 younger 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 4 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 Burra 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.

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.

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 the lead characters’ bitter-sweet love story continues to resonate with movie lovers, ensuring that anticipation for the sequel is at an all-time high.

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 Bandred-Si, 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.

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 Seshu Sindhu Rao, with Tabitha Sukumar presenting the film. The music for the film is composed by Ree.

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 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.

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.