



Weather Forecast

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

PM Inaugurates Rs. 2.08 Lakh Crore Projects in Visakhapatnam

A Major Boost for Andhra's Development

TPN Correspondent
Visakhapatnam, Jan 09

In his first visit to Andhra Pradesh since taking charge as Prime Minister for the third time, Narendra Modi inaugurated a series of significant projects worth Rs. 2.08 lakh crore. Addressing a gathering in Visakhapatnam, the Prime Minister emphasized that this is a moment to express his affection and commitment towards the people of Andhra Pradesh. Speaking in Telugu, Modi thanked the people of the state for their continued support and affection. He remarked that the NDA government's return to power in the state after five years marked a momentous occasion. Reflecting on the significance of the NDA's success, Modi reminded the crowd that the government's victory for the third consecutive term at the national level was unprecedented in the last 60 years.

Support for Andhra Pradesh's Development Goals

The Prime Minister reiterated that the central government would continue to stand by the people of Andhra Pradesh and support their aspirations. He emphasized that the government's focus is on the comprehensive development of the state, with an emphasis on modern urbanization, technology, and green energy. "We are taking a huge step towards Andhra Pradesh's bright future," Modi said. "The projects launched on wednesday will take AP's development to new heights and contribute significantly to making the state a hub for IT, technology, and business."

Green Hydrogen and Railway Zone: A New Era for AP

Among the key announcements, Prime Minister Modi revealed that Andhra Pradesh will be home to one of India's green hydrogen hubs. The goal is to produce 5 million tons of green hydrogen by 2030, with Visakhapatnam playing a pivotal role in this endeavor. Modi also shared the long-awaited news of the establishment of a new



CM Praises PM Modi, Highlights Development and Vision for AP

Andhra Pradesh Chief Minister Chandrababu Naidu praised Prime Minister Narendra Modi during a Visakhapatnam rally, commending him as a globally admired leader. Naidu lauded Modi's focus on development, welfare, reforms, and good governance, highlighting the groundbreaking of projects worth Rs. 2.08 lakh crore on a single day as a historic milestone. Chandrababu shared a personal connection with Modi, stating, "Modiji, our schools are the same. You are taking development-friendly decisions, and we always take you as an inspiration." He emphasized the importance of Modi's role in key projects like the Amaravati capital, Polavaram project, and river linking, all of which will be completed with the Prime Minister's guidance. Naidu also mentioned the BPCL project in Ramayapatnam, a backward region of the state, as an example of Modi's commitment to developing every corner of the country. He further referred to Google's interest in investing in Visakhapatnam's AI sector, symbolizing the city's growing appeal. Chandrababu reiterated his vision of a "Golden Andhra Pradesh," stating that with Modi's leadership, the state's progress would align with India's growth by 2047.



Dy CM Pawan Kalyan Lauds Modi's Leadership and Chandrababu's Vision for AP's Development

Andhra Pradesh Deputy CM Pawan Kalyan praised Prime Minister Narendra Modi's leadership and Chief Minister Chandrababu Naidu's role in the state's progress. Speaking at the Praja Vedika Sabha attended by Modi, Pawan Kalyan highlighted that while a journey from Kanyakumari to Kashmir with goodwill can lead to a self-reliant India, the same journey without good intentions would be futile. He expressed heartfelt gratitude to Modi for laying the foundation stone for projects worth Rs. 2.10 lakh crore that would create 7 lakh jobs, contributing to development in a state grappling with corruption and unemployment. Pawan Kalyan emphasized that under Modi's guidance and Chandrababu's leadership, Andhra Pradesh is witnessing progress, including 24-hour drinking water and road development in remote areas. He concluded by wishing long life to Modi, hoping he continues leading India towards further progress.

South Coast Railway Zone in Visakhapatnam. He stressed that this would fulfill a long-standing demand from the people of the region and significantly enhance the development of agriculture, tourism, and various industries in the state. "This railway zone will transform Visakhapatnam into a critical hub for trade and commerce, boosting businesses along with agriculture and tourism," he said. The railway zone will also contribute to the growth of the state's

manufacturing sector, which has already gained momentum through initiatives like Sri City.

Commitment to the State's Future

Prime Minister Modi outlined the importance of the bulk drug park being established in Nakkapalli, one of only three such parks being set up in the country. The park is expected to create numerous jobs and bolster the phar-

maceutical industry in the region. Additionally, the establishment of Chris City, part of the Chennai-Bangalore industrial corridor, will further strengthen Andhra Pradesh's position as a key player in the national manufacturing sector. The Prime Minister concluded by reaffirming that the development of Andhra Pradesh remains a core priority for the central government, with a vision to ensure the state's prosperity and growth across all sectors.

High Court Advocate Vallabhaneni Naga Pawan Kumar's explanation on this

The Bharatiya Nyaya Sanhita, 2023

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Stampede at Vishnu Niwasam in Tirupati Claims Six Lives

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Police Investigation Controversy: Kamepalli Tulasi Babu Leads Rally to SP Office Amid Ongoing Case



- Vijaya Pal Shifted to Guntur Jail
- The one-day deadline given by the court expired.
- Vijaya Pal was moved to Guntur jail after the Ongole police concluded their investigation.
- Kamepalli Tulasi Babu Has Been Arrested
- Remand For 14Days
- Allegations include misbehavior with the police during a rally from Gudivada to Ongole.
- Hundreds of followers accompanied him in the rally.
- A case has also been filed against his followers for their involvement.

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Dy CM Pawan Kalyan Deepest Condolences to the Families of the Deceased

Stampede Incident in Tirupati Causes Deep Sorrow

TPN Correspondent
Andhra Pradesh | Jan 09

The tragic stampede that occurred at the centers set up for Vaikuntha Dwara Darshan tickets in Tirupati has claimed the lives of six people. The incident, which happened as devotees gathered for darshan, has left the community in deep sorrow. Deputy Chief Minister Pawan Kalyan expressed his profound sadness, stating, "I am deeply saddened to know that six people have lost their lives in this stampede. It is truly unfortunate that devotees, who came to seek the Lord's blessings, have met with such a tragic fate. I offer my deepest condolences to the families of the deceased."



Kalyan further urged the Medical and Health Department to enhance medical services to ensure proper care for the in-

jured. He also noted that some of the victims hailed from other regions, emphasizing the need for the Tirumala Tirupati Devasthanam (TTD) authorities to take swift action in providing assistance and information to the affected families. The Deputy Chief Minister recommended that the TTD Governing Council take responsibility for visiting the bereaved families to offer moral support during this difficult time. Additionally, Kalyan called upon Jana Sena leaders and Jana Sainiks to assist the authorities and police personnel in managing the crowd and queue lines at the ticket counters in Tirupati to avoid further chaos. The incident has cast a shadow over the holy city, with efforts underway to support those affected.

AP to Become Global Digital Technology Hub: Lokesh

Digital Technology Conference in Visakhapatnam



TPN Correspondent
Visakhapatnam | Jan 09

During the AP Digital Technology Summit held on Wednesday (January 8, 2025), at the VMRDA Children's Arena in Visakhapatnam, Minister Nara Lokesh expressed confidence that Andhra Pradesh is transforming into a global digital technology powerhouse. Addressing the gathering as the chief guest, Lokesh emphasized that AP is on track to become number one in all sectors, focusing on digital revolution and technological advancements. Lokesh highlighted key initiatives, including the development of Chittoor and Tirupati as electronic hubs and the promotion of drone technology and the aqua industry in Godavari districts. He also mentioned plans to make Visakhapatnam a data city for the world, showcasing AP's commitment to a technology-driven future.

The minister shared that Rs 500 crore has been allocated for start-ups, and reforms are underway to link education with industry and develop youth skills. He revealed that Prime Minister Narendra Modi would be in Visakhapatnam to lay the foundation stone for projects worth over Rs 2 lakh crore. Lokesh also assured that central government cooperation will support the state's development. He confidently stated that AP is currently ranked 9th in the NRIF rankings and will soon rise to 3rd. The summit, organized by the Andhra Pradesh government and the Software Technology Parks of India, will focus on IT, AI, smart technologies, and more, with discussions on how AP can lead the way in these fields. Prominent figures like MSME Minister Kondapalli Srinivas and the Union IT Secretary are also attending the two-day event.

AP Govt Prepared for Key Reforms in Intermediate Education

Govt Invites Suggestions for Reforms

TPN Correspondent
Andhra Pradesh | Jan 09

The Andhra Pradesh government is set to implement significant changes to its intermediate education system. The aim is to streamline the process, reduce student pressure, and align with national requirements, especially for competitive exams.

Key Changes:

- Abolition of First Year Public Exams:** The biggest change is the removal of the Intermediate First Year public exams. These exams will now be held internally within colleges. The focus will shift to evaluating students based on their Second Year Intermediate marks, which will be the primary factor considered for progression.
- Curriculum Revision:** A major overhaul of the syllabus is underway. The NCERT syllabus will be introduced from the next academic year, replacing the current system. This change will bring the state curriculum in line with national educational standards, particularly for competitive exams like NEET.
- New Subject Combinations:** Students



will have more flexibility to choose subjects that align with their interests, encouraging creativity and catering to their individual strengths and aspirations.

- Holistic Evaluation:** The focus will be on reducing rote learning and fostering overall development, shifting the examination system towards a more holistic approach.

Government's View: According to Inter Board Secretary, Kritika Shukla, these changes are based on expert suggestions and feedback. The decision to focus on Second Year marks aligns with practices in other states and national exam require-

ments. By eliminating the First Year Board Exams, the government aims to reduce stress on students, who often find the dual pressure of First and Second Year exams overwhelming.

Feedback Invitation: The government is eager to involve parents, students, and education experts in the process to ensure these reforms are beneficial. Suggestions and feedback on these proposals can be sent to biereforms@gmail.com.

The Andhra Pradesh government believes these reforms will improve the future of students by equipping them with updated knowledge and skills, preparing them for a globalized world.

Vaikuntha Dwara Darshanam: Priority for Common Devotees Under CM Chandrababu's Directive



TPN SHEKHAR
Tirumala | Jan 09

TTD Chairman BR Naidu emphasized the prioritization of common devotees for the upcoming Vaikuntha Dwara Darshanam under the guidance of Andhra Pradesh Chief Minister N. Chandrababu Naidu. Addressing the media at Annamaiah Bhavan in Tirumala on Wednesday, he outlined the arrangements made for the ten-day event commencing on January 10.

Key Highlights:

- Darshan Timings:** VIP Darshan begins at 4:30 AM, while Sarva Darshan starts at 8:00 AM.
- SSD Tokens:** 90 counters in Tirupati and 4 counters in Tirumala are set up to issue SSD tokens for devotees. Tokens are mandatory for darshan, ensuring an organized experience.
- No Privilege Darshans:** Special darshan categories like senior citizens, parents with infants, disabled, NRI, and others are suspended during these ten days. Recommendation letters will not be entertained.
- Enhanced Security and Services:** Over 3,000 policemen and 1,550 TTD personnel are deployed for security, along with arrangements for continuous water and Annaprashadam distribution from 6:00 AM to midnight.
- Traffic Management:** Measures are in place to ensure smooth movement in Tirumala and Tirupati.

Chairman Naidu advised devotees to adhere to their allocated time slots to minimize waiting times and maintain order. "Devotees are requested to wear masks for health safety and arrive at Tirumala only on their allotted date and time," he said, adding that unplanned darshan is neither safe for pilgrims nor feasible for the administration. Additional EO stressed the importance of restraint and planning, urging devotees to secure their SSD tokens in Tirupati before heading to Tirumala. TTD board members Panabaka Lakshmi, Bhanuprakash Reddy, JEO Veerabrahmam, and CVSO Sridhar were also present at the briefing. This initiative underscores TTD's commitment to providing a seamless and safe darshan experience for all devotees.

Stampede at Vishnu Niwasam in Tirupati Claims Six Lives

TPN Correspondent
Tirupati | Jan 09

A tragic incident unfolded at Vishnu Niwasam in Tirupati, where a stampede broke out during the issuance of Vaikunthadwara Sarvadarshan tokens. The chaotic situation resulted in the deaths of six devotees, including one from Salem, Tamil Nadu. Several others were injured, with four falling seriously ill and currently receiving treatment at Ruia Hospital. The stampede occurred when devotees rushed to obtain tokens, leading to a violent scuffle and a surge of people that turned uncontrollable. Local authorities have confirmed the casualties, and an investigation is underway to understand the cause of the incident. Andhra Pradesh Chief Minister Chandrababu Naidu has expressed deep sorrow over the incident and announced that he would visit Tirupati tomorrow morning to meet with the injured and offer his condolences to the families of the deceased. Authorities have also increased security measures to prevent further incidents and ensure the safety of devotees.

High Court Advocate Vallabhaneni Naga Pawan Kumar's explanation on this The Bharatiya Nyaya Sanhita, 2023

Advocate Vallabhaneni Naga Pawan Kumar commented that the law prohibits any action that obstructs or intimidates public servants in performing their duties. Under the Bharatiya Nyaya Sanhita, 2023, such behavior could result in charges of disobedience or obstruction of public duty. The controversy is further complicated by the ongoing tensions surrounding the case, with retired ASP Vijay Pal already under arrest as another accused. The investigation continues, and authorities have yet to comment on whether further legal actions will be taken against Tulasi Babu for his conduct during the questioning. Legal frameworks under the Bharatiya Nyaya Sanhita, 2023, reinforce the seriousness of such actions:

Section 222: Omission to assist a public servant when bound by law to give assistance

Anyone failing to assist a public servant, as legally required, may face punishment with simple imprisonment or a fine.

Section 223: Disobedience to an order duly promulgated by a public servant

Disobeying an order from a public servant, especially when it leads to obstruction, annoyance, injury, or risks harm to others, can result in imprisonment and/or fines. With tensions running high, authorities are expected to decide on the next steps regarding the actions of Tulasi Babu and his supporters as the investigation progresses. The situation continues to draw widespread attention, with potential implications for law enforcement practices in the region.

Police Investigation Controversy: Kamepalli Tulasi Babu Leads Rally to SP Office Amid Ongoing Case

TPN Correspondent
Ongole, Jan 09

A controversy erupted when Kamepalli Tulasi Babu, an accused in the custodial torture case involving Deputy Speaker Raghuramakrishna Raju, led a rally of hundreds of supporters to the Prakasam District SP office in Ongole. The rally, consisting of over 40 vehicles, was part of Tulasi Babu's response to a police summons in connection with the ongoing investigation. Tulasi Babu had initially been issued a notice on December 27, 2024, requesting his appearance for questioning. However, he failed to comply with the notice and sent a letter requesting additional time. Following this, the police warned that his non-compliance would lead to arrest, prompting him to show up at the SP office on January 8. As Tulasi Babu arrived at the SP office, his convoy and supporters faced intervention from the police, who stopped the group from entering the premises. A confrontation ensued as the supporters rallied in his defense, shouting slogans. Despite the disruption, the police allowed Tulasi Babu to enter the SP office alone for questioning. This spectacle raised significant questions about the intentions behind such a show of force. Legal experts speculated whether Tulasi Babu's actions were aimed at intimidating the police or asserting his political influence. According to legal experts, such actions could be viewed as attempts to undermine the authority of law enforcement.

NDA Will Win Delhi Elections - CM Chandrababu

TPN Correspondent Visakhapatnam | Jan 09
Andhra Pradesh Chief Minister Chandrababu Naidu hailed Prime Minister Narendra Modi's rally and roadshow in Visakhapatnam as a historic day for the state. He announced that foundation stones and inauguration ceremonies for projects worth ₹2,08,548 crore were conducted by the Prime Minister, marking an unprecedented milestone for Andhra Pradesh. Naidu emphasized the development achievements, including the Visakhapatnam Railway Zone, a long-awaited project now underway with an investment of ₹1,877 crore. Additionally, projects such as the Bulk Drug Park in Nakkapalli (₹2,300 crore), Krish City at Krishnapatnam, seven railway projects (₹6,177 crore), and seven national highways were launched, reflecting the state's rapid progress under the NDA coalition. He credited Modi for transformative initiatives like Make in India, Digital India, Skill India, and schemes such as PM Kisan, Fasal Bima Yojana, and affordable



housing. Naidu also highlighted the government's commitment to farmers through subsidies and solar energy initiatives, ensuring future economic stability. Naidu expressed gratitude to Modi and Deputy CM Pawan Kalyan, noting the NDA's extraordinary electoral success in Andhra Pradesh with a 93% strike rate in the last elections. He confidently predicted NDA's victory in the upcoming Delhi elections, attributing it to Modi's leadership and vision. The Chief Minister praised Modi's reforms, which propelled India from the 11th to the 5th largest economy and are set to make India a global economic powerhouse by 2047. Reaffirming Visakhapatnam as the state's financial capital, Naidu pledged to revive Amaravati and fulfill all promises to the people. "Modi's leadership inspires us all. Together, we will achieve development and welfare with good governance," Naidu concluded.

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YS Jagan Criticizes Chandrababu Naidu's Govt for Broken Promises

Jagan's Assurance to Party Workers

TPN Correspondent Tadepalli | Jan 09

YSRCP President YS Jagan Mohan Reddy held a crucial meeting with local public representatives of the joint Nellore district at the YSRCP central office. During the meeting, Jagan delivered a powerful message to the party workers, reaffirming his commitment to their welfare and the party's ideals.



"To every worker who carries the YSRCP flag, this is your Jagan assurance," he declared, emphasizing his resolve to support the party cadre. He assured them, "Not like before. From now on, we will take the responsibility of taking great care of our workers. This is my assurance." Jagan also urged party workers to use social media effectively to highlight the irregularities and failures of the coalition government. He called for vigilance at the grassroots level, urging them to question and expose corruption and broken promises using

digital platforms. The YSRCP President criticized the TDP-led government, claiming that if he were in power, the state would currently be abuzz with discussions about the schemes being implemented. He remarked, "This Sankranti, farmer assurance would have reached the breadwinners, Jaganna Todu would have supported small traders, and assistance would have been extended to sisters and brothers." In a direct attack on Chief Minister N. Chandrababu Naidu, All the promises made and assurances given have gone up in smoke. Jagan's statements have reinvigorated the party's rank and file, with his call to action aimed at consolidating the YSRCP's presence and preparing for the upcoming electoral battle. The meeting reinforced the YSRCP's focus on welfare, accountability, and grassroots empowerment.

Politics in Sikkolu: The Rise and Fall of Koon Ravi Kumar

TPN D. Prasanth Visakhapatnam | Jan 09

Politics in Sikkolu district is often described as akin to "water being poured under the rug," reflecting its unpredictable and tumultuous nature. Speculation runs high in the district, where political influence is fiercely contested. Among the leaders vying for a cabinet position in Chief Minister Chandrababu Naidu's government post-2024 elections, Koon Ravi Kumar was a frontrunner. However, his name was conspicuously absent when the cabinet was finalized, leaving many to question the reasons behind this omission.



Factors Behind His Exclusion

- Behavioral Issues:** Koon Ravi Kumar's personal decisions and controversial behavior reportedly played a significant role in his exclusion.
- Threat to District Alliances:** Political insiders suggest that granting Ravi Kumar a cabinet post might have undermined the influence of the Kinjarapu family, a significant power in the district.
- Chief Minister's Concerns:** CM Chandrababu Naidu is said to have been wary of Ravi Kumar's potential to disrupt alliances, particularly with Tammineni Sitaram's faction.

Political Journey

Despite his exclusion, Ravi Kumar's political contributions are notable. During the YSRCP government, he faced numerous cases but remained loyal to the TDP. His resilience helped secure a resounding victory for

the TDP in the 2024 elections in Sikkolu district. While lacking the extensive political experience of contemporaries like Bendalam Ashok Babu, who has been elected thrice in Ichapuram, Ravi Kumar's grassroots work and loyalty to the party have earned him a strong base of supporters.

A Polarizing Figure

Ravi Kumar is known for his outspoken nature, often targeting both ruling and opposition leaders. His ability to rally workers and maintain party cohesion, even under challenging circumstances, has made him a formidable presence in Sikkolu politics. Though he may have been sidelined for now, political analysts believe that Koon Ravi Kumar's tenacity ensures he remains a key player in Sikkolu's ever-shifting political landscape.

Vemuri Anand Surya Criticizes YSRCP's Healthcare Record

TPN Correspondent Mangalagiri | Jan 09

At a press conference held at the Telugu Desam Party (TDP) central office, TDP State Vice President Vemuri Anand Surya strongly criticized the YSR Congress Party (YSRCP) government's handling of healthcare and praised the coalition government's healthcare initiatives.



Anand Surya emphasized that the coalition government, comprising TDP, Janasena, and BJP, is committed to offering healthcare coverage up to Rs. 25 lakhs, starting from April 1. He compared this commitment to the failures of the previous YSRCP regime, which, he claimed, mismanaged healthcare funds and failed to implement promised schemes effectively. "Under the leadership of Jaganmohan Reddy, the healthcare system failed the common people," said Anand Surya. He pointed out that during the YSRCP rule, the Aarogyasri scheme was ineffective, with delayed payments and non-implementation of promised health coverage. "The poor suffered as healthcare services were neglected, and millions were left without treatment," he added.

Surya also criticized the delay in payments to hospitals under the Aarogyasri scheme, highlighting the financial instability created under Jagan's administration. He accused the YSRCP government of diverting funds meant for healthcare and leaving crucial bills unpaid. He noted that during the TDP regime, significant steps were taken to provide medical services to 18 lakh patients at a cost of Rs. 5,330 crores, including coverage for complex surgeries.

Furthermore, Surya slammed the YSRCP for its failure to implement the Chief Minister's Relief Fund (CMRF) efficiently, with numerous applications left pending under Jagan's rule. He pointed out that the coalition government has already released Rs. 124 crore under CMRF to assist 7,523 individuals, showing its commitment to the welfare of the poor.

Anand Surya concluded by urging YSRCP leaders to stop trying to deflect attention from their failures by criticizing the coalition government and to focus on delivering better governance for the people of Andhra Pradesh.

R. Krishnaiah Lauds Chandrababu Naidu as a Visionary Leader

TPN Correspondent Andhra Pradesh | Jan 09

BJP Rajya Sabha member R. Krishnaiah heaped praise on Andhra Pradesh Chief Minister Chandrababu Naidu, describing him as a visionary leader and an exemplary administrator. Krishnaiah highlighted Naidu's efforts to eradicate poverty by creating wealth, noting that academicians and intellectuals hold him in high regard. During his address, Krishnaiah presented a book emphasizing Naidu's dedication to tackling poverty and fostering development. He also praised Deputy Chief Minister Pawan Kalyan, describing him as a leader with a compassionate heart. Speaking on Prime Minister Narendra Modi's visit to Visakhapatnam, Krishnaiah noted its significance as Modi's first visit to the city after the NDA's resounding victory in the Lok Sabha elections. He remarked that the peo-



ple of Visakhapatnam were eager to welcome the Prime Minister and witness the foundation stones being laid for development projects worth over ₹2 lakh crore. Krishnaiah emphasized India's progress under Modi's leadership, stating that the nation is developing across various sectors. He assured that he would bring the ongoing concerns regarding the Visakhapatnam Steel Plant to the Prime Minister's attention during the visit. "Prime Minister Modi's leadership has been instrumental in transforming India, and with leaders like Chandrababu Naidu at the state level, we can achieve holistic development," Krishnaiah said. The remarks come as the BJP and its allies work towards strengthening ties and addressing key issues affecting Andhra Pradesh, including the future of the Visakhapatnam Steel Plant.

10th CREDAI Property Show to Be Held in Vijayawada

A Major Real Estate Event From January 10th to 12th

TPN Correspondent
Vijayawada | Jan 09

The 10th CREDAI Property Show is scheduled to take place from January 10 to 12 at Vijayawada A Conversion. This significant event, organized by the Confederation of Real Estate Developers' Associations of India (CREDAI), aligns with the vision of Andhra Pradesh Chief Minister's Vision 2047.



The Property Show, which has been successfully organized since 2012, aims to showcase the latest trends in real estate development and provide a platform for both builders and buyers to connect.

This year, the event will feature 55 to 60 stalls, showcasing properties from builders within a 10-kilometer radius of Vijayawada. In addition to real estate developers, bankers are also participating, offering finance options for potential buyers. A unique offer this year includes a special incentive for visitors—those who buy a house or plot at the show will receive two kasula gold coins for free.

With over 250 experienced builders participating, the CREDAI Property Show has become an essential event for those interested in investing in real estate. The growth of real estate in the region has been fueled by the development of the state capital, attracting both local residents and people living abroad to invest in property.

Since the coalition government came to power, the real estate market in the region has witnessed a boom, with rising interest from investors. This property show is expected to further stimulate growth and offer valuable opportunities for both buyers and sellers in the real estate sector.

The CREDAI Property Show promises to be an exciting event for anyone looking to make a move in the real estate market and is expected to draw large crowds over the three days.

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Minister Vasamsetty Subhash Held a Review Meeting On Labour Issues

TPN Correspondent
Velagapudi | Jan 09

Andhra Pradesh Labour Minister Vasamsetty Subhash held a review meeting at the Velagapudi Secretariat to discuss various issues concerning workers in the state. The meeting saw active participation from key officials, including Gottumukkala Ragharamaraju, Chairman of the Andhra Pradesh Building and Other Construction Workers (AP.BWOC) Welfare Board.



During the meeting, Raju highlighted several pressing issues faced by workers across different sectors, emphasizing the need for improved welfare measures and more effective implementation of government schemes. He brought attention to the challenges that construction workers, in particular, continue to face, such as inadequate access to healthcare, insurance, and pension benefits.

Minister Vasamsetty Subhash listened to the concerns raised and assured that the government would take immediate steps to address these issues. He acknowledged the significant contributions of workers to the

state's economy and reiterated the government's commitment to improving their living and working conditions.

Both the Minister and Chairman Raju emphasized the importance of strengthening the existing welfare schemes for workers, with a particular focus on better monitoring and accountability. They also discussed the potential for expanding these schemes to benefit a broader range of workers, ensuring that more individuals are covered under the welfare programs.

The meeting concluded with a commitment to follow up on the discussed issues and implement solutions in a timely manner, ensuring better support for workers in Andhra Pradesh.

NTR District Collector Emphasizes Accuracy in Survey Process

TPN Correspondent
NTR Dist | Jan 09

NTR District Collector Dr. G. Lakshmi has emphasized the importance of maintaining accuracy and smooth execution in the ongoing survey process. Speaking at a workshop organized on Wednesday at the Collectorate's Sri Pingali Venkayya Samavesha Mandir, Dr. Lakshmi Sha urged field officers and staff to ensure that the survey is conducted without any errors.



The workshop focused on the implementation of surveys in selected revenue villages within each mandal, which are being piloted as part of the district's land record purification initiative. Dr. Lakshmi Sha suggested that survey teams work in close coordination, adhering strictly to the scheduled timelines. Special attention was also drawn to managing village councils effectively and raising awareness among the local population regarding the survey process.

The workshop provided detailed guidance on various aspects, including the Field Purification of Land Records (FPOLR), mandatory monitoring, Tahsildar checklists, and Gram Sabha management. Additionally, it emphasized the need for consistent daily monitoring and the importance of proper survey publicity.

Petitions related to land disputes were also addressed during the meeting, with a focus on making villages free from such issues through proper survey execution. Dr. Lakshmi Sha further outlined that Tahsildars, Deputy Tahsildars, Survey Deputy Inspectors, Mandal Surveyors, and Village Revenue Officers (VROs) must play a key role in ensuring the survey is carried out comprehensively and error-free.

The workshop was attended by various officials, including DRO M. Lakshmi Narasimham and Assistant Director (Survey, Land Records) T. Trivikrama Rao.

Bonda Uma Maheswara Rao Inaugurates Underground Drainage Works

TPN Correspondent
Vijayawada | Jan 09

On Wednesday morning, Government Whip and Central Constituency MLA Bonda Uma Maheswara Rao inaugurated the underground drainage works (UGD) in Ambedkar Colony, 31st Division, Central Constituency. The event, which took place at 9:30 am, also saw the MLA perform traditional pujas and unveil a stone plaque marking the commencement of the ₹2 crore project.



In his address, Bonda Uma Maheswara Rao highlighted the swift development taking place under the Telugu Desam government, which came into power in 2024. Since taking charge as the MLA of the constituency, he emphasized the rapid acceleration of key development projects, including roadworks, underground drainage, parks, schools, and cemeteries. These projects, previously neglected under the YSRCP government, have received significant attention and funding, amounting to ₹120 crores within just six months of the new government's formation. One major concern raised during the event was



the troublesome Singh Nagar area, where residents face daily difficulties. Bonda Uma, along with Vijayawada MP Shivnath (Chinni), discussed potential solutions with officials, including plans for a flyover. He also mentioned that he would soon meet with the Railway Minister to find a permanent resolution to this problem. Chief Minister Nara Chandrababu Naidu has already shown a positive response to addressing the issue. Bonda Uma further assured the public that more than 2,000 families in Ambedkar Colony, who have been facing challenges due to the lack of proper underground drainage,

will benefit from the newly launched project. He reiterated his commitment to unifying all types of works in the constituency, transforming it into a modern, developed area.

The event was attended by various local leaders, including Ex-Corporator Pinnamaraju Trimurthuraju, Padamati Ramakrishna, Prasad, Dendukuri Muralikrishnam Raju, Gautham Prasad, and others.

Vijayawada Municipal Corporation to Enforce Strict Action on Single-Use Plastic Ban

TPN Correspondent
Vijayawada | Jan 09

In a bid to curb environmental pollution and promote cleanliness, the Vijayawada Municipal Corporation (VMC) has announced stringent measures to enforce the ban on single-use plastic in the city. Assistant Medical Health Officer (AMOH) Babu Srinivas emphasized that the city authorities, under the direction of Municipal Corporation Commissioner Dhyana Chandra, are committed to taking strict action against violations of the plastic ban.



A review meeting was held on Wednesday at the Circle 3 office, where the AMOH, along with the public health section officers, discussed the implementation of key measures. The meeting focused on improving the attendance of sanitary workers, optimizing garbage transport vehicles, identifying black spots for garbage accumulation, and ensuring the proper cleaning and disinfection of these areas. Other important topics included control of single-use plastic, collection of fines for violations, regulation of trade licenses,

anti-larval activities, and preparations for the Swachh Survekshan 2024. Sanitary Supervisors Sheikh Salim and Somaraju, Sanitary Inspectors, Malaria Inspectors, and Ward Sanitation and Environment Secretaries participated in the discussions and shared their insights for better enforcement of cleanliness initiatives. The VMC's proactive measures highlight the administration's commitment to fostering a cleaner, greener environment for residents, while combating the growing issue of plastic waste.

Police Constable Physical Fitness Tests Conducted with Special Measures for Candidates' Health

TPN Correspondent
Krishna Dist | Jan 09

The Police Constable physical fitness tests were successfully conducted at the Police Parade Ground under the supervision of Krishna District SP R. Gangadhar Rao IPS on the 8th day of the recruitment process. A total of 600 male candidates who received call letters from the Andhra Pradesh State Level Police Recruitment Board (APSLPRB) participated in the event. The District SP personally interacted with the candidates, inquiring about their health conditions and preparations for the physical tests, which created an atmosphere of enthusiasm among the participants. Understanding the potential health challenges posed by the heat and physical exertion, the SP took proactive measures to ensure candidates' well-being by setting up a special health stall offering coconut water, ORS, glucose, sugarcane, and bananas to prevent dehydration.



Physical tests, including a 1600-meter run, 100-meter run, and long jump, followed the verification of candidates' certificates and physical measurements such as height and chest. Out of the 273 candidates who appeared for the biomet-

ric tests, 201 successfully qualified for the mains, while 72 candidates were disqualified.

The District SP emphasized the importance of participating in the physical tests based on individual health conditions, urging candidates to take necessary precautions to avoid dehydration. Those unable to attend on the designated date due to health issues can approach the District SP for permission to attend the tests by the final date, 20-01-2025.

Candidates were also advised to consume health drinks like coconut water, glucose, and ORS to maintain hydration during the tests.

Record Membership Drive Under Gopalapuram MLA Maddipati Venkata Raju's Leadership



TPN Correspondent, Gopalapuram | Jan 09 : Under the dynamic leadership of Gopalapuram constituency MLA Maddipati Venkata Raju, the Telugu Desam Party (TDP) has achieved a remarkable milestone in its membership drive. In the 2024 elections, 114,420 voters cast their support for TDP, and an impressive 50 percent of these voters have now registered for party membership.

Maddipati Venkata Raju, who secured a resounding victory with 26,785 votes, not only clinched the majority but also won by a margin three times the required majority. This success is seen as a testament to the widespread support for TDP in the region.

In his statement, Raju expressed his pride in the significant achievement and emphasized that the membership surge was the result of the collective efforts of party leaders and activists who worked tirelessly to engage and enroll voters. He said, "Let us say with pride that my party is Telugu Desam," highlighting the unity and strength of the party's base in the constituency. Raju's leadership has brought about a surge in party membership, showcasing the trust and confidence the people of Gopalapuram place in the Telugu Desam Party. The MLA expressed his heartfelt thanks to all the party workers and activists who contributed to this victory and membership success. The party's growing membership is expected to strengthen its position in future political endeavors, solidifying TDP's influence in the region under the leadership of Maddipati Venkata Raju.

Officials Crack Down on Substandard Food in Tirupati Hotels

TPN SHEKHAR, Tirupati | Jan 09 : In a shocking revelation, Food Safety officials conducted inspections of 16 hotels in Tirupati city, uncovering severe lapses in food quality. Tirupati, a spiritual city visited by thousands of devotees daily to seek blessings at the Lord Venkateswara Swamy shrine, has been tarnished by these findings.

Food Controller Poorna Chandra Rao, who led the inspection, reported that many hotels were reusing biryani stored overnight. Even more alarming, rotten meat, chemicals, insect-infested items, and worm-infested ingredients were discovered being used to prevent food spoilage. The officials noted that these practices pose significant health risks to unsuspecting customers, particularly the devotees visiting this sacred city.



"Given Tirupati's status as a spiritual hub, attracting devotees from across the country, it is imperative that hotels maintain high food quality standards," said Rao. He emphasized that the prices charged to customers must reflect the quality of food served.

The food safety team, including officers Venkateswara Rao, Jagadish, and Narmada, counseled hotel owners on maintaining hygiene and adhering to food safety standards. They stressed the need for immediate corrective actions to ensure public health and preserve the city's reputation.

This operation comes as a wake-up call to food establishments in the city. The officials pledged continued vigilance and warned of strict action against repeat offenders. The inspections are a step toward ensuring that the dining experiences of devotees and residents align with the sanctity and importance of this spiritual destination. The authorities urged the public to report any suspected food safety violations, reiterating their commitment to making Tirupati a safer and more hospitable city for everyone.

Scam Exposed in Kota, Victims Protest and File Complaints



Pamphlets were distributed in the mandal, advertising discounted goods in the name of RR Traders and Orders Suppliers.

Many unsuspecting victims, lured by the attractive offers, paid cash for the appliances. However, the situation took a shocking turn when some individuals received the products at a reduced price, while others were left empty-handed.

The organizers, who initially collected half

the cash, were expected to deliver the goods on the 14th of this month. But when the promised date arrived, the fraudsters shut down their operations. They turned off their phones and closed the shop, leaving the victims stranded.

In response, agitated victims gathered at the shop and filed complaints with the local police. Authorities are now investigating the matter, while residents are urged to be cautious of such fraudulent schemes.

TPN Correspondent, Nellore Dist | Jan 09 : A scam has surfaced in Kota, where several residents have been deceived by fraudsters promising home appliances at half price.

Auto Drivers Rob Woman Passenger in Sattenapalli, Two Were Arrested



TPN Correspondent, Sattenapalli | Jan 09 : A woman passenger was robbed by two auto drivers near Nandigama Adda Road in Sattenapalli mandal under alarming circumstances. The incident occurred when the woman boarded an auto in Sattenapalli taluka, with the auto drivers claiming they would take her to Amaravati. However, during the ride, the two drivers allegedly threatened the woman and stole two gold chains from her. Distressed, the woman, identified as Malleswari, immediately filed a complaint with the local police.

Upon receiving the complaint, the police took swift action and registered a case against the accused. The two auto drivers were arrested, and the authorities are continuing their investigation into the robbery. This incident has raised concerns about the safety of passengers in the area, with local police promising to increase vigilance and take necessary measures to prevent such crimes in the future.

Grand Arrangements for Mukkoti Ekadashi Celebrations at Dwaraka Thirumala

TPN Correspondent, Eluru Dist | Jan 09 : Sri Venkateswara Swamy Temple at Dwaraka Thirumala has made elaborate arrangements to celebrate the auspicious Mukkoti Ekadashi festival, scheduled for the 10th of this month. Temple officials have ensured special arrangements for the Giri Pradakshina, which will begin at 2 pm on the 9th, marking the start of the festival.

In anticipation of a large turnout of devotees, special queue lines have been set up to facilitate smooth darshan. The temple authorities are closely monitoring the situation to ensure the convenience and safety of the devotees. Special pujas will be conducted by Govinda Swami during the festival.

The first darshan of the Ekadashi Uttar Dwaram will begin at 4 am, followed by the darshan for VIPs, including the descendants of the temple trustees' chairman, Sudhakar Rao. All devotees will be allowed to have darshan from 5 am onwards, ensuring a smooth flow of pilgrims and minimizing waiting times.

Temple officials have expressed their commitment to providing the best experience for the devotees, emphasizing the importance of this auspicious occasion and the large number of pilgrims expected to visit the temple.



V. Narayanan to Take Charge as ISRO's New Chairman on January 14

TPN Correspondent, Andhra Pradesh | Jan 09 : Dr. Somnath's tenure as the Chairman of the Indian Space Research Organization (ISRO) will come to an end on January 13, 2025, paving the way for V. Narayanan to take charge as the new head of the prestigious space agency on January 14. Narayanan, a distinguished space scientist, brings four decades of experience in rocket and spacecraft propulsion systems to the position.



Over the course of his illustrious career, Narayanan has contributed significantly to the design and development of propulsion systems for notable missions, including the Chandrayaan series and Aditya L1, India's solar mission.

The ISRO community has warmly congratulated Narayanan as he prepares to assume the new responsibilities. He will serve as the Chairman of ISRO for a term of two years, during which he is expected to steer the organization's future missions and space exploration endeavors.

Born in a humble farmer's family in Kanyakumari, Tamil Nadu, V. Narayanan completed his MTech in Cryogenic Engineering with first rank from IIT Kharagpur, followed by a PhD in Space Engineering in 2001. Narayanan currently serves as the Director of ISRO's Liquid Propulsion System Center, and has been instrumental in the development of key propulsion systems, including those for the GSLV Mark 2 and Mark 3 launch vehicles.

MLA Vegeshana Narendra Verma Takes Action to Improve Farmers' Market

TPN Correspondent, Bapatla Dist | Jan 09 : In a proactive move to improve the local market system, Bapatla MLA Vegeshana Narendra Verma took charge early this morning to mobilize government resources and clean both the Bapatla vegetable market and farmers' market.

The state government, with a strong focus on supporting farmers, has established farmers' markets to provide them with a platform to sell their produce directly. As part of the initiative, officials have been instructed to ensure that farmers use the designated markets instead of relying on external outlets. To streamline operations, MLA Vegeshana Narendra Verma confirmed that wholesale traders will no longer be allowed to operate outside. A special area at the William Buth College has been allocated for their activities, ensuring that the farmers' market remains undisturbed.

The MLA also assured the public that he would personally monitor the market every day to ensure smooth operations and to address any issues faced by those visiting the market.



Job Scam Alert in Sattenapalli: Fraudster Impersonates MLA's PRO

TPN Correspondent, Sattenapalli | Jan 09 : A scam involving fake phone calls in the name of MLA Kanna Lakshmi Narayana's Public Relations Officer (PRO) has come to light, causing a stir among local leaders and citizens.

A fraudster reportedly called several leaders in Sattenapalli, promising jobs at Rajahmundry Airport in exchange for money. Despite MLA Kanna being alerted about the scam, some leaders fell victim and transferred money as part of the scheme. TDP leader Atukuri Nageswara Rao acted



swiftly by filing a complaint against the impostor at the local police station. The incident has raised concerns about such fraudulent activities, with the scammer exploiting

trust and the MLA's name for personal gain. The police have initiated an investigation into the matter, urging the public to remain vigilant and avoid making payments based on unverified phone calls. Leaders and citizens have also been advised to report suspicious activities immediately to the authorities.

This incident underscores the importance of caution and verification in handling offers related to jobs or monetary transactions. Further updates are awaited as the investigation unfolds.



Indian Cricket in 2025: Key Areas for Improvement and What Needs to Be Left Behind

As India heads into 2025, the performance of the men's cricket team in 2024 has been a mixed bag, offering both successes and significant lessons. The year saw India become T20I World Champions after 17 years and dominate the format, with 24 wins out of 26 games. However, the year also marked historic lows in Test and ODI cricket, exposing vulnerabilities that the team must address as it moves forward.

The most glaring statistic from 2024 is India's failure to secure a win in ODI cricket for the first time in 45 years. India played just three ODIs, but this still marks a disappointing chapter for a team usually dominant in the format. In Test cricket, India's performance was equally underwhelming, losing 0-3 to Australia at home, a historic blow. This loss was not just about being beaten but about not being "in the contest," as former captain Anjum Chopra noted. This is a sentiment that sums up India's forgettable performances in both formats throughout 2024.

Looking ahead to 2025, there are key areas that need urgent attention. One such concern is India's batting struggles against spin, especially left-arm spinners. Whether in Sri Lanka or against New Zealand, India has struggled to deal with quality spin, often crumbling under pressure. The ODI series against Sri Lanka exposed this weakness sharply, with spinners taking nine out of ten wickets in one match. The challenge lies not only in technical deficiencies but also in how Indian batters prepare. There is a belief that T20 cricket has compromised their ability to handle spin, given that batters are

more focused on aggressive shot-making than on technique.

The solution may lie in domestic cricket, where pitches that favor spin could help Indian batters improve their game. For this to happen, there must be a stronger push for star players to play in the Ranji Trophy, especially when out of form. Rather than relying on net sessions, playing in competitive domestic games would help them hone their skills against quality spinners.

In the bowling department, India remains overly dependent on Jasprit Bumrah. While Bumrah's impact is undeniable, the team must ensure it isn't reliant on him alone. With fast-bowling depth being an issue, new talents like Harshit Rana, Akash Deep, and Prasad Krishna should be given ample opportunities. This would not only reduce Bumrah's workload but also strengthen India's fast-bowling arsenal for future challenges.

Finally, one of the most pressing issues is the leaking of information from the dressing room. Indian cricket needs to move beyond internal rifts making headlines. The focus should be on performance, not publicized conflicts. Professionalism demands that internal matters stay private, and the leaks must be stopped.

In sum, Indian cricket must shed outdated practices, adopt a more disciplined approach, and focus on building a balanced team. The year 2025 offers an opportunity for reflection and growth—if India can address these challenges head-on.

Milan's Smoking Ban: A Step Toward a Healthier, Smoke-Free Future?

Milan has set a bold precedent for New Year's resolutions by enforcing a strict smoking ban in public spaces. As the clock struck midnight, signaling the start of a new year, cigarettes, once a symbol of rebellion and style, were officially cast into the shadows of the fashion capital of Italy. With smoking now banned in public spaces, Milan's new law has sent a clear message: it's time to break up with cigarettes for good.

For years, Italy remained somewhat resistant to the global health shift, with smoking continuing to be a popular habit, particularly among younger adults. While many other countries, including the US, saw dramatic declines in smoking among younger populations over the last decade, Italy held on to its smoking culture longer. A 2011-2022 National Health Interview Survey in the US revealed a notable decrease in smoking among adults under 40, especially among those with higher incomes. Milan's move represents a significant change, pushing the city toward healthier air and improved public health.

Milan's reasons for implementing the ban are rooted in the city's efforts to combat air pollution. Cigarette smoke is responsible for approximately 7% of emissions in the city and its surrounding suburbs. With a significant portion of Italy's population—about a quarter—still smoking, the ban addresses a critical health issue. However, while the ban may be a step in the right direction, it raises questions about personal agency and individual freedoms. Smokers are well aware of the health risks as-

sociated with smoking, yet breaking free from the addiction remains a challenge for many.

Historically, smoking was once linked to style, rebellion, and even genius. Cultural icons like Van Gogh and Edward Munch were often depicted with cigarettes, and smoking was marketed as a glamorous, seductive act, especially for women defying social norms. Smoking was once seen as an accessory to elegance and sophistication, with gods and goddesses in ancient cultures also depicted smoking in art. However, these glamorous associations have waned as health concerns over smoking have become impossible to ignore.

The Milan smoking ban also sheds light on the paradox of smoking as a symbol of wealth and sophistication. Studies show that 80% of smokers globally come from low and middle-income backgrounds, yet smoking has long been associated with status and style among the elite. By making Milan's streets smoke-free, the city sends a message to the world's wealthy: health, not indulgence, is now the ultimate luxury.

While bans like Milan's may curb smoking in public, they also raise questions about the loss of personal agency. Is it the government's role to dictate such choices, or should individuals have the freedom to choose their own habits? As Milan leads the charge toward a smoke-free future, it opens the door to a broader discussion about public health, personal freedom, and the changing tides of societal norms.



India's GDP Growth to Fall to 6.4% in 2024-25: What Does it Mean for the Economy?



India's economic growth is expected to decelerate to a four-year low of 6.4 percent in 2024-25, according to the First Advance Estimates of GDP. This is a sharp decline from the 8.2 percent growth recorded in 2023-24, signaling a slowdown in the nation's economic activity. While it was widely anticipated that growth would moderate this year, the scale of this moderation has raised significant attention.

The decline in growth is largely attributed to various global and domestic factors. The impact of rising inflation, geopolitical uncertainties, and tightening monetary policies has affected consumer demand and business activity. However, the official estimate from the National Statistics Office (NSO) suggests a more nuanced picture, projecting a modest acceleration in the second half of the fiscal year.

According to the NSO, growth in the second half of 2024-25 is expected to improve to 6.7 percent, up from 6 percent in the first half of the year. This projection indicates that the economy may experience a broad-based recovery, with positive contributions across key sectors including agriculture, industry, and services. Agriculture is expected to benefit from favorable weather

conditions, boosting output and supporting rural demand. The industrial sector is likely to see growth due to government-led infrastructure projects and stronger manufacturing activity. Services, particularly digital and financial services, are also projected to perform well, driven by increased demand from both domestic and global markets.

Despite the expected recovery in the latter half of the fiscal year, the overall economic growth in 2024-25 will still fall below the previous year's robust performance. The slowdown in growth is in line with global trends, as many advanced economies have also faced challenges such as higher interest rates and sluggish demand.

Analysts expect that the moderation in India's GDP growth will not drastically alter the country's long-term growth trajectory, as the economy remains one of the fastest-growing in the world. However, policymakers will need to closely monitor trends and continue implementing measures to boost consumer and business confidence. India's resilience in the face of external shocks and its robust structural reforms will play a key role in determining how well it navigates this period of slower growth.

The Role of Paranoia in Fueling Extremism: How Demonizing the Right Amplifies Divisions

In modern politics, the divide between the so-called "left" and "right" often appears increasingly irrelevant. The terms, which originate from the seating arrangements during the French Estates-General, have long outlived their usefulness in today's complex political landscape. Yet, these labels continue to be weaponized, often by those on the left, to amplify fears and stoke division. A particularly troubling aspect of this approach is how the left, by demonizing right-wing parties, individuals, and groups, inadvertently fuels paranoia, exacerbates cycles of extremism, and undermines the very democratic values they seek to protect.

One of the primary ways this dynamic plays out is through the vilification of right-wing movements. By portraying these factions as dangerous and threatening to democracy, left-leaning media and politicians amplify the fear of their opponents, painting them as existential threats. This not only escalates tensions between opposing political ideologies but also distorts public perception, making moderation and reasoned debate more difficult. In many cases, this demonization leads to the justification of extreme measures that may undermine democratic processes, such as calls for censorship or increased government surveillance.

Recent events, particularly in the United States, France, and the United Kingdom, have shown how these tactics can contribute to a polarized society. In the US, for example, the left's portrayal of right-wing factions as an



imminent danger to the nation intensified during the run-up to the 2020 elections. Media outlets, politicians, and activists aligned with the left stoked fears about the potential rise of authoritarianism under right-wing leadership, leading to increased public hostility and division. The same pattern can be observed in France, where anti-far-right protests often depict the right-wing as a threat to national values, creating a polarized political climate.

While it is essential to confront the dangerous ideologies that can arise from extreme political movements, the demonization of entire political groups often has unintended consequences. Instead of fostering productive dialogue, it can drive more individuals toward radicalization and extremism. When people feel labeled or persecuted, they may become more entrenched in their beliefs, retreating into ideological echo chambers and further deepening the societal divide.

PM Modi, CM Chandra Babu, And Deputy CM Pawan Shine in Visakhapatnam Roadshow

TPN Correspondent
Visakhapatnam, Jan 09

Prime Minister Narendra Modi, along with Andhra Pradesh Chief Minister N Chandrababu Naidu and his deputy Pawan Kalyan, participated in a vibrant roadshow in Visakhapatnam on Wednesday, garnering enthusiastic support from the public. As the leaders traveled in an open vehicle, crowds gathered along the route, showering flowers and cheering them on.

The roadshow, which began at the Sampath Vinayak Temple, traversed through various parts of the port city, with the streets adorned with flags from the TDP, BJP, and Janasena. The procession culminated at the Andhra University engineering college grounds, where a public meeting was scheduled.

Upon arriving at the event venue, Prime Minister Modi was set to virtually lay the foundation for several significant development projects in the region. Among the key initiatives was the launch of NTPC's integrated green hydrogen



hub at Pudimadaka in Anakapalli district, aimed at bolstering sustainable energy efforts. Additionally, a bulk drug park in Nakkapalli is also part of the development agenda, which is expected to enhance the pharmaceutical sector.

In addition to these projects, sev-

eral railway initiatives were also on the cards, signaling an effort to boost infrastructure and connectivity in the region. The public's enthusiasm reflected the importance of these projects, which are expected to have a positive economic impact on Andhra Pradesh.

The roadshow and the scheduled events underscored the collaborative efforts between the central government and local leadership to push forward with ambitious plans for the state's development, creating a buzz of excitement among the citizens.

Stalin to Launch Distribution of Pongal Gift Hampers



TPN Correspondent
Chennai, Jan 09

Tamil Nadu Chief Minister M.K. Stalin will kick off the distribution of Pongal gift hampers on Thursday at a ration shop in Saidapet, Chennai. The hampers will then be distributed through ration shops across the state to ration cardholders. Each hamper will include essential festival items such as one kg of raw rice, sugar, tamarind, sugarcane, Rs 1,000 in cash, and 21 other items.

To streamline distribution and minimize overcrowding, the government is considering transferring the cash component directly to beneficiaries' bank accounts. If any issues arise with bank transfers, the cash will be handed out traditionally at ration shops, with special tokens provided to recipients.

Additionally, the state government has allocated Rs 100 crore for the production of 1.77 crore dhosis and an equal number of sarees. This marks a significant increase from last year, with an additional 77 lakh dhosis and 53 lakh sarees being produced. These will be distributed to ration cardholders and recipients of the Old Age Pension Scheme. Cotton yarn will be used for production in the 2024-25 cycle, with plans to introduce polyester yarn in the 2025-26 cycle, benefiting 63,000 power looms across the state.

In addition to the hampers, Tamil Nadu State Transport Corporation (TNSTC) will operate 15,000 special buses between January 10 and 13 to accommodate travelers heading home for the holidays. Out of these, 12,000 buses will depart from Chennai to various destinations, supplementing the 2,092 daily buses already in operation. Special buses will be available from Termini such as Kilambakkam, Koyambedu, and Madhavaram.

To prevent exploitation by private bus operators charging excessive fares, the Tamil Nadu Transport Department has deployed 30 inspection teams to conduct statewide checks, imposing penalties and seizing buses where violations occur.

As the Pongal holidays approach, trains from Chennai to southern districts are fully booked, and bus reservations have already surpassed 75,000, with numbers expected to rise. Public holidays will be observed from January 14 to 16, creating a six-day break including the weekend.

India Must Do Frontier Work In AI, Overcome Investment Barrier: Satya Nadella

TPN Correspondent
New Delhi, Jan 09

India has the potential to lead in frontier artificial intelligence (AI) research and development, particularly in areas such as Indic languages and industry transformation, Microsoft Chairman and CEO Satya Nadella stated during his second day of the Microsoft India AI Tour. Nadella emphasized that India should not be limited by current perceptions of frontier AI work, as the next major breakthrough in the field could drastically change its direction.

In a discussion with key industry figures, including Abhishek Singh, the additional secretary in the IT ministry, Nadella pointed out that the frontier of AI is still evolving, and India is well-positioned to contribute significantly to this evolution. "There's no reason why India can't do frontier work," he said. However, he cautioned that achieving such breakthroughs requires substantial investment, a significant entry barrier for many countries. According to Nadella, India has a robust academic and research base, with strong mathematics and algorithms teams at institutions such as Microsoft Research.

Nadella further explained that AI research is capital-intensive, and for India to compete at the frontier, it must make smart, strategic decisions.

Maharashtra CM Fadnavis Orders SIT Probe into Fake Birth Certificates Scam

TPN Correspondent
Delhi, Jan 09

Maharashtra Chief Minister Devendra Fadnavis has ordered a Special Investigation Team (SIT) inquiry into the serious allegations made by BJP leader Kirit Somaiya regarding the issuance of fake birth certificates to illegal Bangladeshi immigrants in Malegaon.

The SIT, headed by the Deputy Inspector General (DIG) of Nashik, will comprise officers from the district administration, along with members of the local police force. The team has been tasked with thoroughly investigating the matter and submitting a detailed report, which will include recommendations on how to address and prevent such fraudulent activities in the future. This development comes after Somaiya claimed that a scam had taken place, with approximately 1,000 individuals in Malegaon misrepresenting themselves as Bangladeshi Rohingyas in order to obtain official birth certificates.

According to Somaiya's allegations, these individuals allegedly approached the local Tehsildar's office in Malegaon, misrepresented their identities, and suc-



cessfully procured birth certificates. In response to the claims, the Nashik Collector and the Nashik Municipal Corporation have initiated a comprehensive review of the situation to verify the authenticity of the documents issued and identify any potential illegal activities linked to the scam.

The Maharashtra Home Department has confirmed that the SIT will investigate the issue thoroughly and identify the root causes of such fraudulent practices. Additionally, the inquiry

will examine the role of the local administration in enabling or overlooking these irregularities, with a focus on taking necessary corrective actions. The allegations have raised serious concerns regarding the integrity of administrative processes and the potential security risks posed by the issuance of fake documents to illegal immigrants. The state government is committed to addressing the issue promptly, ensuring that measures are put in place to curb such incidents and protect the welfare of the citizens.

Lower GDP forecast: Mayawati urges Centre to focus on public welfare, shun narrow politics

TPN Correspondent
New Delhi, Jan 09

Bahujan Samaj Party (BSP) chief Mayawati on Wednesday called on the Centre to place national and public welfare above "narrow politics" following a revision of the GDP growth forecast for the current fiscal. Her comments came as the Indian rupee dropped to a record low of 85.83 against the US dollar, and the GDP growth rate was downgraded to 6.4% for 2024-25, marking the lowest figure in four years.

Addressing the economic challenges facing the country, Mayawati pointed out that while the poor may not directly feel the impact of the falling rupee in the global market, they are certainly unhappy with the situation. She stressed that the govern-



ment should acknowledge the concerns of the public and work towards measures that prioritize their welfare.

"The poor may not have a direct connection with the falling value of the rupee, but they are certainly impacted emotionally by the economic uncertainty," Mayawati remarked. She urged the gov-

ernment to set aside political differences and focus on addressing the broader national issues that affect the public's well-being.

The BSP chief also emphasized the importance of taking decisive action to stabilize the economy and protect vulnerable populations from the adverse effects of the downturn.



UP Govt to Reclaim Land Taken Under Waqf Pretext: CM Adityanath

TPN Correspondent
Uttar Pradesh, Jan 09

Uttar Pradesh Chief Minister Yogi Adityanath on Wednesday announced that his government would reclaim every inch of land that has been taken under the pretext of waqf. Speaking at the 'Maha Kumbh Mahasammelan' organized by a private news channel, Adityanath voiced his strong opposition to the Waqf Board and highlighted his government's efforts to amend the Waqf Act to reclaim "occupied" land.

Describing the Sanatan Dharma as the oldest and most revered culture in the world, Adityanath emphasized its unparalleled significance. He stated, "I inherit a legacy that spans thousands of years, with its cultural and spiritual events equally ancient. The tradition of Sanatan is higher than the sky and beyond comparison." The Chief Minister underlined that the philosophy of Sanatan Dharma surpasses all other religions and sects in both history and influence.

On the issue of the Waqf Board, he took a sharp stance, saying, "It is hard to tell whether it is a Waqf Board or a board of land mafias." Adityanath's remarks were directed at the alleged misuse of land by individuals connected to the Waqf Board, with the Chief Minister asserting that his government would take stringent action to address the issue.

The Uttar Pradesh government has been actively investigating cases of land encroachment and misuse of waqf properties.

All hell will break out': Trump's deadline for Hamas to release hostages

US President-elect Donald Trump has issued a stark warning that "all hell will break out in the Middle East" if hostages held by Hamas in Gaza are not released by January 20, the day of his inauguration. Speaking at a press conference at his Mar-a-Lago estate in Florida, Trump said that the situation would not bode well for Hamas or anyone else involved. "It will not be good for Hamas and it will not be good, frankly, for anyone. All hell will break out," he added, emphasizing that the October 7, 2023, attack by Hamas on Israel should never have happened.

Trump's comments came as he voiced his support for efforts to secure the release of the hostages and to negotiate a ceasefire between Israel and Hamas. His appointed special envoy to the Middle East, Steve Witkoff, expressed optimism regarding ongoing negotiations, claiming that progress was being made. Witkoff stated, "It's the president, his reputation, the things that he has said that are driving this negotiation, and so hopefully it'll all work out and we'll save some lives."

Despite this optimism, a senior official from the Biden administration adopted a more cautious approach. The official



told CNN that the negotiations remained difficult, with no clear outcome in sight. Although Witkoff's comments suggested that a deal might be struck before Trump's inauguration, the official warned that the talks were still far from resolution. This tension reflects the complexity and challenges of the ongoing negotiations, with

multiple parties involved and varying perspectives on the situation. As the deadline for Trump's inauguration approaches, the situation in Gaza and the broader Middle East remains fraught with uncertainty, and the fate of the hostages continues to be a central issue in global diplomacy.

'There isn't a snowball chance in hell': Justin Trudeau on Canada becoming a US state



Canadian Prime Minister Justin Trudeau responded strongly to US President-elect Donald Trump's threat to use "economic force" to merge Canada into the United States, firmly rejecting the idea. On X (formerly Twitter), Trudeau wrote, "There isn't a snowball's chance in hell that Canada would become part of the United States," emphasizing that both nations benefit from their strong trading and security ties.

Trudeau's remarks were echoed by Canada's Foreign Minister, Melanie Joly, who asserted that Canada would "never back down" in the face of threats from Trump. Joly criticized Trump's comments, accusing him of displaying a "complete lack of understanding" of Canada and reaffirming that the country's economy and people are strong enough to resist any external pressure.

Trump's remarks, made at a press conference in his Mar-a-Lago estate, came after Trudeau's announcement that he would step down as leader of the Liberal Party and prime minister. Trump suggested that eliminating the "artificially drawn line" between Canada and the US could benefit national security, claiming that merging the countries would improve both economies and security. He also criticized Canada's military spending, stating that Canada relies heavily on the US military and should contribute more to defense spending.

While Trump ruled out using military force to bring Canada into the US, he hinted at using "economic force" to achieve his goal. This is not the first time Trump has discussed making Canada the "51st US state" or threatened tariffs on Canadian goods unless the country took stronger measures to secure its borders. Trudeau's government has already promised to implement stricter border security measures, but it has also warned that it would consider imposing counter-tariffs if Trump follows through on his threats.

Canada and the US maintain a trillion-dollar trade relationship, with goods and services worth C\$3.6 billion (\$2.5 billion) crossing the border daily. Experts suggest that if Trump were to act on his threats, Canada's economy could face significant challenges.



Bangladesh Revokes Passports of Sheikh Hasina and 95 Others

In a significant move, Bangladesh's interim government has revoked the passports of ousted Prime Minister Sheikh Hasina, along with 95 other individuals, citing their alleged involvement in enforced disappearances and killings during a violent incident in July.

At a press briefing on Tuesday, Abul Kalam Azad Majumder, the Deputy Press Secretary to the Chief Adviser, confirmed that the Passports Department had officially cancelled the travel documents of 22 individuals linked to enforced disappearances. Additionally, the passports of 75 other people, including former Prime Minister Sheikh Hasina, were revoked due to their suspected roles in the deadly events of July.

The decision to revoke the passports has stirred political controversy in the country, especially since Sheikh Hasina remains a central figure in Bangladesh's political landscape. While the interim government asserts that these actions are part of an ongoing investigation into the alleged crimes, critics argue that the move could further escalate the political tensions in the country.

The incident in July, which involved widespread protests and clashes, led to numerous deaths and injuries. The government has been under scrutiny for its handling of the situation, with allegations of extrajudicial actions being leveled against political figures and law enforcement. The revocation of passports is seen as a strong measure to hold those responsible accountable, but it also raises concerns about the potential for further political destabilization.

'No Plans To Allow Pakistan Army In Bangladesh': Yunus'

Shafikul Alam, the Press Secretary of Bangladesh's interim government advisor Muhammad Yunus, addressed rumors of growing ties with Pakistan and denied any plans to allow the Pakistan army to operate in Bangladesh.

Alam stated that Bangladesh is committed to maintaining good relations with all SAARC (South Asian Association for Regional Cooperation) nations and is focused on the revival of the regional body. He emphasized that there are no such plans under consideration to allow the Pakistan army to operate within Bangladesh, refuting any speculation about deepening military ties between the two countries.

The statement comes amidst ongoing concerns regarding the potential shift in Bangladesh's foreign policy under Yunus, who has previously been involved in discussions with both regional and global powers. While Yunus has made strides in fostering diplomatic engagement, Alam's remarks clarify that the interim government's stance remains neutral with a primary focus on strengthening regional cooperation rather than deepening military alliances.



Alam also shed light on Bangladesh's broader diplomatic agenda, reiterating that the country is looking to improve relationships with all neighboring countries, including India, while prioritizing the revival of SAARC, a platform designed to enhance regional collaboration and development.

The comments by Yunus' aide come at a time when South Asian geopolitics remain fluid, with various nations rethinking their strategic alignments. Bangladesh, traditionally viewed as an ally of India, has been careful in its diplomatic positioning, balancing relationships between regional powers.

In conclusion, Bangladesh's interim government has dismissed any notions of aligning with Pakistan in a military context, stressing its commitment to regional stability and cooperation, as well as its focus on enhancing relations with all countries within the SAARC framework.

'Gulf Of Mexico' Name Globally Recognised: Mexico President Claudia Sheinbaum

Mexican President Claudia Sheinbaum fired back at U.S. President-elect Donald Trump's controversial suggestion to rename the Gulf of Mexico as the "Gulf of America." Trump made the remarks on Tuesday, advocating for the name change, but Sheinbaum swiftly dismissed the idea, reaffirming that the name "Gulf of Mexico" is internationally recognized.

In her response, Sheinbaum humorously suggested that Trump might be living in the past. "I think they told President-elect Trump wrong, they told him Felipe Calderon is still president," Sheinbaum said, referring to the former Mexican leader who served from 2006 to 2012. "But no, in Mexico the people are in charge," Sheinbaum added, asserting the sovereignty of her country over its names and territories.



During a press conference, Sheinbaum also took the opportunity to display a map of Mexico's historical boundaries, which once included parts of what is now the United States. "Mexican America, that sounds nice," she quipped, emphasizing Mexico's longstanding cultural and geographical ties to the region.

Sheinbaum's comments underscore the tension surrounding the Gulf of Mexico's name and Mexico's enduring pride in its national identity. While Trump's suggestion appears to have been more symbolic than serious, it sparked an immediate and defiant response from Mexican leadership, further adding to the complex relationship between the two countries. The Mexican President's remarks also underline her administration's focus on asserting Mexican sovereignty and standing firm against any perceived encroachments on the country's legacy.

Lebanon Set to Vote: Who's In The Frame To Become Lebanon's Next President?

Lebanon's parliament will convene on Thursday in an attempt to elect a new head of state, a position that has been vacant since Michel Aoun's term ended in October 2022. The country's sectarian power-sharing system mandates that the president be a Maronite Christian. While there are multiple candidates vying for the post, the current focus is on three prominent figures: General Joseph Aoun, Jihad Azour, and Elias Al-Baysari.

Joseph Aoun
General Joseph Aoun, 60, has served as the commander of the Lebanese army since 2017. He led the military during a severe financial crisis and the collapse of Lebanon's banking system in 2019. Under his command, the Lebanese army continued to receive U.S. aid, which was crucial in curbing Hezbollah's influence, as Wash-



ington considers the group a terrorist organization. Aoun's candidacy is reportedly backed by the U.S., but his path to the presidency is uncertain, with opposition from Lebanon's two largest Christian parties

and a refusal of support from Hezbollah. Additionally, constitutional hurdles would need to be overcome, as the constitution prohibits serving officials from becoming president.

Jihad Azour
Jihad Azour, 58, served as Lebanon's finance minister from 2005 to 2008 and is currently the Director of the Middle East and Central Asia Department at the International Monetary Fund (IMF). He gained significant support in the 2023 presidential race, with both the Lebanese Forces and Free Patriotic Movement backing him. Despite this, Hezbollah and its allies opposed Azour, favoring Suleiman Frangieh instead. Azour has described his candidacy as a call for unity, aiming to bridge divides and overcome Lebanon's political crisis.

Markets End on a Volatile Note: Nifty and Sensex Close with Minor Losses Amid Global Uncertainty

Domestic stock market indices witnessed sharp fluctuations on Wednesday. They ended with slight losses. Despite negative signals from international markets, the markets started in profit. However, they gradually fell as bulls took charge. They recovered from daily losses as bulls started buying in the last hour. Healthcare and pharma shares became key losers. However, with the support of heavyweights, the Sensex closed at 78,148 and the Nifty at 23,688. The weakness of the rupee continues.



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The BSE Sensex, which closed at 78,199 in the previous session, started at 78,319 today. It touched an intraday low of 78,319. It reached an intraday high of 77,486. It finally closed at 78,148 with a loss of 50 points. The NSE Nifty, which opened at 23,746 on Wednesday, touched a low of 23,496 and a high of 23,751. It closed at 23,688, down 18 points. The Bank Nifty fell 367 points to settle at 49,835.

In the Nifty50, 22 companies gained while 28 lost. ONGC, ITC, Asian Paints, Dr. Reddy's, TCS were the top gainers. Apollo Hospitals, Trent, Ultratech Sem, Shriram Finance, Bajaj Auto were the top losers. Today, all sectoral indices, except FMCG, IT, and oil and gas, were in the red. Consumer durables, healthcare, pharma, media, and finance were the biggest losers.

Market breadth turned in favour of sellers on the NSE today. Out of 2914 shares traded, only 952 gained. 1865 lost. 54 shares hit 52-week highs. 73 hit 52-week lows.

SEBI approves Dr. Agarwal's Healthcare IPO plans. Rupee weakens 13 paise to settle at 85.85 against dollar. Swiggy shares fall for fourth straight day. Transformer and Rectifiers Q3 net profit rises to Rs 55 crore from Rs 15.6 crore. HSBC expects Bharti Airtel dividend to double in 2025 and quadruple in 2027. Acon Infrastructure gets order worth Rs 1084 crore from DRDO. Hyundai Motor India launches new variants. Suven Life shares rose 11% after a clinical trial of a cognitive disorder drug showed progress. United Breweries shares fell 4% after beer supplies to Telangana were suspended. Quadrant Future Tech IPO received a response of 39.56 times on the second day itself in the afternoon. Paytm

shares fell 7% as UPI's market share did not increase in December.

1. SRF Ltd (SRF)

SRF Ltd is a diversified chemical company with a presence in fluorochemicals, technical textiles, packaging films, and industrial chemicals. It has a strong foothold in specialty chemicals, driven by the growing demand in pharmaceuticals, agrochemicals, and refrigerants. Leadership in specialty chemicals and refrigerant gases. Robust export presence, particularly in Europe and the U.S. Capex plans in specialty chemicals to drive future growth. The specialty chemicals segment is expected to drive growth, with increasing demand from pharma and agrochemical sectors. The



packaging film business is seeing stable demand.

2. Oil and Natural Gas Corporation (ONGC)

ONGC is India's largest oil and gas exploration company. It contributes over 70% of India's crude oil production and a significant portion of natural gas. Monopoly in oil and gas exploration in India. Global crude oil prices positively impact earnings. Strong cash flow and dividend history. ONGC is investing in renewable energy projects to diversify its portfolio. However, its core business remains tied to global crude prices, which makes it sensitive to geopolitical risks.



3. SBI Cards and Payment Services (SBI Cards)

SBI Cards is the second-largest credit card issuer in India, with a market share of about 20%. It offers a wide range of credit cards catering to retail and corporate clients. Backed by SBI's extensive network. Strong growth in credit card usage and digital payments. Low NPA levels compared to peers. With the rise in digital payments and e-commerce transactions, SBI Cards is well-positioned to benefit from India's growing consumption story.



4. Alkem Laboratories

Alkem Laboratories is one of India's leading pharmaceutical companies, focusing on branded generics, active pharmaceutical ingredients (APIs), and over-the-counter (OTC) products. Strong presence in the domestic market with leading brands like Clavam and Taxim-O. Export-driven growth in the U.S. and Europe. Focus on chronic therapies like cardiology and diabetes. Alkem is poised to benefit from increased healthcare spending in India. Its focus on R&D and expanding its product portfolio will drive long-term growth.



5. Anant Raj Ltd

Anant Raj Ltd is a leading player in the real estate sector, focusing on residential, commercial, and IT parks primarily in North India, especially in Delhi NCR. Strong presence in Delhi NCR. Focus on commercial real estate and IT parks, which are high-demand segments. Land bank holdings for future projects. With a growing demand for commercial spaces and housing projects in the NCR region, Anant Raj is expected to benefit from urbanization trends.



Modi-Govt Looks to New Economic Playbook as Risks Mount for Ambitious Aims

India's policymakers are grappling with the effects of a deepening economic slowdown as global challenges and weakening domestic confidence threaten the country's momentum after an impressive year of growth. On Tuesday, India's economic forecast for the fiscal year ending in March was revised to 6.4%, marking the slowest growth in four years. This update comes as a significant reduction from earlier projections, driven by a dip in investment and sluggish performance in the manufacturing sector.

The downgrade follows a series of disappointing economic indicators and a sharp slowdown in corporate earnings during the latter half of 2024. These developments have raised concerns among investors, who are reevaluating the country's economic prospects. The revision highlights the growing pressures on India's



economy, with global conditions and domestic challenges taking a toll on growth expectations.

India's economy had been a standout performer in the region last year, boasting strong growth that outpaced many of its global counterparts. However, the current slowdown underscores the difficulties the country faces in maintaining its growth trajectory, especially as key sectors like manufacturing and investment continue to falter. Analysts attribute the slowdown to a combination of external factors, such as weakening global demand, and

domestic issues, including reduced investor confidence and a lag in corporate earnings growth.

With the slowdown threatening to dampen the once-optimistic outlook, policymakers will now focus on measures to boost economic activity, while closely monitoring global developments. As India continues to navigate these economic challenges, the path ahead remains uncertain, with a heightened need for policy interventions and strategic investments to reverse the downward trend.

SBI Projects India's GDP Growth at 6.3% for FY25 Amid Economic Slowdown

The State Bank of India (SBI) has revised India's GDP growth forecast for FY25 to 6.3%, with a "downward bias" due to multiple economic challenges impacting growth. This projection is slightly below the National Statistical Office's (NSO) latest estimate of 6.4% for the current fiscal year, which marks the lowest growth in four years.



is set to increase by nearly Rs 35,000 compared to FY23.

The bank noted that while overall economic expansion is expected to face headwinds due to challenges such as weak investment, sluggish manufacturing, and global uncertainties, the rise in per capita income indicates that individual economic well-being may improve in the coming fiscal year.

Despite the expected slowdown in real GDP growth, SBI highlighted that India's per capita nominal GDP is anticipated to rise significantly in FY25. This positive outlook comes despite the deceleration in real GDP growth and near-stagnant nominal GDP growth. According to SBI, the per capita nominal GDP

This reflects a complex economic situation where slower overall growth contrasts with an increase in income per person. As the country navigates through these uncertain times, analysts will be closely watching how these dynamics unfold in FY25.

Markets End Lower Amid Weak GDP Growth Projections; HDFC, ICICI Bank Drag

Equity benchmarks Sensex and Nifty ended on a subdued note on Wednesday, marking a volatile session as investors adopted a cautious stance ahead of the upcoming earnings season. A bleak economic growth forecast for the fiscal year 2024-25, coupled with continued foreign fund outflows and mixed global market signals, dampened market sentiment.



included Adani Ports, UltraTech Cement, Larsen & Toubro, Sun Pharma, HDFC Bank, ICICI Bank, NTPC, and State Bank of India. On the flip side, TCS, Reliance Industries, ITC, Asian Paints, HCL Technologies, and Maruti Suzuki managed to close in the green.

Foreign Institutional Investors (FIIs) continued their selling spree, offloading equities worth Rs 1,491.46 crore on Tuesday, as per exchange data.

The Sensex closed at 78,148.49, down by 50.62 points or 0.06%, after earlier dipping by 712.32 points to a low of 77,486.79. The Nifty ended the day at 23,688.95, shedding 18.95 points or 0.08%.

The markets saw heightened volatility due to a slowdown in economic growth projections and investor caution ahead of Q3 earnings reports. However, key stocks such as Tata Consultancy Services (TCS) and Reliance Industries showed resilience, limiting the extent of the market decline. Despite this, the outlook remained subdued, as concerns over rising US bond yields and the possibility of fewer rate cuts by the Federal Reserve weighed on investor sentiment.

Asian markets displayed mixed results, with Seoul and Shanghai ending on a positive note, while Tokyo and Hong Kong finished lower. In the European markets, indices were trading in the green, although US markets ended lower on Tuesday.

Global oil prices saw a slight increase, with Brent crude rising by 0.79% to USD 77.66 per barrel.

India's GDP growth rate is projected to slow to a four-year low of 6.4% for FY25, primarily due to weak performances in the manufacturing and services sectors. This would mark the lowest growth since the Covid-induced contraction in FY21, further adding to the market's caution.

Among the 30 Sensex stocks, major laggards

EY India Proposes Key Tax Reforms in Union Budget 2025-26 to Ease Burden on Taxpayers

Ernst & Young India (EY India) has recommended several tax reforms in its pre-budget suggestions for the Union Budget 2025-26, aimed at providing relief to taxpayers and simplifying the taxation system. The firm advocates for an increase in the basic exemption limit under the new tax regime from Rs 3 lakhs to Rs 5 lakhs and a reduction in tax rates to benefit common taxpayers.



Leader at EY India, suggested that while a full review of the direct tax code may take time, the upcoming budget could mark the beginning of its implementation. He also emphasized the need for reducing personal income tax rates for lower-income groups to stimulate demand and provide much-needed relief.

Further, EY India called for extending the tax deferral benefit on Employee Stock Option Plans (ESOPs) to all employers, allowing tax payment at the sale stage. The firm anticipates significant reforms to streamline the tax system, improve taxpayer services, reduce litigation,

and enhance compliance.

With over Rs 31 trillion locked in income tax litigation as of FY 2023-24, EY India recommended measures to reduce the backlog of tax disputes and prevent further ones. It also urged the government to introduce more attractive options like safe harbours to prevent tax disputes.

EY India also suggested removing the cap on the set-off of house property losses against other income heads and recommended increasing the house rent allowance (HRA) exemption to 50% for tier-2 cities like Pune, Bengaluru, and Hyderabad, which would provide tax parity with metro cities.

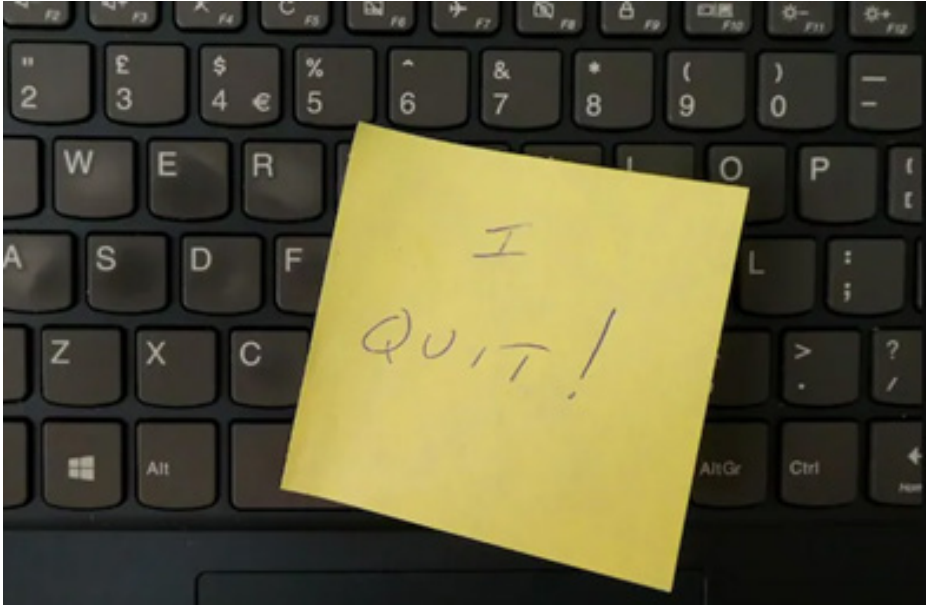
Lastly, the budget should offer clarity on the taxation of cryptocurrencies and non-fungible tokens (NFTs), as well as address capital gains anomalies, including the reduction of holding periods for certain assets.

Additionally, EY India proposes deferring tax deduction at source (TDS) on provident fund (PF) interest above Rs 2.5 lakhs until the withdrawal stage, to ease the compliance burden on individuals. In the previous budget, the government had undertaken some rationalization of TDS rates, and EY India recommends further simplification by categorizing TDS rates into 3-4 broad categories with lower rates and a negative list.

Sameer Gupta, National Tax

Frozen Salary' Resignation Letter From Delhi Techie Sparks Laughter Online

A resignation email from an employee has recently gone viral on social media, capturing the attention of many for its humorous take on stagnant salaries. The email, shared by Delhi-based entrepreneur Rishabh Singh, co-founder of EngineerHub, quickly gained traction after being posted Singh called it "one of the finest reasons for resignation."



The employee, who had worked diligently for two years, expressed frustration over a lack of salary increments. In the resignation email, they wrote, "After two wonderful years of dedication and hard work, it seems my salary has remained as frozen as my hopes for an increment. I really wanted to Pre-book iQOO 13 at just 51,999 on 5th December, but with this salary, it's not possible."

The letter humorously highlights how the employee feels their career growth is stunted due to financial constraints, with the inability to buy the latest iQOO phone being a metaphor for the stagnation in their professional life. The employee added, "I'm worried how will my career move fast, if I don't have enough salary to buy fastest phone in India? Therefore, I've decided it's time to seek opportunities where growth isn't just a buzzword."

The resignation notice concluded with the employee's intent to leave on December 4, 2024, and their promise to ensure a smooth transition before their departure.

Social media users quickly responded with a mix of humor and support, with some expressing their own frustrations regarding salary stagnation. Many were impressed by the wit and creativity of the employee's letter. However, some speculated that the resignation could be part of a marketing strategy by iQOO, a smartphone brand, to promote their latest phone model.

One user joked, "Better give him that phone and keep him." Others referred to the letter as a "subtle promotion" or "marketing email" for the phone brand. Regardless of the speculation, the email's lighthearted tone and honest message have resonated with many, making it a viral sensation.

McAfee unveils 'world's first' AI-powered Deepfake Detector



McAfee, a global leader in cybersecurity, has unveiled its latest innovation, the McAfee Deepfake Detector, designed to combat the growing threats posed by AI-generated videos, deepfakes, and AI-driven scams. As deepfakes and misinformation continue to rise, McAfee's new tool is part of its broader suite of AI-powered products aimed at ensuring online safety and promoting transparency in digital content.

The McAfee Deepfake Detector utilizes advanced artificial intelligence algorithms to identify and flag AI-generated media, helping users discern whether videos are authentic or manipulated. According to the company, the tool has been developed in collaboration with leading Original Equipment Manufacturers (OEMs), making it one of the most powerful deepfake detection tools available to consumers in India.

Pratim Mukherjee, Senior Director of Engineering at McAfee, emphasized the importance of this tool in today's digital age. "While not all AI-generated content is created with malicious

intent, the ability to discern whether a video is real or fake enables consumers to make smarter and more informed decisions," Mukherjee stated. As deepfakes and AI scams become increasingly sophisticated, McAfee's tool aims to equip users with the necessary resources to identify fraudulent content, enhancing online security.

Additionally, McAfee has introduced its Smart AI Hub, a comprehensive platform offering a variety of interactive AI tools and educational resources. This hub is designed to help users learn how to identify and avoid AI-based scams, empowering them with the knowledge to navigate an increasingly complex online landscape.

As artificial intelligence continues to evolve, tools like McAfee's Deepfake Detector are critical in protecting individuals from the risks associated with manipulated content. McAfee's efforts demonstrate a commitment to fostering digital safety and raising awareness about the growing influence of AI in everyday life.

Strange Law in San Francisco: Cleaning Your Car With Underwear Could Lead to a Fine



Laws around the world can sometimes be so peculiar that they leave people both puzzled and amused. In San Francisco, California, one such unusual law states that it is illegal to clean your car with underwear, and violators could be fined for this act. This strange regulation is outlined in Section 694 of the city's legal code, which sets specific rules regarding cleaning materials.

The law is part of a broader set of guidelines governing the use of cleaning cloths, stipulating that any cloth used for cleaning—whether it be for clothes, bedding, or even a vehicle—must meet certain cleanliness standards. According to the regulation, no individual or company is allowed to sell or offer for sale any rag or cloth intended for cleaning purposes unless it has been properly cleaned by boiling it in a solution containing at least 5% caustic soda for a minimum of 40 minutes. The law was established to ensure the sanitary use of cleaning materials and to protect public health.

While this law may seem particularly bizarre, it is just one of many strange and peculiar regulations enforced in San Francisco. Over the years, the city has become known for its quirky legal codes, ranging from bizarre parking laws to rules governing the use of public spaces. However, these regulations, while odd, are enforced to maintain cleanliness and order, even if they do seem out of place in modern society.

This particular law against using underwear as a cleaning cloth may raise eyebrows, but it serves as a reminder of how legal codes can evolve to address unique societal needs. Despite the oddity, it highlights the importance of following established guidelines for cleanliness, even when it comes to something as simple as washing a car.

So, next time you're in San Francisco, remember to leave your underwear for its intended use and keep it away from your car cleaning routine. Otherwise, you might just find yourself facing a fine!

Spiders Detect Smells Through Leg Hairs, Claims New Study

Recent research has uncovered a fascinating new discovery: spiders utilize specialized hairs on their legs to detect airborne scents, offering new insights into the sensory world of these arachnids. This breakthrough resolves a longstanding mystery about how spiders, which lack antennae like insects, can sense odours such as pheromones. The study highlights how male spiders employ these olfactory hairs to detect sex pheromones emitted by females, enabling them to find potential mates through chemical signals.



to pheromone puffs, confirming their ability to detect and respond to chemical signals. This discovery indicates that spiders have a level of olfactory sensitivity comparable to that of insects, underscoring their advanced chemical detection capabilities.

Implications for Spider Sensory Evolution

The study also examined 19 other spider species and found that most male spiders possessed wall-pore sensilla, suggesting this trait evolved multiple times across species. However, some more primitive spider species were found to lack these sensory structures. The next phase of research will focus on how female spiders detect pheromones, the specific chemicals involved, and the evolutionary significance of these olfactory mechanisms in spiders.

This groundbreaking research enhances our understanding of the complex sensory systems spiders use to navigate their environment and find mates.

The Discovery of Olfactory Sensilla

A study published in the Proceedings of the National Academy of Sciences revealed that wall-pore sensilla, microscopic sensory hairs, are present on the upper legs of male wasp spiders (*Argiope bruennichi*). These structures play a crucial role in detecting pheromones, a key component in mating behaviour. High-resolution electron microscopy showed that these sensilla were found in large numbers on adult males, but were absent in females and juvenile males. This targeted distribution

suggests their primary role in mate detection. The study also confirmed that these olfactory sensilla were previously overlooked in spiders.

How Spiders Respond to Pheromones

In experiments, researchers tested the sensitivity of these sensilla to pheromone compounds, revealing remarkable sensitivity even to minuscule amounts, such as 20 nanograms. The sensilla consistently showed neuronal responses when exposed

Apple's iPhone SE 4 Expected to Launch by April

Apple's much-anticipated fourth-generation iPhone SE is set to receive a major update this year, although the launch timeline may not align with previous rumors. While earlier speculation suggested that the iPhone SE 4 and the 11th-generation iPad would debut alongside iOS 18.3 in January, renowned tech analyst Mark Gurman of Bloomberg has refuted this claim. Instead, Gurman has provided a more refined timeline for the iPhone SE 4's release, indicating that the device is likely to launch by April if all goes as planned.

The iPhone SE 4 is expected to be a significant upgrade over the previous model, the iPhone SE (2022), which was introduced in March of that year. Apple typically releases its SE models during March or April, and Gurman's latest post on X (formerly Twitter) reinforces this tradition. He confirmed that the iPhone SE 4, along with new iPad models, will come equipped with iOS 18.3.

These updates would bring new features and enhancements, particularly aimed at improving the overall user experience across Apple's ecosystem.

Although Apple is yet to officially confirm the exact specifications of the iPhone SE 4, rumors suggest that it will feature a larger display, potentially a 6.1-inch screen, along with improvements to its camera and processing power. The SE line has long been a favorite for users seeking an affordable iPhone with many of the features of its higher-end counterparts, and the iPhone SE 4 is expected to continue this trend.

As Apple fans eagerly await the official announcement, it appears that the launch window for the iPhone SE 4 will likely fall within the first quarter of 2024, marking another exciting milestone in Apple's product lineup.



Jasprit Bumrah Sets New Record, Becomes World's No. 1 Test Bowler

Indian fast bowler Jasprit Bumrah has reached a new milestone in his career, breaking his own rating-point record and securing the top spot in the ICC Test Bowler Rankings. The latest rankings, released on Wednesday, show Bumrah with a career-best rating of 908 points, further cementing his status as one of the best in the world.

This achievement comes after Bumrah previously set a record for the highest-ever ICC rankings rating for an Indian bowler at 907 points before the fifth and final Test against Australia. His latest success has come thanks to his impressive performance in the ongoing series, particularly his two-wicket haul in the first innings of the Sydney Test, which pushed his rating up by a single point.

Bumrah's rise to the top spot marks a significant accomplishment in his career, as he has consistently been among the world's best fast bowlers in recent years. His ability to bowl in various conditions and deliver match-winning performances for India has made him a key figure in the team. With his extraordinary pace and skill, Bumrah has made a lasting impact on the game, proving to be a force to reckon with in the longest format of cricket.



Bumrah's journey to the top has not been without challenges. He has had to overcome injury setbacks, including a recent spell of back spasms during the Sydney Test, but has always shown resilience in bouncing back to perform at his best. His success reflects his hard work, determination, and exceptional talent, and he continues to be an inspiration for aspiring cricketers around the world.

As India's pace spearhead, Bumrah remains a critical player in the team's strategy. His consistency and ability to perform under pressure have made him a key player in India's success on the international stage. With this career-best ranking, Jasprit Bumrah continues to solidify his place as one of the best Test bowlers in the world.

New Zealand Clinch 2-0 Lead with 113-Run Victory in 2nd ODI Against Sri Lanka

New Zealand secured a dominant 113-run victory over Sri Lanka in the second ODI, taking a commanding 2-0 lead in the three-match series at Seddon Park in Hamilton on January 8, 2025. With this win, New Zealand has an unassailable advantage in the series and will be aiming to complete a clean sweep in the final ODI.

The match, initially reduced to 37 overs per side due to a rain delay, saw New Zealand bat first. They posted a competitive total of 255/9, with contributions from Rachin Ravindra and Mark Chapman. Both players scored valuable half-centuries, providing a solid foundation for New Zealand's total. Despite a hat-trick from Sri Lanka's Maheesh Theekshana, who finished with remarkable bowling figures of 4/44, New Zealand managed to recover and post a total that would prove difficult for Sri Lanka to chase.

In response, Sri Lanka struggled throughout their innings. Only Kamindu Mendis provided any resistance, scoring a decent knock, but it was not enough as Sri Lanka were bowled out for just 142 runs. The Sri Lankan batsmen could not handle the pressure, with Matt Henry and Jacob Duffy leading the attack for New Zealand, putting in stellar performances with the ball.



The New Zealand team displayed great discipline both with the bat and the ball, ensuring they extended their lead in the series. With a 2-0 advantage, they now look forward to wrapping up the series in the final match, while Sri Lanka will aim to regroup and avoid a series whitewash.

The standout performances of the day included Rachin Ravindra's 60 and Mark Chapman's 54 for New Zealand, while Maheesh Theekshana's hat-trick was a highlight in a losing effort for Sri Lanka. With both teams now looking ahead to the final ODI, New Zealand will be keen to maintain their momentum and finish the series on a high.

29th All India Federation Cup Carrom Tournament: Janardhan Reddy and Pooja Shine on Final Day

The 29th All India Federation Cup Carrom Tournament 2024-2025 came to a thrilling conclusion on 8th January 2025, at the Nellore Club in Nellore. Organized by the All India Carrom Federation with support from the Andhra State Carrom Association, Nellore District Carrom Association, and Nellore Club, this four-day mega event saw intense competition and major upsets in both men's and women's categories.

The final day of the tournament delivered some of the most exciting matches, with unseeded players stunning the top contenders. In a shocking turn of events, World Cup Champion K Srinivas from PSPB was defeated by Sandeep Dive of Jain Irrigation. In another surprise, V Khazima of PSPB lost to Mantashah Iqbal from Uttar Pradesh.

The men's singles final saw an exhilarating performance from Janardhan Reddy (Andhra), who upset the top-seeded Prashanth More (RBI) in a thrilling semifinal. Reddy then went on to clinch the Men's Singles title by defeating Sandeep Dive (Jain Irrigation) in straight sets. The final scores were 25-06, 25-08, as Reddy demonstrated exceptional skill and precision, claiming his victory in dominant fashion.

In the women's singles, 14-year-old V Pooja from Puducherry made history by becoming the youngest-ever winner of the Federation Cup. Pooja defeated former National Champion Ilavazhaki from PSPB in straight sets, 25-13, 24-10, to claim her first Women's Singles title. Her stunning victory marked a significant milestone in her career and made her a rising star in the world of carrom.

The Men's Doubles final saw a victorious pairing of Zaheer Pasha and Prashanth More (RBI), who triumphed over Vikas Harish Dharia and Pankaj Ashok Pawar (Mah) in a thrilling match. Meanwhile, in the Women's Doubles semifinals, M Khazima and V Mitra (PSPB) emerged as winners, while B Sobikha and S Preeta Princy (Tamil Nadu) were runners-up.

The results of the key events were as follows:

Men's Singles Final
Janardhan Reddy (Andhra) bt Sandeep Dive (Jain Irrigation): 25-06, 25-08

Men's Singles Positions
Winner: Janardhan Reddy (Andhra)
Runner-up: Sandeep Dive (Jain Irrigation)
Third: K Srinivas (PSPB)
Fourth: Prashanth More (RBI)

Women's Singles Final
V Pooja (Puducherry) bt Ilavazhaki (PSPB): 25-13, 24-10

Women's Singles Positions
Winner: V Pooja (Puducherry)
Runner-up: Ilavazhaki (PSPB)
Third: Kajal Kumari (PSPB)
Fourth: V Mitra (PSPB)

Men's Doubles Final
Winners: Zaheer Pasha & Prashanth More (RBI)
Runners-up: Vikas Harish Dharia & Pankaj Ashok Pawar (Mah)
Third: Raheem Kareem Khan & Abhijith Tripankar (Jain Irrigation)
Fourth: Sandeep Dive & Zaid Ahmed Farooque (Jain Irrigation)

Women's Doubles Semifinals
Winner: M Khazima & V Mitra (PSPB)
Runner-up: B Sobikha & S Preeta Princy (Tamil Nadu)
Third: Rashmi Kumari & Ilavazhaki (PSPB)
Fourth: K Nagajyothi & Neelam Godakhe (CCSCSB)

The event concluded on a high note with new champions emerging across various categories. The tournament not only showcased the growing talent in the sport but also highlighted the excitement and skill that carrom brings to the sporting community.

We request that this be published in your esteemed publication to further promote the sport of carrom.
T. Praveen Kumar
Convenor, Media Committee
All India Carrom Federation
Sk Abdul Jaleel
Organizing Secretary & General Secretary
Andhra Carrom Association

HS Prannoy and Tanisha Crasto Shine at Malaysian Open 2025

Indian badminton star HS Prannoy made a successful comeback to the court as he won his opening match at the Malaysian Open 2025 in Kuala Lumpur on Wednesday. Prannoy defeated Canada's Brian Yang in a thrilling encounter, winning 21-12, 17-21, 21-15. The match lasted one hour and 29 minutes, marking a triumphant start to the year for the Indian shuttler.

In the mixed doubles category, the pair of Tanisha Crasto and Dhruv Kapila also had a strong start, clinching victory over South Korea's Ko Sung-hyun and Eom Hye-won. The Indian duo won 21-13, 21-14 in straight games, completing the match in just 30 minutes.

Malvika Bansod also impressed in the women's singles event, securing a confident win over Malay-



sia's Goh Jin Wei with scores of 15-21, 21-16.

On the other hand, ace shuttler Lakshya Sen suffered a setback in his Malaysia Open 2025 campaign, losing to Chinese Taipei's Chi Yu-Jen in straight games. Sen, ranked 12th in the world, fell 14-21, 7-21 to the world No. 32 shuttler in his men's singles round of 32 match, marking the first meeting between the two players.

In women's doubles, Commonwealth Games bronze medalists Treesa Jolly and Gayatri Gopichand won their round of 32 match against Thailand's Ornnicha Jongsathapornpan and Sukitta Suwachai with a comfortable 21-10, 21-10 victory. They will next face the world No. 4 pair of Zhang Shuxian and Jia Yifan of China.

Australia Celebrates Border-Gavaskar Trophy Victory with a Night of Cheers

Australia celebrated a hard-fought 3-1 series victory over India in the Border-Gavaskar Trophy 2024/25 with a night of spirited celebrations. The triumph marked their first series win over India in a decade, and the Australian team showed no hesitation in embracing the achievement, with players indulging in a few drinks to mark the historic win.

Beau Webster, the debutant who played a crucial role in securing the victory, shared details of the celebrations the morning after. Webster, who was brought in as a replacement for the out-of-form Mitchell Marsh, was instrumental in Australia's victory. He not only top-scored in the first innings but also remained unbeaten on 39 off 34 balls in the second innings. His performance was capped off with a dramatic winning boundary, which Web-



ster spoke about with great emotion.

In an interview with the Sydney Morning Herald, Webster described how he and Travis Head, the tormentor-in-chief of India throughout the series, were particularly enthusiastic during the celebrations. "Trav's always good for a night out," Webster said. "Me and him were going relatively hard on the beers." Despite feeling "rough" the next morning, Webster fondly recalled the enjoyable night spent with his

teammates at the SCG members bar. "It was a really good night sitting in your whites talking with the lads all things life. It was really special."

Webster was quick to mention that he had no intention of letting Head hit the winning runs. When only four runs were needed and with one ball remaining, Webster made it clear that he would either hit the boundary or get out himself, ensuring his place in history. "How many chances do you get to hit the winning runs for your country, let alone in the fifth and deciding Test?" he said.

Now, with the Border-Gavaskar Trophy behind them, Australia sets its sights on the World Test Championship (WTC) 2025 final, where they will face South Africa at Lord's in June.



Game Changer's EPIQ Poster Is Truly Epic

With only a few days left until its highly anticipated release, Game Changer, the political drama starring Ram Charan and directed by Shankar, has captured the attention of fans across the nation. Produced by Dil Raju, this pan-India film is poised to make waves not only in Telugu cinema but also in Bollywood, with Kiara Advani playing the female lead.

Today, the filmmakers revealed an electrifying new poster, marking the EPIQ release scheduled for January 10. The poster showcases Ram Charan in a gripping, larger-than-life scene: dressed in a black vest and lungi, he is hanging from a helicopter in midair. This high-octane image has generated intense excitement, with the caption reading, "The power will echo all around you," hinting at the film's larger-than-life scale.

In Game Changer, Ram Charan will be seen in a dual role as a father and son. His characters include an IAS officer, IPS officer, and a political leader, offering a diverse and powerful portrayal of authority and leadership. Fans are eager to witness his dynamic performance in these multifaceted roles, especially under the visionary direction of Shankar, known for his epic storytelling and cinematic grandeur.

Thaman, the renowned composer, has created the music for this ambitious project, and his compositions are expected to enhance the film's already epic narrative. Game Changer also features an ensemble cast including SJ



Suryah, Anjali, Srikanth, Naveen Chandra, Sunil, Jayaram, Samuthirakani, and others in crucial roles, ensuring a captivating experience from start to finish.

As the countdown to the release begins, fans can hardly wait to see this political drama unfold, with the promise of gripping action, emotional depth, and a powerful story led by Ram Charan's stellar performances. Game Changer is set to be a true cinematic spectacle, and the EPIQ poster only adds to the growing anticipation surrounding the film's launch.

Sharwa 37 Title Unveiling: Nandamuri & Konidela Heroes Set to Grace the Event

Tollywood actor Sharwanand is back with another project, Sharwa 37, which continues his streak of films regardless of past successes or failures. After a successful outing last year, Sharwanand's latest film is generating a lot of buzz. Directed by Ram Abbaraju, known for the hit film Samajavaragamana, this movie marks a significant step in the actor's career.



The movie stars two leading ladies: Samyukta and the emerging talent Sakshi Vaidya. The first look featuring Sakshi Vaidya alongside Sharwanand has already been unveiled, capturing the attention of fans and the film industry alike. Recently, the film's team revealed plans to launch the official title along with the first look of Sharwa 37. This exciting event will take place on January 14, with Nandamuri hero and Konidela hero gracing the occasion as chief guests. While their identities remain under wraps, fans eagerly await the big reveal.

Industry buzz suggests that the film might be titled Nari Nari Naduma Murari, a name pre-

viously used by Balakrishna for his own film. The title has stirred up curiosity, as it could pay homage to the classic while offering a fresh take in Sharwanand's style.

Sharwa 37 is produced by Anil Sunkara and Ramabrahram Sunkara under the banners of AK Entertainments and Adventures International Private Limited. The film features music by Vishal Chandrasekhar, further adding to the anticipation for the movie. Fans are excited to see Sharwanand in a new avatar, and the film's team is hopeful that this movie will capture the audience's hearts. With a mix of fresh talent and experienced hands behind the scenes, Sharwa 37 is one to watch out for in 2025.

Nagabandham Pre-Look Unveiled: A Spiritual Adventure with Secrets and Magic

Abhishek Nama, who made a strong directorial debut with Devil, is returning to the director's chair for his second venture, Nagabandham. This grand-scale film is produced under the banner of Abhishek Pictures, in association with NIK Studios, and produced by Kishore Annapureddy. The movie, with the tagline "The Secret Treasure," promises to be a captivating Pan-India adventure filled with magic, mystery, and spiritual undertones.



The first glimpse of the film comes in the form of a spiritual pre-look poster, which has intrigued audiences. It shows Virat Karnna, known for his role in Peddha Kapu, standing in front of a massive, ancient temple door. The faint glow emanating from within the door hints at the secrets and challenges that the protagonist, Rudhra, will face. The character of Rudhra will be introduced on January 13, coinciding with the Sankranti festival, adding excitement to the film's launch.

Virat Karnna takes on a challenging role in his second movie, marking a significant step in his career. The previously released introductory video showcased an enchanting world full of wonder, featuring massive visuals and a captivating score that has

left audiences spellbound. The movie's story revolves around the Nagabandham, a mystical adventure focused on the treasure hidden within 108 Vishnu temples across India.

The film's crew includes Soundar Rajan S, who handles the cinematography, and Abhe, who composes the music. The movie also stars talented actresses Nabha Natesh and Iswarya Menon in pivotal roles, ensuring a well-rounded cast for this universally appealing subject.

Nagabandham promises to take audiences on a thrilling journey filled with ancient secrets, magical elements, and spiritual mysteries, making it one of the most awaited films of the year. Fans eagerly anticipate more updates as the movie progresses with its production in Hyderabad.

Yash's Birthday Treat: 'Toxic' Glimpse Leaves Fans Divided

Kannada rocking star Yash, who gained pan-India fame with the massive success of the "KGF" series, has been the center of attention ever since. His rise to fame made fans eagerly anticipate his next project, wondering what kind of film he would choose to build on his newfound stardom. The big question has now been answered with the announcement of his upcoming film *Toxic*, directed by Malayalam filmmaker Geethu Mohandas.

As Yash's birthday approached, the makers of *Toxic* decided to release a glimpse from the film as a special treat for his fans. This glimpse was met with much excitement, as it promised a new version of Yash. In the teaser, fans got a chance to witness a fresh side of the actor, with a romance-centric angle and some captivating visuals. The film's music also garnered attention, setting the stage for an interesting cinematic experience.

However, while the glimpse was intended to be a birthday surprise, the reactions were somewhat mixed. Fans, who had high expectations following the grand success of *KGF*, seemed to have antici-



pated something bigger. There was a lot of hype surrounding *Toxic*, but some of the comments indicated that the glimpse failed to meet the sky-high expectations. Though the teaser was visually appealing and well-crafted, many fans felt that there was something missing, and they left comments expressing disappointment.

While *Toxic* definitely caught atten-

tion and sparked curiosity with its first glimpse, it remains to be seen if it will live up to the expectations that Yash's earlier success has created. The excitement is real, but whether the film can replicate the magic of *KGF* or carve out a new path for the actor will only be known when the movie officially releases. Until then, fans continue to anticipate more details about this intriguing new project.

'Pushpa 2' Set for Re-release with Extra 20 Minutes of Footage for Sankranti

Allu Arjun's blockbuster film Pushpa 2 is set to make a triumphant return to theaters for Sankranti, and this time, fans will get even more content. The makers of the film have officially announced that they will be adding 20 extra minutes of footage, which includes new scenes, to the movie, enhancing the experience for audiences. The re-release is scheduled for January 11, 2025, just in time for the festival.

Pushpa 2 has already made waves at the box office, achieving incredible success and breaking numerous records since its initial release. While Baahubali 2 recently surpassed Pushpa 2 to become the second-highest-grossing film in Indian cinema history, the thirst for Pushpa Raj's character remains unquenched, and the movie's momentum shows no signs of slowing down.

The addition of fresh content will surely excite Pushpa fans, who have been eagerly awaiting any updates or extensions to the storyline. The announcement of



the 20-minute addition has already sent waves of excitement through the fanbase, as they can look forward to new moments featuring Allu Arjun's iconic portrayal of Pushpa Raj. The film's original success, combined with this new footage, promises to make the re-release even more appealing for audiences.

The decision to add extra scenes and extend the film's length indicates the immense popularity and lasting appeal of Pushpa 2, with the film continuing to dominate the box office. The move has also stirred surprise among other filmmakers, as Pushpa 2 continues to set trends and raise the bar for the industry.

With Pushpa 2 now returning to theaters with added content, fans and moviegoers can look forward to a fresh experience of the action-packed drama. As Sankranti approaches, the film is sure to make a significant impact on audiences, reinforcing its place as one of the most talked-about and successful movies in recent times.