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Naidu Emphasizes Importance of Mother Tongue at World Telugu Conference, Announces University in Rajahmundry

TPN Bureau | January 05

GUNTUR: Andhra Pradesh Chief Minister N. Chandrababu Naidu on Monday underscored the need to respect all languages and emphasized that no language is superior or inferior to another. Addressing the valedictory session of the Fourth World Telugu Conference held in Guntur, the Chief Minister called upon people across the country to cherish linguistic diversity and preserve their mother tongues.

Naidu said that technology should not be seen as a threat to languages but as a powerful tool for their preservation and promotion. "People should respect each other's languages. No language is greater or lesser than another," he said, receiving applause from delegates. He added that while proficiency in English is essential in today's globalized world, losing one's mother tongue is



equivalent to losing one's identity.

Pointing out that language forms the foundation of culture and heritage, the Chief Minister said that learning in one's native language enhances understanding and creativity. "Students who study in their mother tongue tend to excel because it nurtures free thinking and emotional connection," he remarked.

Highlighting Telugu's significance, Naidu reminded that it is one of the six classical languages recognized in India and spoken by nearly 10 crore people worldwide. Ex-

pressing pride in its literary and cultural richness, he said Telugu represents not just a language but a civilization's spirit.

The World Telugu Conference, organized to promote and celebrate the language, witnessed participation from representatives of about 40 countries, reflecting its global reach. Reaffirming his government's commitment to promoting Telugu language and culture, Naidu announced that a dedicated Telugu university would soon be established in Rajahmundry. The university will be named after Potti Sriramulu, the

Gandhian freedom fighter who fasted for 58 days in 1952 demanding a separate Andhra state an act that led to the creation of linguistic states in India. Naidu said the institution would become a global hub for research, preservation, and promotion of Telugu language and culture. The Chief Minister appealed to parents and educators to instill love and pride for Telugu among children. "If children learn to love their language, they will preserve their roots while embracing modernity," Naidu concluded.

Chandrababu Naidu Calls for Unity Among Telugu States, Stresses Telugu Pride at Guntur Maha Sabha

TPN Bureau | January 05:

GUNTUR: Andhra Pradesh Chief Minister N. Chandrababu Naidu has reiterated the need for harmony and cooperation between the Telugu states, asserting that internal divisions damage the collective strength of the Telugu people. Speaking at the Telugu Mahasabha held in Guntur on Monday, the Chief Minister emphasized that Telugu-speaking people, despite being spread across two states Andhra Pradesh and Telangana share one language, one culture, and one identity.

"Telugu people must aim to be number one in the world," Naidu said, stressing that unity and

collaboration between the two states would lead to resolution of several long-pending issues and open the door for development across all regions. He added that the Telugu community's progress lies in its ability to work together irrespective of regional boundaries. Recalling the historical contributions of the late Nandamuri Taraka Rama Rao (NTR), Chandrababu Naidu credited him for introducing major irrigation initiatives like the Srisaillam Left Bank Canal (SLBC) and Srisaillam Right Bank Canal (SRBC) projects.

These initiatives, he said, made it possible for Telugu farmers to harness the waters of the Nagarjuna Sagar Dam effectively. Highlighting his own government's

contributions, Naidu said he had successfully completed several key irrigation projects that spanned both states. "Projects such as Kalwakurthy Lift, AMR Lift, and Nettekpadu were completed during my previous tenures," he asserted. He further mentioned that as part of the Krishna Delta Modernization plan, his government focused on water conservation and optimal usage. "The water saved in that process was shared with Telangana for projects like the Bheema Lift Irrigation Scheme, which was successfully completed," he noted. Naidu also elaborated on the numerous river linkage and lift irrigation initiatives taken up on the Godavari River. He listed projects such as

Gutpa, Alisagar, and Devadula Lift Irrigation, which were implemented to bring water to drought-prone areas. On the Andhra side, he pointed out, the government had constructed significant lift irrigation projects like Chagalnadu, Pushkara, and Tatipudi, ensuring reliable irrigation and drinking water supply in several districts.

Referring to the Pattiseema Lift Irrigation Project, the Chief Minister said it had been instrumental in providing water from the Godavari to the Krishna Delta, a move that stabilized agriculture in coastal Andhra districts. "The Pattiseema project remains a symbol of our commitment to inter-basin water linkage and

long-term water security," he added. Naidu also took the opportunity to remind the gathering about the central government's assistance post-bifurcation.

He explained that following the creation of Andhra Pradesh's residual state, the Union Government had sanctioned special funds for the Polavaram Project and enacted a separate law to ensure its completion. Reiterating his vision, the Andhra Pradesh Chief Minister concluded by urging Telugu people across the globe to remain united in spirit and purpose. "Our language binds us. Our heritage defines us. Together, we can make the Telugu nation number one in the world," he declared.



Massive Fire Erupts at ONGC Well in Konaseema; Villagers Evacuated, No Casualties Reported

TPN Bureau | January 05

Irusumanda: Panic gripped Irusumanda village in Malkipuram mandal of Dr. B.R. Ambedkar Konaseema district on Monday afternoon after a massive fire broke out at an Oil and Natural Gas Corporation (ONGC) well, reportedly following a gas pipeline leakage. Though the blaze triggered widespread alarm among residents, there were no immediate reports of casualties or injuries, according to preliminary information from district officials.

The fire, which erupted at the ONGC's Mori-5 well site being operated by Deep Industries Ltd as part of production enhancement operations, sent thick plumes of smoke and gas into the air that spread across the surrounding areas like dense fog. Eyewitnesses said the flames shot up to nearly 100 feet high, destroying hundreds of coconut trees and causing extensive damage to vegetation in the vicinity. Authorities said the incident occurred when workover rig operations were underway. A large quantity of gas mixed with crude oil is believed to have gushed out with tremendous pressure before igniting, leading to the sudden

blaze. Workers at the site and residents from nearby houses fled to safety as the fire quickly intensified, causing panic across the village. Upon receiving information, local officials including the Malkipuram Mandal Tehsildar immediately rushed to the spot and began assessing the scale of damage. Firefighters and ONGC emergency teams were deployed to the site to bring the situation under control. Konaseema district administration is supervising firefighting efforts and taking precautionary safety measures to prevent the blaze from spreading further. Meanwhile, ONGC technical experts and Deep Industries engineers reached the scene to investigate the cause of the leak and to devise safety protocols to cap the well. Preliminary efforts to cool the affected area and contain the fire are underway, while authorities have put local emergency response teams on high alert. As part of precautionary measures, officials evacuated residents of Irusumanda village and advised those residing within a five-kilometre radius to leave their homes temporarily. Temporary shelters and support arrangements have been made by the district administration

for affected families. Minister of Labour, Factories, Boilers, and Insurance Medical Services, Vasamsetti Subhash, spoke to the district collector and ONGC representatives to review firefighting operations.

He directed officials to ensure that all necessary safety protocols are implemented and that the fire is contained swiftly to avoid further threat to people and property. Chief Minister N. Chandrababu Naidu also took stock of the situation and held discussions with Ministers K. Atchannaidu and Vasamsetti Subhash, along with senior officials from the Energy Department and the district administration. The CM instructed that the incident be thoroughly investigated and emphasized the need for stringent safety measures during ongoing oil and gas operations in the region. By evening, the situation remained under control but tense, as emergency teams continued efforts to douse the remaining flames.

The district administration assured that residents would be allowed to return home only once conditions are declared completely safe. Officials said the exact cause of the gas leakage would be determined after a detailed technical assessment.

Telangana Approaches Supreme Court to Halt AP's Polavaram-Nallamall Sagar Expansion Projects



TPN Bureau | Jan 05

Hydarabad: The Andhra Pradesh government has strongly rebutted Telangana Chief Minister A. Revanth Reddy's claim that the coalition government in Andhra Pradesh had stopped the Rayalaseema Lift Irrigation Project (RLIP) to protect Telangana's interests. Terming his remarks "factually incorrect and misleading," the AP government clarified that the suspension of works on the project had no connection with any political request or understanding between the two states. Officials from the AP government stated that Chief Minister N. Chandrababu Naidu did not halt the project at Revanth Reddy's request or out of "respect," as suggested by the Telangana CM.

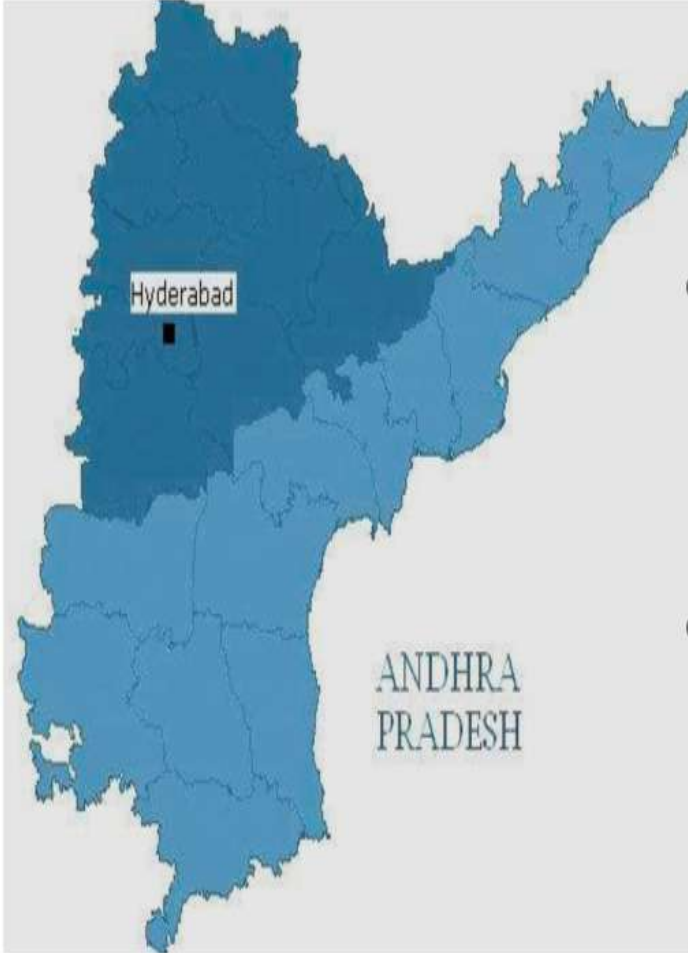
They emphasized that the project works had already been stopped much before

the current government took charge, following directions from the Centre and the National Green Tribunal (NGT) due to lack of statutory clearances. According to Andhra Pradesh officials, the Rayalaseema Lift Project was initiated during the tenure of former chief minister Y. S. Jagan Mohan Reddy without obtaining required environmental and technical approvals.

Despite claims that three TMC feet of water per day would be pumped to Rayalaseema from the Srisaillam reservoir, the works proceeded in violation of procedural norms. The AP government pointed out that it was, in fact, the Telangana government that had objected to the RLIP during the Jagan Reddy administration. Telangana had filed cases in various courts, complained to the Union government, and lodged petitions before the NGT, contending that the project violated the inter-state water-shar-

ing agreements.

Acting on these complaints, both the Centre and the NGT examined the issue and ordered a suspension of works around 2020. "The works were already stopped as a result of those orders, long before June 2024 when the Naidu-led government assumed office," an official clarified. The statement added that political leaders in Telangana were attempting to gain mileage by portraying Andhra Pradesh's policy decisions as being influenced by Telangana's interests. Reaffirming its commitment to protecting the state's water rights, the Andhra Pradesh government said there would be no compromise on irrigation benefits for Rayalaseema. It also announced that all facts, documents, and official correspondences related to the project's initiation, approvals, and legal challenges would soon be placed in the public domain to put an end to "misleading narratives."



Tirupati Police Clarify on Viral Reports Claiming Liquor Bottles Found in Tirumala

TPN Bureau | January 5

Tirupati: The Tirupati District Police on Monday issued an official clarification regarding circulating social media reports claiming that liquor bottles were found in the holy town of Tirumala. According to police authorities, the claims connecting the recovered bottles to police facilities are misleading and factually incorrect. In a detailed statement, Tirupati District Police explained that the bottles were discovered near Balaji Colony, beside a road close to a low retaining

wall and behind some bushes a location frequently used as a common car parking spot by pilgrims and vehicle owners.

Police emphasized that this place bears no direct connection to the Tirumala Police Guest House, which is situated roughly 25 to 50 feet higher up the hill. The suggestion that the bottles were discovered within or around police accommodation premises is, therefore, inaccurate. Authorities further clarified that during examination, the bottles appeared old and weathered, likely having been exposed to

rain, which washed off their labels.

The police, in coordination with the Excise Department, have begun an investigation to trace the origin and distribution source of the bottles. Officials are also examining the possibility that the discarded bottles might have been left behind by random visitors after consumption or deliberately placed there with malicious intent to mislead the public and tarnish the sanctity of Tirumala.

To ascertain the exact sequence of events, local police have started a thorough review of

CCTV surveillance footage from the surrounding areas. Additionally, Tirumala Excise Police Station SHO has been called in for an official enquiry and to provide any relevant observations or findings related to the case. Reinforcing their commitment to maintaining law, order, and sanctity in the hill shrine, the Tirupati District Police reiterated that Tirumala Temple Town remains under strict vigilance and regulatory control.

The Tirumala Tirupati Devasthanams (TTD), local police, and vigilance personnel are jointly ensuring that no



illegal or unethical activities take place within the sacred zone. The authorities assured that any negligence or involvement of individuals whether internal or external will result in stringent disciplinary and legal action. The police statement also appealed to the public to refrain from spreading

or believing unverified news circulating through social media platforms.

Citizens were urged to depend solely on official updates from government and police sources for accurate information. "Public peace and the sanctity of Tirumala are of utmost priority to us. Every

report that suggests a violation within the holy site is taken seriously and investigated transparently.

We appeal to devotees and media platforms not to speculate or sensationalize such incidents until facts are verified," the police statement said. Officials have confirmed that

once the investigation concludes, complete details of the findings will be disclosed publicly in a transparent manner.

Meanwhile, pilgrims were urged to maintain faith in the security measures implemented across Tirumala to preserve its spiritual atmosphere.

Supreme Court Hears Polavaram–Nallamala Sagar Dispute Between Andhra Pradesh and Telangana; Next Hearing on January 12

TPN Bureau | Jan. 5, 2026

The Supreme Court on Monday held a detailed hearing over the ongoing dispute between Andhra Pradesh and Telangana concerning the Polavaram and Nallamala Sagar projects. The case was taken up by a bench led by Chief Justice of India Justice D.Y. Chandrachud, along with Justice Surya Kant, who observed that the issue involved allegations of potential violations by Andhra Pradesh in relation to the inter-state water sharing agreements. Telangana's counsel, senior advocate Abhishek Manu Singhvi, argued that Andhra Pradesh was at

tempting to proceed with certain aspects of these projects, disregarding existing allocations of river waters. He pointed out that the projects should strictly adhere to the allocations made under the Godavari Water Disputes Tribunal and that any deviation could be detrimental to Telangana's interests.

The Chief Justice noted that the Union government had already constituted a special committee to examine the disputes between the two states and asked Singhvi why the matter should not be left to the committee's report. "You yourself are saying that a committee has been formed why

not let it submit its findings first?" Justice Surya Kant remarked. Singhvi, meanwhile, sought interim relief from the court to prevent Andhra Pradesh from proceeding further on the grounds that such actions might cause irreparable harm.

He argued that "post-bifurcation, Telangana is a newly formed state, and most projects are still under construction," emphasizing that compliance with allocations is mandatory. Representing Andhra Pradesh, senior advocate Mukul Rohatgi countered that the state was not violating any orders or tribunal awards. "We are only preparing a report for a

future project on our territory, aimed at diverting surplus floodwaters to drought-prone regions. There are no violations of any existing judgments," he stated.

Rohatgi questioned Telangana's objections, saying, "If I want to build something on my own land, why should anyone object?" Another counsel for Andhra Pradesh, senior advocate Jagdeep Gupta, claimed that Telangana had already undertaken multiple projects across the Godavari and could not object to Andhra's proposals based on unfounded assumptions.

After hearing arguments from both sides, the Supreme Court de-

ferred the matter to January 12. The Bench said it would continue the

next hearing after receiving inputs from all relevant stakeholders

and committee reports, stressing that any resolution must take into ac-

count the interests of all riparian states.



New Reforms and Expanded Facilities: Minister Nadendla Manohar Highlights Welfare Efforts in Simmhapeta

TPN Bureau | Jan 5

Simmhapeta: Minister Nadendla Manohar announced a series of new welfare initiatives aimed at improving the lives of farmers and the urban poor during a public meeting held in Simmhapeta village on Monday. Addressing the gathering, the Minister said that the government is distributing free tarpaulins to farmers as part of a new agricultural support program designed to protect harvested produce from unseasonal rains and cyclones. In addition, he revealed that a pilot program has been launched in urban areas to provide wheat flour at a subsidized price of 20 per kilogram.

"Depending on the response from citizens, we intend to expand this initiative to rural areas as well," the Minister added. Highlighting the government's commitment to food security and welfare, Mr. Manohar reminded

the audience that the state is currently supplying fine-quality rice to over 34,000 schools and 4,000 welfare hostels. "We are ensuring that no student or resident in these institutions suffers due to shortage or poor quality of food grains," he said.

Expressing appreciation for local leadership, the Minister commended MLA Gondu Shankar for his efforts in addressing the developmental and civic issues of the region. "Because of MLA Shankar's consistent work, several long-pending problems in this constituency have found practical solutions," he said.

District Collector Swapnil Dinakar Pundkar, also present at the event, explained the administrative measures taken to speed up paddy procurement despite disruptions caused by the recent cyclone. "Our teams worked with a well-coordinated plan to ensure that farm-

ers do not incur losses. The procurement process has been accelerated across all affected mandals," the Collector stated.

Speaking later, MLA Gondu Shankar said the government has introduced flexible ration distribution, allowing beneficiaries to collect rations anytime within a 15-day window. "People no longer have to wait for specific vehicles or fixed days as in the past. This change ensures convenience and better accessibility of essential commodities," he said.

The event saw participation from several local officials, farmers, and self-help group members. The series of announcements reflected the government's focus on agricultural resilience, food security, and citizen welfare signaling a stronger push toward inclusive growth across rural and urban Andhra Pradesh.



Union Minister Manohar Lal Urges States to Join People-Led Drive on Energy Efficiency and Renewables



TPN Bureau | January 4
Vijayawada: Union Minister for Energy, Housing and Urban Development, Shri Manohar Lal Khattar called upon all States to actively join the Centre's "People's National Mass Movement" for energy efficiency and renewable energy, describing it as essential to combating climate change and accelerating India's transition toward sustainable development. Addressing a high-level meeting in Vijayawada, the Union Minister said that under the leadership of Prime Minister Shri Narendra Modi, India has emerged as a leading

global voice in advocating climate responsibility and balanced growth.

He reminded that the Prime Minister was among the first to warn the international community of the looming climate crisis nearly a decade ago, which the world is now witnessing with growing intensity. Shri Khattar emphasized that climate action must be mass-driven and decentralized, urging States to spearhead coordinated efforts involving governments, industries, institutions, and citizens.

He said Mission LIFE (Lifestyle for Environment), a flagship initiative launched by the Prime Minister, provides a roadmap for sustainable behavioral change by replacing the "use-and-dispose" model with a circular economy founded on mindful consumption. The Minister noted that Mission LIFE

promotes simple, impactful practices such as switching to LED lighting, carpooling, cycling, adopting EVs/CNG vehicles, conserving water, reducing waste, and using energy-efficient appliances. These measures, he added, not only protect the environment but also improve public health, enhance economic productivity, and generate green jobs in renewable energy, waste management, and eco-tourism sectors. The Bureau of Energy Efficiency (BEE) also presented a report highlighting success stories and communication strategies adopted by various States. Shri Khattar proposed organizing State-level, National, and Global Mission LIFE Summits to showcase best practices, attract investments, and reinforce India's global leadership in sustainability.

Commending the outcomes of the National En-

ergy Conservation Awards 2025, the Minister announced that during 2023-24, India achieved 53.60 million tonnes of oil equivalent in energy savings equivalent to 321 billion units of electricity resulting in annual monetary savings of 2 lakh crore and cutting 321 million tonnes of CO emissions.

The Minister particularly lauded Andhra Pradesh for its pioneering initiatives under Chief Minister Shri N. Chandrababu Naidu, including MoUs with EESL for urban LED lighting, MSME energy upgrades, geothermal technology, and "Urjaveer" campaigns promoting BEE-rated appliances. "Andhra Pradesh has set a benchmark in technology-led sustainability," Shri Khattar said, reaffirming India's collective journey toward a greener, cleaner, and energy-secure future.

Cabinet Sub-Committee on increasing retirement age

TPN Bureau | January 05
Amaravathi: A Cabinet Sub-Committee of the Andhra Pradesh government held a detailed review meeting on Monday regarding the proposed increase in the retirement age of employees working in public sector undertakings (PSUs), corporations, and Schedule-9 and Schedule-10 institutions.

The sub-committee, which includes Finance Minister P. Keshav and Municipal Administration & Urban Development Minister Dr. P. Narayana, met online to examine the implications of raising the retirement age for employees of state-run corporations. Minister Narayana joined the meeting through

Zoom from his camp office in Amaravati. During the discussion, the ministers and officials deliberated on the potential financial implications that the state government would face if the retirement age is extended.

The committee was informed that a total of 2,831 employees are already continuing in service at the age of 62, following directions issued by the courts. Officials from various departments gave presentations on the number of employees working in different corporations and the financial burden that the extension of retirement age would impose on each corporation and the government exchequer.

The ministers sought department-wise and corpora-

tion-wise data to undertake a realistic assessment of the fiscal impact before taking a final decision. The sub-committee emphasized the importance of a balanced approach one that considers both employee welfare and the state's financial sustainability. It decided to convene another round of meetings soon after the detailed data on employee numbers and financial liabilities from each corporation becomes available. Minister Narayana noted that while the interests of employees must be safeguarded, fiscal prudence is equally crucial in policy decisions involving large-scale financial implications for the government. He said the committee aims to arrive at a practical solution that



addresses both administrative needs and financial feasibility. The upcoming meeting is expected to analyze corporation-wise information more comprehensively before presenting final recommendations to the state cabinet. Sources indicate that the committee's report will play a key role in shaping the government's final stance on increasing the retirement age for PSU and corporation employees.

Naga Babu assures opportunities for dedicated Jana Sena workers

TPN Bureau | January 05, 2026
Amaravati: Jana Sena Party (JSP) MLC and general secretary Naga Babu has assured that every individual who worked diligently for the party will be given suitable opportunities in the coming days. Addressing a virtual meeting on Monday with the Non-Resident Indian (NRI) wing of the party from the central office in Amaravati, Naga Babu reiterated the party's commitment to rewarding loyal and hardworking cadres who contributed to the growth and expansion of the Jana Sena movement.

Speaking during the interaction, Naga Babu lauded Deputy Chief Minister and Jana Sena chief Pawan Kalyan for his leadership and commitment to inclusive governance. He described Pawan Kalyan as a visionary leader who is paying special attention to the development of rural and agency areas that had long been neglected in administrative planning.



His leadership, Naga Babu said, has brought a new sense of dynamism and transparency to governance, particularly in grassroots development sectors. Highlighting Pawan Kalyan's achievements in administration, Naga Babu pointed out the remarkable improvement of the Panchayati Raj Department under his stewardship. "At one time, Andhra Pradesh's Panchayati Raj Department was ranked 24th among the

states, but under Pawan Kalyan's leadership, it has now risen to the top position. This progress is a testament to his vision and commitment to empowering local governance," he stated. Naga Babu emphasized that the people of Andhra Pradesh are strongly in favor of the current political alliance remaining united. The coalition government, he said, has generated public optimism through its synergy and

shared agenda for welfare and development. Expressing confidence in its enduring stability, he remarked that the partnership will continue to serve the interests of the people effectively. Calling upon Jana Sena workers across all levels to stay united, Naga Babu urged them to dedicate their efforts toward the collective goal of building a prosperous and developed Andhra Pradesh. "Let

us all work together activists, leaders, and supporters to ensure the state's progress and uphold the values Jana Sena stands for," he appealed. The virtual meeting witnessed active participation from members of the NRI Jana Sena community, who expressed their readiness to contribute to the party's development initiatives and electoral preparedness in the coming months.

TDP Leader Somireddy Chandramohan Reddy Hits Out at Jagan Over Bhogapuram Airport Remarks

TPN Bureau | January 05:
Pamaravathi: TDP senior leader and MLA Somireddy Chandramohan Reddy has strongly criticized YSRCP president Y.S. Jagan Mohan Reddy for making what he described as "false and unethical" claims regarding the Bhogapuram International Airport project in north Andhra Pradesh. Speaking to reporters at Amaravati, Somireddy said Jagan should refrain from spreading misinformation aimed at misleading the public about the airport's development and its origins.

The TDP leader reminded that when the Bhogapuram airport was originally proposed and initiated during the Telugu Desam Party govern-

ment's tenure, Jagan had mocked the idea, questioning, "Why an Airbus for a region where even red buses don't reach?" Somireddy said that such remarks had once ridiculed the aspirations of the people of Uttarandhra, but now Jagan was shamelessly claiming credit for the same project. "Today, without any moral responsibility or sense of shame, he is trying to appropriate the efforts and vision of the previous government," Somireddy remarked. He accused Jagan of political hypocrisy, stating that when the airport's groundwork was being laid, the YSRCP leader attempted to obstruct progress through criticism and misinformation. Somireddy went on to ridicule Jagan's



tendency to make exaggerated claims, saying that if left unchecked, Jagan might one day go so far as to declare that his family had brought India's independence, conducted the Pokhran nuclear tests, or even designed the military's 'Operation Sindoor'. He said such exaggerated self-glorification diminishes the seriousness of political discourse and erodes the credibility of public leaders. The TDP MLA emphasized that the Bhogapuram project's

progress was the result of years of planning and administrative groundwork carried out during the tenure of former Chief Minister N. Chandrababu Naidu. He cautioned that attempts to misrepresent facts for political mileage would only mislead voters and create unnecessary divisions among the public. "Politicians have a duty to uphold truth and dignity in public life," Somireddy asserted. "When leaders like Jagan resort to

false propaganda and selective amnesia, public respect for politics itself declines." He urged the people of Andhra Pradesh to recognize the facts behind key infrastructure projects and not to be swayed by "temporary political narratives crafted for election season." Somireddy reiterated that the TDP remains committed to completing the Bhogapuram International Airport and to ensuring balanced development across all regions of the state.

Farmers Receive Paddy Payments Within 24 Hours: Minister Nadendla Manohar



TPN Bureau | January 05:
S r i k a k u l a m : Andhra Pradesh Civil Supplies Minister Nadendla Manohar on Monday announced that, for the first time in the state's history, farmers are receiving payment for their paddy within 24 hours of sale. He said the coalition government is committed to ensuring farmers' welfare and transparency in paddy procurement across the state. As part of his visit to Srikakulam district, the minister inspected several paddy procurement centers, godowns, and rice mills. At the Arasavalli mandal-level civil supplies godown, he examined sugar packets meant for distribution through the Public Distribution System (PDS) and Anganwadi centers. Later, at the Srinivasa Rice Mill in Ramachandrapuram village of Gara mandal, he interacted with millers to understand their operational issues. During an interaction with local farmers, he expressed satisfaction as several reported that their

payments had been credited to their bank accounts within just four hours of selling their produce. He also enquired whether farmers faced any difficulties related to deductions for moisture or wastage, to which they responded that there were none. Highlighting the government's financial discipline, Manohar said that the current administration had cleared 1,674 crore in pending paddy dues left by the previous government within two months of taking office. Of this, 1,000 crore was released in the first month and 674 crore in the next. He added that this year, the government has set a record target of procuring 51 lakh metric tonnes (LMT) of paddy, out of which 38 LMT have already been collected statewide. Payments amounting to 9,300 crore have been credited to nearly 6 lakh farmers' accounts within 24 hours of sale. Speaking about district performance, the minister said Srikakulam district has

achieved 5 LMT of its 6.5 LMT target, depositing 1,200 crore into farmers' accounts. The remaining 1.5 LMT will be procured soon. He assured that strict measures are in place to prevent inconvenience to farmers, millers, and hamals during the process. At a public meeting in Simmhapeta village, Manohar announced that the government is providing free tarpaulins to farmers and selling wheat flour at 20 per kg on a pilot basis in urban areas. Based on feedback, this scheme may be expanded to villages. He also pointed out that 34,000 schools and 4,000 welfare hostels are being supplied with fine-quality rice. District Collector Swapnil Dinakar Pundkar stated that despite challenges from recent cyclones, the district administration accelerated paddy procurement through proper planning. MLA Gundu Shankar added that ration cardholders can now collect their monthly quota anytime within 15 days without delays.

Perni Nani Slams Opposition, Credits Jagan for Bhogapuram Airport



TPN Bureau | Jan 5
Machilipatnam: Former minister Perni Nani strongly defended YSRCP chief Y.S. Jagan Mohan Reddy, asserting that the long-awaited Bhogapuram Airport became a reality solely because of his vision and hard work. Addressing the media, Perni Nani dismissed claims by opposition leaders that former Chief Minister N. Chandrababu Naidu had any role in the airport's development, calling such statements "false propaganda." He questioned how Chandrababu Naidu could take credit for the project, noting that before the 2019 elections, Naidu merely laid a foundation stone without acquiring an acre of land. Nani said that Naidu initially proposed acquiring 5,000 acres and then increased it to 15,000 acres but failed to start any work. It was Jagan's government, he said, that

acquired 2,200 acres, completed rehabilitation and resettlement for affected families, built a new colony, and began construction in 2023. Perni Nani added that all clearances for the Bhogapuram Airport were secured under Jagan's administration and that the project is being built with the sacrifices of local farmers. He emphasized that the airport is expected to open in 2026, noting that Union Minister Nitin Gadkari recently approved a six-lane national highway from Visakhapatnam Port to the airport at a cost of 6,600 crore. "The airport where opposition leaders now pose for photos is Jagan's hard-earned achievement," Nani said. Nani also took a swipe at TDP MP Ram Mohan Naidu, accusing him of embarrassing the nation through his statements related to Indigo Airlines and claiming that India's reputation had suf-

fered because of them. He criticized the NDA alliance leaders for "claiming credit for projects they never initiated." "Shifting focus to medical colleges, the ex-minister alleged that despite government offers of free land and assured salaries for two years, not a single private player came forward to build new medical colleges. He dismissed as false the BJP's claim that entrepreneur Prem Chand Shah was linked to a proposed medical college in Adoni. Targeting Chandrababu Naidu further, Nani accused him of leaving Andhra Pradesh in massive debt, failing to support police departments with fuel allowances, and making empty promises on volunteer honorariums, power charges, and Amaravati development. "TDP's history is full of lies and deception," he asserted.

Jagan Mohan Reddy Slams TDP-Led Alliance Over "Murder of Democracy" in MPP Bypolls



TPN Bureau | January 5
Tadepalli: YSR Congress Party (YSRCP) president and former Andhra Pradesh Chief Minister Y.S. Jagan Mohan Reddy strongly condemned the alleged acts of violence and intimidation during the recently held Mandal Par-

ishad President (MPP) by-elections across the state. Taking to social media, he accused the ruling alliance led by Chief Minister N. Chandrababu Naidu of "brutally murdering democracy in broad daylight." "In a series of posts, Jagan deplored what he

described as widespread misuse of police power, voter intimidation, and targeted assaults on YSRCP representatives. He said that incidents in Udayagiri constituency's Vinjamur mandal and Rayadurg constituency's Bommanahal mandal reflected the "arro-

gance and dangerous tendencies" of the alliance government. "In Vinjamur, our MPTC members were blocked in the middle of the road while going to cast their votes. One woman MPTC member was severely injured, another member was kidnapped, and a third was taken into police custody. The sole purpose behind these actions was to prevent them from exercising their vote," Jagan alleged. He added that similar incidents unfolded in Bommanahal, where YSRCP MPTCs were detained to stop them from participating in the election process. Jagan accused the authorities, including the police and election officials, of acting as silent spectators while democratic procedures were subverted. "Even in a small local body by-election, the ruling alliance has displayed its contempt for democratic values by

turning elections into a show of force rather than a fair contest," he stated. According to him, the events were not isolated but part of a deliberate plan to stifle opposition voices and manipulate the electoral process in favor of the Telugu Desam Party-led alliance. "When democratically elected representatives are kidnapped, assaulted, and denied their constitutional rights, it exposes the complete breakdown of governance," Jagan added. Calling the situation an alarming sign for the future of Andhra Pradesh's political environment, he demanded that Chief Minister Chandrababu Naidu answer for turning the state into a "lawless, jungle raj." Jagan cautioned that if such practices continue unchecked, the government's abuse of power could permanently erode democratic institutions in the state.

Telugu Couple from West Godavari Dies in Tragic Road Accident in the United States

Palakollu, West Godavari | Jan 5:

A pall of gloom descended on Palakollu town in West Godavari district after news emerged that a Telugu couple residing in the United States lost their lives in a tragic road accident. The sudden and untimely demise of the couple has sent shockwaves through their family, friends, and the local community.

The deceased have been identified as Krishna Kishore and his wife Asha, natives of Palakollu. Krishna Kishore was working as a software professional in the

US, where the family had been living for several years. According to initial reports, the accident occurred when the car in which the couple was travelling met with a severe collision on a highway in the United States.

Both Krishna Kishore and Asha reportedly died on the spot due to the impact of the accident. Their two children, who were also in the vehicle at the time of the incident, sustained injuries and were rushed to a nearby hospital. Hospital sources said the children are undergoing treatment and their condition is stable,



though they remain under medical supervision.

Family members said the couple had recently visited Palakollu to meet relatives and spend time with loved ones. After a short stay in India, they returned to the US only a few days ago. The tragedy struck soon after their return, leaving the family devastated and struggling to come to terms with the loss.

News of the incident spread rapidly in Palakollu, with relatives, neighbours, and well-wishers gathering at the family residence to offer condolences. Many de-

scribed Krishna Kishore and Asha as kind-hearted, family-oriented individuals who maintained close ties with their hometown despite settling abroad.

Local leaders and community representatives expressed deep sorrow over the incident and extended their sympathies to the bereaved family. They also appealed to authorities and the Telugu diaspora in the US to extend all possible support to the injured children and the family during this difficult time.

Arrangements are reportedly being made to

complete necessary formalities in coordination with Indian and US authorities. Discussions are also underway regarding the transportation of the mortal remains and further support for the children.

The tragic accident has once again highlighted the uncertainty of life and left the Telugu community, both in India and overseas, united in grief. As prayers pour in for the departed souls, the entire focus remains on the recovery and future well-being of the children who have lost both parents in the heart-

Machilipatnam Police Take Tough Action Against Drug Addiction with Innovative Measures



TPN Bureau | JAN 04

In a determined effort to curb drug abuse and its social impact, police in Machilipatnam have taken a series of innovative punitive and preventive measures targeting drug addicts and substance abuse in the coastal city of Krishna district. The local police have stepped up their strategy to address the increasing concern over youth being drawn into drug culture, blending law enforcement with community-oriented interventions.

In recent weeks, Machilipatnam police officials have intensified awareness campaigns and strict enforcement actions aimed at deterring individuals involved in drug use and addiction. Recognising that punishment alone may not be enough, authorities have introduced novel corrective approaches that combine behavioural counseling with community service tasks for first-time offenders. Those caught using drugs are now being channeled through structured rehabilita-

tion programs that include mandatory attendance at awareness sessions, counselling workshops, and community service activities designed to reintegrate them constructively into society. Senior officers explained that these measures are part of a wider vision to create a drug-free environment in the district by not only penalising consumption but also encouraging recovery and positive lifestyle changes. Rather than relying solely on fines or detention, police are working with local NGOs and social workers to ensure that addicts receive continued support, guidance, and opportunities to break free from substance dependence.

Machilipatnam's police force has also launched street level awareness drives, where officers interact directly with youth and families in public spaces. These drives emphasise the dangers of drug use, including health risks, potential legal consequences, and its broader impact on families and careers. The initiative

has engaged schools, colleges, and community groups to spread the anti drug message widely and foster a culture that shuns narcotics. Alongside these softer measures, police continue to enforce the law rigorously. Crackdowns on drug peddlers and undercover operations have been stepped up across the city, disrupting supply chains and deterring criminal networks associated with narcotics. Authorities have stressed that the combination of firm action against traffickers and empathetic rehabilitation for addicts is key to reducing drug abuse effectively. Local residents have responded positively to the police's proactive approach, expressing hope that the blended model of education, rehabilitation, and enforcement will help steer vulnerable youths away from addiction. Community leaders have also offered their support, pledging to assist police in outreach efforts and contribute to awareness programs through grassroots mobilization.

Former Vice-President Venkaiah Naidu Delivers Powerful Address at Telugu Maha Sabhalu in Amaravati

Amaravati | Jan 6: Former Vice-President of India and senior BJP leader M. Venkaiah Naidu delivered a high-impact speech at the grand Telugu Maha Sabhalu held in Amaravati, drawing attention to cultural pride, constitutional values, and the significance of the Telugu language. His address resonated with a large gathering of leaders, intellectuals, and language advocates, highlighting key themes of heritage, identity, and national unity.

In his address, Naidu emphasised the importance of upholding the Indian Constitution as a dynamic and living document that grows with the nation over time. He reminded the audience that the Constitution was not just a text written in stone, but a framework designed to adapt to changing needs while preserving fundamental democratic values. Reflecting on his own journey, Naidu spoke candidly about how the experience of the Emergency period in India shaped his understanding of democracy and freedoms, urging young citizens to cherish and protect these rights.

Naidu also highlighted the need for Telugu to be celebrated, preserved, and fortified in all spheres of life. He called on government institutions, educational bodies, and cultural



organisations to prioritise the promotion of the mother tongue, advocating its use not only in homes and schools but also in official and public arenas. According to Naidu, the Telugu language is a source of pride for millions and a symbol of the community's rich literary and cultural traditions. Addressing the youth,

Naidu encouraged them to stay connected with Telugu literature, arts, and values while embracing modern education and global opportunities. He stressed that knowing one's mother tongue deeply not only strengthens cultural roots but also enhances intellectual growth and emotional confidence.

The event in Amaravati saw enthusiastic participation from diverse sections of society who lauded Naidu's message as timely and inspiring. Cultural activists and scholars echoed his call for safeguarding linguistic heritage, noting that rapid globalisation and technology should be used to enrich, rather

than erode, regional languages. Naidu's remarks at the Maha Sabhalu were widely discussed across social platforms, with many praising his ability to blend cultural pride with democratic ideals. As the celebrations continue in Amaravati, his speech is expected to boost ongoing efforts to promote Telu-

Three-Day Arudra Utsavalu Concludes with Grand Homam at Indrakeeladri

Krishna District | Jan 5 | TPN Bureau:

The three-day Arudra Utsavalu were concluded with religious fervour and devotion at the Sri Nataraja Swamy Temple on the sacred Indrakeeladri Hill in Krishna district on Sunday. The concluding rituals drew a large number of devotees who gathered to witness the grand Purnahuti and seek divine blessings.

Arudra Utsavalu, observed during the auspicious Arudra Nakshatra in the month of Margashirsha, holds special significance for devotees of Lord Nataraja, the cosmic dancer symbolising creation, preservation and destruction. The temple premises resonated with Vedic chants and devotional hymns as priests performed special poojas and abhishekams throughout the festival.

The final day of the celebrations began in the early hours with elaborate rituals and culminated in a grand homam.

Senior priests conducted the sacred fire ritual by chanting Vedic mantras and offering oblations into the homa kundam. The Purnahuti marked the formal conclusion of the festival, symbolising spiritual purification and fulfillment of prayers.

Thousands of devotees from Vijayawada and surrounding districts thronged the temple during the three-day celebrations. Many devotees observed fasting and participated in special prayers, believing that worshipping Lord Nataraja during Arudra Nakshatra brings prosperity, good health and inner peace. Temple authorities made elaborate arrangements to ensure smooth conduct of the festival. Volunteers and staff efficiently managed crowd movement and ensured that rituals were conducted without any disruption. Adequate security and medical facilities were also arranged to cater to the large gather-



ing of devotees. As part of the celebrations, prasadam was distributed to devotees, adding to the spiritual ambience of the occasion. Devotees expressed satisfaction over the arrangements and appreciated the temple administration for maintaining discipline and sanctity during the

festivities.

The conclusion of the Arudra Utsavalu left devotees spiritually enriched, with many expressing their desire to participate again next year. The festival once again highlighted the cultural and religious significance of Indrakeeladri, reaffirming its

place as one of the prominent spiritual centres in Krishna district.

Temple authorities stated that such traditional festivals play a key role in preserving ancient rituals and passing them on to future generations, while strengthening the bond between faith and community.

YSRCP's Perni Nani Takes Aim at CBN, Ram Mohan Naidu Over Bhogapuram Airport and Governance

Vijayawada, Jan 6, 2026 — YSR Congress Party (YSRCP) senior leader and former minister Perni Venkatramaiah, popularly known as Perni Nani, launched a sharp satirical attack on Andhra Pradesh Chief Minister N. Chandrababu Naidu and Union Minister Ram Mohan Naidu, accusing them of political posturing and failing to deliver tangible results, particularly regarding the Bhogapuram International Airport project. During a media interaction, Perni Nani praised YSRCP chief and former Chief Minister Y.S. Jagan Mohan Reddy for overseeing the completion of the Bhogapuram Airport, which had faced delays for years following changes in the state government. In contrast, he criticized Naidu and Ram Mohan Naidu for focusing more on public relations and political theatrics than on actual development work.



Perni's comments questioned the emphasis the opposition has placed on events and photo opportunities, suggesting that these actions offered little benefit to the common people. He rhetorically challenged the Chief Minister to explain what real improvements had been made during his tenure, pointing out that the airport's completion was a result of consistent efforts by the previous administration rather than recent political gestures. His statements quickly gained traction on social media and were widely discussed by re-

gional news outlets.

Political analysts note that such satirical remarks reflect the growing polarization between the ruling Telugu Desam Party (TDP)-led coalition and the YSRCP, which continues to maintain a vocal presence despite its smaller seat share in the 2024 state elections. YSRCP leaders have repeatedly criticized the government for failing to address key issues, including agriculture, irrigation, and employment, while highlighting infrastructure achievements to claim developmental success.



Attempted Temple Theft Foiled in Tirupati District: Villagers Nab Three Suspects

TPN Bureau | Jan 05
Tirupati: In a dramatic midnight incident, villagers in Pakala Mandal of Tirupati district successfully thwarted an attempted temple theft at the Ramalayam in Konaparedipalli. Acting swiftly after noticing suspicious activity near the temple, the locals caught three men allegedly trying to break into the premises and handed them over to the police. According to police reports, the attempted burglary occurred on Sunday around midnight. Residents of Konaparedipalli were alerted by unusual noises coming from the temple area.

Realizing something was amiss, several villagers immediately

gathered and decided to monitor the temple surroundings. As the suspects tried to gain entry and execute their plan, the vigilant villagers confronted and apprehended them on the spot. During the initial inspection, police found tools and weapons allegedly used for the attempted theft. These items were seized as part of the investigation. The detained men were later identified and taken into custody by Pakala police for interrogation. Preliminary inquiries revealed that one of the suspects hails from Pulicherla, another from Santapet in Chittoor district, while the third person is believed to be an outsider who had recently arrived in the area. Po-



lice said that all three had been working as daily laborers near Upuvanka before engaging in the attempted crime.

Further investigation into their backgrounds showed that the suspects have previous criminal records involving theft and burglary cases registered at different police stations. Authorities suspect that the group has been targeting temples and isolated properties in rural areas, taking advantage of quiet nighttime conditions to carry out their crimes.

Pakala Sub-Inspector stated that the accused are now in judicial custody and that a detailed investigation is underway to determine their involvement in similar

incidents reported across Tirupati district in recent months. The police commended the presence of mind and cooperation shown by the local villagers, whose timely intervention helped prevent a potential temple theft and aided law enforcement in capturing repeat offenders. The incident has reignited discussions about the importance of strengthening community vigilance and installing security surveillance systems around rural temples and heritage sites. Police have urged the public to remain alert and immediately report any suspicious movements near religious or public structures to help ensure safety across the district.

New Employment Guarantee Scheme Implementation Gathers Pace in Kurnool District

TPN Bureau | Jan. 5
Kurnool: The Central Government has announced a major reform by replacing the Mahatma Gandhi National Rural Employment Guarantee Act (MGNREGA) with a new scheme titled "Guarantee for Rozgaar and Viksit Ajeevika Poshan Yojana." The new program aims to strengthen rural livelihoods and provide broader social security through expanded job opportunities and sustainable development activities.

According to Kurnool District Water Management Agency Project Director Venkataramanayya, preparations are underway to fully implement the scheme across all villages starting April 2026. To create awareness among farmers, daily laborers, elected representatives, and government staff, awareness sessions are being held through Gram Sabhas in all 973 Gram Panchayats of the district from Monday onward.

These meetings, con-



ducted under the supervising villagers on of Mandal Parishad Development Officers (MPDOs), are expected to play a vital role in informing about the objectives, benefits, and procedures of the new scheme.

Key Changes in the New Scheme

The new initiative increases the number of guaranteed employment days from 100 to 125 per household annually, providing greater livelihood stability to rural families.

Administrative expenses, including staff salaries and operational costs, have been raised from 6% to 9% of the total budget allocation to ensure smoother implementation. The funding pattern has also been revised.

While the Central Government previously contributed 90% and states 10%, under the new formula, the cost will be shared 60:40 between the Centre and State Governments. The scheme emphasizes works related to

water conservation, rural infrastructure, livelihood promotion, and measures to counter the impact of natural calamities. Importantly, job seekers who do not receive employment within 14 days of application will be entitled to unemployment allowance, equal to half of the daily wage.

This amount will be recovered from responsible officials in case of delays. Similarly, any delay in wage payments will attract mandatory compen-

sation to ensure timely disbursement. Awareness Campaigns Begin Officials urged all villagers to attend the Gram Sabhas being conducted from Monday across Kurnool District. These meetings aim to help beneficiaries clearly understand the rights, procedures, and benefits available under the new "Guarantee for Rozgaar and Viksit Ajeevika Poshan Yojana," ensuring effective and transparent implementation at the grassroots level.

Machilipatnam Police Parade

TPN Bureau | Jan 4
Machilipatnam: Machilipatnam, January 4: The Krishna district police have taken a tough stance against public nuisance caused by intoxicated individuals in Machilipatnam. The incident, which occurred on Saturday night at Ganesh Bhavan area, has drawn widespread public attention after police paraded the offenders through the streets before taking them to the police station. According to official reports, three young men created a ruckus under the influence of alcohol near Ganesh Bhavan.

They allegedly attacked pedestrians and damaged property, including the office of a local cable operator. The incident caused panic among residents and disrupted public peace in the area. Taking serious note of the unrest, Krishna District Superintendent of Police (SP) Vidyasagar Naidu directed his officers to take immediate and strict action.



a police team to the spot and apprehended the three accused involved in the incident. The police then marched the offenders on foot from the scene of the disturbance through Koneeru Center to the local police station, a move that quickly became the talk of the town. Later, the police extended the parade to the suspects' own locality of Balaramuni- net, making the display a public warning to habitual offenders and troublemakers. Locals gathered along the route, some applauding the police's tough stance while others debated whether such public humiliation was appropriate.

Speaking to the media, CI Yesubabu stated that the action was intended to deliver a strong message to habitual drinkers, hooligans, and drug users. "This is a stern warning — anyone who disturbs public peace, or creates a nuisance, others will face severe consequences. We will not tolerate such behavior under any circumstances," he said.

The police have booked the three under multiple sections of the law and have begun further investigation. Public reaction to the police response has been mixed. Many residents praised the firm action, saying it would deter similar misbehavior in the future and help maintain law and order. Others expressed concern about whether public parading was too extreme. Still, the incident has highlighted the Machilipatnam police's determination to safeguard peace and ensure community safety through visible, decisive enforcement.

People should cooperate for cleaner villages

TPN Bureau | Jan 4
Narasaraopet (Palnadu District): Emphasizing the need for public participation in maintaining clean villages, MLA Dr. Chadala Aravinda Babu stated that people's cooperation is vital for the success of the Swachh Sankranti-Swachh Grama Panchayats programme. Addressing a gram sabha at Subbayapalem in Rompicherla mandal on Monday, he urged villagers to work scientifically toward the management of solid waste and to transform their villages into litter-free communities.

Dr. Aravinda Babu advised that every village should start the process of producing vermicompost using biodegradable waste, turning refuse into usable organic fertilizer. He called upon farmers to voluntarily remove dung heaps along the village roads and asked the youth to form committees dedicated to improving sanitation in their localities.

He added that Green Ambassadors have been appointed to collect garbage from every household in the morning and requested residents to hand over their domestic waste to them regu-



larly. Speaking later at a separate function to distribute land title passbooks, Dr. Aravinda Babu said that the rajamudra (state emblem) embossed on the new passbooks represents a symbol of trust and protection for farmers "a divine safeguard akin to Lord Sri Rama's blessing."

The distribution of the new title passbooks with the rajamudra was organized grandly at Subbayapalem village, with the MLA handing them over to beneficiar-

ies. Highlighting the government's commitment to farmer welfare, he remarked that the Telugu Desam Party (TDP) aims to treat farmers as "kings of the land," ensuring they receive rightful recognition and respect. He said the previous government created unnecessary anxiety among farmers by issuing passbooks and boundary stones with the then Chief Minister's photograph, which caused fear and resentment in villages.

In contrast, he said, the present TDP government has restored dignity by issuing official land records bearing the state emblem. Dr. Aravinda Babu informed that 13,104 farmers in Rompicherla mandal are slated to receive the new passbooks, while 1,833 farmers in the Turimella revenue division have already been given theirs. He criticized the former administration for filing false cases, including those related to illicit liquor and ganja,

against TDP workers in rural areas.

Now that the TDP is back in power, he noted, party cadres are once again living peacefully in their villages. Party leaders and activists including Pallela Nagireddy, Inturi Prasad, Gadiparthi Suresh, Inturi Chinna Venkata Rao, Monditoka Ramarao, Gadiparthi Venkateswara Rao, Inturi Venu, Pulukuri Jaggaiah, and Vadlamudi Kishore participated in the programme.

TPN Bureau | January 4
Ichchapuram: Home Minister Vangalapudi Anitha called upon the public to join hands in eradicating ganja cultivation and protecting the future of youth from drug addiction. She participated in the "Abhuyudayam Cycle Yatra" organized at Ichchapuram on Saturday, aimed at spreading awareness under the slogan "Drugs Vaddu Bro" (Say No to Drugs). The event saw enthusiastic participation from Union Minister K. Ram Mohan Naidu, IG Gopinath Jetty, Government Whip Bendalam Ashok, local representatives, students, and officials.

While Minister Anitha led the rally on a scooter; others rode bicycles through the town, raising slogans against drug use. The rally culminated in a public meeting held at Surangi Raju Ground, where Anitha reiterated that Chief Minister N. Chandrababu Naidu's vision is to make Andhra Pradesh a drug-free state. "From Payakalapeta to Ichchapuram, this

yatra has carried a strong message every individual must take responsibility to eliminate ganja. Special thanks to IG Gopinath Jetty and the Eagle Club led by IG Ravi Kiran for their commendable awareness drives. I am proud that Ichchapuram, my hometown, is concluding this mission.

Let this region lead the way in fighting drugs," she said. Anitha emphasized stricter surveillance on the Andhra-Odisha border and stronger action against those smuggling ganja leaves or plants across checkpoints. Union Civil Aviation Minister Kinjarapu Ram Mohan Naidu accused the previous YSRCP government of turning the state into a hub for ganja cultivation.

He lauded the coalition government's firm crackdown since taking charge, noting that over 53,000 kilograms of ganja had been seized in just 18 months. "Police are now using drone cameras to detect illicit crops in inaccessible tribal areas. Alongside



eradication, tribal farmers are being educated on alternative livelihoods," he said. The minister presented prizes to students who won essay competitions on anti-drug themes and felicitated participants of the yatra. Government Whip and Ichchapuram MLA Bendalam Ashok reaffirmed the government's commitment to building a drug-free state. "The Eagle special task force has made groundbreaking progress, and those sharing information via the toll-free number 1972 will have their identities protected," he assured. The event concluded with a series of captivating cultural performances by school children and sand sculptures depicting Chief Minister Chandrababu Naidu, Minister Anitha, and the Abhuyudayam Cycle Yatra, delighting the audience.

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BJP Explores Possible Alliance With Vijay’s TVK Ahead of Tamil Nadu Assembly Elections

The Bharatiya Janata Party (BJP) is reportedly seriously exploring an electoral alliance with actor-politician Vijay’s Tamilaga Vettri Kazhagam (TVK) in Tamil Nadu, according to party sources. The development comes as the BJP looks to strengthen its political footprint in the state ahead of the Tamil Nadu Assembly elections scheduled later this year.

Union Home Minister Amit Shah, during his recent visit to Tamil Nadu, addressed a BJP core committee meeting

where he emphasised that the party should focus on winning elections rather than merely putting up a symbolic fight. Sources present at the meeting said Shah encouraged state leaders to think strategically and remain open to alliances that could consolidate anti-DMK votes.

Vijay, one of Tamil cinema’s biggest stars, launched TVK recently, positioning it as a party focused on clean governance and social justice. His popularity among youth and urban voters has made

him a significant political factor, even before his party contests its first major election. Political observers believe an alliance between the BJP and TVK could help the national party overcome its traditional weaknesses in Tamil Nadu, where regional parties dominate.

However, such an alliance would not be without challenges. The BJP’s ideological positioning at the national level may not fully align with Tamil Nadu’s regional political sentiments. Vijay, on the

other hand, has been cautious about being seen as aligned too closely with any national party, preferring to project an independent image.

At present, discussions are said to be at an exploratory stage, with no formal announcement made by either party. Analysts believe the coming months will be crucial in determining whether political pragmatism outweighs ideological differences, potentially reshaping Tamil Nadu’s political landscape.

Political ‘Punch-Up’ in Karnataka: Rival Legislators Clash During Official Meeting



Virat Kohli’s decision to walk away from a lucrative ₹300 crore partnership with global sportswear giant Puma and align instead with Indian company Agilitas Sports has sparked widespread discussion beyond the realm of sports endorsements. Entrepreneur Ritesh Agarwal, founder of OYO Rooms, described the move as a powerful sign of India’s growing business confidence — a statement that reflects a broader shift in how Indian celebrities view domestic enterprises.

Kohli’s association with Puma, which began in 2017 alongside the launch of his lifestyle brand One8, was seen as a landmark partnership between Indian sporting stardom and global branding. However, after completing the eight-year contract, Kohli chose to back Agilitas Sports, a relatively young

Indian company founded in 2023 and valued at over ₹2,000 crore. The decision suggests that Indian brands are no longer viewed as secondary alternatives but as serious global contenders.

Ritesh Agarwal’s remarks resonate in a startup ecosystem often criticised for excessive dependence on foreign capital and validation. Kohli’s move challenges that narrative by demonstrating faith in Indian entrepreneurship, innovation, and scale. It also reflects a deeper evolution: celebrities are no longer merely brand ambassadors but strategic investors shaping long-term business identities.

This transition also mirrors India’s broader economic ambitions. With domestic manufacturing, design, and brand-building gaining momentum, backing homegrown companies

carries symbolic and practical value. Kohli’s global stature offers Agilitas credibility, visibility, and aspirational appeal — advantages traditionally reserved for multinational brands.

At a cultural level, the move reflects changing definitions of success. Instead of maximising immediate financial returns, Kohli appears to be investing in legacy, ownership, and alignment with India’s economic rise. As more high-profile figures make similar choices, the boundary between sports, business, and nation-building continues to blur.

Ultimately, Kohli’s decision is less about rejecting Puma and more about embracing India’s growing confidence in its own entrepreneurial capabilities. It signals a future where Indian brands are not just locally competitive but globally ambitious.

Tensions Within Mahayuti: Ajit Pawar’s Criticism of BJP Sparks Political Fallout



Cracks within Maharashtra’s ruling Mahayuti alliance became visible after Deputy Chief Minister Ajit Pawar launched sharp attacks on his ally, the BJP, accusing it of corruption and power hunger. His remarks, made during local body election campaigning, sent shockwaves through the alliance.

Pawar criticised the BJP’s governance in the Pimpri-Chinchwad Municipal Corporation, alleging large-scale corruption

and claiming his party aimed to “slay the demon of corruption.” He also took a dig at uncontested election wins secured by Mahayuti allies, suggesting fear and intimidation prevented opposition candidates from filing nominations.

The BJP reacted strongly, with state president Ravindra Chavan expressing regret over the alliance and issuing a veiled warning to Pawar. Other BJP leaders urged re-

straint, reminding Pawar of an internal agreement not to publicly criticise alliance partners.

Political observers see Pawar’s remarks as a calculated political move, aimed at asserting his party’s identity while remaining within the alliance. The episode underscores the fragile nature of coalitions built on convenience rather than ideology, raising questions about the alliance’s long-term stability.

Jharkhand Man Arrested for Posing as IAS Officer for Seven Years



Police in Jharkhand arrested a man who allegedly impersonated an Indian Administrative Service (IAS) officer for nearly seven years, despite repeatedly failing the UPSC Civil Services Examination. The accused was caught after visiting a police station to seek help in a land dispute involving a relative.

Suspicion arose when officials noticed inconsistencies

in his claims regarding his service details. A verification conducted at the sub-divisional police officer (SDPO) level confirmed that no IAS officer matched the name, batch, or cadre details provided by the man. He was later traced and brought in for questioning.

During interrogation, the man confessed that he was not an IAS officer. Police recovered several fake documents

from his car, including a blue government nameplate, forged ID cards, and coaching institute materials. He had reportedly used this false identity to influence officials and assert authority in government offices.

The accused revealed that becoming an IAS officer was his father’s dream and his own ambition. After failing to clear the final stage of the UPSC

exam, he claimed he could not face his family’s disappointment and chose to live a lie instead.

Police officials stated that impersonation cases are not uncommon and stressed the importance of verification. The man has been booked under relevant sections of the Bharatiya Nyaya Sanhita for impersonation, forgery, and misleading public servants.

Venezuela’s Nicolás Maduro Pleads Not Guilty in US Court Amid Global Legal and Diplomatic Fallout



Venezuelan President Nicolás Maduro made his first appearance before a New York court after being seized by US special forces in a dramatic operation in Caracas. During the hearing, Maduro pleaded not guilty to multiple charges, including drug trafficking and narco-terrorism, while asserting his legitimacy by declaring, “I am still president.” His statement has intensified international debate over sovereignty, international law, and the legality of the United States’ actions.

Maduro and his wife, Cilia Flores, were captured from their Caracas residence and flown to the United States on Saturday. Images of the couple being escorted in handcuffs by heavily armed officers circulated globally, triggering protests and diplomatic reactions. Outside the courthouse, supporters and protesters gathered, waving Venezuelan flags and chanting slogans both for and against Maduro.

The case has generated significant international concern. At an emergency meeting of the United Nations Security Council, UN Secretary-General António Guterres expressed seri-

ous concern that international legal norms may not have been respected during the US operation. Several countries have called for an independent review of the circumstances surrounding Maduro’s capture, warning that such actions could set dangerous precedents in international relations.

Maduro’s arrest marks an unprecedented escalation in US–Venezuela tensions, which have been strained for decades due to sanctions, ideological differences, and allegations of human rights abuses. While Washington has framed the operation as a law-enforcement action against alleged criminal activities, critics argue it undermines diplomatic processes and national sovereignty.

The legal proceedings are expected to be lengthy and complex, with global implications extending beyond Venezuela. The case could reshape international norms around extra-territorial arrests and influence future US foreign policy actions. As protests continue and diplomatic pressure mounts, the Maduro trial stands as a defining moment in contemporary geopolitics.

French Court Convicts Ten in Cyber-Bullying Case Against Brigitte Macron



A Paris court has found ten individuals guilty of cyber-bullying Brigitte Macron, the wife of French President Emmanuel Macron, in a landmark ruling addressing online harassment. The defendants were accused of spreading false claims regarding her gender and sexuality, along with making malicious comments about the couple’s age difference.

The court handed down suspended prison sentences of up to eight months for most defendants, while one individual was jailed immediately for failing to appear in court. Several defendants also had their social media accounts suspended. The judge ruled that the accused acted with a clear intent to cause harm through degrading and insulting online behaviour.

The case stems from conspiracy theories circulating since 2017, falsely claiming that Brigitte Macron was

transgender. Her daughter, Tiphaine Auzi re, testified that the harassment severely affected her mother’s health and family life, particularly impacting her grandchildren who faced taunts at school.

While legal advisers initially suggested ignoring the rumours to avoid amplifying them, the Macrons later chose to pursue legal action as the scale of online abuse intensified. The ruling is seen as a strong signal against cyber-bullying and misinformation targeting public figures.

The case also sets the stage for a larger defamation trial in the United States against right-wing influencer Candace Owens, who has repeatedly promoted similar conspiracy theories. Legal experts view the verdict as a precedent in holding individuals accountable for digital harassment in an era of unchecked online discourse.

Thirty-Two Cuban Nationals Killed During US Operation in Venezuela, Says Havana

The Cuban government has confirmed that 32 of its nationals were killed during the US military operation to seize Venezuelan leader Nicolás Maduro, escalating tensions between Havana and Washington. According to official statements, the deceased were members of Cuba’s armed forces and intelligence agencies who were stationed in Venezuela as part of a long-standing security cooperation agreement.

Cuba declared two days of national mourning, describing the deaths as occurring during “fierce combat” with US forces and aerial bombardments. Many of those killed were reportedly part of Maduro’s close security detail and were present at the time of the raid. Venezuelan authorities have not released official casualty figures, though unnamed officials cited by international media suggest the death toll could be as high as 80.

Cuban President Miguel Díaz-Canel confirmed that Cuba had been providing security assistance to Maduro and his wife at Venezuela’s request. Cuba has long supported Venezuela politically and militarily, supplying intelligence



personnel and advisers over several decades. Havana described the fallen personnel as heroes who “fulfilled their duty with dignity and courage.”

US officials revealed that American intelligence agencies had monitored Maduro’s movements for months prior to the operation. General

Dan Caine stated that US forces had detailed knowledge of Maduro’s daily routines, while reports suggest the CIA recruited a Venezuelan source to provide precise location data.

The deaths have sparked fears of wider regional instability. In remarks following the operation, US

President Donald Trump claimed that military action against Cuba would not be necessary, stating that the country was “ready to fall.” These comments, along with recent US sanctions tightening, have raised concerns that Cuba could become the next focal point of US intervention.

The incident has further strained already hostile US-Cuba relations and drawn condemnation from several Latin American governments. Analysts warn that the deaths of Cuban personnel could lead to diplomatic retaliation and deepen ideological divides across the region.

Swiss Police Identify All 40 Victims of Crans-Montana Bar Fire

Swiss authorities have confirmed the identities of all 40 victims who died in a devastating bar fire at the ski resort town of Crans-Montana on New Year’s Eve. The victims ranged in age from 14 to 39, with 15 under the age of 18. The tragedy also left 119 people injured, many with severe burns.

The victims came from multiple nationalities, highlighting the international character of the resort. Preliminary investigations suggest the fire was caused by sparklers attached to champagne bottles being held too close to the ceiling, allowing flames to spread rapidly through the venue.

A criminal investigation has been launched into the French couple who managed the bar, Le Constellation, which was popular with young patrons. Authorities have withheld detailed



personal information out of respect for the victims’ families. Emotional tributes

poured in from relatives, including the mother of 16-year-old Arthur Brodard, who

confirmed her son’s death on social media. Memorial services and vigils have been held

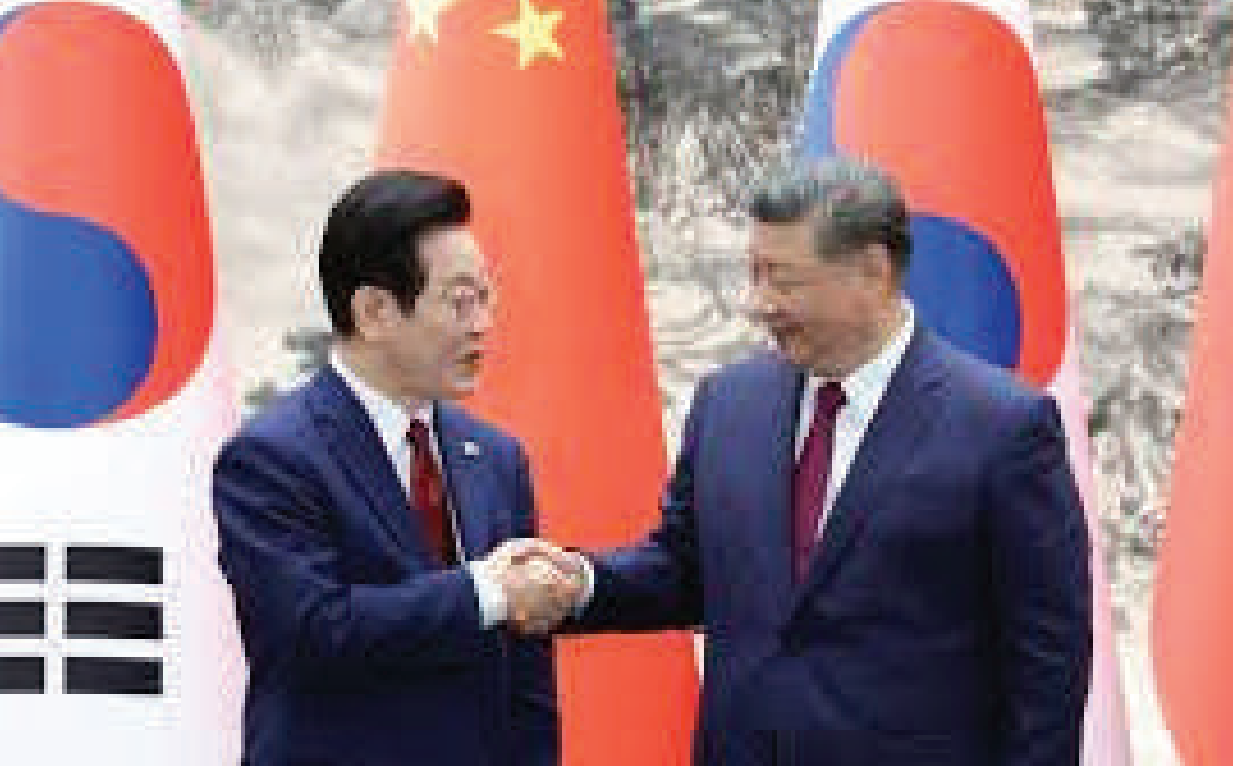
across Switzerland as the nation mourns one of its deadliest nightlife disasters.

South Korea’s President Lee Jae Myung Meets Xi Jinping to Reset China Ties

South Korean President Lee Jae Myung met Chinese President Xi Jinping in Beijing in a significant diplomatic effort to reset strained relations between the two countries. The meeting comes amid rising regional tensions over Taiwan, North Korea’s missile tests, and ongoing trade concerns.

China is South Korea’s largest trading partner, and Lee has emphasized the need to ensure economic cooperation is not weaponised amid political disagreements. His visit marks the first by a South Korean leader since 2019 and signals a shift from the confrontational stance of his predecessor.

Discussions included regional security, North Korea’s nuclear programme, and China’s unofficial restrictions on Korean cultural exports such as K-pop and K-dramas. Lee also reiterated South Korea’s respect for



the “One China” policy while seeking balanced relations with both China and Japan.

Experts view the meeting as an attempt by Seoul to walk a diplomatic tightrope, strengthen-

ing ties with China while maintaining its alliance with the United States. The outcome of the talks

could significantly influence regional stability and economic cooperation in East Asia.

Indian Stock Market Ends Lower Amid Global Uncertainty and Sectoral Weakness



Indian benchmark equity indices closed lower on Monday, January 5, 2026, reflecting cautious investor sentiment amid rising geopolitical tensions and mixed corporate cues. The BSE Sensex declined by 322.39 points, or 0.38%, to settle at 85,439.62, while the NSE Nifty 50 fell 78.25 points, or 0.30%, ending the session at 26,250.30. The markets oscillated between modest gains and losses throughout the day as participants balanced optimism around improving quarterly earnings against concerns over escalating global risks.

Early in the session, equities showed signs of resilience, supported by expectations of robust corporate performance in the

upcoming earnings season. However, sentiment weakened as investors grew wary of the implications of the United States' military action in Venezuela, which raised fears of instability in global energy markets and broader geopolitical fallout.

Heavyweight stocks dragged the benchmarks lower, particularly in the banking and information technology sectors. HDFC Bank, the largest constituent of the indices, dropped 2.4% after its December-quarter business update revealed loan growth outpacing deposit growth. This raised concerns over higher funding costs and margin pressures. IT majors

such as Infosys, HCL Technologies, and Tata Consultancy Services declined between 1% and 2%, ahead of the sector's earnings season. The IT sector as a whole fell 1.4%, reflecting nervousness due to its high exposure to the US economy.

In contrast, broader markets showed mixed trends. Midcap stocks slipped marginally by 0.2%, while small-cap stocks outperformed, rising 0.5%, indicating selective risk-taking by investors. Sectoral divergence suggested that investors preferred stocks with strong domestic growth stories amid global uncertainty.

Globally, markets were relatively stable, with Asian indices

such as Japan's Nikkei and Topix posting gains, while US stock futures edged higher. Commodities also reacted to global events, with crude oil prices firming up due to supply concerns linked to Venezuela.

Overall, the Indian equity market's decline reflected a cautious stance rather than panic selling. Investors remain focused on upcoming corporate earnings, global monetary policy cues, and geopolitical developments. Market experts believe that while short-term volatility may persist, strong domestic fundamentals and earnings growth could support markets in the medium term.

Renewable Energy Stocks Under Pressure: Premier Energies and Waaree Decline



Shares of Orient Technologies, Fairchem Organics, A-1 Limited, and Antariksh Industries are expected to remain in focus in the coming week as they trade ex-date for various corporate actions. These developments underline how announcements such as bonus issues, stock splits, and buybacks influence investor behaviour and short-term market movements.

According to BSE data, Orient Technologies and Antariksh Industries will trade ex-date for bonus issues of equity shares. A-1 Limited will trade ex-date following the subdivision of its equity shares, while Fairchem Organics will go ex-date for its share buyback announcement. Investors

seeking eligibility for these corporate actions must hold the shares on or before the ex-date, although final entitlement depends on the record date set by each company.

Orient Technologies, an IT-enabled services provider, has announced a bonus issue in the ratio of 1:10. This means shareholders will receive one new fully paid-up equity share of ₹10 for every ten existing shares held. Bonus issues are often perceived positively, as they signal management confidence in long-term growth and improve stock liquidity by increasing the number of shares outstanding.

Similarly, stock splits, such as the one announced by A-1

Limited, aim to make shares more affordable and attractive to retail investors. While such actions do not change a company's fundamental value, they can increase trading volumes and broaden investor participation.

Fairchem Organics' buyback announcement places it in focus for a different reason. Buybacks reduce the number of outstanding shares and often signal that management believes the stock is undervalued. They can also improve earnings per share and provide downside support to stock prices.

However, market participants must exercise caution. Stocks often experience price volatility around ex-dates, as

prices adjust to reflect the corporate action. Short-term gains driven purely by corporate announcements may not sustain unless backed by strong fundamentals.

From an economic perspective, these developments highlight the importance of corporate governance decisions in shaping capital market dynamics. They also reflect how companies use financial tools to reward shareholders, manage capital structure, and influence investor sentiment.

In summary, the upcoming ex-dates reinforce the need for investors to look beyond headline announcements and assess whether corporate actions align with long-term value creation.

US Military Action in Venezuela: Implications for Global Oil Markets and India



The US military operation to capture Venezuelan President Nicolas Maduro has triggered a significant geopolitical development with wide-ranging implications for global energy markets and India's economic interests. On January 3, 2026, US forces detained Maduro and his wife to face charges including narco-terrorism and drug trafficking in New York. This dramatic move has intensified global attention on Venezuela, a country that holds the world's largest proven oil reserves at over 303 billion barrels.

Following the operation, former US President Donald Trump announced that American oil companies would invest billions of dollars to revive Venezuela's oil infrastructure. While this signals a potential long-term increase in oil supply, analysts caution that Venezuela's production capacity has been severely damaged by years of underinvestment, sanctions, mismanagement, and political instability. As of late 2025, Venezuela was producing only about 1 million barrels per day, far below its potential.

In the immediate aftermath, crude oil prices rose modestly as markets priced in a risk premium due to uncertainty and supply disruptions. For India, which imports a significant portion of its oil needs, the situation presents both risks and opportunities.

Analysts describe it as a dual narrative: short-term volatility and long-term strategic benefit.

Indian equity markets remained relatively resilient despite the global shock. Commodity markets, however, saw increased activity, with gold and silver prices rising as investors sought safe-haven assets. According to brokerage firm PL Capital, any meaningful increase in Venezuelan oil supply is unlikely in the next three to six months, limiting immediate downside pressure on oil prices.

Indian upstream companies such as ONGC Videsh and Oil India could benefit if US-led changes ease sanctions and allow access to technology and equipment. These firms have stakes in Venezuelan oil fields like San Cristobal and Carabobo-1, where output could improve over time. Refiners such as Reliance Industries may gain access to discounted heavy crude, improving refining margins.

However, oil marketing companies face uncertainty, as potential government interventions like excise duty hikes could offset benefits from lower crude prices. Overall, while short-term volatility is expected, analysts believe that increased Venezuelan output in the medium term could cap oil prices, benefiting oil-importing countries like India.

Reliance Industries Hits Record High on Optimism Over Venezuelan Oil Access



Shares of Reliance Industries Ltd. (RIL) touched a fresh all-time high on January 5, 2026, driven by optimism that geopolitical changes in Venezuela could benefit the company's oil refining business. The stock rose as much as 1.2% to ₹1,611.80 during the session before paring gains. Over the past year, RIL has outperformed the broader market, gaining 31% compared to an 11% rise in the Nifty 50.

Analysts believe that a US-led transition in Venezuela could lead to the lifting of sanctions on Venezuelan crude exports. This would allow Reliance to source heavy crude oil at a discount to Brent prices, improving its gross refining margins. Reliance operates one of the world's most complex refining systems, well-suited

to process heavy and sour crude grades.

India was once a major importer of Venezuelan crude, but sanctions significantly reduced trade volumes in recent years. Any revival in bilateral energy trade could enhance supply flexibility for Indian refiners. Experts also point out that stable global oil prices and improved crude availability could support higher capacity utilization for Reliance's refineries.

However, analysts caution that geopolitical developments remain fluid, and investors should closely monitor crude price movements and policy signals. Despite near-term uncertainties, Reliance's diversified business model and scale position it well to benefit from changes in global energy dynamics.

Man vs Machine vs Nature: IShowSpeed’s Wild Race With a Cheetah



Popular YouTuber and streamer IShowSpeed once again pushed the boundaries of viral content by attempting one of his most daring stunts yet—racing a cheetah during his Africa tour. Known for challenging elite athletes and celebrities, Speed’s decision to sprint against the world’s fastest land animal shocked viewers and sparked widespread debate online.

The video begins with Speed confidently introducing his unusual opponent, a fully grown cheetah. However, before the race even began, the situation took a dangerous turn when the cheetah unexpectedly lunged at him, scratching his leg and leaving visible marks. Despite the injury and the inherent risk, Speed chose to continue, showcasing his trademark fearlessness.

As the countdown began, anticipation built among viewers. The race itself was short-lived but dramatic. Speed sprinted at full capacity, but within seconds, the cheetah accelerated effortlessly, overtaking him with ease and crossing the finish line first. The outcome was unsurprising, considering cheetahs can reach speeds between 100 and 120 km/h, while the fastest recorded human speed—achieved by Usain Bolt—is just under 45 km/h.

Social media reactions poured in immediately. Many users expressed disbelief at Speed’s courage, while others questioned the ethics and safety of staging such a stunt. Wildlife experts also weighed in, cautioning against interactions that could stress animals or put humans at risk.

This was not Speed’s first high-profile race. In November 2024, he went viral after racing Olympic champion Noah Lyles in a high-stakes 50-metre sprint. While he lost that race as well, it earned him respect for pushing himself against the best.

Speed’s Africa tour, scheduled to continue until late January 2026, has been filled with adrenaline-driven challenges and cultural exploration. The cheetah race, however, stands out as one of his most extreme experiments, blurring the line between entertainment and danger.

Ultimately, the stunt reinforced a simple truth: while human ambition and digital fame know no bounds, nature still plays by its own rules—and it always wins.

Two Years of Hope: Indian Driver in Dubai Wins ₹24 Lakh Lottery



Persistence finally paid off for Basheer Kaipurath, a 57-year-old Indian expatriate living in Dubai, who won Dh100,000 (approximately ₹24 lakh) in the UAE’s popular Big Ticket draw. After consistently purchasing tickets every month for over two years, Basheer’s patience was rewarded in a moment that left him stunned and emotional.

When contacted by the Big Ticket show host, Basheer initially struggled to believe the news. He repeatedly asked for confirmation, softly repeating the winning amount to himself as the reality slowly sank in. Once assured, his response was simple and heartfelt: “Okay, thank you. I am very happy.”

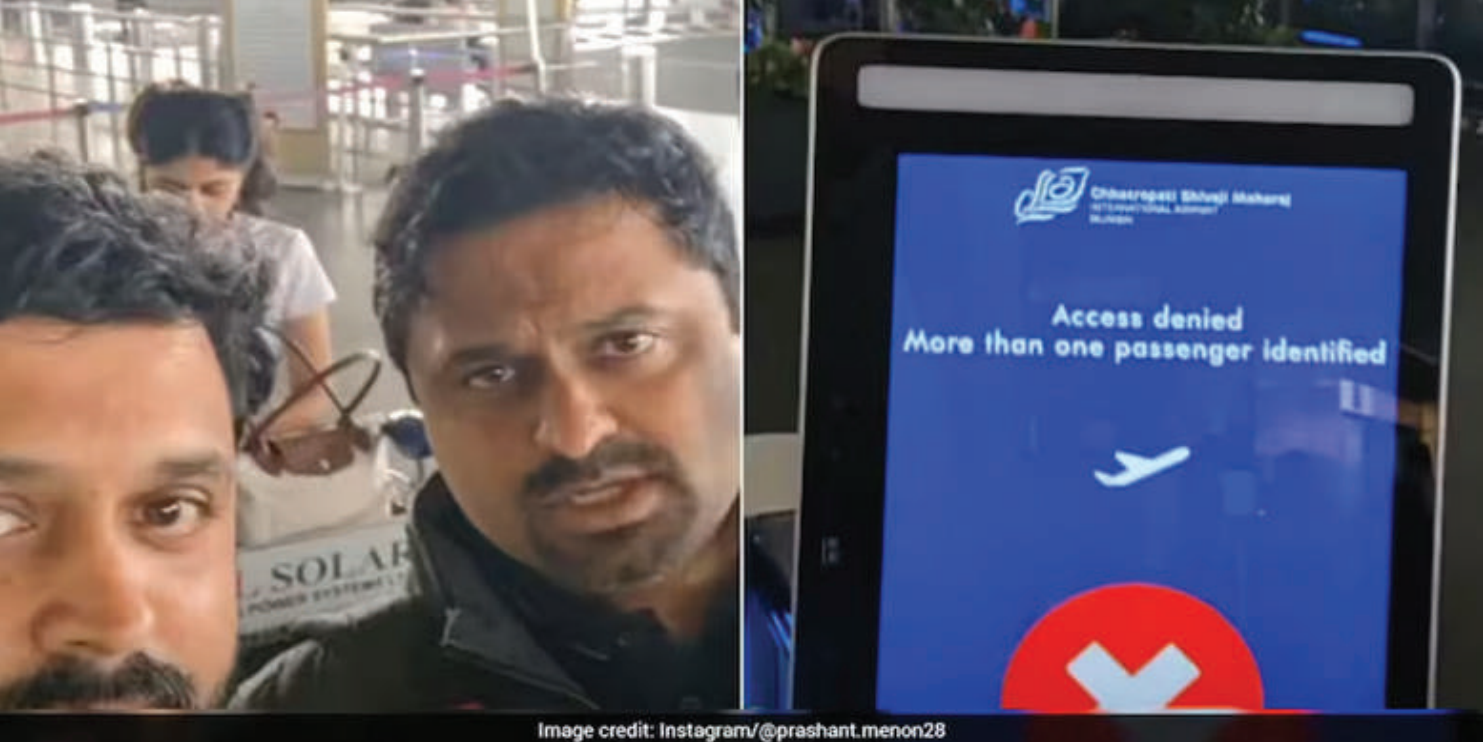
A native of Kerala, Basheer has lived in the UAE for 25 years, working as a driver to support his family. According to reports, buying a Big Ticket entry had become a routine for him—an act of quiet optimism rather than blind gambling. His win resonated with many migrant workers who see such stories as symbols of hope amid daily struggles.

Basheer shared that he plans to use part of the prize money to support his family back home in India. Despite his win, he intends to continue participating in future draws, firmly believing in perseverance.

The Big Ticket raffle, based in Abu Dhabi, is one of the UAE’s most popular lottery systems. With monthly draws offering cash prizes up to AED 25 million and luxury cars, it attracts participants from across the country. Tickets are available online and at select airport outlets.

Basheer’s story joins a growing list of Indian expatriates who have struck luck through consistency rather than chance. In a world driven by instant gratification, his journey serves as a reminder that sometimes, steady hope over time makes all the difference.

AI vs Identity: When DigiYatra Failed to Tell Twins Apart



A recent incident at Mumbai Airport brought unexpected attention to the limitations of facial recognition technology, after India’s DigiYatra system failed to distinguish between identical twin brothers. Designed to simplify airport entry through biometric authentication, DigiYatra instead created confusion when both twins attempted to enter the terminal together. Despite being individually registered users, the system denied them access, flagging an error that more than one person matched the same facial data.

The incident came to public notice after Instagram user Prashant Menon posted a video documenting the moment. In the clip, Prashant explains that both he and his twin brother had completed DigiYatra registration, yet the facial recognition gates rejected them. The automated system detected a single facial identity instead of two distinct individuals, prompting an “Access Denied” message. Speaking humorously in Hindi, Prashant said, “DigiYatra waalon, hum judwa logon ke liye kuch kijiye,” calling attention to the oversight in biometric design.

The video quickly gained traction on social media, amassing over 62,000 views and nearly 200 comments. Many users found the situation amusing, while others highlighted a serious technological gap. One commenter joked that Bollywood’s iconic twin characters “Sita and Gita” were not included in the AI’s training model. Another user took a more analytical view, stating that the system correctly flagged an anomaly and routed the users for manual verification.

DigiYatra responded promptly, acknowledging the concern and reaching out to Prashant via direct message for further assistance. While the issue was handled politely, the incident raised broader questions about inclusivity and edge-case scenarios in AI-driven public infrastructure.

Facial recognition systems rely heavily on machine learning models trained on vast datasets. However, identical twins pose a known challenge because their facial structures are extremely similar, often exceeding the discrimination capability of current algorithms. Experts have long cautioned that biometric systems should always include fallback mechanisms, especially in critical public spaces like airports.

This episode, while humorous on the surface, underscores the importance of designing technology that accounts for real-world human diversity. As India accelerates its adoption of digital identity solutions, such moments serve as reminders that automation must evolve alongside inclusivity, accuracy, and human oversight.

A New Year Act of Kindness That Touched the World



A simple act of compassion by an Indian man in the United States has captured hearts across social media, reminding viewers that kindness transcends borders. The viral video shows Instagram creator Noah approaching a homeless American couple on New Year’s Day and offering them bottles of water before asking if they needed anything else.

Visibly emotional, the man politely requested something modest—McDonald’s food. Noah returned shortly with the meal, handing it over without cameras intruding on the moment. Overwhelmed, the couple repeatedly thanked him, with the man softly saying, “God bless you.”

The video was captioned with Noah’s reflection on the incident, explaining how deeply affected he was by seeing people without access even to drinking water. His genuine emotion struck a chord with viewers worldwide.

Social media reactions poured in, praising the act as a model of humanity. Many users noted that offering food rather than money ensured meaningful help, while others expressed hope that more people would follow such examples.

This was not Noah’s first viral moment of kindness. Earlier, he had gained attention for helping a paralysed woman stranded in heavy rain, personally driving her to her daughter’s home. Together, these actions built his reputation as a creator who uses his platform for empathy rather than spectacle.

In an internet landscape often dominated by outrage and controversy, this quiet moment of generosity stood out—proving that sometimes, the most powerful stories are the simplest ones.

Potluck Priorities: When Food Beats Files at the Office



An office potluck turned hilariously memorable after a manager arrived with delicious food—but forgot his laptop. The incident, captured in a viral Instagram video shared by Siddharth Maheshwari, showcased a lighthearted workplace moment that resonated with millions online.

In the video, colleagues can be heard teasing the manager as he laughs off his mistake, saying in Hindi, “Yaar khana toh laya na main! Ho jaati hai mistake.” While the laptop was essential for work, the food clearly stole the spotlight, and one teammate even lent him their device so the day could continue smoothly.

The video amassed nearly 2 million views and tens of thousands of likes. Viewers praised the manager’s camaraderie and relaxed attitude, calling him a rare example of a stress-free leader.

Many users shared similar childhood or office memories of forgetting essentials while proudly carrying snacks or treats.

In a corporate world often associated with pressure and hierarchy, the clip offered a refreshing glimpse of warmth and relatability. It served as a reminder that sometimes, human connection matters just as much as productivity—and that good food can soften almost any mistake.

Vaibhav Suryavanshi’s Blitz Powers India U-19 to Series-Sealing Win

India Under-19 clinched an unassailable 2-0 lead against South Africa Under-19 in the Youth ODI series after a dominant eight-wicket victory via the Duckworth-Lewis-Stern (DLS) method in the second ODI. The match, held at Willowmoore Park, Benoni, was heavily affected by adverse weather, but India's aggressive batting display—led by skipper Vaibhav Suryavanshi—proved decisive.

Chasing a revised target of 174 runs in 27 overs following rain interruptions and lightning delays, India were well placed at 115 for 2 in just 12.5 overs when play was halted for the first time. Although the match resumed briefly, persistent weather issues forced officials to call off play once India reached 176 for 2 in 23.3 overs, comfortably surpassing the DLS-adjusted target.

The standout performance came from captain Vaibhav Suryavanshi, who played a breathtaking innings of 68 runs off just 24 balls. His knock included an astonishing 10 sixes and one four, completely dismantling the South African bowling attack. Suryavanshi's fearless stroke play shifted momentum instantly and took the game away from the hosts within minutes.

Supporting contributions came from Abhigyan Kundu, who remained unbeaten on 48 off 42 balls,



and Vedant Trivedi, who scored a steady 31 not out from 57 deliveries, ensuring stability after the early fireworks.

Earlier, South Africa posted a competitive total of 245 runs after being

bowled out in 49.3 overs. Jason Rowles anchored the innings with a composed 114 off 117 balls, including seven fours and three sixes. However, Indian bowlers kept pressure throughout the in-

nings. Kishan Singh was the pick of the bowlers, returning impressive figures of 4 for 46 in 8.3 overs, while R S Ambrish chipped in with two wickets.

With this win, India not

only sealed the series but also showcased their depth, adaptability, and explosive batting potential—key indicators of a strong youth setup heading into future international tournaments.

Ben Stokes Under Fire After On-Field Clash With Marnus Labuschagne

England captain Ben Stokes found himself at the centre of controversy during the fifth Ashes Test against Australia in Sydney after an aggressive on-field exchange with Marnus Labuschagne. Despite the Ashes already being decided in Australia's favour, tensions flared as Stokes appeared to place his hand around Labuschagne's neck during a verbal confrontation.

The incident occurred on Day 2 as England struggled to make inroads with the ball after posting 384 in the first innings. Travis Head's counter-attacking 91 frustrated the English bowlers, prompting Stokes to attempt psychological tactics to unsettle the Australian batter.

Umpires intervened immediately, and the moment sparked widespread debate among former cricketers and commentators. Brett Lee questioned whether physical contact was acceptable, while Alyssa Healy suggested the aggression came too late in a series already lost.



Adam Gilchrist noted that such incidents often surface in final Ashes Tests due to fatigue and rising tempers. While some defended Stokes' intensity as part of Ashes tradition, others argued that physical gestures crossed the line of sportsmanship.

The episode once again highlighted the fine balance between competitive aggression and disciplinary boundaries in elite international cricket.

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Joe Root Equals Ponting’s Record, Eyes Sachin Tendulkar Next

England's Joe Root etched his name deeper into cricketing history by scoring his 41st Test century, equalling Australian legend Ricky Ponting's tally. The milestone came during the fifth Ashes Test at the Sydney Cricket Ground, further cementing Root's status among the game's all-time greats.

Root reached his century in 146 balls and remained unbeaten on 138 at lunch on Day 2. This was his second hundred of the series and his 24th Test century since 2021—the most by any batter in that period.

With 13,777 Test runs at an average of 50.83, Root now trails only Jacques Kallis (45 centuries) and Sachin Tendulkar (51 centuries) on the all-time list. He is also closing in on the



14,000-run mark, a feat achieved by only a handful of players.

Root's innings helped England reach 336 for 6 at lunch, placing them in a

strong position despite rain disruptions. His consistency, longevity, and

technical excellence continue to define England's red-ball resurgence.

Bangladesh Bans IPL Telecast Amid Mustafizur Rahman Controversy



In an unprecedented move, the Government of Bangladesh ordered an immediate ban on the telecast of the Indian Premier League (IPL) across the country. The decision follows a major diplomatic and sporting fallout involving Bangladeshi pacer Mustafizur Rahman and his exclusion from the Kolkata Knight Riders (KKR) squad ahead of the IPL 2026 season.

The controversy erupted after the Board of Control for Cricket in India (BCCI) reportedly instructed KKR to release Mustafizur Rahman without providing a publicly stated or rational justification. Mustafizur, a national icon in Bangladesh and a seasoned IPL performer, was expected to play a key role for KKR in the upcoming season.

The Bangladeshi government expressed strong displeasure, stating that the decision had "pained, saddened, and aggrieved" the people of Bangladesh. In an official direc-

tive, authorities ordered broadcasters to halt all IPL-related telecasts and programming until further notice, citing public interest and national sentiment.

The issue has extended beyond IPL broadcasting. The Bangladesh Cricket Board (BCB) formally informed the International Cricket Council (ICC) that it would not send its national team to India for the 2026 ICC Men's T20 World Cup, scheduled to begin on February 7. The BCB requested that Bangladesh's matches be relocated to Sri Lanka due to concerns over player safety and trust.

This development threatens to create long-term repercussions, including a potential freeze in bilateral cricket ties between India and Bangladesh, reminiscent of India-Pakistan cricket relations. The controversy underscores how sporting decisions can escalate into geopolitical disputes when national pride and player dignity are perceived to be at stake.

ICC Scrambles as Bangladesh Seeks T20 World Cup Venue Change



The ICC has been forced into emergency planning after Bangladesh requested a last-minute change of venues for its matches in the 2026 ICC Men's T20 World Cup. The request follows diplomatic tensions triggered by the BCCI's decision to terminate Mustafizur Rahman's IPL contract with KKR.

Bangladesh's interim government, led by advisor Asif Nazrul, strongly condemned the move, stating that Bangladesh would not tolerate disrespect toward its cricketers. As a result, the BCB formally asked the ICC to relocate their group-stage matches—originally scheduled in Kolkata and Mumbai—to Sri Lanka.

With the tournament just one month away, ICC chairman Jay Shah now faces a massive logisti-

cal challenge. According to reports, the ICC has begun drafting a revised schedule, involving venue bookings, accommodation arrangements, broadcasting changes, and security planning.

Bangladesh was initially set to face West Indies, Italy, England, and Nepal across Indian venues. Relocating these fixtures could disrupt ticketing, sponsorship commitments, and broadcasting logistics.

Despite the uncertainty, the BCB has announced its 15-member squad, with Litton Das named captain. The episode highlights how political tensions can spill into global sporting events, placing governing bodies under immense pressure to maintain neutrality and ensure tournament integrity.

Teaser of 'Jockey' produced by PK7 Studios and directed by Dr. Pragabhal unveiled in style



'Jockey', starring Yuvaan Krishna, Ridhaan Krishnas, and Ammu Abhirami in lead roles, is centered around the traditional cultural sport of goat fight (keda sandai) that takes place in Madurai. Following the success and critical acclaim of 'Muddy', the first film in India based on the challenging mud racing sport conducted in rainforests, director Dr. Pragabhal is gearing up with next film titled 'Jockey'. Produced and presented by PK7 Studios, 'Jockey' is set in Madurai and revolves around the traditional cultural sport of goat fighting (keda sandai),

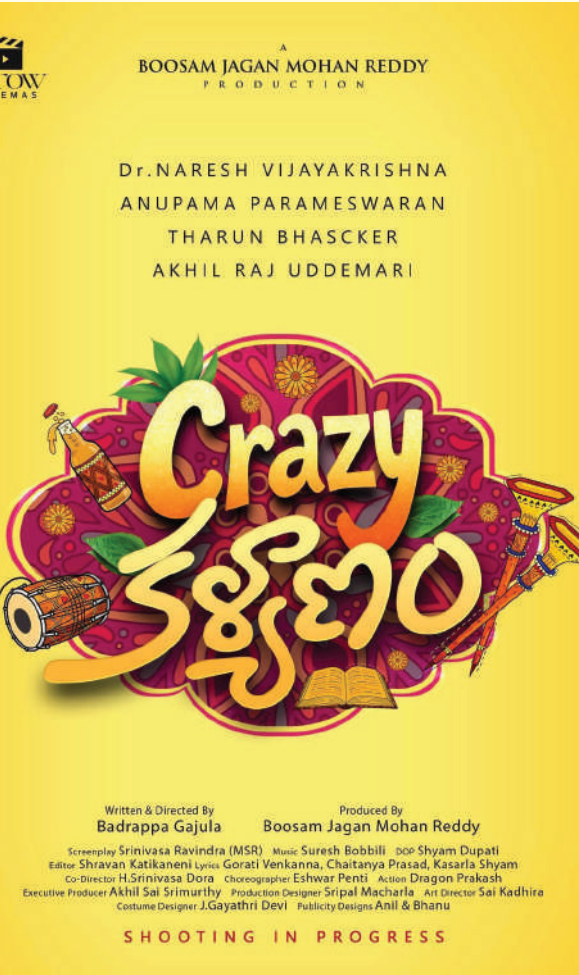
capturing the essence of the land and the character of its people. Yuvaan Krishna and Ridhaan Krishnas, who starred in director Dr. Pragabhal's maiden movie 'Muddy', play the protagonists, while Ammu Abhirami plays the female lead. Several popular actors have played important characters. The exciting teaser of 'Jockey' was released on Saturday (January 3) evening at the 13th Annual Veethi Virudhu event held at Velammal Higher Secondary School, Mogappair East, Chennai. The audience who watched the teaser congratulated the film

crew. The film features music by Sakthi Balaji, cinematography by Udhayakumar, and editing by Srikanth. R.P. Bala worked as the Creative Producer. Production Controller: S. Sivakumar, Art Director: C. Udhayakumar, Audiography: M.R. Rajakrishnan, Stunt Choreography: Jackie Prabhu, Costumes: Joshua Maxwell J, Makeup: Pandiyarajan, Colorist: Ranga. 'Jockey', produced by PK7 Studios and directed by Dr. Pragabhal, starring Yuvaan Krishna, Ridhaan Krishnas, and Ammu Abhirami in lead roles, will be released in theatres soon.

'Crazy Kalyanam' Title-Look Poster Unveiled, Promises a Wholesome Wedding Entertainer

The title-look poster of the upcoming Telugu film "Crazy Kalyanam" has been officially released, instantly drawing attention with its vibrant colours and festive wedding vibe. Designed to reflect celebration, humour and emotions, the poster sets the tone for a complete family entertainer rooted in relationships and marriage. The film features a strong and interesting lead cast including Naresh VK, Anupama Parameswaran, Tharun Bhascker, and Raju Weds Rambai fame Akhil Udumari. With this unique combination of performers, the makers are promising a refreshing cinematic experience filled with laughter, warmth and relatable moments.

Crazy Kalyanam is being produced as Production No. 2 under the Arrow Cinemas banner by producer Boosam Jagan Mohan Reddy, who is backing the project with a clear focus on content-driven entertainment. The film is written and directed by Badrappa Gajula, known for his grounded storytelling and understanding of middle-class family dynamics. Set against the lively backdrop of a wedding, the film revolves around marriage, relationships and the chaos that naturally follows. Blending comedy with emotion, Crazy Kalyanam aims to connect with audiences of all age groups, particularly family viewers who enjoy light-hearted yet meaningful narratives. The title-look poster reflects this vision, showcasing a celebratory atmosphere that hints at fun-filled drama and engaging character interactions. Adding authenticity to the storytelling, major



portions of the film were shot in rural locations across Telangana, capturing the local culture, traditions and natural settings. This regional flavour is expected to enhance the film's relatability and visual appeal, making the wedding backdrop feel organic rather than artificial. Music plays a vital role in wedding-based entertainers, and Crazy Kalyanam has roped in Suresh Bobbili as the music director. Known for his memorable work in The Great Pre-Wedding Show and Raju Weds Rambai, Suresh Bobbili is expected to deliver catchy, festive and emotionally rich songs that elevate the film's mood and narrative. The technical team

further strengthens the project. Shyam Dupati handles cinematography, while Shravan Katikaneni is in charge of editing. Art direction is led by Sai Kadhira, with Sripal Macharla serving as production designer. Lyrics are penned by Goret Venkanna, Chaitanya Prasad and Kasarla Shyam, adding lyrical depth rooted in culture and emotion. With its appealing title, festive theme and promising cast and crew, Crazy Kalyanam is shaping up as a joyful entertainer. The makers have announced that more updates will be shared soon, and the film is already generating curiosity among audiences eager for a fun, feel-good wedding drama.

Anasuya Issues Public Apology to Actress Raasi, Sparks Discussion in Tollywood

Hyderabad: Popular actress and television anchor Anasuya Bharadwaj has issued a public apology to senior actress Raasi, following a controversy that resurfaced on social media and stirred fresh debate within the Telugu entertainment industry. The incident has drawn widespread attention, highlighting issues of accountability, sensitivity, and evolving perspectives in showbiz. The controversy traces back to a comedy show aired a few years ago, where Anasuya, as the anchor, was part of a skit that included a double-meaning dialogue referring to actress Raasi. Though the episode was broadcast long ago, a clip from the show recently went viral on social media platforms, prompting strong reactions from netizens. Actress Raasi openly expressed her displeasure, questioning the appropriateness of such remarks and stating that she felt hurt by the reference. Responding to the renewed criticism, Anasuya took to social media to offer a heartfelt apology. Addressing Raasi with respect, she expressed deep regret over the incident and acknowledged that she



should have objected to the dialogue at the time of filming. Anasuya admitted that back then, she did not have the confidence or voice to challenge the creative decisions taken on the show. In her statement, Anasuya emphasized that people grow and evolve with time. She said her outlook has changed over the years and that she now firmly stands against objectification and insensitive portray-

als, especially of women. She also pointed out that she has consciously moved away from shows that rely on double-meaning humor and has been more vocal about issues concerning dignity and respect. The apology has triggered mixed reactions from fans and industry observers. While many praised Anasuya for taking responsibility and showing maturity, others felt the apology came too

late. Nevertheless, several voices from the industry noted that acknowledging past mistakes publicly requires courage and should be seen as a positive step. This episode has also reignited a broader discussion about content in television comedy shows and the fine line between humor and disrespect. With audiences becoming more socially aware, celebrities are increasingly being held account-

able for both current and past actions. As of now, Raasi has not issued an official response to Anasuya's apology. Fans of both actresses continue to closely follow the developments, hoping for an amicable closure. The incident serves as a reminder that the entertainment industry, like society at large, is undergoing a shift toward greater sensitivity and responsibility.

Vishika's Hilarious First Look from Purushaha Unveiled, Sparks Fresh Buzz

The makers of the upcoming Telugu entertainer Purushaha have unveiled the first-look poster of actress Vishika, adding a fresh dose of humour and excitement to the film's steadily growing buzz. Known for its quirky promotional strategy, the film continues to grab attention with character-driven posters that reflect everyday middle-class life through wit, emotion and relatable chaos. Set against the backdrop of modern family and workplace dynamics, Purushaha explores how ordinary people juggle dreams, responsibilities and unspoken pressures. Instead of relying on grand teasers or loud promotional campaigns, the team has smartly opted for visually engaging posters paired with clever captions. Each reveal offers a humorous slice of life, striking a chord with audiences across social media platforms. The newly released

poster featuring Vishika stands out for its bold and comic presentation. Wearing a T-shirt with the line "Touch Me If You Dare!", Vishika is seen delivering a powerful kick that sends Kasireddy Rajkumar flying across the frame. The caption, "He pressed the wrong button, the result is....," perfectly sets the tone for the chaos that follows. With papers scattered around an office setup and Vishika's fierce, no-nonsense stance, the poster promises laugh-out-loud moments rooted in situational comedy. Earlier, first-look posters of female leads Vaishnavi Kukkura and Hasini Sudheer received positive responses for blending intensity with humour. Before that, character posters of the three male leads went viral for their sharp comic timing and relatable portrayals. Together, these reveals have built curiosity around the film's nar-

rative style and character dynamics. Presented by Battula Saraswathi under the Kalyan Productions banner and produced by Battula Koteswara Rao, Purushaha introduces Pavan Kalyan Battula as the lead actor. The film is directed by Veeru Vulavala, who aims to deliver a rooted entertainer with a strong emotional core and consistent humour. The technical crew adds further strength to the project, with Satish Muthyala handling cinematography, Shravan Bharadwaj composing the music, Koti overseeing editing, and Ravi Babu Dondapati serving as art director. Lyrics are penned by Anantha Sriram, enhancing the film's narrative depth. With comedy favourites like Vennela Kishore, VTV Ganesh, Pammi Sai, Anantha Sriram and Mirchi Kiran on board, Purushaha promises wholesome entertainment



packed with laughter and relatable emotions. As post-production progresses and each new poster fuels fresh chat-

ter, the film is shaping up as an entertainer audiences are eagerly waiting to experience on the big screen

Akhil Akkineni's Lenin Unveils Soulful Romantic Track "Vaare Vaa Vaare Vaa", Targets Summer Release



The makers of Akhil Akkineni's upcoming film Lenin have released the soulful romantic song "Vaare Vaa Vaare Vaa", which is quickly winning hearts among music lovers. With its soothing melody and emotional richness, the track adds a fresh romantic layer to the film and has already started creating a strong buzz. The song is beautifully rendered by Shweta Mohan and Jubin Nautiyal, whose expressive vocals lend depth and warmth to the composition. Celebrated lyricist Anantha Sriram pens heartfelt lines that enhance the song's poetic charm, making it a memorable romantic number. The lyrics seamlessly blend emotion and melody, elevating the overall listening experience.

Music director Thaman S delivers yet another impactful composition, capturing the emotional essence of the film with finesse. The song complements the on-screen chemistry between the lead pair and effectively sets the tone for the film's romantic narrative. With its calm tempo and soulful arrangement, "Vaare Vaa Vaare Vaa" is being regarded as a standout track in the album. Lenin is currently progressing at a brisk pace, with nearly 70 percent of the shoot already completed. The makers are confident of wrapping up production soon and are gearing up for a summer theatrical release, adding to the anticipation surrounding the film. Directed by Murali Kishor Abburu, the film

stars Akhil Akkineni in the lead role alongside Bhagyashri Borse. The project is jointly produced by Manam Enterprises LLP and Sithara Entertainment, and is presented by Annapurna Studios, ensuring strong production values and wide reach. Producers Akkineni Nagarjuna and Suryadevara Naga Vamsi have come together to back the film, raising expectations among fans and industry circles alike. With a promising combination of music, romance and a compelling narrative, Lenin is shaping up to be an engaging summer entertainer. As the film moves closer to release, more updates are expected in the coming weeks, keeping audiences eagerly waiting for what Lenin has in store.