



Weather  
Forecast





HYDERABAD

VIJAYAWADA

TIRUPATHI

 H 33° C  
L 25° C

 H 35° C  
L 26° C

 H 36° C  
L 26° C

# Pawan Expresses Concern Over Hindu Attacks in Bangladesh

## Meets PM Modi on Key AP Issues



**TPN, Delhi:** The arrest of ISKCON preacher Chinmay Krishna Das in Bangladesh has sparked widespread outrage in India. Andhra Pradesh Deputy Chief Minister Pawan Kalyan voiced his concern over the incident, urging global Hindutva organizations to unite against the targeting of Hindus. He expressed his deep disturbance over the continuous attacks on the Hindu community in Bangladesh. Appealing to Bangladesh's interim Prime Minister Mohammad Yunus, Pawan Kalyan emphasized the historical ties between India and Bangladesh, recalling the sacrifices of Indian soldiers during Bangladesh's liberation. "Indian jawans shed blood and sacrificed their lives for Bangladesh's freedom. It's unacceptable for Hindus to be targeted there. The government of Bangladesh must act immediately to ensure their safety," he stated.

While on his Delhi visit, Pawan Kalyan addressed the media, confirming that Andhra Pradesh Chief Minister Chandrababu Naidu is actively reviewing the allegations of bribes involving Jagan Mohan Reddy and Adani. He assured that the matter will be discussed in the cabinet to determine appropriate action. On the issue of illegal red sandalwood trade, Pawan Kalyan revealed his plan to appeal for Andhra Pradesh's rightful share in the revenue generated from red sandalwood seizures in Karnataka. "I have already discussed this matter with Congress President Mallikarjuna Kharge and will pursue it further with the Center," he added. Meeting with Prime Minister Modi In a significant development, Pawan Kalyan met Prime Minister Narendra Modi at the Parliament office. This was

his first meeting with Modi since assuming office as Deputy Chief Minister. The 30-minute discussion focused on critical issues related to Andhra Pradesh. The meeting holds political importance as it demonstrates a strengthened alliance between BJP, TDP, and Janasena. Following his meeting with the Prime Minister, BJP Andhra Pradesh President and MP Daggubati Purandeswari met Pawan Kalyan to discuss state matters. TDP MPs Lavu Srikrishna Devaraya and Magunta Srinivasulu Reddy also extended their congratulations to him during separate meetings. These high-level discussions underline a collaborative approach among BJP, TDP, and Janasena to address the challenges faced by Andhra Pradesh and lay the groundwork for future political strategies.



## The Ultimate Goal of the Skill Census is Job Creation

- Nara Lokesh reviews the Skill Census and Skill Development Department
- Clarifies that the Skill Census should benefit unemployed youth
- Suggests integrating qualifications with pre-assessment

**TPN, Amaravati:** The Skill Census should ultimately serve unemployed youth, with the primary goal of creating jobs, said State Education, IT, and Electronics Minister Nara Lokesh. The Minister reviewed the Skill Census and Skill Development Department at his residence in Undavalli on Wednesday. Speaking on the occasion, Lokesh emphasized that conducting a census without assessment is futile and directed that the pre-assessment process be expedited. He stressed that certificates related to the qualifications of youth and students should be integrated with the census to improve their job prospects. Officials informed the Minister that Infosys has agreed to conduct the basic assessment. For individuals unavailable at home during enumeration, self-enumeration through an app has been provided as an option. The Minister directed J. Paul to ensure the analytics are completed promptly after the census. He noted that sharing comprehensive information from the Skill Census with industries and organizations would enable them to recruit suitable candidates. Lokesh emphasized engaging with company owners moving to the state to understand their staffing needs and make relevant candidate information accessible to them. He suggested linking census data to platforms like LinkedIn, Naukri.com, and Job X to enhance job opportunities through these agencies. Furthermore, he proposed integrating data from departments such as PF, ESI, and GST to ensure accurate employee information. Minister Lokesh also reviewed special projects in skill development. Officials reported that IBM and Microsoft have agreed to offer training through Centers of Excellence at various universities on a train-and-hire basis. The Minister proposed establishing a Center of Excellence in Amaravati under the National Academy of Construction (NACC) and initiating training programs for construction workers. Discussions with L&T on this initiative are already underway, officials added. With large-scale construction activities anticipated in Amaravati, Lokesh suggested engaging construction companies for workforce training. He recommended training youth in internationally in-demand courses through ONCAP and emphasized language training for students in government nursing colleges, particularly to meet the demand for nursing staff in Germany. The Minister also underscored the urgent need to establish a Skill University in Amaravati in line with government policy.

## Nani Under Vigilance Scanner in ₹40 Cr Scam



**TPN, Andhra Pradesh:** YCP leader and former Andhra Pradesh minister Kodali Nani, known for his controversial and often abrasive political style, finds himself embroiled in a significant legal scandal. Reports suggest that Nani is under investigation by vigilance officials for alleged corruption linked to the sand mafia and irregularities in the Rural Employment Guarantee Scheme. During the YCP regime, ₹40 crores were reportedly sanctioned for the construction of 2BHK houses in Gudivada, Nani's constituency. However, investigations reveal that only ₹7 crores were actually utilized for the intended purpose. The contracts were allegedly

awarded to Nani's associates, including Dukkipati Shashibhushan, Paledugu Ram Prasad, Kusukurthi Babu, Kolli Vijay, and others, who then diverted the remaining funds into their personal accounts. Government officials are also suspected of complicity in facilitating these irregularities. With vigilance officials now actively probing the scam, sources indicate that concrete actions against Nani and his alleged accomplices are imminent. This investigation marks a turning point for Nani, whose political influence has waned since the YCP's fall from power. The case has sparked widespread attention, with calls for accountability growing louder.

## I Can Identify Who Sat On My Chest: AP Deputy Speaker

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## RGV on the Run: Police Intensify Search Across 3 States



**TPN, Andhra Pradesh:** Controversial filmmaker Ram Gopal Varma (RGV) remains elusive as Andhra Pradesh police ramp up efforts to locate him across Telangana, Tamil Nadu, and Kerala. Despite releasing a video asserting his innocence and questioning the timing of the scrutiny over year-old comments, RGV's refusal to appear for questioning has raised eyebrows. The Andhra Pradesh High Court is set to deliver its verdict on RGV's anticipatory bail plea today. In the meantime, six police teams are actively pursuing the director, whose whereabouts remain unknown. This escalation follows nine cases filed against him for allegedly derogatory remarks about Chandrababu Naidu, Pawan Kalyan, and Nara Lokesh during the promotion of his film Vyuham.

RGV was summoned for questioning twice in recent days but failed to comply on both occasions, citing various reasons. His absence prompted Ongole police to visit Hyderabad, only to find he had gone into hiding. Late last night, RGV released a video claiming he was preoccupied with a shoot and requested additional time to cooperate with the investigation. However, with his continued evasion, many suspect he is waiting for the High Court's decision on his bail plea before resurfacing. The hunt for the maverick filmmaker continues as the legal drama unfolds.





# I Can Identify Who Sat On My Chest: AP Deputy Speaker

**TPN, Amaravati:** The custodial torture of Andhra Pradesh Deputy Speaker and former MP Raghu Rama Krishna Raju (RRR) during the previous YSRCP government's tenure remains a deeply controversial and shocking incident. RRR, despite being a sitting MP at the time, was arrested and allegedly subjected to brutal torture by CID officials, leaving him with severe injuries. With the change in government at the national level, corrective actions are being initiated. In a significant development, IPS officer Vijay Paul, linked to the case, was arrested yesterday in connection with the custodial torture.

However, RRR has expressed dissatisfaction with the progress and has demanded further action against former CID chief PV Sunil Kumar. He urged authorities to issue a lookout notice against Sunil Kumar, expressing concern that he might flee the country to evade investigation.

"Those CID officers acted like a gang. I still remember the person who sat on my chest during the torture. I can identify him and ensure his arrest. As for Sunil Kumar, a lookout notice must be issued immediately to prevent him from escaping," RRR stated. Revealing more distressing details about his ordeal, RRR alleged, "They tortured me in a specific room they named the 'RRR Room.' They used bats, leather belts, and other tools to inflict pain. I can still identify every individual involved in this heinous



act."

The case is gaining momentum as the NDA government takes steps to address the alleged human rights violations. Whether a lookout notice will be issued against PV Sunil Kumar remains to be seen as the case intensifies.

Vijaypal Remanded for 14 Days

The court has remanded retired CID ASP Vijaypal to 14 days in connection with the custodial torture case of AP Deputy Speaker Raghuramakrishna Raju. Vijaypal was ar-

rested by the police after being questioned at the Ongole SP office yesterday. Today, he was shifted to Guntur and presented in court.

The police have sought Vijaypal's custody, alleging a conspiracy behind the torture of Raghuramakrishna Raju. They explained to the court that Vijaypal needs to be taken into custody and questioned to identify the conspirators involved in the case. Subsequently, the court has ordered a two-week remand for Vijaypal.

## Minister Nadendla Emphasizes Paddy Procurement at Farmers' Doorsteps

**TPN, Andhra Pradesh:** Minister for Food, Civil Supplies, and Consumer Affairs, Nadendla Manohar, reiterated the government's commitment to procuring paddy directly from farmers at their doorsteps. He assured farmers that steps have been taken to avoid shortages of transport, gunny bags, and laborers, emphasizing that farmers should refrain from hastily selling their produce to middlemen.

During his visit to Bapatla district, the minister interacted with farmers in Chirravur, Gunde Meda, and various villages across Mangalagiri and Vemuri constituencies, including Vallabhapuram, Kollur, and Jampani. He listened to their concerns and assured swift resolutions. In Vallabhapuram, he addressed transportation issues, promising an RTC bus service extension to Perantalamma temple after discussions with RTC officials. Minister Manohar highlighted the government's initiative to promote natural farming and announced plans to organize an ag-



ricultural conference to address challenges faced by farmers in Jampani. Speaking at a press conference in Tenali, he outlined several reforms to ease the grain procurement process. Farmers now have the freedom to sell paddy to any mill, a shift from previous restrictions. The government has set a target to procure 35 lakh metric tonnes of paddy across the state, and Rs. 1,100 crore worth of paddy has already been purchased—marking a 100% increase compared to last year.

Manohar assured farmers that payments for procured grain would be deposited in

their accounts within 24 to 30 hours. He emphasized that procurement would continue smoothly, even in districts facing weather challenges, without GPS restrictions. Farmers can now sell their produce through a mobile-based AI system, offering them flexibility and better decision-making. Minister Manohar urged farmers to trust the government's procurement system and secure the support price. He credited Chief Minister Nara Chandrababu Naidu for the reforms, which have significantly benefited farmers and streamlined the procurement process.

### AP Secures ₹113.75 Crore from Central Govt for Tourism Development

**TPN, Andhra Pradesh:** Andhra Pradesh Tourism Minister Kandula Durgesh announced that ₹113.75 crore has been released under the Central Government's SASK-2024-25 (Special Assistance to States for Capital Investment) scheme. The funds, constituting 66% of the approved amount, will be used to develop Akhanda Godavari and Gandikota, with a focus on boosting tourism infrastructure and attracting visitors. Minister Durgesh expressed gratitude to Prime Minister Narendra Modi and Union Tourism Minister Gajendra Singh Shekhawat for their support. He also acknowledged Chief Minister Nara Chandrababu Naidu and Deputy Chief Minister Pawan Kalyan for their efforts in securing the funds.

The Central Finance Ministry has stipulated that the remaining 34% will be disbursed after 75% of the first tranche is utilized. Minister Durgesh emphasized that the funds would enhance facilities and create a unique experience for both domestic and international tourists.



#### Key Tourism Projects

- Gandikota Development:** Often called the "Indian Grand Canyon," Gandikota will see significant improvements to bolster adventure and heritage tourism.
- Akhanda Godavari:** Infrastructure along the river will be upgraded to promote eco-tourism and cultural experiences.

Durgesh highlighted that Andhra Pradesh's tourism strategy focuses on temple, eco, adventure, and heritage tourism. He also revealed that a Detailed Project Report (DPR) has been submitted to the Center, detailing plans to elevate the state's tourism potential.

#### Government Collaboration

A recent meeting chaired by Deputy Chief Minister Pawan Kalyan with Endowment and R&B ministers discussed plans for tourism growth. Pawan Kalyan's vision for Gandikota as a world-class tourist destination will soon become a reality, according to Durgesh. "The future belongs to tourism," the minister declared, adding that Andhra Pradesh aims to become the No. 1 tourism destination in the country within five years.

### Minister Narayana Assures Justice for Farmers Affected by Amaravati Railway Line

**TPN, Amaravati:** Minister Narayana met with farmers and local MLAs from villages affected by the upcoming Amaravati railway line to address concerns regarding land acquisition. Farmers requested that land be acquired through the land pooling system rather than direct acquisition, citing their aspirations to be part of the capital region's development. The minister listened to the farmers' concerns and promised to discuss the matter with Chief Minister Nara Chandrababu Naidu before making a decision.

He assured the farmers that justice would be done and their interests would be protected. Farmers from Pedakurapadu and Tadikonda constituencies, along with MLAs Bhashyam Praveen and Shravan Kumar, participated in the meeting. Representatives from Karlapudi, Pedaparimi, Tadikonda, and Nidumukkala villages also attended, highlighting their willingness to contribute land through pooling arrangements rather than compulsory acquisition. The proposed railway line passes through these villages, which are within the Amaravati capital region. The farmers expressed their desire to benefit from development opportunities associated with the capital city. Minister Narayana emphasized the government's commitment to ensuring a fair and transparent process and vowed to take steps that align with the farmers' best interests.



## Cyclone Set to Hit AP, Heavy Rains and Strong Winds Expected

**TPN, Andhra Pradesh:** The impact of a severe cyclonic circulation in the southwest Bay of Bengal is beginning to be felt across Andhra Pradesh (AP). According to the Meteorological Department, the system is gradually intensifying into a cyclone and moving toward Tamil Nadu, skirting the Sri Lankan coast.

#### Weather Forecast

The department has predicted scattered rains in the South Coast and Rayalaseema districts from on wednesday until December 1, with the potential for heavy rainfall in isolated areas. Strong winds are also expected along the coastline.

#### Warnings Issued

Fishermen have been advised not to venture into the sea, as conditions are expected to become dangerous due to high winds and rough seas. Coastal communities are urged to remain vigilant and take necessary precautions.

#### Cyclone's Current Path

The cyclone is moving at a speed of 13 km/hour and is currently positioned:

- 120 km southeast of Trincomalee, Sri Lanka
- 70 km south-southeast of Nagapattinam, Tamil Nadu
- 470 km south-southeast of Puducherry
- 550 km south-southeast of Chennai

Authorities are closely monitoring the situation and have initiated preparedness measures to mitigate the impact of the cyclone.



## AP Mega DSC 2024 Syllabus Released

### Candidates Get More Time to Prepare

**TPN, Andhra Pradesh:** In a much-awaited move, the Andhra Pradesh government has released the syllabus for the upcoming Mega DSC 2024. The announcement has brought relief to aspiring candidates, who can now begin their preparations in earnest. The Director of School Education, Vijay Ramaraju, confirmed that the syllabus was officially released at 11 a.m. on Wednesday, allowing candidates ample time to plan their studies. Candidates have been advised to download the syllabus from the official website.

#### Key Details of Mega DSC 2024

The Mega DSC aims to fill over 16,000 vacant teacher posts across Andhra Pradesh. This recruitment drive is significant, especially following the recent Supreme Court verdict on SC classification, which the government is currently implementing. Officials estimate that it will take at least three months to complete the classification process before the official DSC notification is released.

The government's decision to release the syllabus ahead of the notification was made in response to requests from public representatives. Minister Nara Lokesh played a pivotal role in expediting the syllabus release. During recent assembly meetings, Lokesh assured that filling vacant teacher posts remains a priority for the state.

#### Boost for Aspirants

The early release of the syllabus is seen as a strategic move to give candidates enough time to prepare thoroughly. Aspirants have expressed their appreciation, noting that this proactive approach allows them to focus on their studies without waiting anxiously for the notification. With the announcement of the syllabus, attention now turns to the formal issuance of the DSC notification, expected after the completion of the classification process. Candidates are optimistic and eager to compete for the coveted teaching positions.



# CM Chandrababu Congratulates Nara Lokesh on TDP Membership Drive Success

**TPN, Andhra Pradesh:** Andhra Pradesh Chief Minister Chandrababu Naidu praised TDP national general secretary Nara Lokesh for his efforts in registering 52 lakh party memberships in a short span. During a teleconference with party leaders, Chandrababu also lauded the MLAs and constituency leaders who secured top positions in the membership drive. Chandrababu emphasized that he had fulfilled his promise of placing the right people in the right positions, rewarding those who worked hard for the party with nominated posts. “We have introduced a new political governance system, linking the party with the government to ensure programs reach the people,” he said. He urged party activists to gear up for the upcoming elections to irrigation associations and cooperative societies, encouraging them to work diligently to secure



victories for alliance candidates. Chandrababu assured activists of both financial and political growth, revealing that over the last five years, the party had provided ₹140 crore in support for insurance, health, and education. Road Repairs and Youth Employment Initiatives The Chief Minister also announced that ₹1,400 crore had been sanctioned for road repairs across the state. “We will ensure that there are no potholes by Sankranthi,” he promised. He reiterated the government’s focus on job creation for the youth and emphasized that his administration’s politics were solely for the benefit of the people. Chandrababu warned that those obstructing governance through illegal means would face legal action. He acknowledged land-related issues that had arisen over the past five years and assured that upcoming revenue conferences would address and resolve them.

## Dy Speaker Welcomes Arrest of Former CID Officer, Warns of Legal Action



**TPN, Andhra Pradesh:** AP Deputy Speaker Raghu Rama Krishna Raju expressed satisfaction over the arrest of former CID Additional SP Vijay Paul, who is accused of custodial harassment. Raju asserted that all those involved in his alleged torture would eventually face justice. He also called for lookout notices against former CID chief Sunil Kumar to prevent him from fleeing the country. Vijay Paul was arrested on Tuesday and has since been held at the Ongole taluka police station. His bail plea was recently rejected by the Supreme Court. The police have arranged to transfer Paul to Guntur, where he will be presented at the Nagarapalem police station before being produced in court. Raju’s comments highlight ongoing tensions surrounding his claims of custodial mistreatment, with legal proceedings against those involved gaining momentum.

## No One Can Get Away From Adani Case – Anam Venkataramana

**TPN, Andhra Pradesh:** TDP leader and Andhra Pradesh Aquaculture Development Authority Chairman, Anam Venkataramana Reddy, launched a scathing attack on YSRCP chief Y.S. Jagan Mohan Reddy, accusing him of taking a \$200 million bribe in the Adani power deal. Addressing the media, Anam alleged that Jagan had once again proven his expertise in corruption. Anam claimed that the case, registered in the United States, would be inescapable. “No one can get away from this case,” he said, adding that the bribe money was handed over at the house of former minister Balineni Srinivasa Reddy during a late-night meeting. He hinted that Balineni had played a key role in the deal, believing he had covered potential loopholes. Taking a dig at Jagan, Anam sarcastically remarked that the YSRCP chief should start getting accustomed to American prison food. “Only bread and jam are served in American prisons. Jagan should start practicing eating bread from



now on,” he quipped. He also mocked that Jagan would not have access to home-cooked delicacies like fish soup, mutton curry, or biryani prepared by his wife, Y.S. Bharathi Reddy, behind bars. The comments come amid ongoing political tensions between the TDP and YSRCP, with corruption charges becoming a focal point of the parties’ confrontations. Anam’s remarks are seen as part of the TDP’s broader campaign to expose alleged financial irregularities under the YSRCP government. As the investigation unfolds, the allegations are expected to draw further attention from political observers and legal experts.

## MLA Gadde Rammohan Criticized Jagan Over Adani Allegations

**TPN, Andhra Pradesh:** MLA Gadde Rammohan Rao laid the foundation stone for road works in Ramachandra Nagar, opposite Canara Bank, in the 3rd Division of Vijayawada East constituency. Speaking on the occasion, he launched a sharp attack on YSRCP chief Y.S. Jagan Mohan Reddy, accusing him of deepening the state’s financial crisis. Rao alleged that a loan of ₹10,000 crores was secured from Adani American Bank, out of which ₹2,000 crores were paid as a bribe to Jagan Mohan Reddy. “Jagan has made history in America, but for all the wrong reasons,” he remarked. According to him, Jagan’s financial dealings have added an additional burden of ₹2 lakh crores on the people of Andhra Pradesh.



Highlighting the economic impact, Rao said, “The poor are becoming poorer, the middle class is slipping into poverty, and even the high class is being pushed into the middle class. Jagan’s policies have wreaked

havoc on the economy.” He also criticized reports suggesting that the Prime Minister facilitated a bribe of ₹1,785 crores to Jagan, calling it a disgrace for both India and Andhra Pradesh. Rao emphasized the need for accountability and better governance, advocating for the continuation of welfare programs introduced by Chief Minister Chandrababu Naidu. “Chandrababu Naidu insists that welfare should not be rolled back, and we stand by that commitment,” he concluded. The foundation stone event marks another step in infrastructure development for Vijayawada East, but the political barbs highlight the ongoing tensions between the TDP and YSRCP leadership.

## Ex Mla Vishweshwar Reddy Criticizes Govt for Neglecting Education Sector

**TPN, Andhra Pradesh:** Former MLA Vishweshwar Reddy, in a press meet, criticized the TDP-BJP coalition government for failing to address key issues in the education sector. He alleged that the coalition’s actions are driven by animosity toward YSRCP chief Y.S. Jagan Mohan Reddy, resulting in a rollback of crucial education reforms. Reddy highlighted that while the YSR Congress government had cleared dues worth thousands of crores left by the previous TDP government, the coalition is now creating a “false narrative” about pending dues. “They claim Rs. 6,500 crore is unpaid, but in reality, only five to six hundred crores were withheld due to a TDP complaint during elections. These should be cleared to ensure justice for students,” he stated. He further criticized the government for its inaction in appointing leadership in the education sector. “Since this government came to power, vice-chancellors for 18 universities have been removed, and not a single one has been appointed yet. Even the Higher Education Commission remains without a chairman,” Reddy



pointed out. The former MLA also noted growing discontent among students, citing protests led by the ABVP, the student wing of the BJP, a coalition partner. “The ABVP is already agitating, demanding that the government fulfill its promises. Students have started opposing the coalition government within six months of its formation,” he added. Reddy’s comments come at a time when education is emerging as a key issue in the state, with mounting pressure on the coalition government to deliver on its commitments.

## Tension Escalates in Jammalamadugu Over Fly Ash Transport Dispute

**TPN, Kadapa:** Tension continues to grip Jammalamadugu as a dispute between the factions of JC Brothers and MLA Adinarayana Reddy over the transportation of fly ash from Rayalseema Thermal Power Plant (RTPP) to Tadipatri remains unresolved. For the past two days, discussions between the two groups have failed to reach an agreement. The JC faction, led by JC Prabhakar Reddy, insists on using their vehicles for the transport since the destination is Tadipatri. Meanwhile, the Adinarayana Reddy faction asserts their right to transport the ash in their own vehicles, claiming ownership of the material. In light of the rising tensions, the police were put on high alert after receiving information about the JC faction’s return from Tadipatri. Security forces have been deployed in key areas as a precautionary measure to prevent any clashes. A special check post has also been set up in Kondapuram mandal, on the border of Kadapa and Anantapur districts, to monitor movements and maintain order. The Adinarayana Reddy faction has reportedly warned that they will block any JC vehicles attempting to transport the fly ash. Anticipating possible confrontation, the police have stationed additional personnel



at strategic points to avert any untoward incidents. The situation remains tense, with both factions standing firm on their demands. Local authorities are closely monitoring the developments to ensure peace and order in the region.

## Dadisetti Raja Warns Police Against Political Bias

**TPN, Tuni:** Former minister Dadisetti Raja stirred controversy with remarks directed at the police, cautioning them against showing favoritism toward the opposition. Speaking after paying tribute to Dr. B.R. Ambedkar on Constitution Day, Raja warned police officers not to carry out their duties with political bias. “Policemen, don’t do your jobs wearing yellow shirts,” he said, implying favoritism toward the Telugu Desam Party (TDP). “We will always be in the opposition, but you will retire one day. Be careful,” he added, suggesting that officers acting unfairly could face consequences in the future. Raja accused the police of fabricating false cases targeting certain political parties while ignoring similar actions by the YSRCP. “Why aren’t cases being filed against YSRCP leaders for their activities on social media? They show



1% enthusiasm, while TDP and Jana Sena show 99%,” he questioned. He assured that his party would stand firm against any illegal cases and support its cadre. Raja’s comments have sparked debate, with critics accusing him of threatening law enforcement. His remarks come amid heightened tensions between political parties in Andhra Pradesh, with allegations of bias and misuse of power frequently surfacing.





## Minister Narayana Holds Review Meeting on Development Plans for Vijayawada Central

TPN, Vijayawada:

On the Wednesday evening, at the AP CRDA office in the Central constituency, Hon'ble Minister Narayana held an important discussion with Government Whip and Vijayawada Central MLA Bonda Umamaheswara Rao, along with officials, to review various development initiatives in the area. The meeting focused on ongoing and pending works, town planning issues, and the execution of development programs within the Vijayawada Municipal Corporation (VMC) jurisdiction.

During the meeting, Bonda Umamaheswara Rao brought several pressing matters to Minister Narayana's attention. These included the status of house titles in Tungam Ramulu Veedhi and Devineni Gandhipuram, as well as the establishment of a new Anna Canteen in the 36th and 64th Divisions of Vijayawada Central constituency. The MLA also highlighted issues related to flood damage in the area, particularly the destruction of roads and drains, and the enumeration of houses in flood-affected regions.

Discussions were held regarding the registration



of 6499 houses in Vambe Colony for subsidies under G.O. No. 105, and 811 houses under G.O. No. 197. Furthermore, Bonda Uma garu raised the need for the development of various plots in areas such as Radhanagar, Prajashakti Nagar, LBS Nagar, Prakash Nagar, Kundavari Kandriga, Urmila Subbarao Nagar, Sundaraya Nagar, Shantinagar, Rajiv Nagar, and Vaddera Colony.

The meeting emphasized the urgency of addressing these issues to ensure the timely development of the constituency and the welfare of its residents. Both Minister Narayana and MLA Bonda Umamaheswara Rao agreed to prioritize these matters and continue collaborating with the concerned officials to accelerate the progress of key projects.

## District Collector Focuses on Organic Farming, Crop Diversification

TPN, Vijayawada: NTR District, Collector Dr. G. Lakshmi Shah emphasized the need to promote organic farming for healthier produce and environmental sustainability. In a review meeting held on Wednesday with officials from the agriculture, horticulture, and micro-agriculture departments at the Collectorate, she urged systematic implementation of agricultural programs to guide farmers toward higher yields with lower investments.

Collector Lakshmi Shah highlighted the importance of making the district a leader in organic farming and encouraging farmers to adopt alternative, high-income crops. She stressed that intercropping with crops like cotton could significantly enhance farmers' earnings. The meeting covered key areas, including the cultivation of major crops, fertilizer and seed quality testing, distribution of CCRC cards, crop loans, and crop insurance. The Collector also suggested raising awareness about Ind GAP certification to boost the market value of agricultural products. She directed officials to conduct the Polam Kemudi program every Tuesday and Wednesday to address farmers' challenges, enhance yields, and ensure profitability. The staff at Rythu Seva Kendras (RSKs) and village agricultural assistants were instructed to support farmers at the grassroots level and ensure smooth grain procurement



at RSK-Grain Purchase Centers.

Mango was identified as a primary horticultural crop in mandals like G. Kondur, Mailavaram, and Vijayawada Rural, while chilli is prominent in Jaggayyapet, Penuganchiprol, and Veerulapadu mandals. The Collector stressed achieving the target of expanding oil palm cultivation by 2,000 hectares under the National Mission on Edible Oils (NMEO)-Oil Palm initiative.

She urged officials to work in coordination and ensure effective implementation of central and state agricultural programs for farmers' welfare and development.

District Agriculture Officer DMF Vijayakumari, Horticulture Officer P. Balaji Kumar, and APMIP PD P.M. Subhani attended the meeting.

## Chilakalapudi Paparao Assumes Leadership of Agnikula KShahtriya Welfare Corporation

Minister Kollu & MLA Bommidi Nayakar Attended



TPN, Vijayawada: Chilakalapudi Paparao officially assumed office as the Chairman of the Agnikula KShahtriya Welfare & Development Corporation at a ceremony held in Gollapudi. The event was attended by State Mines, Geology & Excise Minister Kollu Ravindra, Government Whip MLA Bommidi Nayakar, and former Rajya Sabha member Mopidevi Venkataramana, among other dignitaries. Minister Kollu Ravindra highlighted the coalition government's commitment to the welfare of backward classes (BCs), noting that ₹39,007 crore has been allocated for BC welfare in the 2024-25 state budget. He emphasized that the formation of special corporations like the Agnikula KShahtriya Welfare Corporation demonstrates the government's sincerity. "Under CM Chandrababu and Deputy CM Pawan Kalyan's leadership, BCs will receive the respect and support they deserve," he stated.

Ravindra contrasted the current government's efforts with the previous administration, accusing it of treating BCs as a mere vote bank without allocating funds to welfare corporations. He also expressed gratitude to the coalition leaders for their unwavering sup-

port of BCs, especially Agnikula KShahtriyas.

**A New Era for BC Welfare**

Government Whip MLA Bommidi Nayakar expressed confidence that the coalition government would ensure justice for BCs. He credited Pawan Kalyan for empowering BC leaders by providing them with political opportunities. Former MP Mopidevi Venkataramana echoed these sentiments, emphasizing that the coalition's governance model prioritizes BC empowerment.

In his address, Chilakalapudi Paparao pledged to work tirelessly for the welfare of Agnikula KShahtriyas and BCs across the state. "I am committed to addressing the community's issues by collaborating with CM Chandrababu, Deputy CM Pawan Kalyan, and Minister Lokesh," he said. Paparao plans to tour the state to gather feedback and present solutions to the government.

The ceremony concluded with an oath-taking led by BC Welfare Department JMD Umadevi. Leaders from various BC associations, party supporters, and welfare staff attended the event, marking a significant step forward in the government's BC welfare agenda.

## Promoting Artistic Handicrafts on One Platform

TPN, Vijayawada: In an effort to bring quality artistic products to the public and provide financial benefits to artisans, the Handloom and Textiles Department is organizing exhibitions that showcase handicrafts from across the country. This initiative is supported by both Central and State Governments.

On Wednesday, the Commissioner of the Handloom and Textiles Department, G. Rekha Rani, visited the Lepakshi Gandhi Shilp Bazaar, organized by the State Handicrafts Development Corporation at Mary's Stella Indoor Stadium in the city. She took the opportunity to personally purchase various handicraft products and interact with artisans from different states. During her visit, she inquired about the production processes used by the artisans.

Rekha Rani highlighted the importance of preserving India's rich cultural heritage and artistic traditions, noting that it is commendable that many artisans continue to create beautiful products using their craftsmanship. She also expressed pride in the recognition of



Narasapuram lace, which has been awarded the Geographical Indication (GI) tag.

The Commissioner emphasized the need to encourage artisans to keep cultural traditions alive and to pass them on to future generations. She praised the exhibitions organized by the Handloom and Textiles Department and urged consumers to support the Lepakshi

Handicraft Exhibition, which would also help improve the livelihoods of the artisans.

M. Vishwa, VC and MD of AP Handicrafts Development Corporation (AP HDC), shared that the exhibition, which began on November 22, has already generated Rs. 40 lakhs in sales. The exhibition will run until December 1, showcasing a variety of products such as textiles, embroidery, imitation jewelry, carpets, wood carvings, Kondapalli dolls, batik prints, and more.

The event also saw the participation of AD Aparna Lakshmi, Lepakshi Manager Mahankali Suresh, and HPO Gautam.

## Spiritual Leader Sri Govinda Nanda Saraswati Swamiji Visited Durgamma Temple

TPN, Vijayawada: Sri Sri Sri Govinda Nanda Saraswati Swamiji, accompanied by the Karnataka Pampakshetra sadhaks, along with disciples from Dwarka, Badri, and Jyotish Peetham, visited the Sri Ammavari temple on Wednesday for darshan. The group was warmly received by the Temple Executive Officer, K S Rama Rao, Vedic scholars, Deputy Ratna Raju, and Archaka Swamulu, who welcomed the spiritual leaders to the temple premises.

The visit began with the presentation of Vedic blessings and a picture of Ammavari to the revered Swamiji. Following this, Swamiji addressed the devotees, offering a discourse on various scriptures. His teachings highlighted the importance of spirituality and reverence for sacred traditions.

The gathering was a moment of deep reflection and spiritual connection as the Swamiji shared his wisdom with the assembled disciples and devotees. The visit was seen as an important spiritual exchange, reinforcing the values of devotion, learning, and the preserva-



tion of ancient wisdom.

The temple, known for its rich heritage and spiritual significance, provided a fitting backdrop for this sacred visit. It was an opportunity for the community to come together and receive blessings from the esteemed Swamiji, who emphasized the importance of connecting with sacred texts and maintaining a deep spiritual practice.

This visit marks another milestone in the ongoing efforts to promote spiritual education and devotion within the community.

## Vijayawada Municipal Corporation Commissioner Ensures Improved Sanitation Management

TPN, Vijayawada: Vijayawada Municipal Corporation (VMC) Commissioner Dhyanachandra has emphasized the importance of ensuring no deficiencies in sanitation management across the city. In light of recent challenges, including the ongoing auto driver strike affecting waste collection, the Commissioner directed the authorities to step up efforts to maintain cleanliness and prevent any gaps in sanitation services.

During his visit on Wednesday morning, Dhyanachandra inspected various areas, including Satyanarayanapuram, Singh Nagar, Excel Plant, and Besant Road, to assess sanitation practices at the ground level. The Commissioner reviewed the existing waste collection operations and noted that while tractors have been deployed for waste collection in several parts of the city, more tractors should be added to meet the growing demand.

He stressed that the city must continue to maintain its sanitation services without disruption, ensuring that residents face no inconvenience due to waste collection delays. The addition of more tractors, based on the requirements in



each area, is expected to address the challenge of maintaining cleanliness during the strike and beyond.

Chief Medical Health Officer-in-Charge Dr. Suresh Babu and Executive Engineer, Vehicle Depot-in-Charge Yesus Padam, were also present during the inspection to provide their inputs and assist in the ongoing efforts to improve the city's sanitation system.

The VMC is committed to ensuring the well-being of its citizens by providing effective and timely sanitation management services.



# Handloom Workers Submit 17-Points Petition to Minister Savita

**TPN, Andhra Pradesh:** Handloom workers and cooperative representatives from across Andhra Pradesh met Handloom Minister Savita at her office on Wednesday, submitting a petition with 17 demands aimed at addressing longstanding issues in the sector. The delegation, led by Andhra Pradesh Handloom Workers' Association State General Secretary Pillamarri Nageswara Rao, highlighted the plight of workers and cooperatives facing severe financial distress.

## Key Issues Raised

Pillamarri Nageswara Rao emphasized that unresolved issues have pushed many handloom workers into debt, with some even resorting to suicide. He revealed that government dues of ₹172 crore, pending for over six years, have crippled handloom cooperatives, leaving them unable to provide employment. He urged the state government to allocate ₹2,000 crore for the sector in the upcoming budget.

## The delegation demanded:

- Immediate Payment of Dues: Clearing ₹172 crore owed to handloom cooperatives.
- Increased Wages: Raising the mini-



- mum wage from ₹24,000 to ₹36,000 for weavers and related professions.
- Free Electricity: Provision of 200 free electricity units per month to handloom workers' families.
- Handloom Parks: Establishing parks in Kadapa's Mailavaram and Venkatagiri's Busapalem to create employment.
- Strict Enforcement: Implementing reservation laws for 11 handloom fabrics and taking action against those selling power loom products as handloom.
- Government Support: Revival of the patronage scheme, subsidized professional equipment, and marketing support.
- GST Exemption: Abolishing GST on handloom products.
- Formation of Committees: State and district-level committees led by the minister and district collectors to review handloom issues quarterly.

## Government Response

Minister Savita responded positively, assuring the delegation that their concerns would be addressed. She promised to discuss the demands with Chief Minister Nara Chandrababu Naidu and explore solutions to support the sector. Among the delegation were Assistant Secretary Gottumukkala Balaji, former Mangalagiri Municipality Vice Chairman Nandam Brahmewara Rao, and other officials, who expressed hope for swift government action to revive the ailing sector.



## Inturi Sujana Raises Concerns Over Her Husband's Health

TPN, Visakhapatnam: Sujana, the wife of political activist Inturi Ravikiran, expressed deep concern over the alleged harassment of her husband during a press meet at the Visakhapatnam Press Club. Speaking emotionally, she questioned the rationale behind the false cases being filed against him. Sujana revealed that despite medical advice indicating Ravikiran's poor health, the police were subjecting him to harsh conditions. "They are driving him 500 to 600 kilometers a day with PT warrants and not even allowing him proper rest or sleep," she lamented. She further complained about being denied access to her husband and not being informed of his whereabouts. "I haven't seen him till now, and the police won't even disclose which station he is at," she said. Sujana alleged that the ongoing harassment was politically motivated, targeting her husband for his sarcastic criticism of the government's actions. "The coalition government is punishing him for pointing out their mistakes," she added. The allegations have sparked concern among political circles and human rights activists, who are calling for an inquiry into the treatment of Ravikiran and the circumstances surrounding his detention.

## Former MLA Kethi Reddy's Controversial Caste Comments Spark Outrage

TPN, Andhra Pradesh: In a recent meeting, former YCP MLA Kethi Reddy made provocative comments regarding caste and leadership, which have sparked widespread criticism. During the meeting, which was reportedly held for the "Reddys" (a community group), Reddy suggested that only people from his caste, refer Reddy to as "Reddys," should be in leadership positions, implying that figures like KCR, YSR, and Revanth Reddy should appoint their own community members as MLAs.



His comments quickly went viral on social media, with many questioning the implications of his statements. Critics have raised concerns about the divisive nature of such remarks, asking whether people from other castes are being denied the right to lead. The question also emerged: "Do people from other castes not have the leadership qualities or the right to rule?" Despite the controversy surrounding his comments, it appears that neither local officials nor the police intervened at the time of the speech, leading to further outrage over the lack of action.

# Union Minister Annapurna Devi Launches "Bal Vivah Mukht Bharat" Campaign to Eradicate Child Marriages



**TPN, Srikakulam:** Union Minister for Women and Child Welfare, Annapurna Devi, emphasized the need for collective efforts to eradicate child marriages across India, launching the "Bal Vivah Mukht Bharat" campaign on Wednesday. The campaign, aligned with Prime Minister Narendra Modi's vision to make India a child marriage-free country, aims to create a safer environment for children to grow and develop. Speaking virtually from Delhi, the Union Minister highlighted the urgency of addressing child marriages, underscoring that it is essential for children to live free from the societal pressures that lead to early marriages. As part of the initiative, some individuals who have made significant efforts to combat child marriages, as well as children who successfully avoided such unions, shaReddy their experiences.

One notable speaker was Butcha Ramamma, a resident of Kunchala Kuramayyapet village in Srikakulam. At the age of 14, Ramanamma was married due to financial pressures. However, after the Comprehensive Child Protection Department intervened, her marriage was annulled. She has since completed her B.Tech and is working in an IT company in Hyderabad. Ramanamma is now helping other girls escape child marriages, setting an inspiring example. District Collector Swapnal Dinkar Pundkar, also present at the event, emphasized that overcoming child marriages requires the collective effort of all sections of society. He made attendees pledge to work towards ending child marriages and highlighted the long-term impact that such unions have on the lives of young individuals.

## Case Against Former Kadiri MLA in Fake House Title Scam

**TPN, Kadiri:** A police case has been registered against former Kadiri YCP MLA Attar Chand Basha in connection with a fake house title deed scam that reportedly took place in 2018. According to the investigation, Basha, while serving as the chairman of the assignment committee, was allegedly involved in creating and distributing fraudulent house titles. The victims, who approached the police, claim that Somla Nayak, a close follower of Basha, was in possession of these fake house titles. Nayak is

accused of selling these bogus titles for large sums of money, leading to substantial financial losses for unsuspecting individuals. During the police investigation, Nayak confessed to his role in the crime and revealed that he had been encouraged by Basha to carry out the illegal activity. As a result, a case was registered against both Basha and Nayak. Additionally, a case has been filed against Revenue Inspector Munwar, who is accused of facilitating the scam by assisting in the creation of the fake house titles.

## MLA Venigandla Ramu Assures Farmers of Smooth Paddy Procurement in Gudivada

**TPN, Gudivada:** Farmers in the Gudivada constituency need not worry about paddy procurement issues, assured MLA Venigandla Ramu. He emphasized that all necessary steps are being taken to ensure hassle-free procurement. MLA Ramu spoke with Krishna District Collector Balaji over the phone and directed officials to take immediate action to facilitate smooth paddy sales. The Collector informed the MLA that alternative arrangements are in place to prevent disruptions.

In a statement released by MLA Ramu, he confirmed that steps have been taken to sell paddy in rice mills in other districts. He added that special arrangements, including the deployment of trucks, have been made to transport the filled paddy sacks without any transportation issues. Several rice millers from Guntur district have already come forward to purchase the paddy, and officials are in talks with millers in surrounding districts to expand procurement efforts.

# CPI Demands Housing and Caste Recognition for Jangam Community in Rayadurgam

TPN, Rayadurgam: The Communist Party of India (CPI) Rayadurgam Taluka unit has intensified its efforts to address the long-standing issues faced by the Beda Budaga Jangam community. On Wednesday, CPI leaders, along with community members, submitted a petition to the Rayadurgam Mandal Revenue Officer (MRO), demanding immediate government action to provide housing plots, caste recognition, education, and access to welfare schemes.

Nagarjuna, CPI Rayadurgam Taluka Secretary, highlighted the dire living conditions of the Beda Budaga Jangam community, which has resided in Rayadurgam for over 60 years without proper housing. Many families live in makeshift tents, vulnerable to poisonous insects and harsh weather. "Rain



turns their lives into a nightmare, forcing them to live in fear," he said. Despite appeals to local officials, including MLA Kalava Srinivas and Tahsildar Chittibabu, the community

remains without permanent housing. Recently, 40 families pooled their resources to prepare land for new tents, only to face opposition from local groups.



The CPI has demanded that each family be allotted government plots and a financial grant of ₹5 lakhs to build homes. Additionally, the party called for immediate issuance of caste cer-

tificates, which would allow children from the community to access education and job opportunities. "The community's children, despite scoring well in exams, are being denied education due to a lack of recognition and support," said Nagarjuna. He also emphasized the need for ration cards and inclusion in government welfare schemes. CPI leaders warned that if their demands are not met, they will organize a mass movement against the state government. Community leaders and CPI affiliates, including Kotresh, Parvati, and others, vowed to continue their fight until justice is served. The petition will also be submitted to Chief Minister Nara Chandrababu Naidu during his visit to Nemaikallu village.





# The Rise of Asia and Its Impact on the Global Order

The shifting global order, with Asia at the forefront, is a topic of increasing debate. Traditionally, the global order has been shaped by Western powers, primarily the US and Europe, with the United Nations (UN) tasked with maintaining peace and security. However, this system has shown signs of ineffectiveness and has often been challenged by Asia's rising influence.

Asia's rise is not a recent phenomenon. Countries like Japan and South Korea have made significant strides economically and politically, though their progress was seen as complementary to the Western-led global order. However, China's rise is seen as a more direct challenge to this order. With China now the world's largest manufacturing hub, the second-largest economy, and the biggest exporter, it has expanded its global influence through both military power and economic initiatives. While deeply integrated into the global

system through trade and its WTO membership, China's growing assertiveness, particularly in the South and East China Seas, is seen as disruptive.

India, on the other hand, is navigating a more complex path. Unlike China, India's rise is not viewed as directly confrontational to the West. While India seeks a larger role on the global stage—calling for reforms in international institutions and aiming for a permanent seat on the UN Security Council—it maintains strong economic ties with both the US and China. India is positioning itself as a voice for the Global South and is committed to the Indo-Pacific framework, which is closely linked to countering China's growing influence.

The rise of Asia is not a unified, peaceful phenomenon. Conflicts abound, particularly between China and its neighbors, in-

cluding Japan, South Korea, and India. The Indo-Pacific concept, which links the security of the Indian and Pacific Oceans, has emerged largely as a response to China's growing assertiveness. China's territorial disputes, its military buildup, and its strategic projects in the Indian Ocean region have created security concerns, prompting cooperation among regional players like Japan, India, and the US.

Despite these tensions, Asia cannot maintain order on its own and relies on the US for security. US military presence, particularly in the Pacific and Indian Oceans, is vital to counterbalance China's influence. India, with its strong naval presence, is also playing a key role in securing sea lanes in the region. In this evolving scenario, Asia's rise is reshaping the global order, creating both opportunities for co-operation and new challenges in the geopolitical landscape.

## Trump and the global crisis of political imagination

Following the collapse of Kamala Harris's presidential campaign, many pundits and Republicans have seized on the idea that the Democrats' detachment from "common sense" contributed to their defeat. This phrase is often used to suggest that the Democratic Party's focus on identity politics and progressive issues, such as transgender rights, alienated them from the average American voter. While it is true that the concept of "common sense" holds sway in American politics, those attributing the Democrats' loss to it may be missing the mark.

The phrase "common sense" has long enjoyed a revered place in political discourse, most famously in Thomas Paine's 1776 pamphlet, in which he made the case for American independence by presenting it as "common sense." Paine's usage of the term was strategic; by presenting independence as logical and self-evident, he sought to elevate an ambitious, revolutionary idea into something universally accepted. Paine wasn't merely stating



that the idea was widespread, but that it was so logically sound that anyone could easily understand and agree with it. This dual role of common sense is critical to understanding its power: it can represent both something grounded in everyday reality and a rhetorical tool used to reshape that reality.

When people today invoke common sense

in politics, they often refer to the former definition — a set of accepted, almost unquestioned beliefs about how society should work. This version of common sense becomes a foundation on which political arguments are built, often making it difficult for new or progressive ideas to gain traction. It is seen as a stable, unchanging truth that defines how things ought to be. However, common sense can also serve as a tool for political manipulation, shaping social norms and influencing public opinion in a way that appeals to the logic of the majority.

In this sense, the very idea of common sense can be used to uphold the status quo, even when the status quo itself may not serve the interests of all people. When pundits argue that Democrats lost touch with "common sense," they are often reinforcing a narrative that seeks to limit the scope of what is considered politically acceptable, rather than engaging with the evolving complexities of American society.

## India's Strategic Approach to Addressing the Crisis in Bangladesh

The ongoing violence against Hindus and other minorities in Bangladesh has raised alarms, particularly for India, which shares a long and complex border with its eastern neighbor. For those with personal ties to the region, witnessing such atrocities stirs deep emotions. However, India's response must be measured, calculating the broader geopolitical implications while safeguarding its own strategic interests.

The Indian government faces a delicate dilemma. On one hand, inaction could project weakness and render India incapable of protecting its minority communities or asserting its regional influence. On the other hand, swift military action could play into adversaries' hands, painting India as a reckless aggressor while exacerbating domestic challenges, such as the presence of an estimated 30-40 million illegal Bangladeshi migrants and Rohingya refugees within its borders.

India must tread carefully, weighing multiple options to counter the rise of Islamist militancy in Bangladesh while avoiding direct confrontation. A military intervention, though a potential

last resort, should not be the first course of action. Instead, India should consider covert operations targeting extremist groups like Hizb ut-Tahrir, Jamaat-e-Islami, and Hefazat-e-Islam. These groups, which have historically fueled violence against minorities, have also clashed among themselves, offering India a potential opportunity to exploit internal divisions.

Another powerful lever India can use is economic pressure. A well-calculated trade blockade could severely impact Bangladesh's economy, particularly its garment industry, which relies heavily on Indian raw materials. Additionally, Bangladesh is dependent on India for key commodities such as rice, wheat, energy, and raw materials for manufacturing. A blockade would hurt India to some extent, but the costs for Bangladesh would be much greater, potentially forcing the government to reconsider its stance.

India should also covertly assist Bangladesh's persecuted minorities, including Hindus, secular



Muslims, and others, enabling them to defend themselves against Islamist groups. Strengthening ties with Bangladesh's military could further support these efforts, opening up avenues for co-operation in curbing terrorism and militant violence, if necessary.

Another important avenue for India is to reconsider its political alliances in Bangladesh. Historically, India has been heavily aligned with Prime Minister Sheikh Hasina's Awami League. However, Hasina's growing unpopularity and the rise of the opposition Bangladesh Nationalist Party (BNP) present an opportunity for India to explore diplomatic relations with alternative political factions. Engaging with BNP leaders like Mirza Fakhrul Islam Alamgir could provide India with potential allies who are less ideologically aligned with radical Islamists and more receptive to India's interests.

India should also consider strengthening its post-Hasina strategy by working with emerging, moderate political leaders in Bangladesh who could lead a more balanced and democratic government. Additionally, India must prioritize securing its borders, deporting illegal migrants, and cracking down on the fake documentation that enables their entry.

## Rishabh Pant: From IPL Underdog to Multi-Million Dollar Brand



Rishabh Pant's rise in the world of cricket has been nothing short of meteoric, with his journey taking him from a ₹1.9 crore IPL contract in 2016 to a staggering ₹27 crore in the 2024 auction, making him one of the most expensive players in the league. While the massive price tag raised eyebrows, it also underscored his undeniable impact on the field and his immense brand value.

Pant's IPL career has been marked by bold, unconventional cricket that excites fans and sponsors alike. Despite his T20I stats not being particularly stellar, his unpredictability and fearless batting make him a game-changer. His IPL batting average stands at 35.31, with eight half-centuries and one century, while his T20I strike rate is just under 127. But what Pant brings to the table goes beyond mere statistics—it's his "x-factor." Whether it's his explosive batting or his leadership qualities, Pant has become a symbol of aggression and confidence on the field, making him a highly sought-after player.

One of the key reasons behind his record-breaking IPL price tag is his immense popularity and potential for future impact. Known for his boldness, Pant can turn a game on its head, as he did during India's historic Test series win in Australia in 2021, scoring a match-winning 89\*. His never-say-die attitude and self-belief have made him a fan favorite and a player who commands attention. This connection with fans has translated into significant commercial success, with Pant endorsing 16 brands and his brand value estimated at around \$15 million, expected to rise by 30% after his IPL auction success.

Pant's story is also one of resilience. After a life-threatening car accident in December 2022, many wondered if he would ever play again. But Pant defied the odds, making a remarkable recovery and returning to cricket just 15 months later. His comeback resonated deeply with fans, further boosting his image as a symbol of strength and determination.

Much of Pant's success can be attributed to his mentor, the late Tarak Sinha, who nurtured Pant's raw talent at Delhi's Sonnet Cricket Club. Sinha's coaching philosophy allowed Pant to retain his natural flair while also grounding him in the fundamentals of cricket. The result is a player who can dominate across formats, with a free-flowing batting style that reflects his unshakable confidence and mental clarity.

Today, Rishabh Pant stands not just as a cricketer, but as a brand—a testament to his exceptional talent, unwavering spirit, and deep connection with fans and sponsors alike.





## Eknath Shinde Leaves CM Decision to PM Modi Amid Maharashtra Alliance Tension

Eknath Shinde, a key contender for the Chief Minister position in Maharashtra, has deferred the decision to Prime Minister Narendra Modi, stating that he would not stand in the way of whatever the Prime Minister decides. Shinde, leader of the Shiv Sena faction, emphasized that he was "not greedy for any position" and insisted that "no one is upset." This move comes four days after the election results, with the Bharatiya Janata Party (BJP) securing a massive victory in the Maharashtra Assembly elections.

Devendra Fadnavis of the BJP had been widely considered the front-runner for the Chief Minister's post due to his party's strong performance. However, the appointment has been delayed, possibly due to resistance from Shinde's faction of Shiv Sena, which has been pushing for Shinde's return as CM. The Shinde faction has argued that it was his leadership and welfare initiatives that contributed to the alliance's victory.

Leaders from Shinde's camp have even suggested that the BJP had made prior promises regarding the Chief Minister post, echoing similar claims from 2019 when the BJP allegedly went back on its word after Shiv Sena had performed well in the elections. This situation eventually led to Uddhav Thackeray breaking away from the BJP-led alliance and forming a coalition with Congress and NCP.

Despite his faction's claims, Shinde expressed that he was a "common man" and that his identity as a "ladka bhai" (youth leader) transcended any political position. "Since becoming Chief Minister, I did not take a single day off... I am not one who cries, I fight... I will work for Maharashtra till my last breath," he stated emotionally.

While the BJP secured 132 seats in the 288-member Maharashtra Assembly, the Shiv Sena, led by Shinde, won 57 seats, and the Nationalist Congress Party (NCP) won 41 seats. The majority mark in the Assembly is 145, and the BJP now needs the support of only one ally to form the government. Ajit Pawar has already expressed his support for Fadnavis for the Chief Minister role.

# PM Modi Invites Youth to Participate in Viksit Bharat Young Leaders Dialogue

Prime Minister Narendra Modi has called the upcoming 'Viksit Bharat Young Leaders Dialogue' a "very special opportunity" for youth to showcase their innovative ideas to the highest levels of government. The event, which will take place on January 12, 2025, is set to serve as a platform for young minds to contribute to India's growth and development.

Through a post on X, PM Modi encouraged young people to participate in the dialogue, mentioning an engaging quiz that will provide an opportunity to be part of this historic event. He emphasized that it will be a chance for youth to have their voices heard by government leaders, marking an indelible contribution to the vision of a "Viksit Bharat" (Developed India).

In his 116th episode of the Mann Ki Baat radio broadcast, the Prime Minister revealed the initiative,



describing it as a way to connect young people with politics, especially those without any political family background. He said that the event will be held in con-

nection with Swami Vivekananda's 162nd Jayanti on January 12, 2025, and would feature a "Maha Kumbh" of young minds at Bharat Mandapam in Delhi. This gath-

ering will take place on January 11-12 and will be a key part of the Viksit Bharat Young Leaders Dialogue.

PM Modi further added that the dialogue would see the participation of youth from all across the country, with 2,000 selected young people from villages, blocks, districts, and states attending the event. He reflected on his call from the Red Fort, urging youth from non-political families to join politics and contribute to the nation's development. The Viksit Bharat Young Leaders Dialogue, he explained, is part of the broader effort to involve one lakh such youth in politics through special campaigns across India.

The event promises to be a significant step in engaging the youth in the political process and shaping India's future, as it invites fresh voices to become part of the national dialogue.

## Won't Be A Rubber Stamp For Congress": Trinamool Signals INDIA Bloc Rift

The Trinamool Congress (TMC) has expressed dissatisfaction with Congress' approach in the INDIA alliance, signaling a potential rift following the Congress' significant defeats in the Maharashtra and Haryana elections. The Mamata Banerjee-led party has made it clear that it will not be a passive supporter of Congress' decisions, particularly regarding a push for a parliamentary discussion on alleged corruption.

While the TMC does not oppose discussing corruption, it insists that Parliament should focus on issues critical to the people of West Bengal, such as funds deprivation, rising prices, and a law for quicker justice for women victims of rape. A TMC leader emphasized the need for Parliament to function, with the party keen on raising issues that matter to its state, rather than allowing the debate on corruption to dominate.

Mamata Banerjee, the West Bengal Chief Minister, has reportedly reinforced the party's stance, stating that while Congress is part of the INDIA alliance, it is not a direct electoral ally of the TMC. The party, according to sources, does not feel compelled to accept unilateral decisions made by Congress. This assertion re-



flects the broader discomfort between the two parties, which contested the Lok Sabha and recent bypolls in West Bengal separately. Despite this, the TMC's performance in the bypolls was resounding, securing all six seats, and it significantly outperformed Congress in the 2019 Lok Sabha elections.

TMC's frustration with Congress has been growing, especially following the latter's losses in Haryana and Maharashtra. TMC MP Saket Gokhale criticized Congress' "arrogance" and its failure to accommodate

regional parties in states where they hold influence. He argued that such a mindset leads to electoral defeats, pointing to Congress' poor performance in both states as evidence.

The TMC has also been vocal about the lack of a clear leader in the INDIA alliance, with party members suggesting Mamata Banerjee could step in as a unifying figure. As tensions rise, the future of the opposition alliance remains uncertain, with Congress facing increasing criticism from regional parties like TMC.



## Hemant Soren to Take Oath as Jharkhand CM, Key INDIA Bloc Leaders to Attend

Hemant Soren, the leader of the Jharkhand Mukti Morcha (JMM), is set to take oath as the Chief Minister of Jharkhand for the fourth time tomorrow. The swearing-in ceremony, which will be a significant event in the state's political landscape, is also seen as a platform to showcase the unity of the opposition INDIA bloc, as numerous prominent leaders from across the country are expected to attend.

Soren's JMM-led coalition emerged victorious with a clear majority in the recent Jharkhand Assembly elections. The swearing-in ceremony will be attended by several key opposition figures, underscoring the growing solidarity among regional and national parties within the INDIA bloc. The guest list includes Congress President Mallikarjun Kharge, Leader of Opposition in Lok Sabha Rahul Gandhi, NCP President Sharad Pawar, and West Bengal Chief Minister Mamata Banerjee.

Other notable attendees include AAP Convener Arvind Kejriwal, Samajwadi Party President Akhilesh Yadav, Himachal Pradesh CM Sukhinder Singh Sukhu, CPI-ML General Secretary Dipankar Bhattacharya, Shiv Sena-UBT leader Uddhav Thackeray, former Jammu and Kashmir CM Mehbooba Mufti, and Tamil Nadu Deputy CM Udhayanidhi Stalin. Additionally, Karnataka Deputy CM D.K. Shivakumar, Bihar Leader of Opposition Tejashwi Yadav, former Delhi Deputy CM Manish Sisodia, Bihar MP Pappu Yadav, and AAP Rajya Sabha member Sanjay Singh will also be present.

The high-profile event reflects the ongoing efforts by the opposition parties to strengthen their coordination ahead of upcoming elections, as they aim to challenge the BJP-led government at both the state and national levels. The gathering of such influential leaders is seen as a significant step in reinforcing the opposition's resolve to present a united front in the political arena.

# Replace Rahul Gandhi, not EVM: BJP to Congress chief Mallikarjun Kharge

The Bharatiya Janata Party (BJP) criticized the Congress on Wednesday for its recent allegations about the functioning of Electronic Voting Machines (EVMs), pointing out that the opposition party only raised concerns about EVMs after facing defeats, notably in Maharashtra. BJP spokesperson Sambit Patra questioned Congress' stance, emphasizing that the party had never contested the EVM mechanism in states where it emerged victorious.

Patra's remarks came after Congress President Mallikarjun Kharge's comments on Constitution Day, where he called for the removal of EVMs and the return of ballot papers. Kharge had argued that the EVMs were undermining the votes of marginalized communities, particularly minorities, and thus needed to be replaced by the traditional paper ballots.



In response, Patra dismissed these claims as a reflection of Congress' frustration with its poor performance in the Maharashtra elections. He questioned Kharge's assertion that EVMs were "wasting the votes"

of Scheduled Castes (SC), Scheduled Tribes (ST), Other Backward Classes (OBC), and the poor. "It is surprising that a senior leader like Mallikarjun Kharge ji has said that the votes of SC, ST, OBC, and poor people are getting

wasted due to EVMs. Does Kharge and the Congress party think that these communities are incapable of voting correctly?" Patra said.

The BJP spokesperson also mocked Congress' leadership, suggesting that the real problem lay not with the EVMs but with the party's leadership. "The problem is not in the machine (EVM). The problem is with the (Congress) leadership. The EVM is fine, Rahul is faulty. Replace Rahul, not EVM," Patra quipped, implying that Congress' internal issues were to blame for their losses rather than the voting technology.

Patra's comments reflect ongoing tensions between the BJP and Congress, as the two parties continue to spar over electoral results and leadership questions ahead of upcoming elections.





# India Welcomes Israel-Lebanon Ceasefire, Calls for Continued Diplomacy

India has welcomed the ceasefire between Israel and Lebanon, which took effect on Wednesday morning, expressing its continued support for de-escalation and diplomacy. The Ministry of External Affairs issued a statement affirming that India has "always called for de-escalation, restraint, and a return to the path of dialogue and diplomacy." The statement expressed hope that the ceasefire would lead to long-term peace and stability in the region.

Israeli Prime Minister Benjamin Netanyahu, in his remarks, emphasized that the length of the ceasefire would depend on the developments in Lebanon. He also stated that Israel would "enforce the agreement and respond forcefully to any violation," reiterating Israel's determination to act decisively if Hezbollah breaches the ceasefire terms.

The ceasefire follows months of intense conflict, triggered by Hezbollah's support for Hamas in the wake of its attack on Israel on October 7, 2023. The border conflict between Israel and Hezbollah, which began with limited exchanges of fire, escalated into a broader war after Hezbollah's involvement. Netanyahu stressed that the ceasefire deal would depend on Hezbollah's actions and warned that Israel would not hesitate to respond if Hezbollah violated the terms.

In his statement, Indian Prime Minister Narendra Modi condemned all forms of



terrorism and called for the release of all hostages held by Hamas in Gaza, referring to the Israeli hostages taken during the October 7 attack. India's message highlights the country's longstanding position on promoting peace and stability, both in the Middle East and globally.

The situation in Lebanon has been volatile, with Hezbollah's support for Hamas intensifying the conflict. While the ceasefire is seen as a positive step, both sides remain vigilant, and the future of the truce will depend on the actions of all parties involved.

## South Korean president meets Ukraine envoy, raises Russia-North Korea threat

South Korean President Yoon Suk Yeol held a meeting with a Ukrainian envoy on Wednesday, expressing his concerns about the growing military cooperation between Russia and North Korea. The discussions, according to Yoon's office, focused on finding an effective response to this emerging security threat.

The meeting comes at a time when both countries are grappling with significant geopolitical challenges. Russia's increased military collaboration with North Korea, especially in light of the ongoing conflict in Ukraine, has raised alarms in the region. The partnership between Russia and North Korea has been a matter of international concern, particularly in terms of the potential for enhanced military capabilities and destabilization.



During the meeting, President Yoon emphasized the importance of international cooperation in addressing such threats. He noted the potential risks posed by Russia's strengthening ties with North Korea, particularly in terms of weapons development and the strategic implications for regional security. Yoon and the Ukrainian envoy agreed on the need for both nations to collaborate in responding to

this growing security challenge.

South Korea has consistently been wary of North Korea's military ambitions, and the recent developments with Russia have only intensified these concerns. Yoon's administration has maintained a firm stance on North Korea's provocations, while also seeking to strengthen ties with other countries facing similar threats, including Ukraine.

The meeting between Yoon and the Ukrainian representative also reflected the broader context of the ongoing conflict in Ukraine. South Korea, while not directly involved in the war, has expressed its support for Ukraine through humanitarian aid and condemnation of Russia's actions. The two nations, South Korea and Ukraine, are working together to navigate the complex security dynamics in the region, particularly in light of the growing cooperation between Russia and North Korea.

## Netanyahu Outlines Three Key Reasons for Ceasefire with Hezbollah

Israeli Prime Minister Benjamin Netanyahu revealed on Tuesday that his government approved a ceasefire deal with Hezbollah, citing three primary reasons for the decision. The Israeli security cabinet's vote in favor of the truce was part of ongoing efforts to manage the escalating conflict in Lebanon, which has seen border skirmishes and military strikes since October of last year.

Netanyahu explained that the ceasefire would allow Israel to focus on broader security threats, particularly from Iran, and to give Israeli forces a much-needed respite. "The first reason is to focus on the Iranian threat," Netanyahu said, without elaborating further on the matter. The second reason was logistical: Israel's military forces have been facing delays in the supply of weapons and munitions, which Netanyahu acknowledged but assured the public would soon be resolved with advanced weaponry deliveries.

The third reason for the ceasefire, according to Netanyahu, is to isolate Hamas and prevent further involvement from Hezbollah. He explained that Hamas had been relying on Hezbollah from the outset of the war, but with Hezbollah now sidelined, Hamas would be left to face Israeli pressure alone. This would, Netanyahu believes, increase the chances of achieving Israel's ultimate goal: the release of hostages held by Hamas.

While announcing the ceasefire, Netanyahu emphasized that the Israeli military would retain the freedom to act if Hezbollah violates the agreement. "If Hezbollah re-arms, rebuilds terrorist infrastructure, launches rockets, or digs tunnels, we will attack," Netanyahu warned, reiterating that the U.S. understood Israel's stance on maintaining military action if necessary. The Israeli-Lebanese conflict began on October 8, 2023, when Hezbollah launched attacks on Israeli-controlled areas, marking a significant escalation in the region. Tensions have remained high, and the situation continues to evolve, with efforts to negotiate a lasting ceasefire still underway.

## Biden Welcomes US-French Brokered Ceasefire Between Israel and Hezbollah

US President Joe Biden on Tuesday praised the announcement of a ceasefire agreement between Israel and Hezbollah, brokered by the United States and France, calling it "good news." Speaking from the White House, Biden confirmed that the ceasefire deal would take effect on Wednesday at 4:00 am local time (0200 GMT), marking a significant step toward easing tensions between the two parties.

The ceasefire agreement comes after days of escalating hostilities between Israeli forces and Hezbollah, the Lebanese militant group. The conflict had raised concerns about further regional instability, particularly with Israel already engaged in a prolonged military campaign in Gaza. The intervention of the United States and France to facilitate this ceasefire is seen as a crucial effort to de-escalate tensions and prevent the conflict from spilling over into a broader regional war.



Israeli Prime Minister Benjamin Netanyahu's office also confirmed the approval of the deal by Israel's cabinet ministers. This development marks a rare moment of agreement between the Israeli government and Hezbollah, a group that has long been considered a significant threat to Israel's security. While both parties have expressed their intention to respect the terms of the ceasefire, there remains skepticism about the long-term durability of the truce.

In his statement, President Biden emphasized the importance of the ceasefire as a means to stabilize the region and prevent further loss of life. "This is an important step toward peace and security," Biden said, acknowledging the support of the French government in brokering the agreement. The ceasefire is expected to provide much-needed relief to civilians caught in the crossfire of the conflict.

The United States has been actively involved in efforts to mediate conflicts in the Middle East, and Biden's administration continues to push for diplomatic solutions in the region. As the ceasefire goes into effect, both Israel and Hezbollah will be under international scrutiny to uphold their commitments to peace and stability.

## Russia Warns US Against Escalation Over Ukraine Conflict

Russia has warned the United States to halt its involvement in what it described as a "spiral of escalation" in the ongoing Ukraine conflict, but assured that it would continue communication to prevent "dangerous mistakes." Deputy Foreign Minister Sergei Ryabkov issued the warning on Wednesday, signaling Moscow's desire to maintain dialogue despite rising tensions with the U.S.

Ryabkov's remarks came six days after Russia launched a new intermediate-range hypersonic missile, the Oreshnik, targeting Ukraine. The missile strike was a response to Ukraine's use of U.S. ATACMS ballistic missiles and British Storm Shadow cruise missiles, which had struck Russian territory with Western approval. President Vladimir Putin previously stated that the Oreshnik launch was a direct retaliation for Ukraine's escalation with Western-supplied weapons.



Ryabkov emphasized that Russia's message to the West was clear: "Stop, you should not do this any more. You mustn't supply Kyiv with everything they want, and don't encourage them towards new military adventures, as they are too dangerous." He warned that the U.S. administration must act to prevent further escalation, stressing that the situation could become too dangerous for all parties involved, including the United States itself.

Additionally, Ryabkov reiterated that while tensions were high, Russia remained committed to keeping communication channels open with Washington, especially to share information about missile tests. This move was aimed at avoiding miscalculations or accidental confrontations that could lead to further escalation.

## Trump Considers Direct Talks with Kim Jong Un Amid Rising Tensions



President-elect Donald Trump's team is reportedly discussing the possibility of pursuing direct negotiations with North Korean leader Kim Jong Un, aiming to reduce the risk of conflict. Sources close to the matter suggest that Trump's direct engagement approach, which previously produced a series of unprecedented diplomatic meetings between the two leaders, could offer a fresh opportunity to re-establish communication after years of stalled talks.

During his presidency from 2017 to 2021, Trump met with Kim on three occasions—in Singapore, Hanoi, and at the

Korean border. Despite the high-profile summits, no significant progress was made on key issues, particularly North Korea's nuclear weapons program. Nevertheless, Trump often referred to his relationship with Kim as a special one, with the two exchanging what Trump described as "beautiful" letters.

However, Kim's position now appears more entrenched. He has expressed a reluctance to engage in further negotiations with the U.S., especially after North Korea's continued missile tests and growing cooperation with Russia. In a recent speech, Kim stated that North

Korea had "gone as far as we can" with negotiations, signaling limited room for dialogue. While the U.S. has been pressing for denuclearization, Kim has insisted on full sanctions relief, further complicating the prospects for meaningful discussions.

The Trump administration's approach remains fluid, with no final decisions made. Trump's transition team did not comment on the ongoing discussions, and the new administration is expected to face other pressing foreign policy challenges, including tensions in the Middle East and the ongoing war in Ukraine.



# Markets Rebound on Adani Group Rally

**Sensex Gains 230 Points, Nifty Adds 80 Points**

The domestic stock market ended in gains today on the back of shares of Adani Group companies. Adani news added to the indices that started with moderate losses in the morning. Investors started buying after the company clarified that corruption and bribery charges were not filed against Gautam Adani and Sagar Adani and company representatives in the US court case. With this, the shares of the group companies rose. With this, the Nifty and Sensex rose. With the indices stopping at key resistance levels, there is a possibility of consolidation for a few more days.



The BSE Sensex, which closed at 80,004 in the previous session, started at 80,121 today. It touched an intraday low of 79,844. It rebounded in the afternoon and reached an intraday high of 80,511. Finally, it closed at 80,234 with a gain of 230 points. The NSE Nifty, which opened at 24,204, touched a low of 24,145 and a high of 24,354. It closed at 24,274, up 80 points. The Bank Nifty rose 110 points to settle at 52,301.

In Nifty50, 25 stocks gained and 25 lost. Adani Enterprises, Adani Ports, BEL, Trent, NTPC were the top gainers. Apollo Hospitals, Titan, Wipro, Shriram Finance, Hindalco were the top losers. Auto, Finance, Media, Metal, O&G indices were mixed.

Of the 2868 stocks traded on the NSE, 1902 gained and 874 lost. 71 shares hit 52-week highs and 37 hit 52-week lows.

Over 1 crore shares changed hands in ICICI Bank. Surya Roshni received orders worth Rs 214 crore. Vodafone Idea shares rose 11.57% today. Morgan Stanley has given an underweight



rating to Prestige Estates. India Vicks fell 4% today. Coal India plans to develop 36 coal projects in the next five years. Ola Electric Mobility shares rose 20% after being given a buy rating. JSW Holdings shares fell for the seventh consecutive day. SBI said it has sold domestic bonds worth Rs 50,000 crore so far in fiscal 2025. Japanese retail funds have started withdrawing for the first time since January 2018. India Ratings has projected fiscal deficit to be 4.75% in the current year. Swiggy shares have jumped 20% in three consecutive days. Adani Enterprises has acquired 74% stake in Cococart Ventures. LIC has further increased its stake in Patanjali Foods. NBCC has received an order worth Rs. 316 crore from the Odisha Welfare Department.

## Recommended Stocks:

**1. HDFC Bank**  
India's largest private-sector bank with a ro-

bust retail and corporate banking franchise. Strong net profit growth with a Return on Equity (ROE) of 20.15%. Stable financials with a Piotroski F-Score of 4, indicating steady fundamentals. Digital innovation remains a key focus, supporting growth in retail banking and new customer acquisition. Currently undervalued by ~25% compared to intrinsic value. Maintains a strong dividend history, making it attractive for long-term investors.



## 2. Mazagon Dock Shipbuilders

A state-run defense shipbuilding company specializing in naval vessels, submarines, and commercial ships. Revenue surged 21% YoY to ₹94.67 billion, with net profit up by 80% YoY in Q2 FY25. EBITDA margin improved to 18.52%, reflecting



operational efficiency. Declared a substantial interim dividend of ₹23.19 per share for FY25. Secured significant defense contracts and exploring AI-based infrastructure projects. Beneficiary of India's defense modernization plans.

## 3. CG Power and Industrial Solutions

A leading manufacturer of electrical equipment, including transformers, motors, and switchgear. The company has witnessed a turnaround in profitability in recent years, driven by improved operational efficiency. Strong focus on reducing debt and enhancing return ratios. Positioned to benefit from infrastructure and power sector investments in India.



## 4. KEI Industries

A major player in cables, wires, and allied solutions. Robust revenue growth supported by demand from infrastructure and real estate sectors. Consistently improving EBITDA margins through operational efficiency. Expanding into retail sales and leveraging growth in renewable energy projects.



## 5. Power Grid Corporation of India

India's largest power transmission utility, handling inter-state and inter-regional power transmission. Stable revenue streams due to regulated tariffs. High Return on Capital Employed (ROCE), indicating efficient use of resources. Investing in renewable energy infrastructure and grid modernization projects. Exploring global opportunities in transmission projects.



## Government's Fiscal Deficit Projected at 4.75% for FY25, Says India Ratings

India Ratings and Research has projected that the government will register a fiscal deficit of 4.75% for FY25, slightly lower than the budgeted target by 0.19%. This positive outcome is expected due to a reduction in expenditure, the agency reported on Wednesday. It also noted that revenue expenditure, excluding subsidies, would be 0.12% lower than the budget estimate for the fiscal year.



Devendra Kumar Pant, Chief Economist and Head of Public Finance at India Ratings, stated that the government's capital expenditure (capex) would be Rs 62,000 crore lower than the budgeted amount of Rs 11.11 lakh crore. However, Pant emphasized that the capex would still show a 10.6% increase over the previous year, although the initial budget projection had anticipated a 17.6% growth.

The agency attributed the dip in capex

growth to the upcoming general elections in May 2024. In the first half of FY25, capex growth shrank by 15.42% year-on-year. To meet the FY25 target, a 52.04% increase in capex in the second half of the fiscal year would be necessary, which poses a significant challenge.

Notably, certain ministries, including

railways and the Ministry of Road Transport and Highways, are expected to exceed their capex allocations for FY25, according to the report.

On the subsidy front, the report forecast a slippage of 0.10% of GDP due to higher expenditures on food, fertilizer, and petroleum subsidies. Overall, government spending in the first half of the fiscal year was 54.55% higher than the budgeted levels.

In terms of revenue, India Ratings projects that the gross tax revenue for FY25 will reach 12.02% of GDP, and net tax revenue will be 8.08% of GDP, marking a 17-year high. Income tax and corporate tax are expected to contribute significantly to the increase in gross tax revenue, while non-tax revenue and disinvestment receipts are projected to be lower than the budgeted targets.

## Sebi Introduces Mark-to-Market Valuation for Repo Transactions

The Securities and Exchange Board of India (Sebi) has announced a new framework for the valuation of repurchase (repo) transactions conducted by mutual funds, requiring them to adopt a mark-to-market (MTM) approach. This change is set to come into effect from January 1, 2025. The updated valuation methodology aims to standardize the valuation process for money market and debt instruments, addressing concerns of regulatory inconsistencies and potential arbitrage stemming from different valuation approaches.



Under the new rules, repo transactions, including tri-party repo (TREPS), with a tenor of up to 30 days will now be valued on a mark-to-market basis. Currently, these repo transactions are valued using a cost-plus accrual method. This shift will bring greater alignment to how short-term money market instruments are valued, ensuring that they reflect current market conditions more accurately.

Sebi's new guidelines also state that for all repo transactions, except overnight repos, as well as money market and debt securities, the valuation will be carried out using prices obtained from approved valuation agencies. This ensures a consistent and independent valuation process, mitigating the risk of subjective valuations

by fund managers. Additionally, money market and debt securities, including floating-rate securities, will be valued at the average security-level prices provided by these agencies.

In cases where a security is newly issued and not yet held by any mutual fund, the instrument will be valued at its purchase yield or price as of the allotment date. This ensures that such securities can still be appropriately valued even when market prices are not immediately available.

Earlier this year, Sebi also opened up repo transactions in corporate debt securities such as Commercial Papers and Certificates of Deposit for mutual funds, provided they are rated "AA" or higher. This move was aimed at fostering growth in the corporate bond market, providing mutual funds with more opportunities for investment in high-quality short-term securities.

## SBI Raises Rs 50,000 Crore in FY25 through Various Bond Issuances



State Bank of India (SBI), the country's largest lender, has successfully raised Rs 50,000 crore so far in the current financial year (FY25) through a variety of bond issuances. These funds were raised at competitive rates and have been garnered through a mix of Additional Tier 1 (AT1) Bonds, Tier 2 Bonds, Long-Term Bonds, and Infrastructure Bonds.

SBI's fundraising efforts include Rs 5,000 crore from AT1 Bonds, Rs 15,000 crore from Tier 2 Bonds, and Rs 30,000 crore through Long-Term Bonds, with each issuance significantly oversubscribed. In addition, the bank raised Rs 10,000 crore via its seventh infrastructure bond issuance earlier this month, bringing the total amount raised to Rs 50,000 crore.

The AT1, Tier 2, and Long-Term Bonds attracted widespread investor interest and were oversubscribed by more than twice the respective

base issue size, reflecting strong market demand. SBI's Chairman, CS Setty, expressed confidence in the bank's ability to attract a diverse group of investors, highlighting the broad participation from provident funds, pension funds, insurance companies, mutual funds, and other financial institutions.

Setty noted that the diverse range of investors and the wide distribution of bids underscore the trust that the market places in SBI as the nation's largest financial institution. The overwhelming response to these bond issuances signals continued confidence in the bank's financial strength and growth prospects.

These bond raises are part of SBI's strategy to bolster its capital base and support future growth, ensuring it remains well-positioned to meet the evolving financial needs of its customers and stakeholders.



# Spotify Cracks Down on Piracy Ahead of Spotify Wrapped 2024



Spotify, the world's leading music-streaming platform, has recently taken a strong stance against piracy, implementing significant changes to combat the use of modified apps. According to a Reddit post, Spotify has made API-level modifications that ensure its service will only function on the official app, effectively blocking third-party apps and unauthorized versions. This move comes as a preemptive measure ahead of Spotify Wrapped 2024, an eagerly anticipated annual feature where the platform reveals detailed user data, such as the most listened-to songs, favorite artists, and albums.

The crackdown has already caused noticeable disruptions, with many users experiencing issues accessing Spotify through non-official apps. Downdetector, a popular platform that tracks service outages through reports from sources like Facebook, X, and Reddit, indicated that 40,515 users in the United States were affected by the disruption. This surge in reports highlights the widespread im-

pact of Spotify's new policy and the frustration it has caused for users relying on modified apps to access the service.

The timing of the ban is significant, as it comes just days before the launch of Spotify Wrapped 2024. This annual feature has become a major event for Spotify users, who eagerly await personalized insights into their listening habits from the past year. With Wrapped set to be a highlight of the year for millions of users, Spotify's decision to enforce stricter controls may cause tension among some, especially those who have used unofficial apps to access the platform for free or bypass certain restrictions.

Despite the controversy surrounding the move, Spotify's decision reflects its ongoing commitment to protecting its intellectual property and combating piracy. As the platform continues to evolve, it is clear that Spotify is prioritizing official access and user data security, even if it means alienating some segments of its user base.

# WhatsApp Testing Feature to Customize Forwarded Messages on Android

WhatsApp, the popular messaging platform used by billions of people worldwide, is introducing a new feature that will make it easier for users to customize forwarded messages. Currently in the beta phase for Android users, this feature allows individuals to add custom text to any forwarded content, such as images, videos, documents, and text messages.

At present, WhatsApp only allows users to forward images, videos, and GIFs with a basic caption or additional message. However, when forwarding documents or text messages, users are required to manually send a separate message after the forward, creating an extra step in the process. The upcoming update simplifies this by enabling users to directly add their own message to the forwarded content without needing to send a separate follow-up message.

This change is aimed at improving the user experience by streamlining the forwarding process and making it more intuitive. Instead of forwarding a mes-



sage and then manually typing a new response, users can simply attach their custom message to the forwarded content before sending it. This enhancement will be especially useful for those who frequently share important information, documents, or media with added context.

As of now, this feature is limited to beta testers, meaning it is not yet available to all WhatsApp users. However, the update's rollout is expected to expand in the coming weeks, potentially reaching a wider audience as the feature undergoes

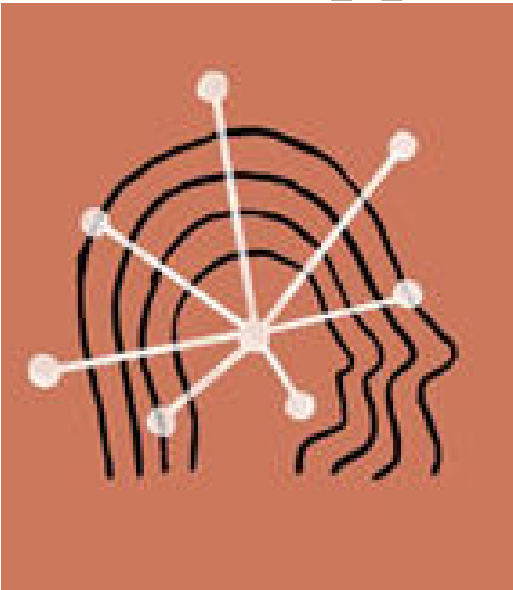
further testing and refinement.

WhatsApp continues to innovate with features that enhance user customization and communication efficiency. By enabling users to better personalize forwarded messages, the platform seeks to improve user satisfaction and maintain its position as a top messaging app in a highly competitive market. The feature's expansion will likely be welcomed by users who appreciate more control over the content they share with others.

# Anthropic Introduces Model Context Protocol for AI App Integration

Anthropic has unveiled a new technical standard aimed at improving how AI agents interact with applications on users' phones and desktops. The Model Context Protocol (MCP), now available for free download, is an open-source standard designed to streamline the process by which AI systems, such as the recently updated Claude 3.5, access and interact with apps on behalf of users.

The MCP is specifically created to support the growing capabilities of AI agents, particularly those like Claude 3.5, which can now assist users with tasks on their computers. With this new protocol, AI agents can more efficiently understand and interact with various applications, performing tasks like managing files, responding to notifications, and even navigating apps to execute commands. This opens up new possibilities for AI-driven productivity, as users can delegate tasks to the AI with greater ease and efficiency.



By establishing a universal and open standard, Anthropic aims to foster broader adoption and integration of AI technology across different platforms and devices. Developers can download and implement the MCP in their applications

to enable AI agents to interact with their services, making it easier for users to leverage AI features across a wide range of tasks.

The introduction of MCP comes at a time when AI is rapidly becoming more embedded in daily life, with increasing demands for smarter, more capable systems that can assist with everything from managing schedules to controlling smart home devices. With this new protocol, Anthropic is pushing the boundaries of AI accessibility, making it easier for developers to create applications that are compatible with AI agents.

As AI continues to evolve, the Model Context Protocol is expected to play a crucial role in advancing the relationship between humans and machines, making AI agents more practical, versatile, and intuitive in the way they help users interact with technology.

# Australia Moves Closer to Banning Social Media for Children Under 16

Australia is one step closer to imposing a ban on social media for children under 16, following the passage of the bill in the House of Representatives on Wednesday. The bill was approved with a vote of 102 to 13, gaining bipartisan support from Prime Minister Anthony Albanese's center-left Labor government. The Senate is set to debate the bill later in the day, with the government aiming to secure its passage by the end of the parliamentary year on Thursday.



The proposed law is a significant part of Albanese's efforts to address concerns about the physical and mental health risks of excessive social media use among children. He has received backing from various media outlets, including News Corp, and is seeking support from parents ahead of an election expected in May. The bill has sparked controversy, however, with youth advocates, including Australia's human rights commission, warning that it could infringe on children's rights to self-expression. Despite these concerns, a YouGov survey revealed that 77 percent of Australians support the ban, a significant increase from 61 percent in August.

Under the new law, social media platforms will be required to implement age-verification systems to ensure that users under

16 are restricted from accessing these platforms. Companies that fail to comply with the age-verification requirements could face fines of up to AUD 49.5 million (\$32 million or approximately Rs. 270 crore) for systemic breaches. The government plans to trial an age-verification system that may include biometrics or government identification.

In response to concerns over privacy, the Senate committee has suggested that social media platforms should not require users to submit sensitive personal data, such as passports, for age verification. Instead, the platforms must offer alternative methods of assuring age verification and ensure that reasonable steps are taken. The committee also emphasized the need for the government to engage meaningfully with young people during the law's development. A progress report on the age assurance trial is expected to be submitted to Parliament by September 30, 2025.

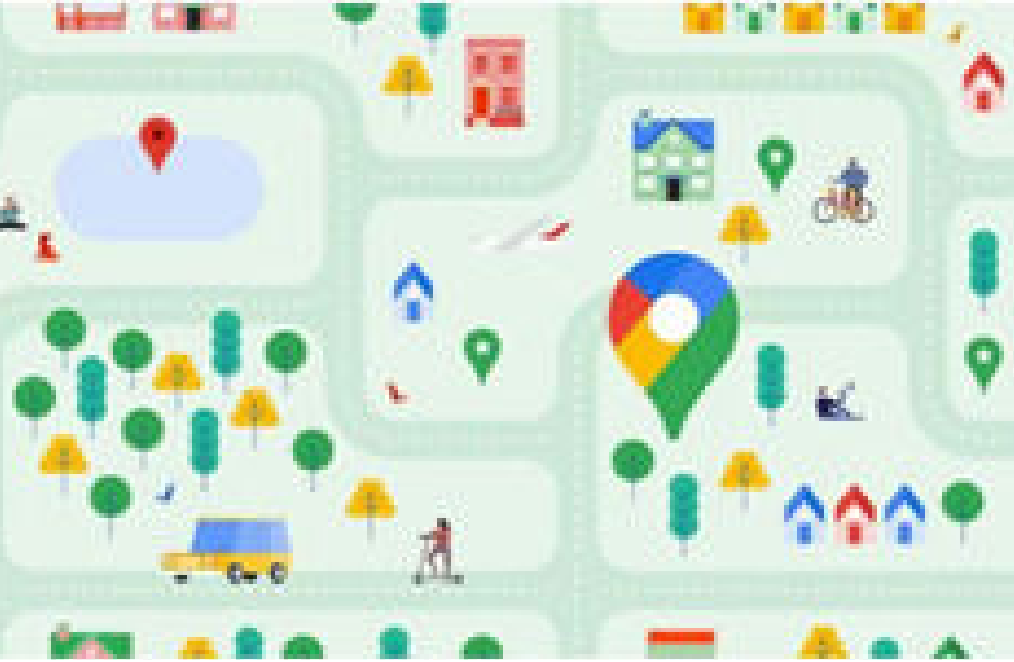
# Google to Delete Location History Unless Action Is Taken by Users

Last year, Google revealed plans to give users more control over how their location history is saved in Google Maps. In a blog post, the tech giant announced that users would soon have the option to either store their Timeline data directly on their devices or opt for an encrypted backup on the cloud.

While this change has not yet rolled out to all users, Google is now sending emails to some users warning that their location history will be deleted unless they take action. The email notifications are part of an effort to ensure that users are aware of the upcoming changes and can choose how they want to manage their location data moving forward.

It's important to note that the deadline for action may vary for different users. The emails being sent to users are personalized, meaning that the timeline for each individual's location data deletion may differ based on when they were notified. Therefore, it's essential for users to check their email and follow the instructions provided to avoid losing their location history.

The change in how location history is stored



comes as part of Google's ongoing efforts to enhance privacy and user control over personal data. The option to back up location history to the cloud, if chosen, will provide an encrypted copy of the data, adding an extra layer of security. Alternatively, users who prefer not to store their data in the cloud can opt to keep it only on their device.

To prevent the deletion of your location history, users should follow the prompts in the email and take action before the specified deadline. This will ensure that their Timeline data is preserved in accordance with their preferences. If you haven't received an email yet, it may be a matter of time before the notifications are sent to all users, so staying alert to any communication from Google is advised.



## India to Host 2026 Asian Rifle/Pistol Cup, Strengthening Its Shooting Sports Legacy

India has been awarded the hosting rights for the 2026 Asian Rifle/Pistol Cup, a significant step in the nation's growing reputation as a hub for international shooting sports. The announcement was made on Wednesday by the National Rifle Association of India (NRAI), further cementing India's role in organizing major sporting events. The decision was made by the executive committee of the Asian Shooting Confederation (ASC), which recognized India's commitment to elevating shooting sports.

The official letter from ASC's Eng. Duaij AlOtaibi to NRAI Secretary General K. Sultan Singh confirmed the allocation of the prestigious event to India. The letter also requested that the NRAI notify the ASC of the proposed dates for the competition. Expressing excitement over the development, Sultan Singh shared his gratitude to the ASC executive committee, assuring them that India would continue to deliver world-class events, as it has done in the past.

NRAI President Kalikesh Narayan Singh Deo also celebrated the news, calling it a reflection of India's growing stature in the international shooting community. He emphasized the importance of the event for Indian athletes, who will now have the opportunity to compete against top shooters from around the world on home turf.

Singh Deo also acknowledged the ongoing support from the Government of India, the Ministry of Sports, and the Sports Authority of India (SAI) for their consistent encouragement of Indian shooting.

India has a rich history of hosting high-profile shooting competitions, having previously organized the 8th Asian Air Gun competition in 2015 and the Asian Olympic Qualifiers in 2016. Additionally, the country has hosted six major International Shooting Sport Federation (ISSF) competitions, including two World Cup Finals, the most recent of which was held in New Delhi in October.

The 2026 Asian Rifle/Pistol Cup is expected to be another milestone in India's journey to becoming a global leader in shooting sports.



## New Zealand Selects Nathan Smith for Test Debut Against England

New Zealand has put their historic 3-0 series win in India behind them as they prepare for the first Test against England, with pace bowler Nathan Smith set to make his debut. The 26-year-old will take on the seam-friendly conditions at Hagley Oval in Christchurch, marking a shift from the spin-dominated pitches of India. Smith's inclusion comes as part of New Zealand's strategy to bolster their pace attack, especially in the absence of long-serving bowlers Trent Boult and Neil Wagner, who have retired.

Captain Tom Latham confirmed that a fit-again Kane Williamson would return to the team for the Test beginning Thursday, which meant that Will Young, the player of the series in India, would not feature in the starting lineup. Latham reflected on New Zealand's historic win in India, describing it as "an amazing couple of weeks," but emphasized that the team's focus was now on the upcoming challenge against England.

New Zealand, having won nine and drawn one of



their 13 Tests at Hagley Oval, will be confident on home soil. With Tim Southee struggling for form, the pace attack will be led by 32-year-old Matt Henry, while Smith will complement him, alongside Will O'Rourke and Southee. Latham praised Smith's ability to move the ball both ways and his potential as a batting all-rounder, which adds balance to the side.

For England, the selection of 21-year-old Jacob Bethell has raised some eyebrows, as the rookie could face the new ball in challenging conditions. England captain Ben Stokes defended the decision, stating that the

team knows what they're doing, despite Bethell's lack of experience at this level. With wicketkeeper Jordan Cox sidelined due to injury, Ollie Pope will take the gloves and bat at six, while Stokes moves down to seven.

Both teams are eager to make an impact, with England aiming to break their 2008 Test series win drought in New Zealand, and New Zealand riding high on their recent success.



## City Blow Three-Goal Lead, Bayern Beat PSG in Champions League

Manchester City's struggles continued as they threw away a commanding 3-0 lead to draw 3-3 with Feyenoord in the Champions League on Tuesday. Pep Guardiola's side had been cruising early in the second half, but a dramatic collapse saw the Dutch side salvage a point, boosting their hopes of progression. Erling Haaland opened the scoring with a penalty just before half-time, and Ilkay Gundogan's deflected shot doubled City's lead in the 50th minute. Haaland struck again to make it 3-0, but Feyenoord fought back with goals from Anis Hadj Moussa, Santiago Gimenez, and David Hancko, who equalized in the 89th minute.

Guardiola lamented his team's fragility after conceding three goals late in the game, stating, "We concede a lot of goals because we are not stable." This draw leaves City two points outside the top eight, which would guarantee direct qualification for the knockout stages.

Meanwhile, Bayern Munich secured a crucial 1-0 victory over Paris Saint-Germain (PSG) to move above Manchester City in the standings. South Korean defender Kim Min-jae scored the only goal in the first half, heading in after a failed clearance from PSG's goalkeeper. The French champions also had Ousmane Dembele sent off, making their situation even

more dire. PSG is now in danger of elimination with only four points from five games, and coach Luis Enrique admitted, "We need to win our last three matches, otherwise we risk being eliminated."

In other Champions League action, Robert Lewandowski reached a milestone, scoring his 100th Champions League goal in Barcelona's 3-0 win over Brest. Inter Milan went top of their group with a 1-0 victory over RB Leipzig, while Arsenal thrashed Sporting Lisbon 5-1. Atletico Madrid also enjoyed a dominant 6-0 win over Sparta Prague, showcasing their attacking prowess.

Top seeds PV Sindhu and Lakshya Sen made successful starts at the Syed Modi International Super 300 badminton tournament on Wednesday, advancing to the second round with straight-game victories. Sindhu, the two-time Olympic medalist, defeated rising shuttler Anmol Kharb 21-17, 21-15 in the women's singles. Lakshya, the 2021 World Championships bronze medallist, powered past Malaysian qualifier Sholeh Aidil 21-12, 21-12 in the men's singles.

Sindhu, returning to the tournament after a two-year hiatus due to injury, expressed her joy at competing on home soil again. "I'm happy to be back here after two years. I couldn't play last year because of injury, but it feels great to be playing on home soil again," she said after her win. Although it was her first encounter with Kharb, Sindhu was confident, having previously played alongside her in the Asian Team Championships. Sindhu acknowledged making some mistakes but was overall pleased with her performance. In the next round, Sindhu will face fellow Indian Ira Sharma, who triumphed over Deepshikha Singh 21-13, 21-19 in her opening match.

Lakshya, who won the 2022 Commonwealth Games gold, also looked sharp, defeating Aidil in domi-



## Sindhu and Lakshya Sen Advance at Syed Modi International

nant fashion. "It's always great to play in front of the home crowd. I've competed here in the past, but right now, I'm focusing on my next match," Lakshya said. "My goal is to do well in the BWF tournaments and at the World Championships." Lakshya will face either Ravi or Israel's Daniil Dubovenko in the next round.

In other men's singles action, third seed Kiran George, eighth seed Ayush Shetty, and Meiraba Luwang Maisnam also secured spots in the second round. George defeated Alap Mishra 21-12, 23-21, while Shetty outlasted Raghu Mariswamy 21-18, 15-21, 21-16. Maisnam triumphed over Thailand's Saran Jamsri 14-21, 21-19,

21-10. The women's singles also saw several seeds advancing. Second seed Malvika Bansod impressed with a 21-16, 21-7 win over Wiktoria Dabczynska, while fifth seed Anupama Upadhyaya triumphed in a hard-fought battle against Azerbaijan's Keisha Fatimah Azzahra, 19-21, 22-20, 21-15. Unnati Hooda, the young Indian shuttler, continued her strong form, defeating Thailand's Thamonwan Nithiittikrai 21-12, 21-16.

The tournament is shaping up to be an exciting one, with several top players from India and around the world aiming for glory.

## Mirabai Chanu to Miss Weightlifting World Championships for Rehab

Tokyo Olympic silver medalist Mirabai Chanu will not participate in next week's Weightlifting World Championships in Manama, Bahrain, as she continues her rehabilitation. The 30-year-old former world champion has not competed since finishing fourth in the women's 49kg category at the Paris Olympics in August. Chief national coach Vijay Sharma confirmed her absence, stating, "Mira is still in rehab after the Paris Olympics. She will not be taking part in this World Championship."

Chanu had been racing against time to recover for the Paris Games after suffering a hip injury at the Asian Games in 2023. Despite concerns about her fitness, she pushed through to compete in Paris. Although she was unable to secure an Asian Games medal, the only one missing from her collection, she remains focused on future competitions. "It is important for her to recover well as we will need to begin preparation for the 2026 Commonwealth Games and Asian Games," added Sharma.

In Chanu's absence, 21-year-old Gyaneshwari Yadav will lead India's chal-



lenge at the World Championships, set to begin on December 6. Yadav, a Commonwealth Championship gold medalist, will compete in the 49kg weight class. Joining her are Commonwealth Games silver medalist Bindyarani Devi (55kg) and Khelo India Weightlifting League gold winner Ditimoni Sonowal (64kg). These three lifters are currently training at the national camp in Patiala before heading to Bahrain.

Sharma expressed confidence in the upcoming competitors, noting that the event will provide valuable exposure. "The new kids are coming up, and they are doing well. This is an opportunity for them to rub shoulders with the best in the world," he said.





# Aditi Rao and Siddharth Share New Wedding Pics, This Time It's Rajasthan

Aditi Rao Hydari and Siddharth have once again delighted fans with new glimpses of their wedding celebrations. On Wednesday, the couple shared a series of stunning photos from their intimate wedding ceremony, held at the picturesque Alila Fort in Bishangarh, Rajasthan. While the couple has not clarified whether these images are from a recent ceremony or a throwback, the dreamy pictures showcase the magic of their special day.

In the photos, Aditi looks radiant in a traditional red lehenga by Sabyasachi Mukherjee, accessorized with heavy jewelry, while Siddharth complements her as a Sabyasachi groom. The carousel of images includes moments from their garland exchange ceremony, along with an adorable shot of the couple beaming at the camera. Aditi shared the pictures with a heartfelt caption: "The best thing to hold on to in life is each other."

Earlier this month, Aditi had shared more photos from her wedding celebrations. Like their previous posts, this one also featured a few black-and-white images, adding an emotional touch to the



album. The highlight of the post was the presence of iconic figures Kamal Haasan and Mani Ratnam, who were an integral part of their wedding ceremonies. Aditi expressed her gratitude for the love and blessings received from her mentors, writing, "It's been a blessed, magical year! In a very special part of our Wedding Ceremonies, we received the blessings and love of our father and mother figures, our Gurus and Mentors."

She went on to thank Kamal Haasan, Mani Ratnam, and other loved ones who have played pivotal roles in her journey, saying, "To be in the presence of these special people who have not just seen us grow but have been the reason for that growth was life-affirming and beyond."

Concluding her post, Aditi wished her fans a happy Diwali, sharing her excitement for the year ahead with the message, "We are not done yet fam!! There is more magic and love to share before this unforgettable year ends. Until then, Happy Diwali from Mrs and Mr Adu - Siddhu."

# Rukmini Vasanth's Appudo Ippudo Eppudo Now Streaming on Amazon Prime Video

Rukmini Vasanth, one of the most sought-after actresses in the industry, has made her highly anticipated Tollywood debut with the action thriller \*Appudo Ippudo Eppudo\*, starring Nikhil Siddhartha. Despite the film's lackluster performance at the box office, it has now found a home on Amazon Prime Video, where it began streaming just three weeks after its theatrical release. This quick transition to OTT is an intriguing move, as it allows the film to reach a wider audience on the digital platform.

Directed by Sudheer Varma, \*Appudo Ippudo Eppudo\* initially generated excitement due to its high-paced action sequences and a talented cast. However, the film did not manage to live up to expectations at the box office. This disappointing run has not deterred its move to Amazon Prime Video, where it will be interesting to see how the OTT audience responds to it. The film's fast-



paced action and intriguing storyline may find a more appreciative audience among digital viewers, who are often more forgiving of films with a unique style or narrative.

Apart from Rukmini Vasanth and Nikhil Siddhartha, the film boasts an ensemble cast that includes Divyansha Kaushik, Harsha Chemudu, Satya, Ajay, and John Vijay, each playing pivotal roles. Produced by BVSN Prasad, the movie features a powerful soundtrack by Karthik, with a gripping background score by Sunny MR that adds to the suspense and intensity of the thriller.

The movie's quick shift from theaters to streaming is reflective of the changing landscape of film distribution, where OTT platforms are becoming crucial in providing a second life to films that didn't perform as expected in cinemas. Fans of action thrillers and those curious about Rukmini Vasanth's debut can now stream \*Appudo Ippudo Eppudo\* on Amazon Prime Video and enjoy it from the comfort of their homes.

# Housefull 5: Akshay, Abhishek And Others "Cruising Through The Last Schedule

Sajid Nadiadwala's highly anticipated Comedy \*Housefull 5\* is nearing its completion as the film enters its final filming schedule. The makers took to Instagram on Wednesday to share the exciting news, posting a behind-the-scenes photo from the shoot featuring the star-studded ensemble cast. The picture showcased Akshay Kumar, Fardeen Khan, Jackie Shroff, Abhishek Bachchan, Riteish Deshmukh, Shreyas Talpade, Dino Morea, Chunky Panday, Johnny Lever, Nikitin Dheer, and Ranjeet, alongside director Tarun Mansukhani and producer Sajid Nadiadwala. Joining the cast for the photo were actresses Jacqueline Fernandez, Chitrangda Singh, Nargis Fakhri, Soundarya Sharma, and Sonam Bajwa. The caption accompanying the post read, "Cruising through the last schedule of our cinematic journey!"



The film's journey has been filled with memorable moments. Back in September, the \*Housefull 5\* team celebrated actor

Chunky Panday's birthday while shooting in Spain. The celebrations were shared by

Chunky himself on Instagram, with a heartwarming montage video. The clip opened with a group picture featuring Nargis Fakhri, Fardeen Khan, Abhishek Bachchan, Riteish Deshmukh, and the birthday boy. The celebration included a cake-cutting ceremony, with Dino Morea seen hugging Chunky and Abhishek and Nargis feeding him cake. The film was being shot aboard a cruise ship, and Chunky's playful caption read, "A Birthday at Sea. The night of the 26th, guess who cut the cake and fed my face."

As the cast and crew approach the final stages of filming, anticipation for \*Housefull 5\* continues to build. Known for its comic chaos and memorable performances, the \*Housefull\* series has earned a loyal fanbase, and the upcoming installment is expected to continue that tradition. Fans can look forward to more laughs and a starry ensemble as the film prepares for its eventual release.

# Priyadarshi's Crime Thriller to Premiere on Aha OTT



Priyadarshi's much-anticipated crime thriller \*Thappinchuku Thiruguvalu Dhanyudu Sumathi\*, written and directed by Chenna Narayana, is set to premiere directly on the Aha OTT platform on November 28, 2024. Originally slated for a theatrical release in February 2024, the film's shift to an OTT debut reflects the growing trend of films reaching broader audiences through digital platforms.

The movie stars Priyadarshi in the lead role, alongside an impressive ensemble cast including Niranjana Anoop, Srinda Ashab, Gopal Shyam, Manikandan, and Bhadram. This gripping thriller promises to keep audiences on the edge of their seats, delving into a world of crime and suspense, where every twist and turn adds to the intensity of the narrative.

Produced by Bhikshamaiah Sangam, Ashok Reddy Pendela, and Abinandan Ramanujam, the film boasts a compelling soundtrack composed by Vivek-Abhishek. The music is expected to complement the tense atmosphere of the film, enhancing its emotional depth and providing an immersive viewing experience.

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The decision to premiere the movie on Aha gives it the advantage of reaching a diverse and wide-ranging audience, particularly at a time when OTT platforms have become the go-to choice for many moviegoers. This release strategy ensures that \*Thappinchuku Thiruguvalu Dhanyudu Sumathi\* can capitalize on the growing demand for digital content, especially in the crime thriller genre, which has found a strong following among online viewers.

With the increasing popularity of streaming services like Aha, the film's premiere on the platform is a strategic move that could help it gain visibility in a highly competitive market. Fans of the genre, and of Priyadarshi's previous works, can look forward to an exciting, high-stakes narrative when \*Thappinchuku Thiruguvalu Dhanyudu Sumathi\* hits Aha this November.

# Tollywood Actor Subbaraju Ties the Knot in a Surprise Wedding

In a season filled with surprise weddings and engagements, popular Tollywood actor Subbaraju has joined the list of celebrities who recently tied the knot. The well-known character artist took to Instagram to announce the happy news, sharing a heartfelt post that he got "hitched finally." Along with the announcement, Subbaraju shared a beautiful picture of himself and his bride, both dressed in their wedding attire, capturing the joy of their special day.



The actor, however, chose to keep the details of his wife private, leaving fans and well-wishers curious about her identity. Regardless, the post quickly garnered an outpouring of congratulatory messages from fans, friends, and colleagues in the industry, all wishing the newlyweds a lifetime of happiness.

Subbaraju, hailing from Bhimavaram, has become a prominent figure in the Telugu film industry over the years. He made his acting debut in the 2002 film \*Khadgam\*, directed by Krishna Vamsi. However, it was his role in \*Amma Nanna O Tamila Ammayi\*,

directed by Puri Jagannadh and starring Ravi Teja, that brought him widespread recognition. Since then, Subbaraju has been a consistent presence in Tollywood, known for playing memorable supporting roles in a string of successful films. His filmography includes notable movies like \*Arya\*, \*Pokiri\*, \*Bujjigadu\*, \*Billa\*, \*Khaleja\*, and \*Baahubali: The Conclusion\*, where his performances earned him critical acclaim.

Subbaraju was last seen in the recently released action drama \*Jithender Reddy\*. His versatility as an actor and his ability to bring depth to each of his roles have made him a fan favorite, and his wedding news has added to the excitement among his admirers.