



**Weather Forecast**

HYDERABAD	VIJAYAWADA	TIRUPATHI
TEMPERATURE	TEMPERATURE	TEMPERATURE
H 29°C L 16°C	H 32°C L 21°C	H 30°C L 21°C

# Court Questions Officials' Negligence

- Questions Negligence and Lack of Accountability



**TPN , Hyderabad:** The Telangana High Court expressed severe displeasure over the recent food poisoning incident at the Maganur Zilla Parishad High School in Narayanapet district, where mid-day meals allegedly led to repeated health crises among students. Chief Justice Alok Aradhe, heading the bench, questioned the government's inaction, asking if officials would only respond after students lose their lives. The court was hearing a Public Interest Litigation (PIL) filed by senior advocate Chikkudu Prabhakar on Wednesday. Highlighting the gravity of the issue, the Chief Justice noted that food poisoning incidents had occurred thrice within a week at the same school, reflecting gross negligence by the authorities. "Are the officials asleep? Do they not have children of their own to understand the seriousness of such incidents?" Justice Aradhe questioned.

The High Court criticized the government for not taking the matter seriously, remarking that officials seemed to act only when directed by court orders. The state's counsel promised to file a detailed report within a week, but the court questioned why such a delay was necessary for gathering basic information from district officials.

The bench warned that issuing non-bailable warrants might be the only way to ensure immediate accountability, remarking that officials would appear "within five minutes" if such action were taken. It urged the administration to adopt a humanitarian perspective and act promptly to ensure student safety. Advocate Prabhakar pointed out that such food-related incidents were becoming increasingly common in government schools across Telangana. The court instructed the state government to submit a comprehensive response after lunch and directed officials to prioritize the welfare of students.

# Tensions Escalate Over Ethanol Factory Protest in Dilawarpur

Farmers' Outrage Boils Over in Dilawarpur

Violence Erupts: RDO's Car Torched, SI Injured

Women Protesters Symbolize Struggle with Unique Demonstration

Authorities Plan Heavy Deployment to Contain Unrest

**TPN , Nirmal :** Nirmal district witnessed intense protests and clashes as farmers opposed the establishment of an ethanol factory in Dilawarpur. The unrest turned violent when farmers pelted stones at police officers and resorted to drastic measures to express their anger. Women protesters joined in, carrying pesticide containers as symbols of their dissent.

The situation spiraled out of control when farmers attacked the car of Nirmal RDO Ratna Kalyani, setting it on fire. In the chaos, a woman sub-inspector, Sumalatha, sustained injuries after being caught in a scuffle and falling to the ground. The violence, which began last night, escalated further today, with the release of videos showing the intensity of the protest.



**Clashes and Arrests**  
As farmers took to the streets, demanding the scrapping of the ethanol factory project, police attempted to control the situation by arresting several protesters. However, this led to heightened tensions, with angry farmers retaliating by throwing stones, forcing the police to retreat temporarily.

Women protesters actively participated, holding pesticide containers to symbolize their frustration and concerns over the factory's potential environmental and agricultural impact.

**RDO's Car Torched**  
In a significant escalation, protesters attacked the car of Nirmal RDO Ratna Kalyani and set it ablaze. The RDO had arrived to address the situation but was met with se-



vere hostility. The incident highlighted the growing anger among the locals, who feel their concerns are being ignored.

During the melee, SI Sumalatha was injured and had to be assisted by colleagues. This incident underscores the volatility of the ongoing protests.

**Heavy Police Deployment**  
In response to the unrest, authorities are planning a heavy police deployment in Dilawarpur to restore order. The protests, which have continued for over two days, saw demonstrators locking the RDO office and intensifying their agitation against the proposed factory.

The situation remains tense as both sides stand firm. Farmers insist the ethanol factory will harm their livelihoods and the environment, while officials argue the project aligns with development goals.

Efforts to mediate and defuse the situation are ongoing, with local authorities urging protesters to engage in dialogue rather than resort to violence. However, the farmers remain adamant, signaling that the protests are far from over.

# Focus on Development and Progressive Agenda

**Congress Resurgence Across India**  
**KTR's Remarks Criticized by Bhatti**  
**Farm Loan Waivers and Welfare Initiatives**  
**Assigned Lands Redistribution Under Review**



Bhatti detailed Congress's initiatives, including the waiver of ₹18,000 crore in farm loans for families with ration cards within just 15 days. For those excluded, a survey is planned to extend benefits. He contrasted this with BRS's failure to implement similar schemes effectively, leaving farmers burdened.

Regarding welfare, Bhatti addressed concerns about residential school hostels, emphasizing increased oversight and a 40% hike in mess charges to ensure nutritious food. On development, he announced a ₹10,000 crore allocation for Hyderabad and upcoming large-scale inaugurations.

The Deputy CM disclosed efforts to reassess 26 lakh acres of assigned lands affected by the Dharami scheme, pledging redistribution to eligible beneficiaries. He stressed Congress's focus on progressive governance and urged constructive participation from the opposition in the Assembly.

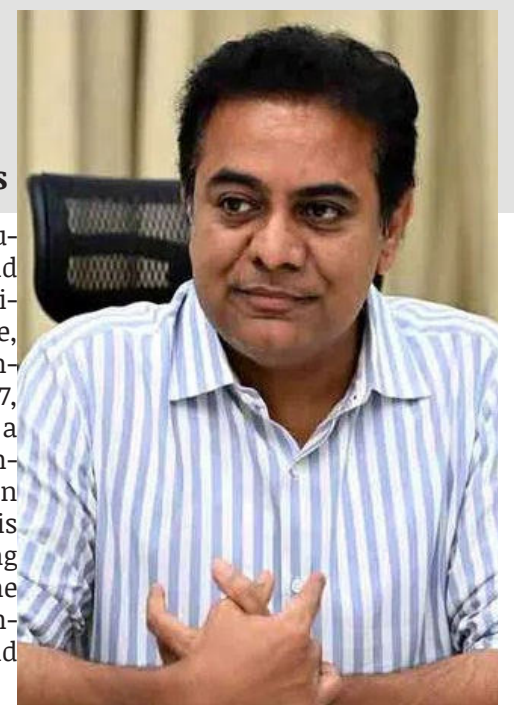
Highlighting the success of the "India Alliance" in Jharkhand, Bhatti attributed it to collective efforts under leaders like Mallikarjun Kharge and Rahul Gandhi. He concluded by underscoring Congress's commitment to welfare, development, and accountability.

**TPN , Hyderabad :** Deputy Chief Minister Bhatti Vikramarka Mallu addressed the media at Gandhi Bhavan on Wednesday, highlighting the Congress Party's rising graph nationwide and the BJP's declining influence. Referring to recent victories in Karnataka, Kerala, Madhya Pradesh, and Jharkhand, he stated that Congress was steadily gaining ground across India.

Responding to questions, Bhatti reaffirmed the continuation of the "Rythu Bharosa" scheme, with guidelines currently under review. Criticizing BRS leader K.T. Rama Rao (KTR) for his recent remarks against the government, he said KTR's comments lacked logic and decorum, attributing them to frustration. Bhatti questioned BRS's unfulfilled promises, including job creation and land distribution, accusing them of mismanagement during their decade-long rule.

# KTR Launches "Gurukula Baat" Initiative

**Student Deaths Highlight Governance Lapses**  
**KTR Criticizes Neglect in Education Sector**  
**BRS Announces Gurukula Study Committee**  
**"Gurukula Baat" to Address Institutional Issues**



**TPN , Hyderabad:** BRS Working President and former minister K.T. Rama Rao (KTR) launched a scathing attack on the Revanth Reddy-led government, accusing it of criminal negligence in handling the education sector. Highlighting the alarming incidents in state-run Gurukula schools, KTR revealed that 48 students have lost their lives within 11 months due to various causes, including food poisoning and suicides. He pointed out that 38 food poisoning cases have been reported, leaving 886 students hospitalized and four dead.

KTR criticized Chief Minister Revanth Reddy for failing to review the situation despite multiple tragedies. "The Chief Minister finds time to visit Delhi 28 times but cannot spare a moment for the parents of deceased students," he said, questioning the government's apathy.

To address the ongoing crisis, KTR announced the launch of "Gurukula Baat," a state-wide program to assess the

conditions of Gurukula schools, KGBVs, and other residential institutions. This initiative, scheduled from November 30 to December 7, will involve visits by a five-member study committee led by RS Praveen Kumar, known for his expertise in managing residential schools. The committee will also include educationists and activists.

The study will focus on understanding the infrastructural and administrative issues in these schools. Local representatives, including MLAs, MPs, Zilla Parishad chairpersons, and student and women's wing leaders, will participate to assess and address gender-specific concerns in girls' hostels.

KTR held the Congress government responsible for the deteriorating education system and accused them of pushing SC, ST, and BC students away from education. He demanded

immediate government action to resolve the issues identified by the committee.

"We are not politicizing this issue but striving to save students' lives. If the government continues to neglect its responsibilities, we will escalate pressure through various means," KTR warned.

The findings of the "Gurukula Baat" initiative will be submitted to the government and discussed in the Assembly to demand solutions and accountability.



## BJP's Presence in Telangana Growing Rapidly, Says PM Modi

**TPN , Hyderabad:** Prime Minister Narendra Modi expressed confidence that the Bharatiya Janata Party (BJP) is gaining significant ground in Telangana, as he met with state BJP leaders in New Delhi on Wednesday. This was the first meeting between the Prime Minister and state BJP leaders following the party's strong performance in the 2024 Lok Sabha elections.

PM Modi shared his views on X (formerly Twitter), stating, "Our party's presence in the state is growing rapidly. The people of Telangana are already fed up with the Congress and have absolutely horrid memories of BRS misrule. They are looking towards the BJP with great hope." He also emphasized that the BJP would continue to voice opposition to the "anti-people" policies of Congress and BRS while promoting its development agenda.

The delegation, led by Union Minister of Coal and Mines G. Kishan Reddy, included BJP leaders such as Union Minister of State for Home Bandi Sanjay Kumar, eight MPs, eight MLAs, one MLC, and one Rajya Sabha member. The meeting focused on key state issues and the party's prospects in Telangana. Sanjay Kumar praised PM Modi's leadership, calling the meeting "extraordinary" and reaffirmed Telangana's support for Modi's vision of a greater India.

The BJP's remarkable performance in the 2024 general elections, where it doubled its tally to eight seats, marks a significant milestone for the party in the state. The meeting of 18 BJP representatives with the Prime Minister underscores the party's commitment to strengthening Telangana's development and addressing regional issues.



## Cyclone Fengal Wreaks Havoc in Tamil Nadu and Andhra Pradesh

**TPN , Hyderabad :** The severe depression over the southeast Bay of Bengal has intensified into Cyclone Fengal, moving north-westward. The India Meteorological Department (IMD) forecasts landfall between Tamil Nadu and Puducherry. Heavy rains are expected for the next three days across Tamil Nadu and Andhra Pradesh.

Southern coastal districts and Rayalaseema regions are likely to experience intense downpours, while moderate rainfall is forecasted in North Andhra. Nellore district has already witnessed heavy rainfall since Tuesday, accompanied by strong winds along the coastline. Authorities have issued danger warnings at all ports.

Tamil Nadu is facing significant rainfall, particularly in districts like Cuddalore, Mayiladuthurai, and Tiruvarur. Chennai and eight other districts have declared holidays for educational institutions. Nagapattinam district has reported waterlogging in several areas due to continuous rains.

Cyclone Fengal is the third cyclone in the northern Indian Ocean this year and the second most intense. The name Fengal was proposed by Saudi Arabia as part of a naming system established by 13 countries under the World Meteorological Organization. The naming system aids in efficient communication of weather updates and warnings to the public. If another cyclone forms, Sri Lanka's proposed name, Shakti, will be used.

## Minister Seethakka Launches State-Level Sports Competitions for the Disabled



**TPN , Hyderabad:** Minister Seethakka inaugurated the state-level sports competitions for disabled individuals, highlighting the importance of talent and self-confidence in overcoming challenges. She praised Paralympic champion Deepthi Jeevan Jyoti, who brought pride to India with her victories. Seethakka shared that Shiv Sena Reddy had worked to ensure Jyoti's recognition by Chief Minister Revanth Reddy, securing for her a 500-yard house in Warangal and one crore rupees. Additionally, Jyoti will be offered a Group 2 gov-

ernment job within a month.

Minister Seethakka emphasized that disability should not be viewed as a misfortune but as an opportunity to display hidden talents. She encouraged everyone to celebrate the International Day of Disabled Persons on December 3rd in a grand manner.

Speaking to participants, Seethakka stressed that defeats teach valuable lessons and urged athletes not to be discour-

aged by losses or overly proud of victories. She assured the community that the government is fulfilling its promises, including an upcoming pension hike and addressing job concerns.

The event saw officials from 33 districts, and Seethakka concluded by wishing all participants the best of luck in their upcoming competitions, urging them to move forward with confidence and unity.

## Protest Against Ethanol Factory in Nirmal: 23 Farmers Booked

**TPN , Nirmal :** A large-scale protest erupted at the Revenue Divisional Officer's (RDO) office in Dilawarpur Mandal on Wednesday, November 27, against the establishment of an ethanol factory.

The agitation, ongoing since the previous day, saw farmers blocking the Nirmal-Bhainsa national highway, demanding the reinstatement of a suspended teacher who supported their cause.

Attempts by RDO Ratna Kalyani to mediate failed, and tensions escalated when protesters

reportedly threw fire at her vehicle. The police extinguished the flames, but the RDO fainted due to a drop in blood pressure and was hospitalized.

Police have since registered cases against 23 farmers for public inconvenience and attempting to damage the RDO's vehicle. The protests stem from concerns raised earlier on November 7, during discussions with the Telangana Agriculture and Farmers Welfare Commission, about the ethanol factory's impact on local interests.



## Singur, Manjeera Reservoirs to Enhance Hyderabad Water Supply



**TPN , Hyderabad:** Telangana Minister for Irrigation and Civil Supplies, Uttam Kumar Reddy, announced plans on November 27 to divert Godavari river waters to Singur, Manjeera, and Nizamsagar reservoirs to enhance the water supply to Hyderabad. The minister emphasized the need for swift execution to ensure an uninterrupted water supply to the city.

Reddy instructed officials to finalize proposals for desilting the Singur reservoir to increase its water storage capacity, ensuring the work follows Cen-

tral Water Resources Commission guidelines and utilizes advanced technology. He also called for the tendering process for canal lining under the Singur reservoir system to be initiated and for the fast-tracking of pending works on the Basaveshwara and Sangameshwara lift irrigation schemes.

The minister reviewed the Pedda Reddypalli lift irrigation project, estimated at Rs 660 crore, and proposed laying its foundation stone by December. Additionally, Reddy approved repairs for 38 minor irrigation

tanks and the Nallavagu Medium Project canal in Narayankhed, as well as the Karamungi lift irrigation scheme in the region.

Health Minister Damodar Raja Narasimha, former MLA T Jayaprakash Reddy, and senior officials were present during the review. Minister Reddy reaffirmed the government's commitment to improving water resources and infrastructure to meet the long-term irrigation and drinking water needs of Hyderabad and its surrounding areas.

## KCR and Revanth: Rahul's Two Eyes



**TPN , Telangana :** BJP leader and former MLA NVSS Prabhakar stirred controversy with his remarks, stating that Telangana CM K. Chandrashekar Rao (KCR) is like Rahul Gandhi's left eye and Telangana CM A. Revanth Reddy is the right. He alleged that Congress, in its year of governance, has been mirroring the policies of the BRS. He compared Congress's caste census initiative to BRS's "Sakala Janula Survey" and accused the party of following the same path as KCR.

Prabhakar criticized both KCR and Revanth Reddy for their handling of key issues. He mocked Congress leaders for promising to imprison culprits in phone-tapping cases while recalling KCR's similar statements regarding the "Cash for Vote" case. He also alleged that Congress and BRS are alike in their approach to the drug issue and financial management, accusing both of reckless borrowing.

Additionally, he accused Revanth Reddy of adopting KCR's Musi River project and criticized Congress for engaging in political defections like BRS. Prabhakar promised to expose the alleged nexus between the two parties and questioned the selective demolition of illegal structures, such as the Ayyappa Society buildings, under KCR's regime.

## KTR Slams Revanth, Demands Halt to Lagcherla Projects



**TPN , Hyderabad:** BRS working president K.T. Rama Rao (KTR) launched a scathing attack on Telangana Chief Minister A. Revanth Reddy over controversial industrial projects in Lagcherla. Referring to the recent protests in Dilawarpur, KTR remarked that acknowledging mistakes and stepping back does not diminish one's leadership but instead strengthens it.

KTR, in a post on social media, demanded the immediate withdrawal of proposed pharma and cement factories under the guise of an industrial corridor in Lagcherla. He accused the government of covertly seizing lands belonging to innocent tribal farmers, calling it a conspiracy that must end to restore peace in the region.

Drawing a parallel to the farmers' protests in Delhi, KTR pointed out how even the Prime Minister was forced to backtrack in the face of strong public opposition. He criticized Revanth Reddy for his "reckless decisions," alleging that similar to the unrest in Lagcherla, the CM's adamant approach recently fueled tensions in Nirmal, where ethanol production led to widespread protests.

"There is a growing fear among farmers across the state about where Revanth's misguided policies will strike next," KTR wrote. He urged the CM to respect public sentiment and halt the projects, warning that failure to do so would make him accountable for any adverse outcomes.

Emphasizing the primary duty of a leader, KTR said, "Governance should align with the aspirations of the people and honor their emotions." He cautioned that unless the Lagcherla agitation is resolved promptly, the consequences would rest squarely on the Chief Minister's shoulders.

## Raja Singh's Sensational Comments Ahead of Modi Meeting

**TPN , Hyderabad:** Telangana politics have turned intriguing as BJP leaders from the state prepare to meet Prime Minister Narendra Modi. Following the Lok Sabha election results, Modi is set to hold a special meeting with Telangana MPs and MLAs, sparking widespread curiosity about the agenda of this crucial discussion.

Ahead of the meeting, Goshamahala MLA Raja Singh made striking remarks while speaking to the media in Delhi. He speculated that Telangana BJP might see a new state president by the end of December. Clarifying his stance, Raja Singh stated that he has never aspired to any state-level position and would not seek one. Instead, his focus remains on promoting Hindu

Dharma across all states.

Criticizing Telangana Chief Minister Revanth Reddy, Raja Singh accused him of being limited to rhetoric while people continue to face challenges. He added that he intends to bring the plight of Telangana's citizens to the attention of Prime Minister Modi. He also questioned why former Chief Minister K. Chandrasekharao has avoided public appearances in the Assembly.

The upcoming meeting with Modi has drawn significant attention, with many keen to know how it might impact Telangana's political landscape.



## Deputy CM Slams Critics as 'Crows'



**TPN , Telangana :** Deputy Chief Minister Bhatti Vikramarka recently lashed out at critics during a media interaction, accusing them of being unable to tolerate Telangana's progress under Congress governance. He remarked that some opponents are "screeching like crows" out of frustration over development initiatives.

Bhatti dismissed claims of internal differences within the Congress and assured that decisions on cabinet expansion would be made by the party high command. Highlighting Congress's commitment, he stated that ₹10,000 crore has been allocated for Hyderabad's development. He also announced plans to provide business loans for Musi project evacuees and criticized opposition parties for engaging in baseless criticism, stating it would yield them no benefit.

The remarks come amidst intensified verbal clashes between Congress, BRS, and BJP leaders over Telangana's developmental trajectory.

## CM Revanth Reddy Fails to Deliver on Promises: Mandakrishna



**TPN , Hyderabad:** MRPS President Mandakrishna Madiga has criticized Chief Minister Revanth Reddy for failing to fulfill promises made to the people. Speaking at a Maha Dharna organized by the Vikalaangula Hakkula Porata Samithi (VHPS) at Indira Park's Dharna Chowk on Tuesday, Madiga questioned why the promised increase in all categories of pensions, including the Cheyutha pension, has not been implemented even after nearly a year of Congress rule. Madiga warned that protests would intensify if the pensions are not increased by December 2. He called on pension beneficiaries to blockade Collector offices on December 9, the day Congress plans to celebrate its one-year tenure, as a mark of protest against unfulfilled promises.

The VHPS also demanded the filling of backlog jobs and 4% reservations for persons with disabilities in all government departments. VHPS President Kalla Jangaiah chaired the event, which saw participation from leaders like Gopal Rao, Ande Rambabu, Satyanarayana, Samineni Bhavani Chowdary, and Mangamma, along with a large number of pensioners. Mandakrishna reiterated that the fight for increased pensions and other rights would not stop until the promises are fully implemented.

## Kishan Reddy Slams Congress Governance

**TPN , Hyderabad:** Union Minister Kishan Reddy strongly criticized the Congress government in Telangana, claiming it has failed to achieve anything substantial in its one year of governance. He accused the government of indulging in threats and verbal attacks instead of delivering meaningful results for the people.



"When we question them about governance, they retort by asking about our DNA. Let me clarify—my DNA is Bharatiya Janata Party (BJP), not one that switches between ten parties," Kishan Reddy stated, emphasizing his political consistency.

Expressing concern over the state's political environment, he said, "The political system in Telangana is deteriorating. Congress and BRS are two sides of the same coin." He accused both parties of prioritizing personal and political interests over public welfare, leading to a decline in constructive governance.

Reddy announced a campaign from December 1 to 5 to expose the Congress government's failures to the people of Telangana. "The Congress government should focus on delivering constructive and transparent governance instead of engaging in petty political battles," he advised.

He also lamented the negative impact of political blame games on the state's progress, urging all parties to work for the betterment of the people and the state. Kishan Reddy's remarks highlight the growing tensions among political parties in Telangana as they gear up for future electoral battles.

## Minister Ponnam Meets Union Minister Nitin Gadkari



**TPN , Telangana :** Telangana's Minister for Transport and BC Welfare, Ponnam Prabhakar, met Union Minister for Road Transport and Highways, Nitin Gadkari, in New Delhi on Wednesday. The meeting focused on advancing Telangana's transport infrastructure and securing central support for several key initiatives.

During the discussions, Prabhakar highlighted Telangana's progress in promoting electric vehicles (EVs), noting that the

state has waived 100% road tax and registration fees for EVs. He also emphasized the need for establishing vehicle scrapping facilities and road safety initiatives, such as Children Traffic Awareness Parks, in schools.

The minister sought Gadkari's approval for the utilization of 40 acres of land in Medchal-Malkajgiri district for various projects, including an Institute of Driving Training and Research (IDTR) to address

the increasing demand for skilled drivers in Hyderabad's metropolitan area. He also proposed constructing a multi-lane Automated Vehicle Fitness Testing Station and an Integrated Command Control Center to monitor public vehicles and enhance road safety.

Prabhakar urged the central government to assist in automating existing driving testing tracks across Telangana to ensure transparent and technologically advanced testing processes. He also discussed the growing demand for EV charging stations and sought support for expanding the necessary infrastructure.

In addition, Prabhakar requested funds for road development projects in the Husnabad constituency, including the conversion of single-lane roads to double-lane roads to improve connectivity and ensure safer travel for residents.

The meeting was attended by several Telangana MPs, including Mallu Ravi, Balaram Naik, Raghuram Reddy, Gaddam Vamsi Krishna, and Suresh Shet. The Union Minister assured full cooperation and promised to review the state's proposals for immediate action.



## Hyderabad Launches Routine Inspections to Curb Illegal Dumping of Construction Waste

**TPN , Hyderabad:** The town planning department has introduced daily morning inspections across the city to address the growing issue of illegal dumping of construction and demolition waste in public areas. These inspections are aimed at identifying the sources of the waste and the vehicles involved in the unlawful activity.

Officials are tracing the waste back to construction sites or entities responsible for its disposal. They are also tracking the vehicles used in the illegal dumping to ensure accountability. Strict legal measures are being enforced, including hefty fines for those caught dumping waste in public spaces. In cases of repeated violations, building permits may also be revoked.

Furthermore, cases are being filed against vehicles involved in illegal dumping, and there are provisions for the seizure of these vehicles. The initiative aims to enforce compliance, promote cleanliness, and discourage unauthorized waste disposal, ensuring better maintenance of public spaces across Hyderabad.

## Surrogate Woman Dies After Falling from 9<sup>th</sup> Floor in Hyd

**TPN , Hyderabad:** A 25-year-old surrogate woman died after falling from the ninth floor of a building in Raidurg on November 26. Initially suspected as suicide, the investigation took a new turn when two sarees and a dupatta tied to a balcony railing suggested she might have tried to escape.

The woman's husband alleged that the man who hired her for surrogacy had been behaving inappropriately and attempting to abuse her. She was reportedly unhappy with his behavior and may have tried to flee, which led to the accidental fall.

The surrogacy procedure was scheduled for next month, and the woman had not yet become pregnant. Police have filed a case of abetment to suicide against the man, Rajesh Babu, and are investigating all angles, including the allegations of misconduct.

## Food Delivery Agent Arrested for Ganja Smuggling in Hyderabad

**TPN , Hyderabad:** A Swiggy delivery agent, Santosh Kumar Rout, was arrested on November 27 for smuggling ganja in Hyderabad. The police seized 9 kg of ganja from the 25-year-old, who hails from Odisha.



Rout was caught by the Commissioner's Task Force West Zone, in coordination with the Banjara Hills police, while attempting to sell the contraband. He had moved to Hyderabad in 2021 and worked as a delivery agent and watchman to support himself. Dissatisfied with his earnings, he contacted Govind, a notorious ganja smuggler from Odisha, to purchase the drugs. Rout brought the ganja to Hyderabad by train, packaged it for sale, and was caught with the contraband, along with a bike, two mobile phones, a weighing machine, and empty packets.

## Battery Bike Explodes in Ramanthapur, 8 Vehicles Burnt



**TPN , Hyderabad:** A battery-powered two-wheeler exploded in Ramanthapur early on November 27, causing a major fire that destroyed eight other vehicles parked nearby. The incident occurred around 3 am, when the bike's battery exploded, igniting a fire in the house where the bike was parked. The flames quickly spread to eight other bikes in the parking lot, completely burning them.

Local residents attempted to control the fire, but the bikes were already destroyed by the time they arrived. The Uppal police have registered a case based on complaints from the locals, and an investigation is ongoing. This incident adds to the growing concern over the safety of battery-operated vehicles, which have been involved in several accidents due to overheating and fires in recent times.

## High Court Directs Final Notification for FTL Buffer Zones by December 30

**TPN , Hyderabad :** The Telangana High Court held a hearing on the Full Tank Level (FTL) buffer zones, expressing strong dissatisfaction over delays in issuing final notifications for water bodies. The court criticized the government for its slow progress and emphasized the importance of adhering to deadlines.

As per the government's submission, primary notifications have been issued for 2,793 water bodies across the state. However, final notifications have been issued for only 530 of them. The government's counsel requested additional time to complete the notification process for the remaining water bodies. The

High Court, however, declined the request for an extension, citing the need for timely action.

The court has ordered the government to issue final notifications for all pending water bodies by December 30 and submit a comprehensive report detailing the status. The bench emphasized that the delay in completing this process is unacceptable and directed the authorities to ensure that all procedures are concluded within the stipulated timeline.

This directive puts pressure on the state administration to expedite the notification pro-

cess and comply with the court's orders. The government counsel assured the court that efforts are underway to meet the December 30 deadline. The High Court's firm stance underscores the critical importance of protecting FTL buffer zones, which play a vital role in flood control and environmental sustainability. Further hearings on this matter will assess the government's compliance and progress in resolving the issue.

With the court's intervention, timely action is expected, ensuring transparency and accountability in safeguarding the state's water bodies.

# Grand Christmas Celebrations Planned Across Telangana

**TPN , Hyderabad:** Deputy Chief Minister Bhatti Vikramarka has instructed officials to make elaborate arrangements for the Christmas celebrations across Telangana, under the auspices of the state government. A review meeting was held on Wednesday at Praja Bhavan, where Bhatti Vikramarka emphasized the need for grand celebrations in 95 assembly constituencies and 200 areas within the Greater Hyderabad Municipal Corporation (GHMC) limits.

The Deputy CM highlighted that the celebrations would be attended by Chief Minister Revanth Reddy at the LB Stadium, and urged officials to ensure all



preparations were made meticulously. He also stressed that the heads of all churches in the state should be invited to the event, and directed Christian Minority Finance Corporation Chairman Deepak John to send invitations to church leaders and Christian religious figures. The celebrations will include the distribu-

tion of awards to individuals and institutions in fields such as social work, medicine, education, literature, sports, and fine arts. Awardees will receive Rs. 1 lakh each from the Chief Minister, while institutions selected for awards will receive cheques of Rs. 2 lakh. The Christian Minority Finance Corporation

Managing Director Sabitha was tasked with publishing a notification in leading newspapers for the award application process.

Bhatti Vikramarka assured that the celebrations would be organized in a grand manner, ensuring no shortcomings, especially in the banquet attended by the Chief Minister.

The review meeting also saw the participation of key officials, including Advisor to the State Government Shabbir Ali, Hyderabad Police Commissioner C.V. Anand, and several others from the Telangana Christian Minority Finance Corporation and the state administration.

## TGANB Launches Anti-Drug Initiatives



**TPN , Hyderabad:** To tackle the growing drug menace and improve the prosecution rates of Narcotics Drug and Psychotropic Substances (NDPS) cases, the Telangana Anti-Narcotics Bureau (TGANB) has launched a series of training programs for police and excise officials across the state.

The conviction rate in NDPS cases is alarmingly low, with only a 4% conviction rate for cases booked by the Prohibition & Excise Department and 11% for cases handled by the police. Sandeep Shandilya, Director of TGANB, explained that the bureau has identified the root causes behind these low rates and is addressing them through specialized training in drug investigation techniques. So far, TGANB has trained over 21,000 person-

nel, including investigation officers, police, and excise officials, along with trainee constables in various police training centers. In addition to these efforts, TGANB has created awareness programs targeting the youth, forming Prahari Clubs in high schools and Anti-Drug Committees in educational institutions across the state. A mega awareness campaign is also being held at Dr. Marri Channa Reddy Human Resource & Development Institute (Dr. MCRHRDI), where training sessions on drug abuse prevention, intervention, and rehabilitation are being conducted.

The TGANB encourages the public to report information related to drug cultivation and trafficking through the toll-free number 1908.

## MIM MLC Threatens Food Safety Officials Over Seized Shops



**TPN , Hyderabad:** In a recent incident, MIM MLC Rahmat Baig allegedly threatened food safety officials after they raided chicken and mutton shops in Hyderabad's Moti Market for supplying adulterated food. The GHMC food safety team had seized 70 kg of unsanitary, rat-infested chicken from one shop following complaints. Upon learning of the raid, Baig reportedly warned officials that they would lose their jobs unless the seized shops were reopened.

The pressure led to the reopening of the shops within 24 hours of the raid. GHMC Mayor Gadwala Vijayalakshmi condemned the threats, expressing anger over the interference and stressing that such actions are unacceptable. The mayor emphasized the need for strict measures to prevent the sale of adulterated food in the city to protect public health.

## HYDRA Commissioner Halts Construction at Idulakunta Tank Site in Madhapur

**TPN , Hyderabad:** HYDRA Commissioner Ranganath recently inspected the Madhapur Idulakunta tank in Khanamet Village, where it was discovered that some builders were carrying out illegal construction by burying the crest of the tank. The Idulakunta tank, which covers an area of 6.5 acres, had been encroached upon, with builders diverting a rainwater drain that originally flowed into the tank.

During the inspection, it was revealed that the builders had obtained illegal permissions by creating false documents, using the survey number of a neighboring plot of land to justify their construction activities. These actions, along with the unauthorized occupation of the tank, prompted immediate action.



Ranganath issued clear instructions to officials to conduct a survey of the Idulakunta tank, located on the Kukatpally-Serilingampalli revenue borders, and to ensure that no further construction takes place until the boundaries of the tank are properly identified and demarcated. HYDRA, formed under the Telangana government through GO 99, has been actively addressing illegal encroachments in the state. Since its formation in July, HYDRA has been carrying out demolitions of unauthorized structures within the Full Tank Level (FTL) and buffer zones of ponds. The team uses heavy machinery to raze illegal constructions, and in just three and a half months, HYDRA has demolished over 300 illegal structures. The government's commitment to protecting state-owned land and water bodies continues to strengthen with these ongoing enforcement measures.

Ranganath's actions emphasize the state's determination to preserve public land and ensure that builders and encroachers face strict consequences for illegal activities.



## Tummala Pledges Farmer Support



**TPN , Hyderabad :** Telangana Minister Tummala Nagewara Rao has leveled sensational allegations against the KCR-led BRS government, accusing it of turning a prosperous state into a debt-ridden one. Speaking at a press conference at Gandhi Bhavan on Wednesday, he criticized the previous administration for corruption, particularly in grain procurement.

Minister Tummala highlighted the commitment of Chief Minister Revanth Reddy's government to supporting farmers despite limited cooperation from the central government. He announced plans to establish a state-of-the-art agricultural market near the Outer Ring Road at a cost of ₹2,000 crore to facilitate crop exports. He reaffirmed the Congress government's promise to waive pending farm loans during the upcoming Farmers' Festival in Mahabubnagar on the 30th. "The loan waiver, a promise made by AICC leader Rahul Gandhi, is being implemented to ease farmers' burdens," Tummala said. He also assured the establishment of cold storage facilities in Shadnagar and a new market committee for the Kondurg mandal center to support agricultural growth.

Minister Tummala praised the state's focus on promoting Telangana rice on national and international platforms, underscoring the development of the joint Mahabubnagar district under the leadership of a "son of Mahabubnagar"—Chief Minister Revanth Reddy.

He urged farmers to attend the Mahabubnagar Farmers' Conference in large numbers, which will feature a large-scale agricultural exhibition and awareness seminars across the state over three days. "This is an opportunity to showcase the welfare programs initiated for farmers and discuss the steps taken for their benefit," he added. Minister Tummala called on all officials and citizens to contribute to making the conference a grand success.

## Supreme Court Adjourns Tirupatanna's Bail Petition

**TPN , New Delhi :** The Supreme Court has postponed the hearing on the bail petition of Additional SP Tirupatanna, accused in the sensational Telangana phone tapping case. During Wednesday's hearing, the Telangana state government sought additional time to file a counter. A bench comprising Justice B.V. Nagaratna and Justice Koteswar Singh granted two weeks for the counter and scheduled the next hearing for December 18.

Tirupatanna, who was arrested for his alleged involvement in phone tapping, previously had his bail cancelled by the Telangana High Court. The High Court cited substantial evidence against him and raised concerns that granting bail could hinder the investigation.

In his petition to the Supreme Court, Tirupatanna challenged the High Court's decision, arguing that his bail denial persisted despite three months passing since the filing of the charge sheet. The Supreme Court issued notices to the Telangana government and questioned the rationale for denying bail.

The case has drawn significant attention due to its implications for privacy and misuse of power. As the Supreme Court deliberates, the outcome will be closely watched for its impact on the ongoing investigation and broader legal ramifications.



## Ex-BRS MLA Held Amid School Controversy

**TPN , Hyderabad :** Former BRS MLA Chittem Rammohan Reddy was detained by Telangana police on Wednesday, November 27, while en route to the Zilla Parishad High School (ZPHS) in Maganur, Narayanpet district, following a second food poisoning incident.

On November 26, nearly 30 students at the school fell ill after consuming food provided on campus. Two female students, in critical condition, were shifted to Mahabubnagar Government Hospital for treatment, while others were admitted to local hospitals. This follows an earlier

incident on November 20, where 50 students were hospitalized after consuming eggs at the same school.

Reacting to Reddy's detention, BRS MLA T. Harish Rao condemned the action, calling it "heinous." He criticized the government for failing to ensure food safety in schools and questioned its motive in silencing opposition voices. Rao demanded quality food provisions in government schools and the release of Reddy.

The state government has suspended the school principal, the mandal and district education



officers, and terminated the contract with the food supplier. Chief Minister Revanth Reddy has directed the district collector to take strict action against those responsible.

## Karimnagar Collector Orders Daily School Visits by MEOs



**TPN , Karimnagar :** District Collector Pamela Satpathy has directed Mandal Educational Officers (MEOs) to visit a school daily and share meals with students under the Mid-Day Meal program. The initiative aims to ensure quality food and identify any issues faced by students in government schools.

In a meeting at her camp office on Wednesday, the Collector emphasized strict adherence to food safety standards, instructing MEOs to inspect storerooms, verify records, and evaluate meal preparation quality. She encouraged MEOs to dine with students and, if possible, invite parents to participate.

Pamela Satpathy also urged officials to focus on teaching discipline and moral values, maintaining hostels, and ensuring students' safety by prohibiting mobile phones and taking strict action against drug use or eve-teasing. Any health concerns among students should be referred to primary health centers, not unqualified practitioners.

The Collector reaffirmed that there would be no compromise on food quality or student welfare and asked MEOs to report unresolved issues directly to her.



## Telangana Movement Memories to be Unveiled on November 29

**TPN , Suryapet :** Former Minister and Suryapet MLA Gun-takandla Jagadish Reddy announced that a photo exhibition showcasing the memories of the Telangana movement will be held on November 29, marking the initiation day of former CM K. Chandrashekar Rao (KCR).

He praised KCR's leadership, citing his decade-long governance and innovative schemes that benefitted Telangana's people. Jagadish Reddy criticized the current Congress-led administration, claiming a growing public rebellion against it, and expressed confidence that KCR would return as Chief Minister.

Speaking at a district general body meeting of the BRS in Suryapet on Tuesday, Jagadish Reddy emphasized the historical significance of November 29, describing it as a day that transformed Telangana's destiny. He recalled KCR's rallying cry, "Telangana will come or KCR will die," which inspired millions during the statehood movement.

He urged BRS leaders to actively participate in the event, particularly to educate the younger generation about Telangana's struggle for statehood and KCR's pivotal role. The meeting also commemorated Constitution Day with tributes to Gandhi and Ambedkar.

Prominent leaders, including former MLAs and state party officials, attended the meeting.

## Medical Camps Held for Police and Guthikoyas in Kothagudem

**TPN , Kothagudem :** A free mega medical camp for police officers and staff in Paloncha sub-division was organized at the Paloncha Town Police Station on Wednesday. The camp, inaugurated by DSP Sathish Kumar, offered comprehensive health tests, including ECG, gynecology, BP, sugar, dental, eye care, orthopedics, urology, physiotherapy, cardiology, and blood tests.

Highlighting the challenges faced by police personnel, DSP Kumar noted that their demanding schedules often impact their health. The camp was conducted under the directions of SP B. Rohith Raju, who thanked the participating medical team. Around

120 police officers underwent health checks, and doctors were honored with shawls and mementos.

A similar camp was held for adivasis at Shettipally village under Komararam Police Station, with around 100 villagers benefiting from medical services.

In a community connect initiative, Karakagudem police distributed essential items like clothes, mats, and water bottles to Niladripeta villagers with support from Adarsh charity organization. CI Edulla Bayyaram Venkateswarlu urged villagers to report strangers and avoid supporting banned CPI-Maoists.

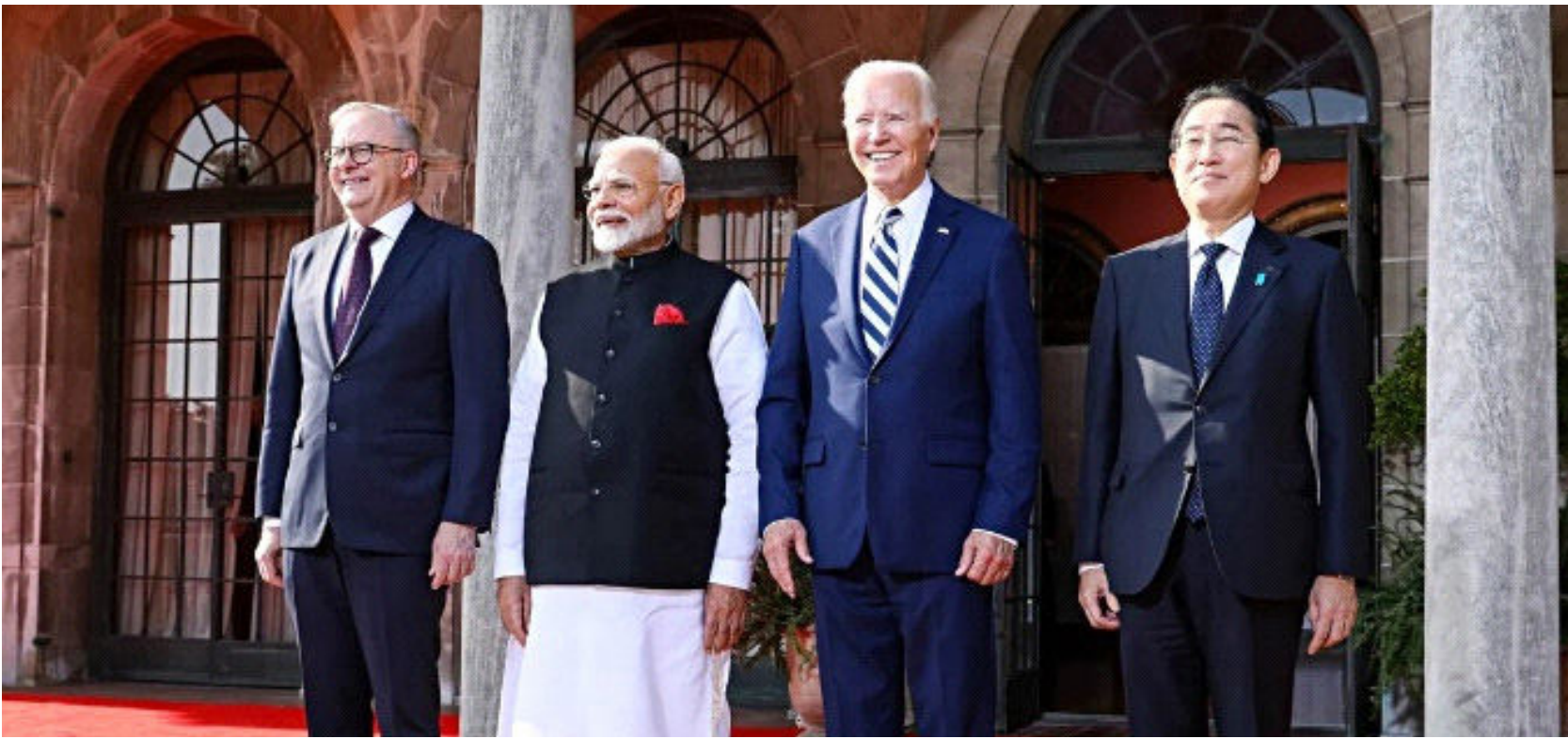


## Mahabubnagar Student Suffers Burns While Cooking in School

**TPN , Mahabubnagar :** A Class 9 student at Kasturba Gandhi School in Nawabpet Mandal sustained severe burns when hot oil spilled on her hand while preparing snacks allegedly at the behest of her teachers.

The incident occurred as the student was cooking bhajjis, which teachers reportedly forced her to prepare during school hours. She was immediately taken to a government hospital for treatment.

This incident has sparked concerns about student safety and the misuse of their time for non-academic activities. The district educational officer is expected to visit the school to conduct a fact-finding mission.



# 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 cooperation 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.

## 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.

## 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 cooperation 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 Fakhru 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.



## 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-



fects 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 Sukhwinder 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.

# 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.

# 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.

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.



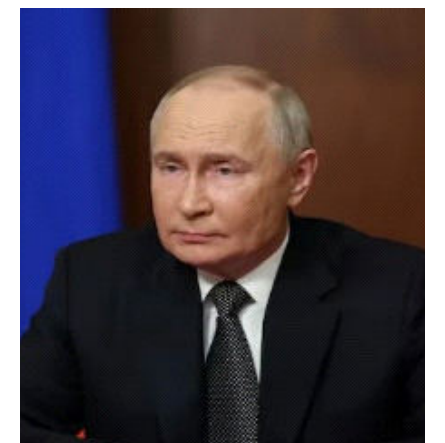
The third reason for the ceasefire, according to Netanyahu, is to isolate Hamas and prevent further involvement from Hezbollah. He explained that Hamas had been relying on Hezbollah from the outset of the war, but with Hezbollah now sidelined, Hamas would be left to face Israeli pressure alone. This 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.

# 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.



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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

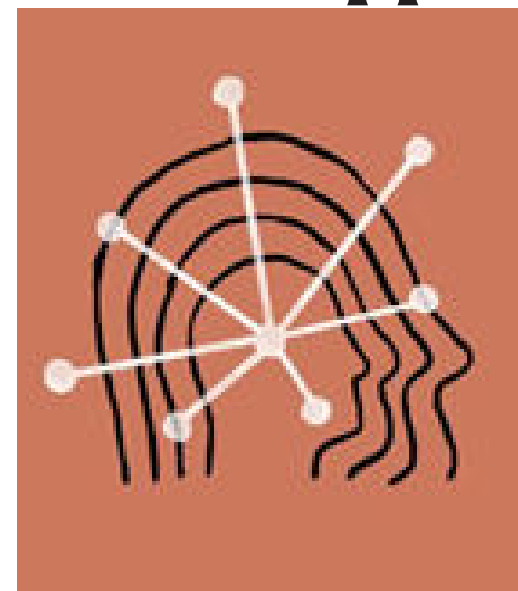
further testing and refinement.

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

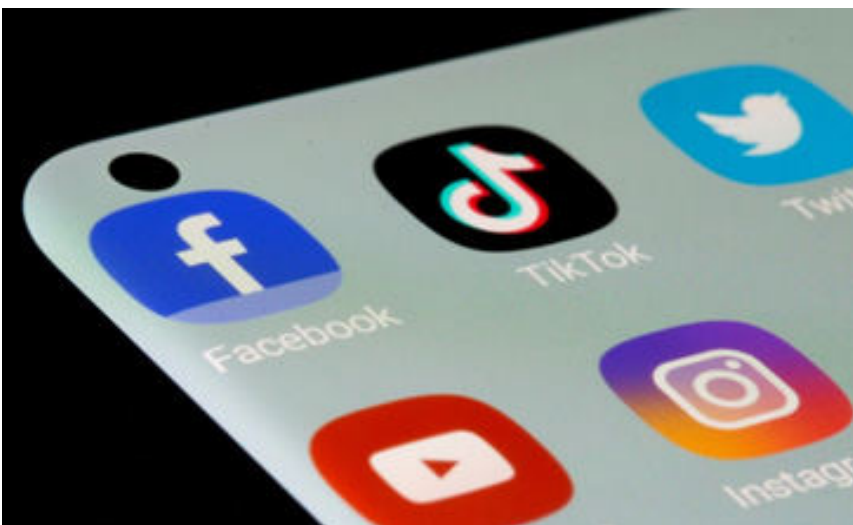
to enable AI agents to interact with their services, making it easier for users to leverage AI features across a wide range of tasks.

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.

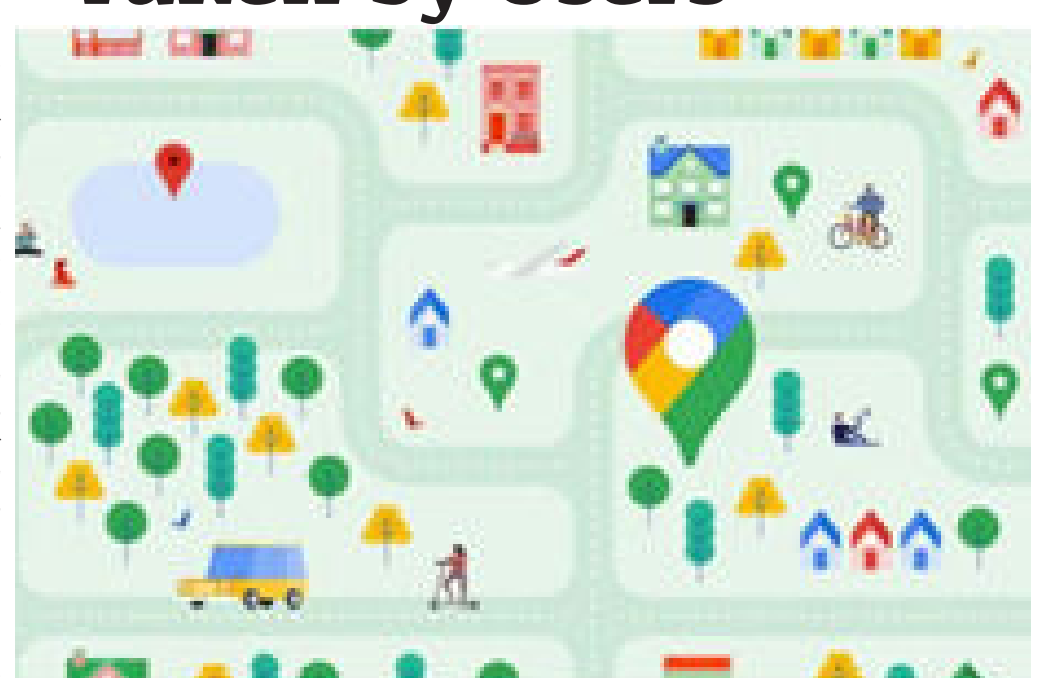
# Google to Delete Location History Unless Action Is Taken by Users

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.



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.

The official letter from ASC's Eng. Duaj 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 op-

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."

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.

## Priyadarshi's Crime Thriller to Premiere on Aha OTT



Priyadarshi's much-anticipated crime thriller \*Thappinchuku Thiruguvadu 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, en-

hancing its emotional depth and providing an immersive viewing experience.

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 Thiruguvadu 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.

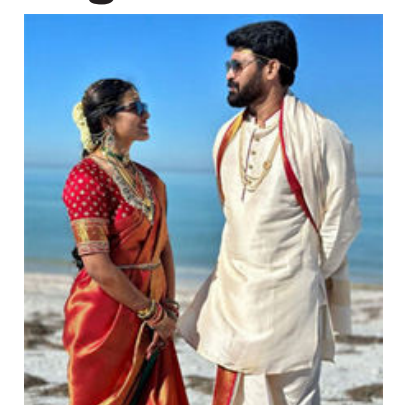
With the increasing popularity of streaming services like Aha, the film's premiere on the platform is a strategic move that could help it gain visibility in a highly competitive market. Fans of the genre, and of Priyadarshi's previous works, can look forward to an exciting, high-stakes narrative when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

## 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.