



### Weather Forecast

HYDERABAD	VIJAYAWADA	TIRUPATHI
TEMPERATURE	TEMPERATURE	TEMPERATURE
H 28°C L 22°C	H 29°C L 24°C	H 26°C L 24°C

# ALLU ARJUN'S ARREST, A WARNING BELL FOR INDUSTRY?

**G Avinash | TPN :** Almost everybody was shocked by Actor Allu Arjun's arrest. The episode, which lasted for 18 hours, has garnered the attention of the common people, political circles, and especially people from Tollywood. Many eyebrows were raised at the approach of the police towards Allu Arjun's arrest and the prolonged time spent at Chanchalguda jail, even after the orders of the High Court, which led to Allu Arjun sitting in the barrack for an entire night. Even though it was only a single night, as per records, Allu Arjun was imprisoned.



Mr. Allu Arjun had made a controversy during the elections in AP by supporting a YSRCP MLA candidate in the name of friendship. This caused him to distance himself from the supporters of Pawan Kalyan and also from the Mega family due to the comments he made during the ongoing dispute. It also had a negative impact on his latest movie \*Pushpa 2\*. On social media, some have doubted the Mega family's involvement in this arrest episode. However, the presence of Mr. Chiranjeevi, Nagababu,

and others from the Mega family at Allu Aravind's residence immediately after the arrest has dispelled those doubts.

However, the Chief Minister, Revanth Reddy, made remarks about this episode during an interview with a national channel in Delhi. These remarks sparked further doubts. He also clarified that there was no intention behind his actions and that the law had simply followed its course. At the success meet of Pushpa 2, Mr.

Revanth Reddy, the Chief Minister, Revanth Reddy, made remarks about this episode during an interview with a national channel in Delhi. These remarks sparked further doubts. He also clarified that there was no intention behind his actions and that the law had simply followed its course. At the success meet of Pushpa 2, Mr.

Allu Arjun was unable to speak the name of Mr. Revanth Reddy and took a long pause before saying it. This became viral on social media. Many suspected that this might have hurt the ego of the CM and that the arrest could be a consequence. However, this aspect was ruled out by close circles of Allu Arjun.

Then, what is the reason? Many legal experts have also raised the point that the police did more than necessary in this episode. But why? A theory is circulating as a reason for it. Earlier, during the BRS government, industry people were closely aligned with Mr. KTR. Mr. KTR attended many movie functions during that time. In the drugs case episode, many actors were irked. Allegedly, Mr. KTR helped them come out of that case, which brought him closer to celebrities. If we recall, during that time, Mr. Revanth Reddy made allegations against this.

However, in the present government's regime, industry people are not responding as per the Congress party circles. They are reportedly not ac-

knowledging Mr. Komati Reddy Venkat Reddy, the concerned minister. At the time of the announcement of the Gaddar Awards, Mr. Revanth Reddy urged the industry people to engage in public service by participating in awareness programs against drugs. According to rumors, after the dismantling of N Convention by Mr. Akkineni Nagarjuna, industry people had an unofficial meeting. They reportedly felt that Mr. Revanth Reddy was behaving rudely toward them, and they felt suffocated in Hyderabad. They even discussed the idea of shifting to AP. Allegedly, the agenda and discussions were leaked to Mr. Revanth Reddy.

All these situations made Mr. Revanth Reddy wait for a chance to warn the industry, according to rumors. Mr. Allu Arjun's neglectful behavior shown at Sandhya Theatre reportedly gave him an opportunity, and Mr. Revanth utilized it. Many believe this is a clear-cut signal to industry people. Now, everyone is watching to see whether the industry will adapt to the situation or become hostile against it.

## KTR Criticizes Congress Govt Over Demolition Drive



**TPN Correspondent : Hyderabad:** BRS working president and Minister KT Rama Rao (KTR) has sharply criticized the Congress government over its ongoing demolition drive, accusing it of being

reckless and inhumane, particularly in regard to the safety of the people affected.

In a tweet directed at Congress leadership, KTR expressed his concern over the demolition of a home where two women were reportedly inside when bulldozers were used to tear it down. He questioned the government's insensitivity, asking, "If this were to happen to your own family, would you accept it, Rahul Gandhi Ji? Only the most insensitive and inhuman government could do this! Who will take responsibility for their safety?"

KTR's comments were a direct rebuke to the Congress leadership, as he emphasized the lack of regard for human life and safety. He further added, "Ek Aur Nazara Mohabbat Ki Dukaan," pointing to the government's disregard for the welfare of its citizens. This tweet reflects the mounting criticism of the Congress government's handling of the demolition issue, with KTR urging for accountability and compassion in governance.

## HYDRA MARKS BALAKRISHNA AND JANA REDDY'S HOUSES!!

**TPN Correspondent, Hyderabad :** Just as the controversy surrounding Tollywood hero Allu Arjun's arrest is beginning to settle, the Telangana government has stirred up a new sensation. The government, which has been using bulldozers to demolish illegal structures occupying ponds and parks in Hyderabad, has now marked the houses of two prominent figures in the film and political circles for possible demolition.



The Hyderabad Road Development Authority (HYDRA) officials have marked the residences of film actor Nandamuri Balakrishna and former Congress minister Kundur Jana Reddy. The government is planning to construct a flyover and underpass around KBR Park, and in this context, several properties, including those of Balakrishna and Jana Reddy, have been marked.

fate suffered by Akkineni Nagarjuna's N Convention, which was demolished despite legal battles in court.

As the government intensifies its crackdown, it remains uncertain whether the same aggressive approach will be adopted against the properties of Balakrishna and Jana Reddy. With the recent demolitions involving Nagarjuna and Allu Arjun, industry figures are closely watching how this situation unfolds and how the affected parties will respond to any potential demolitions.

Reports suggest that both Balakrishna and Jana Reddy are displeased with the actions of the Congress government. This move follows a similar

## GURUKULS DIMINISHED AFTER THE ARRIVAL OF PRIVATE SCHOOLS

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## INCIDENT PURELY ACCIDENTAL; WILL SUPPORT VICTIM'S FAMILY: ALLU ARJUN

TPN Correspondent, Hyderabad : Actor Allu Arjun expressed deep regret over the Sandhya Theater stampede incident, calling it purely accidental. Speaking at a press meet, the Icon Star apologized to the victim's family and assured his full support. He also mentioned plans to meet the bereaved family soon.

"It's unfortunate that someone lost their life. I have been to the same theater over 30 times in the last 20 years, and such an incident has never occurred," he said, emphasizing that he had no involvement in the tragedy.

Allu Arjun clarified that the incident occurred while he was watching a movie with his family and refrained from commenting further as the case is sub judice.

The actor expressed heartfelt thanks to his fans and media for standing by him during his arrest, following the stampede. However, he chose not to respond to speculation about a conspiracy behind the arrest or to comments made by Telangana Chief Minister Revanth Reddy. With a composed demeanor, Allu Arjun ended the meet, reiterating his commitment to assist the victim's family during this difficult time.



## ANOTHER MEGA DSC WITH 6,000 POSTS SOON: BHATTI VIKRAMARKA



TPN Correspondent, Khammam : Telangana Deputy Chief Minister Mallu Bhatti Vikramarka announced plans for another mega DSC recruitment drive, offering 6,000 posts. Speaking during a one-day state-wide hostel inspection program, Bhatti visited welfare and Gurukul schools in Khammam, Madhira, and Bonakal.

During the visit, Bhatti officially launched a new menu for all welfare hostels across the state. Addressing the media, he highlighted the financial difficulties students faced due to stagnant mess and cosmetic charges, which had not been revised in 10 and 16 years, respectively.

"In our tenure, we increased diet charges by 40 percent and cosmetic charges by 200 percent to reflect rising costs. We are committed to resolving students' issues and supporting the unemployed by soon releasing a mega DSC notification with 6,000 posts," he stated.

The initiative is expected to benefit both students in welfare hostels and job aspirants awaiting government recruitment.

## GURUKULS DIMINISHED AFTER THE ARRIVAL OF PRIVATE SCHOOLS

- CM said Gurukuls produced leaders in high positions
- CM increased diet charges by 40%, cosmetic charges by 200%
- Criticizes BRS for neglecting Gurukuls during its 10-year rule

TPN Correspondent, Chilukuru : Telangana Chief Minister Revanth Reddy stated that the prominence of Gurukuls has declined with the rise of private schools, prompting the government to prioritize reviving their glory. Speaking at a Gurukul school in Chilukuru, Rangareddy district, during the launch of a common diet program for Gurukuls and welfare hostels, the CM emphasized the historical importance of Gurukuls, highlighting that many leaders and professionals, including former DGP Mahender Reddy and TG-PSC Chairman Burra Venkatesham, are proud products of these institutions. Revanth Reddy lauded the Gurukul system established

during PV Narasimha Rao's tenure, describing these schools as pivotal in nurturing talent across disciplines. He assured that the government is deeply committed to enhancing these institutions through initiatives under the Gurukul Path program.

The CM criticized the previous BRS government for failing to increase diet and cosmetic charges for Gurukul students over its decade-long tenure. He contrasted this with his government's measures, which include a 40% hike in diet charges and a 200% increase in cosmetic charges. Revanth Reddy acknowledged that financial constraints push many families to enroll their children in



Gurukuls, and assured parents that their trust would not be misplaced. He emphasized the need to address student deaths in Gurukuls and hostels, pledging robust measures to prevent such tragedies. The CM announced that funds for all educational institutions would be routed

through a green channel to ensure timely allocation by the 10th of every month.

Revanth Reddy reiterated his commitment to improving Gurukuls as centers of excellence and making them a dependable option for parents across Telangana.

## Health Minister Assures Job Security for Contract ANMs

TPN Correspondent, Hyderabad: Telangana's Health Minister C. Damodar Raja Narasimha on Saturday, December 13, reassured contract Auxiliary Nurse Midwives (ANMs) about their job security after the appointment of regular staff. He also confirmed that the scheduled written examination for regular ANM positions will take place as planned on December 29.



The Minister held a detailed discussion with contract ANMs regarding their concerns over job regularization. Narasimha clarified that the issue is currently under judicial review but affirmed that the recruitment examination would

proceed without any changes.

Additionally, he announced that 30 marks would continue to be awarded as weightage for contract ANMs in the re-

ruitment process, encouraging them to prepare for the exam.

In response to demands for more positions, the Minister confirmed that 323 additional vacancies would be added to the previously announced 1,931 posts, increasing the total number of available positions to 2,254.

Narasimha assured the contract ANMs that those who do not secure regular positions would continue their contract roles until the end of their term. Regarding retirement benefits, the Minister stated that a decision would be made after further discussions with the Chief Minister.

## ED ISSUES NOTICES TO FORMER BRS MLA MARRI JANARDHAN REDDY

TPN Correspondent, Hyderabad: The Enforcement Directorate (ED) has intensified its investigation into the 50-acre land registration case involving IAS officer Amoy Kumar, accusing him of privatizing land worth over Rs. 1000 crores in Hyderabad's suburbs. Notices have been issued to former BRS MLA Marri Janardhan Reddy, Vamsi Ram Builders chief Subba Reddy, and two other individuals to appear for questioning on December 16.



The case revolves around the illegal registration of land in Nagaram, Maheshwaram mandal, with the ED linking Reddy and others to the privatization scheme. Investigations have revealed that Amoy Kumar allegedly converted Bhoodan lands into private patta lands, a process that led to the illegal registration of properties worth hundreds of crores.

The ED's probe was initially triggered by a complaint filed by a person named Dastagiri, and after the police registered a case, it has now been handed over to the ED for further investigation. Authorities have identified that Janardhan Reddy, Subba Reddy, K. Siddha Reddy of KSR Mines, and Suryateja of Ammada Developers benefitted from the alleged illegal activity.

## INTER EXAM SCHEDULE FINALIZED IN TELANGANA



TPN Correspondent, Hyderabad : The Telangana government has finalized the schedule for the upcoming inter exams, with official sources confirming that the schedule is almost ready for release. It is expected that the schedule will be officially announced next week. According to reports, the Inter exams are set to begin on March 3 and will conclude by the end of the month, with exams spanning 15 to 20 days across various inter groups.

The practical exams are scheduled to be completed in February, ahead of the main exams. Officials emphasized that the exams must start on March 3 to ensure completion within the month.

The fee deadline for the Inter exams ended on December 3, but the Inter Board has extended the payment option until January 2 with a late fee of Rs. 2,000. Approximately 9 to 10 lakh students across Telangana are expected to appear for the exams, and arrangements are being made accordingly to accommodate them.

## Govt Forms Committee for University Recruitment Overhaul

TPN Correspondent, Hyderabad : On Friday, December 13, the Telangana government set up a three-member committee to review and streamline recruitment procedures for university faculty. This move follows a meeting convened by the Telangana Council of Higher Education (TGCHE) with vice-chancellors from various state universities.

The committee, which will be chaired by Ghanta Chakrapani, former chairman of the Telangana Public Service Commission and ex-vice chancellor of Dr. BR Ambedkar Open University, aims to develop optimized recruitment models for teaching staff. The focus will be on aligning these practices with University Grants Commission (UGC) regulations and the government's directives outlined in GO Ms No 15.



In addition to Chakrapani, the committee will include vice-chancellors from Osmania University and Mahatma Gandhi University, as well as two additional experts. The committee will explore various recruitment models used in other states, such as Bihar's practice of hiring faculty through the Public Service Commission (PSC). The committee will then provide recommendations on best practices for Telangana.

One of the main challenges discussed during the meeting was faculty recruitment. TGCHE Chairman V. Balakista Reddy highlighted the need to address this issue efficiently. The committee will also investigate superannuation policies and career advancement schemes (CAS) for faculty members to ensure transparency, fairness, and efficiency.

As part of the broader education reform efforts, the TGCHE plans to review university affiliation processes, develop strategies to improve institutional rankings, and align universities with national and international educational standards. In addition, vice-chancellors were encouraged to diversify funding sources through corporate social responsibility (CSR) initiatives and Members of Parliament Local Area Development (MP-LAD) funds to support university budgets.

The TGCHE also plans to update outdated course syllabi to better equip students for the global job market, and address concerns raised by vice-chancellors on infrastructure, scholarships, and other university issues.



## Rs 24 Lakh Stolen from SBI ATM in Nalgonda, Investigation Underway

**TPN Correspondent, Nalgonda:** – A significant theft occurred at a State Bank of India (SBI) ATM in Nalgonda district, Telangana, on Friday, December 13, with criminals making away with Rs. 24 lakh. The incident has raised concerns as a notorious gang is suspected to be behind the theft. Nalgonda Superintendent of Police, Sarath Chandra Pawar, visited the crime scene and is leading the investigation. Special teams have been formed to track down the culprits, and police have increased security in the area.

Authorities have urged local residents to remain vigilant and report any suspicious activities to assist in the ongoing investigation. The theft comes shortly after an attempted break-in at an ATM in Nirmal district earlier in November.



## Fire Accident Destroys Rs 2 Crore Worth of Cotton in Telangana



**TPN Correspondent, Aler:** A devastating fire at Mallikarjuna Cotton Mill in Aler mandal, Yadadri Bhuvanagiri district, has caused significant damage, destroying cotton worth over Rs. 2 crore. The fire, which broke out on Saturday afternoon, led to the destruction of around 3,000 quintals of cotton. Thankfully, no casualties have been reported.

Local sources indicated that the fire rapidly engulfed a large portion of the cotton stock, sending thick black smoke and flames visible from several nearby villages, creating widespread panic. Firefighters from various stations have been working tirelessly to control the blaze and prevent further destruction.

Preliminary investigations suggest the fire could have been caused by an electrical short circuit, although the exact cause is still being determined. Local authorities are working to assess the full extent of the damage, while efforts to extinguish the fire continue.

## CM REVANTH REDDY'S KEY COMMENTS ON SC CLASSIFICATION

**TPN Correspondent, Hyderabad:** Telangana Chief Minister Revanth Reddy emphasized the Congress party's commitment to SC classification and assured that the process would be carried out smoothly. Speaking as the chief guest at the Global Madiga Day-2024 event in Hyderabad, the CM reiterated the party's stance on SC classification, citing the Chevella Declaration unveiled by AICC President Mallikarjun Kharge.

Revanth Reddy highlighted his government's role in securing a favorable Supreme Court verdict on SC classification. He credited Minister Damodar Rajanarimha's leadership for appointing lawyers to present strong arguments in the ongoing Madiga sub-caste case.

The CM revealed that the commission on SC classification is expected to submit its



report within a week, laying the groundwork for the classification process. He

assured the Madiga community that the Congress government is prioritizing their representation in political and official appointments, noting the appointment of a Madiga community member as Osmania University Vice-Chancellor for the first time.

Recognizing the Madiga community's contribution to his political journey, Revanth Reddy vowed to ensure justice for them under the Congress government. He acknowledged the complexity of the classification issue but expressed confidence in resolving it in line with the people's aspirations.

"The Madiga community's argument has strength, and the government is committed to addressing it fairly," the CM concluded.

## Revanth Reddy govt has achieved nothing in one year of rule

**TPN Correspondent, Hyderabad:** BRS Senior MLA Harish Rao Criticizes Salary Delays and Unfulfilled Promises—BRS senior MLA Harish Rao launched a scathing attack on the Revanth Reddy-led government, accusing it of failing to achieve anything significant in its first year of rule. He criticized the delay in paying salaries, noting that even by the 14th day of the month, Anganwadi teachers and nurses have yet to receive their dues.

Harish Rao slammed the government for its earlier claims of paying employee salaries on the first day of the month. "It's a farce. Salaries haven't been paid on time, and Anganwadi center rents have been pending for ten months," he said.

The MLA expressed concern over the hardships faced by retired employees, who are reportedly being denied their rightful retirement benefits except when mandated by High Court orders. "This government is causing untold distress to employees and their families," he remarked.



Harish Rao highlighted that Anganwadi teachers, ayas, retired teachers, contract workers, and outsourcing employees are all struggling due to delayed salaries. He urged the government to end its misleading claims about timely salary payments and take immediate steps to address these issues.

LAW WILL TAKE ITS COURSE

## TPCC CHIEF MAHESH KUMAR GOUD ON ALLU ARJUN CASE



**TPN Correspondent, Hyderabad:** Telangana PCC president Mahesh Kumar Goud clarified there is no bias against actor Allu Arjun but questioned, "Should we not take action if a poor woman dies in a stampede?" Addressing the media, Goud emphasized that the Congress party holds no grudge against any film actor and affirmed that the law is being followed in Allu Arjun's case.

"Even though the tragedy was unexpected, a case was filed as per the law, he was arrested, and bail was later granted by the court. The law will take its course," Goud stated.

He condemned BJP leaders' attempts to politicize the issue, accusing them of blaming the Congress-led government unfairly. Goud also highlighted the Congress party's historical support for the film industry, pointing out that Congress chief ministers were instrumental in relocating the film industry from Chennai to Hyderabad.

"The Congress party respects the film industry and has no animosity toward any actor. Cases involving film stars are handled purely within the ambit of the law," he said. Goud urged BJP leaders to refrain from making baseless allegations against the Congress government.

## KAVITHA ACCUSES CM REVANTH OF DISRESPECTING TELANGANA TALLI

**TPN Correspondent, Hyderabad:** BRS MLC Kalvakuntla Kavitha criticized Telangana Chief Minister Revanth Reddy, alleging that he lacks respect for Telangana Talli. Speaking at a round table meeting organized by Telangana Jagruti at the Somajiguda Press Club in Hyderabad, Kavitha reaffirmed her commitment to honoring Telangana Talli, symbolizing the spirit of the state since its movement for statehood.



Kavitha stated that Telangana Talli, holding a jorna stick in one hand and Bathukamma in the other, is a representation of the state's identity and culture. "We will continue to write poems and songs glorifying Telangana Talli and publish them as books," she said, adding that erecting statues of Telangana Talli would remain an ongoing effort.

She accused CM Revanth Reddy of disrespecting Telangana's heritage by altering the Telangana Talli statue and questioned his understanding of the state's cultural harmony. "How can there be unity in Telangana society if Telangana Talli is depicted without Bathukamma in her hand?" she asked. Kavitha also condemned Revanth Reddy's alleged remarks describing Bathukamma as an upper-caste festival. She demanded that the CM retract his comments and issue an apology to the people of Telangana.

"Our traditions and festivals represent all sections of society. Disparaging them is an insult to the people who revere them," she concluded.

## ALLU ARJUN'S ARREST UNFORTUNATE, COURT'S BAIL A RELIEF

**TPN Correspondent, Hyderabad :** Congress leader and Khairatabad MLA Danam Nagender expressed his disappointment over the arrest of film actor Allu Arjun, stating it caused him emotional distress. The actor was arrested by Chikkadapalli police in connection with the Sandhya Theater incident but was later released on interim bail granted by the High Court. Speaking to the media, Nagender described Allu Arjun as not just a pan-India hero but a global star who has brought immense recognition to Telangana and Andhra Pradesh.



"His films are celebrated worldwide, making him a source of pride for Telugu states," he said. While welcoming the court's decision to grant bail, Nagender called the arrest unfortunate. He also emphasized his personal admiration for the actor, adding that Allu Arjun holds a special place in the hearts of Telugu people and has significantly elevated the Telugu film industry's stature on international platforms. Nagender concluded by reiterating his regret over the incident and voiced hope that such situations would not arise in the future.

## ALLU ARJUN'S CONSPIRACY AGAINST JOHNNY MASTER, SUFFERED THE CONSEQUENCES

**TPN Correspondent, Hyderabad :** The arrest of Icon Star Allu Arjun has sparked widespread discussions not just in the Telugu states, but across the country. The incident occurred during the Pushpa to Benefit show at Sandhya Theater, where a stampede tragically led to the death of a woman named Revathi, and her son was seriously injured and is currently undergoing treatment in the hospital. In connection with this, the Chikkadapalli police have filed cases against Allu Arjun, leading to his arrest. He was later produced in court, remanded for 14 days, but granted interim bail by the Telangana High Court, allowing him to be released from Chanchalguda jail early this morning.

The incident has triggered varying opinions across Telangana. Some are supporting the government's actions, while others are criticizing the arrest, claiming it was unfair and biased. Congress



MLC Teenmar Mallanna has made sensational comments, particularly targeting Allu Arjun over his alleged conspiracy against Johnny Master, a famous choreographer.

Teenmar Mallanna accused Allu Arjun of orchestrating Johnny

Master's imprisonment, claiming that Allu Arjun was unable to accept the announcement of Johnny Master's National Award. He alleged that Allu Arjun conspired to ensure that only he received the prestigious honor. Mallanna further claimed that cases were filed

against an assistant choreographer working for Johnny Master, resulting in his imprisonment, and highlighted that Johnny Master had to approach the Supreme Court for bail. Mallanna even suggested that Johnny Master had written a letter asking to withdraw his National Award after being granted bail.

In a strong statement, Mallanna questioned whether Allu Arjun would also be compelled to return his National Award, given the circumstances. He also criticized the movie Pushpa, questioning whether a National Award could be awarded to someone associated with the theft of red sandalwood, referring to the film's plot. Mallanna, who previously questioned Johnny Master's message to society regarding red sandalwood theft, drew a parallel to Allu Arjun, remarking that the actor's night in jail was the consequence of the actions portrayed in Pushpa.

# Dr. Garikapati Narasimha Rao Launches I-Focus Mission's "My Own Game Changer 2025" Calendar

**TPN Correspondent, Hyderabad :** A special "Subha Sayantram" function was organized at the premises of the I-Focus Movement Organization in Uppal Bhagayat, with Padma Shri Dr. Garikapati Narasimha Rao as the chief guest. The event brought together members of the organization, as well as distinguished guests, to celebrate the mission of shaping better citizens through self-improvement. Dr. Garikapati Narasimha Rao, in his address, spoke on the theme "Sthanika Jeevitam - Saptasva Ratham," emphasizing the importance of adopting a holistic lifestyle based on Indian values. He praised the members of I-Focus for embracing the "Saptasva

life," which he described as a path to better living and contributing positively to society.

Dr. Rao elaborated on the seven key aspects of the Saptasva life, which are: "My Fitness, My Learnings, My Career, My Home, My Spirituality, My Power Circle, My Space." He encouraged everyone to adopt these principles for personal growth and societal well-being.

As part of the function, the I-Focus Movement launched its prestigious calendar, "My Own Game Changer 2025," which was unveiled by Dr. Garikapati Narasimha Rao. This calendar



is designed to inspire individuals to focus on their personal development and make positive changes in their lives.

The event also saw the participation of I-Focus Chief Coordinator Shri Va-



sudeva Sharma, Director Shekhar Ivni, Vinod Yadav, Dr. Nagesh, Ravi Chandra, Surendra, Murali Krishna, and other members of the organization. The event was a significant step in promoting the mission of I-Focus

to develop better citizens who embody the values of fitness, education, career success, spirituality, and personal space, contributing to a more prosperous society.

## Students Enthusiastically Participate in 'Eenadu' Talent Competitions at Manikonda Sri Gayatri Techno School

**TPN Correspondent, Hyderabad:** Manikonda Sri Gayatri Techno School hosted an exciting series of talent competitions under the auspices of Eenadu on Friday, with students from classes 8, 9, and 10 eagerly engaging in oratory competitions. The topics for the event were "Mother Tongue - Preservation" and "Festivals - Traditions," providing students an opportunity to showcase their public speaking skills.



and G. Sahasra from 9th class, who secured the first three positions, respectively.

In the "Mother Tongue - Preservation" category, students eloquently spoke about the importance of preserving their native languages. The winners of the oratory competition were CH Eshanvi from 8th class, K. Hasini from 9th class,

The students emphasized the sweetness of their mother tongue, explaining how it enables them to express their thoughts and feelings clearly. They stressed the need to protect and nurture their native

languages to maintain cultural heritage.

Similarly, in the "Festivals - Traditions" category, students spoke about the unity and cultural significance of various festivals. The speeches highlighted how these traditions bring communities together and uphold shared values.



Principal Rachana Patel and CEO Sarveswara Rao congratulated the winners and presented them with prizes and certificates. The students' insightful and passionate speeches left a lasting impact on the audience, reaffirming the importance of preserving mother tongues and traditions.

## Hyderabad Police Commissioner Visits Residential Girls School in Narayanguda

**TPN Correspondent, Hyderabad:** Hyderabad City Police Commissioner CV Anand visited the Telangana Minority Welfare Residential Girls School in Musheerabad, Narayanguda, on Saturday, December 14, as part of a school inspection initiative under the directive of Chief Minister A Revanth Reddy.



During his visit, Commissioner Anand unveiled the new "Common Diet Meal" menu introduced by the state government for the students. The menu is part of the government's initiative to ensure the provision of nutritious meals to students in residential schools run by the Telangana Minorities Residential Educational Institutions Society (TGMREIS).

The Commissioner toured various facil-

ities at the school, including the kitchen, sanitary areas, science lab, computer lab, robotic lab, sports room, and student dormitories. He assessed the quality of the amenities provided and discussed the breakfast, lunch, snacks, and dinner served to students with the school authorities.

Addressing the students, Commissioner Anand highlighted the government's responsibility towards the welfare of residential school students. He mentioned that Rs 500 crore had been allocated for social and minority welfare institutions to enhance food quality and provide better cosmetic products for students.

Anand encouraged the students to maintain a healthy diet and actively participate in extracurricular activities like sports, which he believes help in developing a healthy body and a well-rounded personality. He urged them to stay healthy, stay safe, study hard, and fulfill the expectations of their parents and teachers, emphasizing the importance of an active lifestyle in overcoming life's challenges.

## TGPSC Chairman Assures Merit-Based Group-2 Selections

**TPN Correspondent, Hyderabad:** Telangana State Public Service Commission (TGPSC) Chairman Burra Venkatesham has assured candidates that the upcoming Group-2 exams will be conducted in a transparent and merit-based manner. Speaking at the TGPSC office in Nampally, Venkatesham confirmed that all arrangements for the exams, set for today and tomorrow, have been finalized.



Venkatesham emphasized that the exams will be under strict CCTV surveillance, ensuring fairness and security throughout the process. He urged candidates to appear for the exams without doubts, assuring them that the selection would be based solely on merit.

He also reflected on the delayed implementation of the Group-2

notification in 2015 and pledged to release the results promptly this time around. A thorough review of all exam-related procedures had been conducted over the past ten days to avoid any issues.

To ensure the security of the question papers, Venkatesham disclosed that 58 storage points had been set up to prevent any leaks. With 5.51 lakh candidates expected to appear for the exams, biometric verification will also be mandatory for all participants.

Venkatesham urged candidates to trust the process and focus on performing to the best of their abilities, assuring them that merit would be the deciding factor in the selection process.

## ALLU ARJUN'S LAWYERS PLAN LEGAL ACTION OVER DELAYED RELEASE



**TPN Correspondent, Hyderabad :** Lawyers representing actor Allu Arjun are planning to take legal action over the delay in his release, despite the Telangana High Court's clear order for his immediate release in connection with the Sandhya Theater stampede incident. Ashok Reddy, Bunny's lawyer, addressed the media after his release from Chanchalguda Jail on Saturday morning. He stated that although the jail authorities had received a copy of the bail order from the High Court, they kept the actor in detention unlawfully. According to Reddy, the High Court's order explicitly stated that Allu Arjun should be released immediately upon receipt of the order.

"The authorities did not comply with the High Court's order and kept him in illegal detention. We will take legal action against this unlawful delay," said lawyer Ashok Reddy. While Bunny's legal team insisted there was no delay in submitting the bail order to the jail authorities, the jail officials claimed that they received the bail order late in the night. According to the jail manual, prisoners cannot be released during the night, which led to his release being delayed until 6:40 AM the next day.

Allu Arjun had been granted four weeks of interim bail by the Telangana High Court. After being released, the actor went to his family's production house, Geetha Arts, where he met with his lawyers for a discussion.

## Osmania University Faculty Request Extension of Retirement Age to 65

**TPN Correspondent, Hyderabad:** Members of the Osmania University Teachers Association (OUTA) have formally appealed for an extension of the superannuation age for university faculty from 60 to 65 years. The request was submitted to M Kodandaram, a Member of the Telangana Legislative Council (MLC), as part of ongoing efforts to address challenges faced by the higher education sector in the state. G Malleham, vice president of OUTA, emphasized that the University Grants Commission (UGC) guidelines suggest a retirement age of 65 for professors. He pointed out that neighboring Andhra Pradesh has already implemented this change, while Telangana's professors still retire at 60.

Malleham highlighted the alarming shortage of regular faculty, with only 340 of the 1,257 sanctioned positions currently filled. He warned that if this trend continues, Osmania University could face challenges in securing research funding and maintaining its NAAC rankings. The demand for an increased retirement age has been echoed by the Telangana All University Teachers Association, which has also raised concerns over recruitment and the need for strengthening the university system in the state.





## Greenery for the Future

# CM Revanth Reddy's Revolutionary Environmental Decisions

**TPN Correspondent, Hyderabad:** Climate and environmental protection have emerged as major challenges globally, and Telangana is no exception. Under the previous KCR government, Hyderabad's lakes and ponds were encroached upon, with buildings constructed over them, exacerbating flood risks during heavy rains. However, since the Congress government, led by Chief Minister Revanth Reddy, took charge in 2023, significant steps have been taken to restore the environment and ensure sustainable development.

CM Revanth Reddy, a nature lover, has spearheaded a range of initiatives focused on urban planning, renewable energy, pollution control, and environmental restoration. The state has already seen revolutionary changes

under his leadership, with Telangana flourishing with greenery once again. Notably, 75 lakes have been restored, and work is ongoing to restore an additional 2,000 lakes. As a result, these lakes are once again overflowing with water, filling groundwater reserves and supporting local biodiversity. Migratory birds, which had stopped visiting the state for years, are now returning, with species like flamingos and red-breasted flycatchers making a comeback.

Recently, Revanth Reddy shared a post on X, expressing his joy over the return of birds like the red-breasted flycatcher to Aminpur Lake in Hyderabad after several years. The public perceives these positive changes as a result of the government's commitment to pro-

tecting the lakes and their ecosystems. The CM's administration has also introduced several policies to reduce pollution. One of the key steps was the electrification of public transport, replacing diesel buses with battery-powered electric vehicles (EVs). This initiative has significantly reduced pollution levels in Hyderabad. Additionally, the government is promoting green transportation by encouraging cycling and developing special zones for pedestrians. These efforts aim to transform Hyderabad into a model green city, signaling a shift towards sustainability and environmental consciousness.

CM Revanth Reddy's revolutionary decisions are being praised for their positive impact on both nature and the people of Telangana.



## Minister Seethakka Condemns Mohan Babu's Attack on Journalist



**TPN Correspondent, Hyderabad:** Telangana Minister Seethakka strongly condemned the recent attack by film actor Mohan Babu on journalist Ranjith and stated that no one would be spared for committing a wrong. The minister stressed that those responsible for such actions should face punishment.

Seethakka, responding to the incident, emphasized that it was unacceptable for journalists to be attacked, especially while carrying out their duty. She called for Mohan Babu to bear the medical expenses of the injured journalist, Ranjith, and assured the public that the government would stand by the journalist's family.

The attack occurred when journalists went to cover a dispute at Mohan Babu's residence in Jalpalli. During the coverage, the actor reportedly attacked Ranjith, leaving him injured. In response, the police registered a case of attempt to murder against Mohan Babu, and his anticipatory bail petition was rejected by the Telangana High Court.

Minister Seethakka reaffirmed the government's commitment to protecting journalists and announced that necessary decisions would be made to ensure their safety.

## Telangana Civil Supplies Department Launches YouTube Channel for Farmers

**TPN Correspondent, Hyderabad:** The Telangana State Civil Supplies Department has launched a new YouTube channel, "Commissioner Civil Supplies," aimed at providing farmers with direct access to crucial information about government schemes and initiatives.

Inaugurated on Friday by Commissioner DS Chauhan, the channel is designed to deliver timely and accurate updates on topics such as rice procurement policies, ongoing purchases, and the Rs 500 bonus for farmers selling rice at government procurement centers.



During the launch, Chauhan discussed the importance of this platform in ensuring that farmers have immediate access to details about their entitlements, including whether they will qualify for

the Rs 500 bonus on rice sales. He also encouraged farmers to use the channel to report any issues they face at procurement centers, especially concerns about pricing by private traders and rice millers, who are currently paying Rs 2,820 per quintal.

Chauhan urged farmers to engage with the channel, encouraging them to like, subscribe, and stay informed about the latest developments related to government schemes aimed at supporting the agricultural community.

## TGFDC Launches Overnight-Stay Nature Camp at Chilkur Forest

**TPN Correspondent, Chilkur:** The Telangana Forest Development Corporation Ltd (TGFDC) has launched an exciting new nature camp experience, called "Rock Bay Nature Camp," aimed at fostering a deeper connection between individuals and nature. Located in the Chilkur Reserve Forest, the camp is being held at Forestrek Park in Manchirevula, under the brand name "Deccan Woods & Trails." The overnight camping experience, which began on Friday, December 13, is designed to be eco-friendly and provide an engaging adventure for nature enthusiasts, particularly school and college students. The first group of campers were students from Radiant High School in Mancherial district.

Supervised by TGFDC officials including FRO eco-tourism S Srinivas, projects manager K Suman, and head naturalist Akhil, the camp started with a nature walk, where participants were introduced to various forest trees and their uses. The activities then escalated with thrilling outdoor adventures such as rock climbing, rappelling, commando-net challenges, and a sky-walk.

The children also participated in practical activities like learning how to pitch and remove tents. As part of the camp's evening activities, a bonfire was organized, creating a warm atmosphere for socializing and enjoyment.



On Saturday morning, the participants embarked on a bird-walk and trekking session. They were provided with bird-walk brochures and binoculars to identify the diverse bird species found in the park's hillocks.

To promote teamwork, the camp also featured various team-building activities, including the roller-coaster, number stamping, balloon train, and water-transporting games. This immersive experience is aimed at raising awareness about the importance of forests while offering an adventurous escape for young minds.

## Congress MP Chamala Criticizes Political Exploitation of Allu Arjun's Arrest



**TPN Correspondent, Bhongir:** Congress MP from Bhongir, Chamala Kiran Kumar Reddy, expressed concerns about the political exploitation surrounding the recent arrest of actor Allu Arjun in connection with the stamped incident at Sand-

hya Theatre.

In his remarks, Chamala criticized the lack of focus on the victim's family, accusing political parties of using the incident for their own agendas. He specifically pointed out that BRS and BJP leaders were attempting to manipulate the situation for political gain, rather than focusing on the tragedy and supporting the affected family.

Chamala emphasized the need for uniform law and order enforcement across states, including Telangana, Karnataka, and Maharashtra. He argued that law enforcement should not be influenced by political motives and that incidents involving VIPs should not be politicized.

Reflecting on past similar cases, he hoped this incident would serve as a reminder to VIPs to exercise more caution in their actions and to allow law enforcement and the judicial system to handle the matter appropriately.

## HC Quashes Multiple FIRs Against Prof. Kancha Ilaiah

**TPN Correspondent, Hyderabad:** The Telangana High Court has quashed several FIRs filed against renowned writer and professor Kancha Ilaiah, which were registered across various districts in the state.

These cases were filed following the publication of his 2017 book, Samajika Smuglarlu Komatollu, which had sparked controversy and backlash from the Arya Vyshya community, who accused the book of containing derogatory content against them.

In a related development, a petition seeking a ban on Ilaiah's book was submitted to the Supreme Court. However, the petition was dismissed, with the Supreme Court emphasizing the fundamental right of every citizen to freedom of expression. Justice G. Radha Rani, who delivered the ruling, referenced these constitutional rights, underscoring the importance of protecting individual expression from at-



tempts to curb it. This decision marks a significant victory for the academic and literary freedoms of Kancha Ilaiah, reaffirming his right to publish and express his views.



# Gukesh's Historic Chess Victory: A New Era of Indian Supremacy

Gukesh Dommaraju, at the age of 18 years, 6 months, and 14 days, has stunned the world by becoming the youngest-ever World Chess Champion. On December 12, 2024, the teenage chess prodigy from India triumphed over defending champion Ding Liren of China in a thrilling final game that lasted over five hours. The 14-game series culminated in a dramatic endgame, which, despite expectations of a draw, saw Gukesh emerge victorious, showcasing his exceptional skill and composure.

Gukesh's victory marks a historic moment for both India and the world of chess. He became the 51st World Chess Champion and the 18th individual to achieve this prestigious title, joining the ranks of legends in chess history. His win also signifies a remarkable milestone in Indian chess, as it continues to dominate the global stage, following the success of Vishwanathan Anand, India's first World Chess Champion. Anand, who has been a mentor to Gukesh, expressed immense pride in his student's achievement, calling it a moment of great significance for Indian chess.

The victory is especially meaningful as it places Gukesh as the youngest World Chess Champion in history, surpassing the previous record held by Garry Kasparov, who won the title at 22 years old in 1985. Gukesh's journey to the top has been nothing short of meteoric. Beginning his chess career at the age of six, Gukesh quickly rose through the ranks. By 2015, at just 9 years old, he won the Asian School Junior Championship, and soon after, claimed titles at the World Youth Chess Championship in the Under-12 category. His rapid ascent continued, and by



2019, Gukesh became the third youngest Grandmaster in history at the age of 12.

The past year has been a particularly impressive one for Gukesh. In addition to his World Chess Championship victory, he was a key player in India's historic gold medal win at the 2024 Chess Olympiad in Budapest. Gukesh's performance, alongside fellow grandmasters like Arjun Erigaisi and Divya Deshmukh, helped India secure its first-ever gold in both the open and women's categories. These successes have solidified India's position as a chess powerhouse, with a rapidly

growing number of Grandmasters and International Masters.

Gukesh's victory is a symbol of the rising tide of Indian talent in the world of chess, with the country now producing some of the best players in history. His success not only honors India's chess legacy but also inspires countless young players around the world to dream big. With Gukesh's stunning performance, India has entered a new era of 'Indian Supremacy' in chess, and the world can expect more Indian champions to follow in his footsteps.



## India's Agricultural Policy: A Price Check is Needed

India's agricultural policy has long focused on expanding markets and integrating technology into the sector. While these efforts are commendable, they often overlook the crucial issue of fair farm-gate prices for farmers. Without addressing existing logistical bottlenecks and the dominance of buyers in the market, the policy risks being ineffective in improving the economic conditions of farmers.

The Draft National Policy Framework on Agricultural Marketing, introduced by the Government of India, aims to tackle structural inefficiencies in agricultural marketing and enhance farmers' incomes. It identifies key problems, such as fragmented markets, poor infrastructure, and the lack of digital integration. However, these solutions often fail to address the most pressing issues farmers face — price volatility, supply-demand imbalances, and buyer cartelization.

Farmers' incomes are largely driven by the prices they receive for their produce. Unfortunately, these prices remain volatile, often subject to price crashes, and distortions caused by supply chain inefficiencies. Cartelized buyer behavior further exacerbates this issue, as middlemen and large corporate buyers can suppress prices, leaving farmers with minimal earnings. In such a scenario, technological advancements or market expansion become moot if farmers cannot sell their products at a fair price.

The framework does acknowledge important agricultural achievements, such as record food grain production and increased exports. It also recognizes challenges like fragmented landholdings and limited market access. However, it does not go far enough in addressing the core issue of low farmer incomes, which is primarily a result of price fluctuations and inadequate market access. While the policy addresses structural barriers such as high production costs and inefficient supply chains, it falls short of providing clear and actionable solutions to ensure fair price realization for farmers.

The framework envisions a vibrant, competitive, and transparent marketing ecosystem, emphasizing the adoption of innovative technologies and value chain-centric marketing. However, the focus on competition and transparency fails to address the ongoing power imbalance between farmers and buyers. Cartels often exploit the lack of transparency, preventing farmers from receiving their fair share of the value they generate.

For India's agricultural policy to be truly effective, it must go beyond market expansion and technological integration. It must ensure that farmers are paid fairly for their hard work, addressing the market's structural inefficiencies and the dominance of exploitative buyer cartels. Until these issues are resolved, farmers' incomes will continue to remain volatile, hindering the growth and sustainability of India's agricultural sector.

## Syria's Struggle: Caught Between Dictatorship and Islamist Extremism

Syria's ongoing crisis has left its people caught between two equally troubling realities: the brutal Assad regime and the rise of Islamist groups. The fall of Bashar al-Assad's government, replaced by Islamist factions with ties to al-Qaeda and ISIS, underscores the complex, grey nature of the region's political landscape. This shift reveals the difficult choices facing ordinary Syrians, who are left wondering whether a change in leadership will truly bring peace or simply replace one form of oppression with another.

For over 50 years, the Assad family ruled Syria with a mix of fear, brutality, and authoritarian socialism. While their governance was harsh, it was not driven by

religious extremism. The Assads promoted a secular form of socialism, which, while repressive, allowed some space for moderate cultural and religious diversity. However, the lack of political freedoms and a lack of meaningful reforms led to growing resentment and the eventual uprising that erupted in 2011.

In the wake of the Assad regime, various Islamist factions, including those affiliated with al-Qaeda and ISIS, have stepped in to fill the power vacuum. Groups like Hay'at Tahrir al-Sham, which evolved from al-Qaeda's Syrian affiliate, now promise a new, Islamic state. However, their rhetoric of fairness and inclusivity toward minority groups rings hollow, considering their historical record and

ideological roots. Just as the world once believed in the promises of a "moderate" Taliban, there is a growing concern that these Islamist groups, too, will revert to hardline policies once in power, sidelining the country's secular legacy.

The situation is further complicated by Syria's turbulent history. Prior to the Assads, Syria endured centuries of Ottoman control, followed by French colonial rule. After gaining independence, Syria saw a series of unstable governments dominated by elite political families, none of which were able to bring lasting peace or stability. The rise of Islamist movements can be seen as a response to the failure of secular dictatorships to address the people's needs and aspirations.

## Layers Surrounding Allu Arjun's Arrest: Revanth Reddy's Handling of Arjun Arrest Sparks Controversy

Telangana Chief Minister Revanth Reddy recently made waves with his remarks about movie stars, saying, "I am the star; I should have my own fan following. Why should I be someone else's fan?" He was responding to a question about his favorite movie stars during an interview. Known for his sharp political acumen and smart appearance, Reddy has worked to restore the Congress party's prominence in Telangana. However, his recent comments, especially regarding the arrest of Telugu cinema star Allu Arjun, have raised eyebrows.

Reddy showed little sympathy for the film industry and its business practices when discussing the stampede that led to the death of a 39-year-old woman and the injury of her son at a movie event attended by Allu Arjun. The Chief Minister dismissed the role of entertainment figures in such incidents, stating that they merely "invest money, earn profits, and go home."

However, the main issue at hand is whether Reddy, who also serves as the Home Minister, followed due process when the police arrested Allu Arjun. Reports suggest that the actor was detained in a manner that lacked basic decency, with police reportedly entering his bedroom and



taking him to the station without allowing him time to change clothes or speak to his family. Despite securing bail, Allu Arjun spent the night in jail.

The bigger question is whether there was enough evidence to charge the actor with culpable homicide not amounting to murder, as suggested by Reddy. The Chief Minister argued that Allu Ar-



jun's actions, such as standing on his car and waving to the crowd, were enough to implicate him. However, this view overlooks the common practice in the film industry of engaging with fans to promote movies.

Further complicating matters, a letter from the theatre management requesting additional security for the event on December 4, well before

the incident, seems to suggest that the police were aware of the crowd's size and the presence of film stars. This raises the question: should the police have done more to coordinate with the theatre and prevent the tragedy?

Reddy's decision to proceed with the arrest, despite his personal connection to the actor, also raises concerns about political influence and selective accountability in such matters.

# Congress Can Never Erase Taint Of Emergency: PM On Constitution Debate

TPN CORRESPONDENT DELHI  
DECEMBER.15

Prime Minister Narendra Modi launched a scathing attack on the Congress party during a debate on the Constitution in Parliament, accusing the party of imposing Emergency to preserve political power. Speaking on the 75th anniversary of India's Constitution, Modi asserted that the Congress would never be able to erase the stain of the Emergency period, which he said turned India into a "prison" and stripped citizens of their rights.

"I expected a healthy debate on the Constitution, but some chose to grieve their political losses," Modi said, alluding to the Opposition. Reflecting on the history of India's Constitution, he reminded the house that when it completed 25 years, it was "snatched" by the imposition of Emergency, which Modi referred to as a "sin" that Congress cannot wash off.

The Prime Minister then pointed to former Prime Minister Indira Gandhi's actions, accusing her of having no regard for the Constitution. "Even Indira Gandhi's election was declared void, yet she invoked Emergency in rage to save her seat, misusing the Constitution for personal gain," he said. Modi further criticized



her leadership, highlighting the thousands of people imprisoned during this period and the government's lack of empathy toward the suffering public.

Modi also condemned the actions of Indira Gandhi's son, Rajiv Gandhi, accusing him of overturning the Supreme Court's Shah Bano verdict in favor of a vote bank. He claimed that the Congress party's political dynasty continued a legacy of disregarding justice for personal

or political advantage. "Nehru ji started it, Indira ji took it forward, and Rajiv Gandhi followed the same path," Modi added.

The Prime Minister also targeted the National Advisory Council (NAC) under the UPA government, describing it as a body of unelected members who advised the Prime Minister, further reflecting on Congress's alleged misuse of power throughout the years.

## Vijayendra Tried To Bribe Minority Commission On Waqf Wssue

TPN CORRESPONDENT BENGALURU  
DECEMBER.15

Karnataka Chief Minister Siddaramaiah on Saturday accused BJP state president B.Y. Vijayendra of attempting to bribe Anwar Manippady, the former Chairperson of the Minority Commission, with Rs 150 crore to suppress an investigation into Waqf property encroachment during the previous BJP government.

Siddaramaiah claimed that Manippady had publicly stated that Vijayendra visited his house during the tenure of former Chief Minister B.S. Yediyurappa and offered him the bribe to remain silent about the encroachment report on Waqf properties. According to Siddaramaiah, Manippady rejected the offer and immediately reported the incident to Prime Minister Narendra Modi and the BJP President.

"There is no immediate response from either Manippady or Vijayendra. However, it raises suspicions about why Prime Minister Modi has remained silent on this serious allegation," Siddaramaiah said in a statement. He questioned the BJP leadership's apparent protection of Vijayendra and others involved in the Waqf property issue.

The Chief Minister also raised concerns about the BJP's involvement in the mismanagement of Waqf properties, citing the actions of former Chief Ministers B.S. Yediyurappa and Basavaraj Bommai. Siddaramaiah alleged that their tenure was marked by an unprecedented number of notices issued concerning Waqf properties, adding to the controversy.

Siddaramaiah's call for an investigation into the matter has intensified the political discourse, urging Prime Minister Modi to break his silence and order a CBI probe into the allegations. The claims have not yet been addressed by Vijayendra or Manippady, and the opposition is pressing for further clarification and accountability on the matter.



## Delhi Being Called Crime Capital Under Your Watch: Kejriwal writes To Shah

TPN CORRESPONDENT DELHI  
DECEMBER.15

Aam Aadmi Party (AAP) chief Arvind Kejriwal has expressed grave concerns over the worsening law and order situation in Delhi, labeling the city as the "crime and extortion capital of the world." In a letter addressed to Union Home Minister Amit Shah, Kejriwal raised alarms about recent bomb threat incidents and called for immediate attention to the city's escalating crime problems.



Kejriwal's letter highlighted the rising fears among residents and businesses due to increasing criminal activities,

particularly extortion cases, and the inability of the Delhi Police to effectively address these issues. He pointed out that the city's reputation is suffering due to these ongoing threats, which have caused widespread anxiety.

In his communication, Kejriwal requested a meeting with Amit Shah to discuss the matter in greater detail, stressing the need for urgent action to restore public safety and confidence. Given that Delhi's police force operates under the Union Home Ministry, Kejriwal urged Shah to intervene and ensure that the police are equipped and supported to handle the rising crime rate effectively.

The Delhi Chief Minister also referenced specific incidents involving bomb threats in recent times, which have further amplified concerns about public safety. The threats, he said, are reflective of the growing lawlessness and organized crime in the city, which, according to Kejriwal, demands immediate and decisive action from the central government.

## Words and Actions Shouldn't Tarnish India's Global Image: Rijju During Constitution Debate

TPN CORRESPONDENT NEW DELHI  
DECEMBER.15

Union Minister Kiren Rijju, while participating in a debate on the 75th anniversary of the adoption of India's Constitution, emphasized the importance of safeguarding the nation's image on the global stage. Rijju, speaking in the Lok Sabha on December 14, 2024, asserted that India has granted equal voting rights to all citizens, countering claims that minorities have no rights in the country.

He pointed out that India not only ensures legal protection for minorities but also has provisions for affirmative action to safeguard their interests. Rijju cautioned that the words and actions of leaders should not tarnish the country's reputation in international forums.



Rijju acknowledged that successive Indian governments have worked towards the welfare of minorities, including the Congress-led governments. He emphasized that his remarks were not meant to undermine the role of the Congress in this regard but to stress the broader, continuous commitment to minority welfare across various administrations.

The minister's comments came as part of a broader debate marking 75 years since the adoption of India's Constitution, which enshrines equality and justice for all citizens, regardless of their religion, caste, or creed. Rijju's speech highlighted the constitutional guarantees and historical efforts made by the country to ensure the well-being and protection of its minority communities.

## Country Will Be Run By Constitution, Not Manusmriti: Rahul targets BJP



TPN CORRESPONDENT DELHI  
DECEMBER.15

Leader of Opposition Rahul Gandhi on Saturday launched a scathing attack on the BJP, citing Hindutva ideologue V.D. Savarkar's criticism of the Indian Constitution to accuse the ruling party of defaming its own values. Gandhi referenced Savarkar's assertion that there was "nothing Indian about the Constitution," and alleged that the BJP is undermining the very foundation of the nation by claiming to protect it.

Gandhi further criticized the BJP and its ideological ally, the RSS, calling them "supporters of Manusmriti," an ancient text considered to promote caste-based discrimination. In contrast, he emphasized that the country is governed by the Constitution, which guarantees rights and justice for all.

Drawing a parallel with the mythological story of Eklavya, Gandhi argued that the BJP government is metaphorically "chopping off the thumb" of various sections of society. He referred to the creation of monopolies by the Adani Group, the introduction of the Agnipath scheme, the violent crackdown on protesting farmers, and the introduction of lateral entry and paper leaks as examples of how the government is harming the livelihoods of youth, farmers, backward classes, and the poor.

Gandhi used the thumb as a symbol of livelihood and skill, suggesting that these policies are stripping away opportunities for millions of Indians to prosper. "By these actions, the government is taking away the thumb, the symbol of their livelihood, from the people," he said.

Participating in the debate on the 75th anniversary of the adoption of the Constitution, Gandhi asserted that while the Constitution protects the rights of every poor and marginalized person in India, the BJP is constantly attacking it. He called on the nation to stand firm in protecting the Constitution, despite the ruling party's efforts to weaken it.



## Omar Abdullah Criticizes Dual Governance in J&K, Urges Statehood Restoration

TPN CORRESPONDENT JAMMU & KASHMIR  
DECEMBER.15

Jammu and Kashmir Chief Minister Omar Abdullah has sharply criticized the dual governance model in the Union Territory, where he shares power with the lieutenant governor, calling it a "recipe for disaster." In a candid interview, Abdullah called on the Centre to fulfill its promise and restore statehood to Jammu and Kashmir at the earliest, emphasizing that a unified administrative structure is essential for the region's progress.

This marks Abdullah's first in-depth interview since taking office in October, and he voiced cautious optimism regarding the Centre's commitment to restoring the region's statehood. He referred to repeated assurances made by Prime Minister Narendra Modi and Home Minister Amit Shah during election campaigns, signaling hope that the promises would soon be honored.

Abdullah's comments reflect the political complexities in Jammu and Kashmir since its special status was revoked in 2019. His remarks point to the challenges of governing under the current system, where the region is run by both a local chief minister and a centrally appointed lieutenant governor, leading to divided authority.

The chief minister likened the situation to corporate leadership, arguing that organizations do not thrive under multiple leaders. "Having two power centres anywhere is a recipe for disaster," Abdullah said, stressing that no successful entity operates without a clear, unified leadership structure. He further emphasized that even in sports, teams do not function effectively under two captains, highlighting the need for clarity and consistency in leadership.

By calling for the restoration of statehood, Abdullah is pushing for a return to a more defined administrative framework for Jammu and Kashmir, which would empower the elected government and provide a singular focus for governance. His stance challenges the current system, advocating for greater autonomy and a return to the status quo that existed before the revocation of Article 370.



## South Korea President Yoon Impeached, PM Han Duck-so Becomes Interim President

SEOUL: South Korea's President Yoon Suk Yeol has been impeached following his attempt to impose martial law, leading to his suspension from presidential duties. Prime Minister Han Duck-so has stepped in as the acting president in line with the constitution, taking on the crucial task of managing the country through its most significant political crisis in decades.

Han, 75, is a career technocrat with a distinguished background, which includes decades of service in key governmental roles under five different presidents, both conservative and liberal. Known for his rationality and experience in diplomacy, economics, and governance, Han's moderate demeanor has earned him respect across political factions. His tenure as acting president will be critical, especially with South Korea facing threats from its nuclear-armed neighbor North Korea and a sluggish domestic economy.

Having served as prime minister since Yoon's administration began in 2022, Han is familiar with the role, having also held the position under former President Roh Moo-hyun in 2007-2008. His reputation for competence has led him to high-profile positions, including ambassador to the United States and finance minister. Fluent in English, Han's work on the U.S.-South Korea Free Trade Agreement further cemented his standing in international relations.



Han's interim leadership will continue until the Constitutional Court decides whether Yoon's impeachment will stand or if his powers will be reinstated. If Yoon is permanently removed, a presidential election must be held within 60 days, with Han continuing as acting president in the interim.

Han's leadership is not without controversy, as the opposition Democratic Party

has filed a complaint against him, claiming he failed to block Yoon's martial law attempt. If parliament moves to impeach Han, the finance minister would become the next acting president. While South Korea's Constitution does not explicitly define the prime minister's powers in such a scenario, it is generally believed that Han's authority is limited to preventing a government paralysis rather than full presidential powers.

## China Plans to Invest USD 1 Billion in Pakistan for Medical City Development

CHINA: A Chinese business delegation has expressed interest in investing USD 1 billion to establish a state-of-the-art medical city in Karachi's Dhabeji Economic Zone, marking a significant step in the growing economic ties between China and Pakistan. During a meeting with Pakistan's President Asif Ali Zardari on Thursday, the investors outlined their plans to create Pakistan's first fully integrated pharmaceutical and medical ecosystem. This project is expected to contribute to the development of the health sector while benefiting the broader economy.

The Dhabeji Economic Zone, located outside Karachi, Pakistan's largest city and financial hub, is set to become the site for the medical city. The initiative has been hailed as a symbol of the strong bilateral relations between China and Pakistan, which have long collaborated on several investments and development projects, including the China-Pakistan Economic Corridor (CPEC), a critical infrastructure and trade initiative for Pakistan's economy.



The delegation's visit also underscored China's increasing interest in diversifying its investments in Pakistan. In addition to the medical city, the Chinese investors have expressed intentions to explore opportunities in other sectors such as agriculture, livestock, energy, transport, and manufacturing. This move reflects China's commitment to enhancing its economic footprint in Pakistan, particularly

in key industries that could drive future growth.

During the meeting, President Zardari emphasized the importance of strengthening economic and trade cooperation between the two countries. He reassured the investors that the government is dedicated to facilitating and supporting Chinese investments in Pakistan. "We welcome Chinese investors and are determined to provide them with every possible support," Zardari stated.

The Sindh government, represented by Chief Minister Syed Murad Ali Shah, also demonstrated its commitment to fostering closer ties with China. The province has introduced Chinese language courses to overcome potential language barriers and enhance cultural exchange between the two nations.

This proposed medical city project is expected to bring significant advancements to Pakistan's healthcare sector while further deepening the economic relationship with China.

## 18000 Indians Face Deportation Risk As Trump Vows Immigration Crackdown

WASHINGTON: As US President-elect Donald Trump prepares to take office, stricter immigration policies are already taking shape, with significant implications for undocumented immigrants. The US Immigration and Customs Enforcement (ICE) has compiled a list of 1.45 million people slated for deportation, which includes approximately 18,000 undocumented Indians.

In the past three years, around 90,000 Indians have been apprehended attempting to illegally cross the US border, with most coming from states like Punjab, Gujarat, and Andhra Pradesh, according to the Times of India. For many of these undocumented individuals, the path to legalizing their status is fraught with bureaucratic hurdles, with waiting periods often extending two to three years.

While India is not the country with the highest number of undocumented immigrants in the US, it ranks 13th in Asia, with 17,940 individuals on the list. Countries bordering the US, such as Honduras and Guatemala, have the highest number of undocumented immigrants, with 261,000 and 253,000 individuals respectively. In Asia, China leads with 37,908 undocu-



mented individuals.

India has been classified as one of the "uncooperative" countries in the deportation process, along with Bhutan, Cuba, Iran, Pakistan, Russia, and Venezuela. This lack of cooperation could complicate diplomatic relations between India and the US. The ICE document outlines that issues like conducting timely interviews, issuing travel documents, and accepting

deportees via scheduled flights are part of the challenges.

With Trump pledging the largest deportation process in American history, thousands of undocumented Indians who have final orders of deportation will likely be sent back to India. The evolving immigration landscape under Trump's administration is set to affect many, with legal, diplomatic, and social ramifications for both the US and India.



## Macron Appoints François Bayrou as France's New Prime Minister

PARIS: In an effort to stabilize France's political landscape, President Emmanuel Macron has appointed his centrist ally, François Bayrou, as the country's new prime minister. This move comes in the wake of a historic parliamentary vote that ousted the previous government last week, marking a critical moment in the nation's political crisis.

Bayrou, 73, is a seasoned politician with decades of experience and has long been a crucial figure in Macron's centrist alliance. His appointment is seen as a strategic step to address the current political deadlock, as no single party holds a majority in the National Assembly. Macron's office confirmed that Bayrou has been entrusted with the task of forming a new government, with a focus on resolving the country's ongoing challenges.

Known for his moderate political stance, Bayrou's reputation for pragmatism and experience in French politics is expected to help bridge the divides in the country's fractured political environment. As a prominent figure within the French political establishment, his leadership could provide the much-needed stability and cooperation between various factions that have struggled to find common ground in recent years.

With the parliamentary situation in flux, Bayrou's role will be pivotal in navigating France through this period of uncertainty. His appointment is viewed as an effort to maintain governance and continue Macron's vision of a more centrist, cooperative approach to politics. The coming weeks will reveal how effective Bayrou will be in uniting the fractured political landscape and managing the complexities of forming a functional government.



## Blinken meets Iraq PM discuss Syria, vows to fight against ISIS

IRAQ: In an unannounced visit to Baghdad on Friday, December 13, 2024, US Secretary of State Antony Blinken met with Iraq's Prime Minister, Mohammed Shia al-Sudani, to discuss the political future of neighboring Syria. The two leaders focused on the ongoing situation in Syria, particularly the challenges of a post-Bashar al-Assad regime. Blinken emphasized the importance of establishing a non-sectarian administration in Syria as part of the political transition process, highlighting the need for inclusive governance that could bring stability to the region.

Blinken's visit to Iraq comes amid heightened regional tensions and ongoing instability in Syria, where the Assad regime's actions have caused severe humanitarian and political fallout. The collapse of Assad's regime has left Syria in turmoil, with various factions vying for power and control. Blinken stressed that a political transition that includes all ethnic and sectarian groups is crucial for Syria's future. The US has long advocated for a government in Syria that represents the diversity of its people, rather than one dominated by any single sectarian or ethnic group.

During the discussions, Blinken and al-Sudani also touched on broader regional security concerns, with particular attention given to Iran's influence in the Middle East. The two leaders discussed the importance of continued cooperation in stabilizing the region and supporting efforts to ensure security and governance in both Iraq and Syria. The US and Iraq have been working closely together to address the challenges posed by extremist groups and foreign interference in the region.

Blinken's visit underscored the Biden administration's commitment to strengthening its relationships in the Middle East and pursuing diplomatic solutions to the ongoing conflicts in the region. The discussions in Baghdad were seen as part of the US's broader strategy to support regional partners and promote stability in the wake of Syria's ongoing political crisis.



## Sri Lanka Supports Adani Group's Self-Funding for Colombo Port Project

Sri Lanka's government has expressed its support for the Adani-led conglomerate's decision to use its own resources to fund the ongoing deep-water container terminal project at the Colombo port. Ports Minister Bimal Rathnayaka emphasized that the government is eager to see the successful completion of the project, which is critical for the country's revenue generation.



In a recent statement, Rathnayaka confirmed that the Sri Lankan government had no objections to the Adani Group's decision to fund the Colombo West International Terminal (CWIT) project through its own internal accruals. This move follows a previous agreement by the US International Development Finance Corporation (DFC) to provide a USD 553 million loan to support the development and construction of the terminal. However, Adani Ports and SEZ Ltd announced in a filing on Tuesday that it would now proceed with the project using its own financial resources, aligning with its broader capital management strategy.

The CWIT project, part of the ongoing development of the Port of Colombo, is seen as a vital infrastructure project for Sri Lanka, with significant implications for the coun-

try's trade and economic growth. Rathnayaka highlighted the importance of the terminal, noting that it would contribute to both the port's revenue and the broader economy.

While the US-based DFC's funding was initially part of the plan, the Adani Group's decision to withdraw from the arrangement and fund the project independently has been described as an internal business decision. The Sri Lankan government, however, remains fully supportive, underscoring that the project's completion is a priority.

With the project scheduled for commissioning by early next year, the Adani-led initiative is expected to enhance the port's capacity, boosting Sri Lanka's position as a key player in global maritime trade.

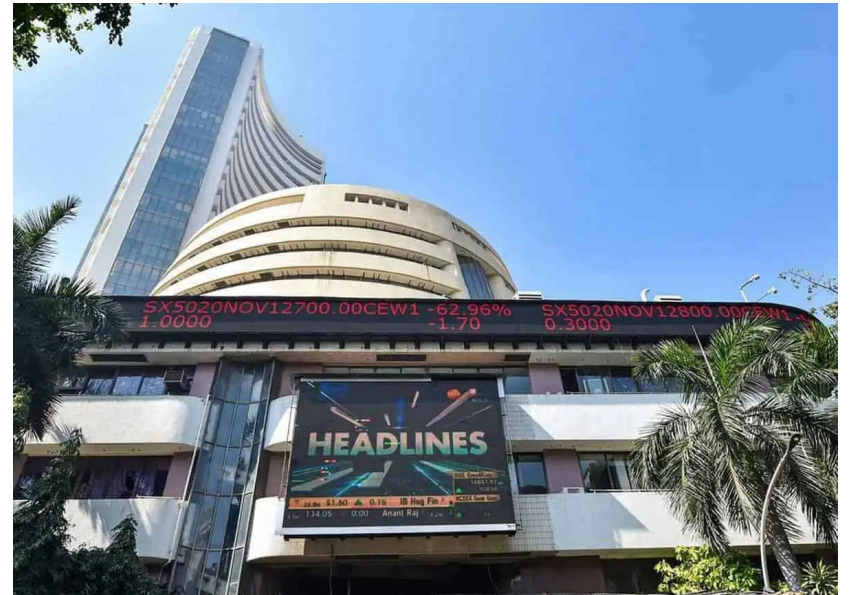
## India's Economic Recovery Expected in FY25, with Positive Outlook for Equity Markets

India's economic growth is expected to rebound in the second half of FY25, driven by a recovery in government capital expenditure post-elections, rural consumption recovery, and strong festive season demand, according to a report by Motilal Oswal Private Wealth (MOPW). The report, titled the Alpha Strategist Report, highlights that India is poised to maintain its position as one of the fastest-growing major economies globally, characterized by stable growth and relatively low volatility.

The report notes that the Indian economy continues to show resilience, positioning the country for gradual growth as it recovers from the recent slowdown. It also points out that the equity markets are currently in a consolidation phase, following a 10-12% correction in the benchmark indices. Despite the correction, the report indicates that large-cap valuations now appear attractive for investors.

In light of the market's recent performance, the report recommends that investors adopt a balanced strategy, considering lump-sum investments in Hybrid, Large, and Flexi-cap funds. For mid- and small-cap strategies, the report suggests a more staggered approach over three months to mitigate risks and capitalize on potential market rebounds.

The report also highlights the recent return of foreign institutional investors (FII) to the Indian markets, with a net infusion of Rs 9,947 crore after 38



sessions of net selling. This indicates growing investor confidence in India's economic recovery and prospects.

While maintaining a positive long-term outlook for the equity markets, the report advises caution, recommending that investors align their strategies based on their risk profiles. It suggests increasing equity allocation if it is lower than desired levels, using a lump-sum investment strategy for large-cap and hybrid strategies and a phased approach for mid- and small-cap funds.

Regarding fixed income investments, the report suggests an overweight position in accrual strategies and a neutral stance on duration-based strategies, considering the evolving interest rate environment.

## Indian Auto Components Industry Sees Robust Growth in H1 FY25



The Indian auto components industry has witnessed impressive growth in the first half of FY25, with its market size increasing by 11.3% from USD 36.1 billion in H1 FY24 to USD 39.6 billion in H1 FY25, according to a report by the Automotive Component Manufacturers Association (ACMA).

Key trends have emerged in the market, with consumers increasingly opting for larger and more powerful vehicles across all segments. The Passenger Vehicle (PV) segment saw a significant 13% growth in demand for Utility Vehicles (UVs), with UV1 models (measuring 4000 to 4400 mm in length and priced under Rs 20 lakh) witnessing a 25% rise in sales. Similarly, the two-wheeler market experienced a notable 74% growth in sales of motorcycles with engine capacities between 350cc and 500cc.

Electric vehicles (EVs) have also gained significant momentum, with sales rising by 22% in H1 FY25 compared to the previous year. While electric two-wheelers (e-2Ws) saw a 26% increase in sales, electric passenger vehicles (e-PVs) ex-

perienced a 19% decline.

Exports from the auto components sector have been strong, growing by 7% with a trade surplus of USD 150 million. The USA, Germany, and Turkey emerged as the leading destinations for Indian auto component exports, while China, Germany, Japan, and Korea were the primary sources of imports.

In terms of industry turnover, the total stood at Rs 3.32 lakh crore (USD 39.6 billion) in H1 FY25, up from Rs 2.98 lakh crore (USD 36.1 billion) in H1 FY24. This growth is driven by an 11.2% rise in supply to Original Equipment Manufacturers (OEMs), which amounted to Rs 2.83 lakh crore (USD 33.8 billion). The aftermarket segment also saw a 5% increase, reaching Rs 47,416 crore (USD 5.7 billion).

Exports from the industry grew by 8.7%, totaling Rs 93,342 crore (USD 11.1 billion), up from Rs 85,870 crore (USD 10.4 billion) in H1 FY24, further demonstrating the sector's robust global performance.

## India's Export Growth to the US: A 30-Year Success Story

India's exports to the United States have seen steady growth, reaching USD 77.5 billion in FY24, reflecting a compounded annual growth rate (CAGR) of 10.3% over the past 30 years, according to a report by Bank of Baroda. This increase highlights the growing importance of the US as a destination for Indian goods.

The report notes that the growth in exports to the US has consistently outpaced India's overall export growth, particularly after the global financial crisis in 2008, which temporarily slowed growth until FY10. Since then, US-bound exports have steadily climbed, underscoring the significance of the American market for India.

India's export trajectory to the US has mirrored the country's overall export growth since 1991, when India began its economic reforms. As of FY24, the US accounted for 18% of India's total exports, an increase from 16.4% in FY92, though still below



the peak of 22.8% in FY00. After dipping to 10.1% in FY11 due to the financial crisis, the share has gradually rebounded.

Despite this growth, the report recommends diversifying export markets to reduce dependency on any single destination, especially given the shifting global political dynamics. The US continues to

be a crucial market for key Indian industries, with the top five export commodities in FY24—drugs and pharmaceuticals, pearls and precious stones, petro products, telecom instruments, and ready-made garments—accounting for 40% of total exports to the US.

Other significant exports to the US include yarn, marine products, and electronic goods, although these face strong competition from other Asian countries. Certain industries, such as drugs and pharmaceuticals, pearls and precious stones, telecom instruments, and ready-made garments, have the highest exposure to the US market, with over 30% of their turnover linked to American demand.

Additionally, sectors like carpets, electronic products, yarn, and marine products continue to have a significant percentage of exports to the US, despite their smaller overall export value.

## SEBI to Review Algo Trading Rules to Boost Retail Participation

On Friday, the Securities and Exchange Board of India (SEBI) announced plans to review the existing regulatory framework for algorithmic trading (algo trading) in order to enhance the participation of retail investors. The move comes as part of SEBI's efforts to modernize the market structure and encourage wider engagement in the stock markets.

Algorithmic trading, or algo trading, involves the use of automated execution logic to generate and place orders in the financial markets. These trades are executed at high speed and with precise timing, which can provide significant advantages, such as improved efficiency and reduced costs. By automating the trading process, algo trading eliminates the need for manual intervention, allowing for quicker and more accurate order execution.

The proposed review of the algo trading framework aims to make it more accessible to retail investors, who have traditionally been at a disadvantage compared to institutional traders that use advanced



Currently, the regulatory environment for algorithmic trading is primarily tailored to institutional traders, with stringent requirements regarding infrastructure, risk management, and compliance. SEBI's review will focus on identifying potential changes to the rules that could encourage retail investors to adopt algorithmic strategies, while ensuring that safeguards are in place to prevent market disruptions and ensure investor protection.

The move is expected to create new opportunities for retail investors, empowering them to leverage the power of algorithms for better trade execution and portfolio management. It also aligns with SEBI's broader objective of enhancing market efficiency and fostering a more inclusive trading ecosystem.

technologies for high-frequency trading. SEBI's initiative seeks to level the playing field by introducing measures that will allow retail participants to benefit from the same technological advantages, thus increasing their market participation.

With the increasing role of technology in the financial markets, SEBI's review of the algo trading framework signals a forward-looking approach to adapt to the evolving trading landscape.



## Teacher's Unique World Map Carved on a Lemon Captivates the Internet



Narasingha Das, a geography teacher from Paschim Medinipur district in West Bengal, has captured the imagination of the internet with an extraordinary work of art—a world map intricately carved onto a single lemon. This impressive feat of creativity and craftsmanship has drawn attention for its stunning detail and the innovative concept behind it.

Narasingha, who has always had a deep passion for art and handicrafts, brought together his love for geography and creativity to produce this miniature world map. Even as a child, he was fascinated by creative activities, and his interest in artistic endeavors has remained strong throughout his life. While he continues to teach and inspire his students in the classroom, Narasingha also dedicates his free time to pursuing artistic hobbies at home.

This lemon-carved world map is a remarkable testament to his artistic talent and meticulous attention to

detail. The work, which has garnered widespread admiration on social media platforms, highlights Narasingha's unique approach to combining education and art. The intricacy with which he carved the continents and countries onto such a small surface has left many in awe of his skills.

Though Narasingha has been recognized for his various artistic creations over the years, this lemon map stands out as a special accomplishment. His work is not just a representation of his artistic capabilities, but also an example of how teachers can inspire creativity beyond the classroom. His dedication to both his craft and his students continues to make an impact, proving that learning and creativity can go hand in hand.

Narasingha Das's remarkable lemon art is now winning hearts online, reminding us all of the boundless potential for creativity in even the simplest of objects.

## Stay in Arnie the Army Truck: A Unique Hotel Experience



In the world of unique and unconventional hotels, Arnie the Army Truck stands out as a fascinating option for travelers. Originally a bomb disposal truck built in 1987, it has been transformed into a cozy and pet-friendly hotel, offering a one-of-a-kind experience. Located in the village of Hatch Beauchamp, England, this repurposed military vehicle provides a luxurious stay, blending the charm of history with modern comforts.

Arnie the Army Truck charges around Rs 10,000 per night for a stay, making it an affordable yet unusual getaway. Despite its origins as a military vehicle, the interior of the truck is surprisingly opulent. The truck's transformation includes a comfortable bed, stylish furnishings, and all the amenities one might expect from a high-end hotel. It is designed to accommodate two guests, making it an ideal choice for couples or small groups. For those traveling with pets, the truck is also pet-friendly, adding another layer of

appeal to its unique design.

This extraordinary hotel concept is part of a growing trend of repurposed accommodations that provide tourists with novel experiences. From underwater hotels to treehouses, the travel industry has been embracing unusual designs to attract visitors seeking something different. Arnie the Army Truck fits perfectly into this trend, offering a memorable stay with a historical twist.

The truck's location in Hatch Beauchamp provides a peaceful and secluded setting, perfect for those looking to escape the hustle and bustle of city life. Guests can enjoy the novelty of staying in a former army vehicle while still indulging in the luxury of modern amenities. Whether you're looking for a quirky getaway or a unique place to spend the night, Arnie the Army Truck offers a memorable experience that combines history, comfort, and a touch of adventure.

## WhatsApp's New Poll Feature: A Quick Way to Gather and Make Decisions

In 2024, India made a significant mark on Instagram, as trends from the country went global, capturing attention worldwide. The platform's Year-in-Review highlighted how Indian creators and trends shaped the digital landscape, with Indian content resonating across borders.

Indian artists made waves with collaborations that transcended boundaries. Diljit Dosanjh teamed up with American rapper Saweetie for the track \*Khutti\*, while King joined forces with Nick Jonas for the hit \*Maan Meri Jaan\*. Canadian artist Connor Price collaborated with Harsh Likhari on \*Customs\*, blending genres and reaching international audiences. These partnerships not only bridged cultures but also showcased India's growing influence in the global music scene.

One of the standout trends this year was the Asoka makeup look, which gained global popularity. The dramatic and bold makeup style, inspired by the 2001 Bollywood film \*Asoka\*, took over Instagram feeds in countries like Indonesia, Nigeria, and Slovakia. The trend also sparked a wave of creators across the world experimenting with Indian-inspired looks. Meanwhile, in Japan, creators embraced Bollywood nostalgia, lip-syncing to dialogues from classics like \*Kabhi Khushi Kabhie Gham\*, connecting with global audiences who shared a love for Indian cinema.

In addition to makeup, Indian regional music dominated Instagram Reels, with songs like the Haryanvi track



\*Jale 2\* and Punjabi hit \*Ve Haaniyaan\* inspiring millions of reels. Marathi, Tamil, and Bhojpuri songs also gained global attention, with tracks like \*Gulabi Sadi\*, \*Aasa Kooda\*, and \*Bandookk\* becoming favorites. Indian music's influence continued with global hits such as \*Big Dawgs\* and \*Taambdi Chaambdi\*, further fueling Instagram trends.

In 2024, India's vibrant culture and creative output not only captivated local audiences but also made a massive impact on the global digital stage, proving that Indian content is truly a force to be reckoned with.

## The Worrying Trend of Weekend Drinking

In India, the consumption of alcohol has been steadily rising despite repeated health warnings. After a long work week, many individuals unwind by relaxing with alcohol, a trend that has become more prevalent, especially among "weekend drinkers." These individuals typically indulge in heavy drinking on Fridays and Saturdays, abstaining from alcohol during the week. While this behavior might not seem harmful initially, the cumulative effects of binge drinking over the weekend can lead to serious health and lifestyle issues.

The phenomenon of "weekend alcoholism" is a growing concern. A 2009 study published in \*The Lancet\* highlighted a concerning 8% increase in alcohol sales over three years, and that one-fifth of alcohol drinkers in India were classified as dependent drinkers, requiring professional help.

What's more alarming is the sharp decline in the age of initiation into drinking, with the average age dropping from 19 years to just 13 years in the last decade. This trend signifies that alcohol consumption is increasingly being normalized at an early age, raising concerns about its long-term consequences on physical and mental health.

Another issue exacerbating this problem is the preference for spirits, which account for 95% of alcohol consumption in India. Spirits, which typically contain at least 20% alcohol by volume, pose a greater risk to health compared to beers or wines due to their higher alcohol



content. According to recent statistics from Statista, alcohol consumption in India has significantly increased, from 4.86 billion liters in 2020 to 6.21 billion liters in 2024. Furthermore, over 88% of Indians under the age of 25 have reported drinking alcohol, underscoring the widespread nature of the issue.

Despite the growing concern, efforts to address the health risks associated with alcohol consumption remain insufficient. With the rise of weekend drinking habits, the impact on public health is likely to become even more pronounced in the coming years.

## TikTok will Be banned unless ByteDance divests It By Jan.19

TikTok is racing against the clock to appeal to the US Supreme Court after a ruling from a US appeals court denied its request for an extension to challenge a law requiring its Chinese parent company, ByteDance, to sell the app by January 19. The decision puts TikTok at risk of being shut down, a scenario the company is keen to avoid.

Earlier this week, TikTok and ByteDance filed an emergency motion with the US Court of Appeals for the District of Columbia, asking for more time to present their case before the Supreme Court. The companies argued that without legal intervention, the law would lead to TikTok's forced closure, which would significantly impact its more than 170 million monthly US users.

The potential shutdown of TikTok has become a critical issue in the ongoing debate over data privacy and national security concerns related to Chinese-owned companies. US lawmakers have expressed fears about the app's data practices and its potential to be used for espionage, prompting calls for a ban or forced sale of the platform. TikTok has strongly denied these allegations, insisting that it stores US user data securely and operates independently from its Chinese parent company.



In their legal filings, TikTok and ByteDance emphasized the app's role as a vital platform for free speech and its deep integration into the daily lives of millions of Americans. They argued that the forced sale of the app could have far-reaching consequences, not only for users but also for content creators and businesses that rely on TikTok's unique platform for communication and commerce.

As the clock ticks down to the January 19 deadline, TikTok's future in the US hangs in the balance, with both the company and its millions of users anxiously awaiting the outcome of their legal battle.



## Harry Kane to Remain England's Captain, Confirms Thomas Tuchel

England's manager, Thomas Tuchel, has confirmed that Harry Kane will continue as the country's captain, putting an end to any speculation regarding changes in leadership. Kane, the Bayern Munich striker, has been instrumental in England's recent successes, and Tuchel expressed his full confidence in him. Speaking to the media following the 2026 FIFA World Cup qualifying draw, Tuchel stated, "There is at the moment no need to think about change. Harry was always a top captain for England. So why even think about it right now?"

Tuchel, who succeeded Gareth Southgate in October, emphasized that while Kane's captaincy remains secure, he intends to approach his new role with a fresh perspective. The German manager noted that he would assess all players individually and allow everyone to start with a clean slate as he takes full responsibility of the team. "We will be in touch with everyone and get a feel for St George's Park and the players," Tuchel explained. "Until March, there is a lot of football to be played."

The new England manager is also looking to reconnect with Arsenal defender Ben White, who left the squad during the 2022 FIFA World Cup for personal reasons. White's future with the national team had been uncertain due to rumors of a fallout with Southgate's staff, but Tuchel expressed his openness to reintegrating the 26-year-old. "I will reach out to him. It should be a clean start," Tuchel said, adding that he would begin watching games from January and speak with all players, including White.

With the 2026 World Cup qualifiers set to be-



gin in March, Tuchel's England project will kick off in earnest. The condensed schedule offers limited time for Tuchel to assess his squad. He plans to attend Premier League games in January to ensure a comprehensive understanding of the player pool. "I will respect their schedules," Tuchel said, recognizing the busy calendar ahead. His approach aims to build relationships with players while focusing on long-term success in the upcoming World Cup.



## Mohammad Amir Announces Retirement from International Cricket

Pakistan pacer Mohammad Amir has announced his retirement from international cricket, making the decision public on Saturday. His retirement follows a day after all-rounder Imad Wasim also announced his exit from international cricket, marking the end of an era for both players, who were integral parts of Pakistan's squad in recent years. Amir's decision to retire comes just months after he featured for Pakistan in the 2024 T20 World Cup.

Amir, 32, made his international debut in June 2009 and went on to represent Pakistan in 36 Tests, 61 ODIs, and 62 T20Is. Throughout his career, Amir was known for his pace, swing, and ability to deliver under pressure. He was a crucial part of Pakistan's bowling attack in all formats, playing a key role in numerous memorable victories.

However, Amir's career was not without controversy. In 2011, he was banned for five years due to

his involvement in a spot-fixing scandal during Pakistan's tour of England. Despite the setback, Amir made a successful comeback to international cricket in 2016 and regained his place in the national team, earning the admiration of fans and critics alike for his resilience and performance.

Amir's retirement brings an end to a career that spanned over a decade and saw him achieve numerous accolades, including playing a significant role in Pakistan's victory in the 2017 ICC Champions Trophy, where he delivered a match-winning spell in the final against India.

His decision to retire has been met with mixed reactions, as he leaves behind a legacy of both triumph and controversy. Amir's exit from international cricket marks the end of an era for Pakistan's fast-bowling attack, and his contributions to the sport will continue to be remembered by fans and cricket enthusiasts worldwide.

## Harmanpreet Kaur Under Pressure Ahead of WT20I Series Against West Indies



Indian women's cricket captain Harmanpreet Kaur is under intense scrutiny following a disappointing series against Australia. With her leadership and selection decisions constantly questioned, Kaur will need to quickly bounce back as India gears up for their three-match WT20I series against the West Indies. The series will begin with the opening game soon, and Kaur's captaincy will be in the spotlight once again.

India has a strong record against the West Indies in recent T20I matches, winning their last eight encounters in the format since November 2019. However, maintaining this dominant run will not be easy. India is grappling with depleting resources and a lack of confidence after a tough few months, and Kaur will need to rally her team and lead from the front if they are to continue their winning streak.

Kaur's leadership has come under criticism recently, especially after questionable

selection decisions during the ODI series against Australia. These moves raised concerns about her future as captain, particularly with Smriti Mandhana, one of India's most consistent performers, emerging as a potential successor. The pressure on Kaur has only intensified after India's early exit from the T20 World Cup, where their only consolation came from a hard-earned victory over Pakistan.

This upcoming series against the West Indies will be crucial for Kaur to regain control and demonstrate her leadership qualities. India will be looking to turn the page and rebuild their confidence, especially after the disappointing World Cup campaign. With a series win, Kaur can silence her critics and strengthen her position as captain, but it will require a focused, collective effort from the entire team. As the squad looks ahead to the West Indies series, all eyes will be on Kaur to lead with confidence and inspire her team to success.

## Rain Disrupts Third India vs Australia Test at the Gabba

The opening day of the third Test between India and Australia at the Gabba was washed out by heavy rain, leaving fans disappointed. Australia, having been invited to bat, managed to face only 13.2 overs before persistent showers forced the players off the field. At the end of the shortened day, Australia was 28 for no loss, with Usman Khawaja (19 not out) and Nathan McSweeney (4 not out) at the crease.

The day started with steady drizzle, which briefly halted play in the sixth over. However, the weather worsened, and a second spell of heavy rain led to the abandonment of any further play for the day. Despite the weather interruptions, the two Australian openers handled the new ball well, seeing off the Indian pacers in the brief period of play.



India's bowlers, Jasprit Bumrah (0/8 in 6 overs), Mohammed Siraj (0/13 in 4 overs), and debutant Akash Deep (0/2 in 3.2 overs), all had limited opportunity to make an impact due to the rain delays. The wet conditions made it difficult for the bowlers to maintain any rhythm, and the batsmen took advantage of the small window of play.

With only a few hours of action on the first day, the match is now set to resume on day two, with both teams hoping for better weather conditions. India will look to break the opening partnership early, while Australia will aim to build on their solid start. The forecast for the coming days remains uncertain, and both sides will be hoping for more playing time to settle into the contest.

## Gukesh Crowned World Chess Champion: A Dream Come True

Indian Grandmaster Gukesh D was crowned the 18th World Chess Champion in Singapore, an achievement that marked the pinnacle of his remarkable journey in the game. The victory, however, was overshadowed by controversy, as the president of the Russian Chess Federation suggested that Ding Liren had deliberately lost the final game. Despite this, Gukesh's triumph was celebrated by fans and chess enthusiasts around the world.

Along with the prestigious World Championship trophy, Gukesh won a cash prize of Rs 11.45 crore, with an additional Rs 5 crore announced by the Tamil Nadu government. Ding, despite finishing as the runner-up, earned a prize of approximately Rs 9.75 crore. The chess body, FIDE, also incentivized thrilling games by announcing a cash award of Rs 1.69 crore for each game won. Gukesh won three games, while Ding secured two victories. The players shared the \$1.3 million prize pool, making it a rewarding experience for both.



FIDE president Arkady Dvorkovich presented the trophy to Gukesh amidst loud cheers from the audience. Gukesh, known for his composure and humility, delivered an emotional speech upon receiving the trophy. "I have lived this moment a million times in my mind," he shared. "Every morning when I woke up, this moment was the reason I woke up. To hold this trophy and live this reality means more than anything else in my life."

The newly crowned World Chess Champion also expressed admiration for his opponent, Ding Liren, calling him a "true champion" and acknowledging the incredible fight they had in the series. Gukesh's gratitude extended to his parents, team, and fans who supported him throughout his journey. "This journey has been nothing short of a dream," he said, reflecting on the highs and lows that shaped his path. "I wouldn't change a single thing, and it's been beautiful because of the people I've had with me."



## Mad Square: A Highly Anticipated Sequel Set for 2025 Release

The youthful and lively entertainer *\*Mad\**, which starred Narne Nithin, Sangeeth Shobhan, and Ram Nithin in lead roles, became a massive hit at the box office. The film's success not only made waves at the ticket windows but also sparked excitement among fans for a sequel. The follow-up, titled *\*Mad Square\**, promises to be an even crazier ride, with the original cast returning and new faces joining in. The film is set to hit the big screens on Maha Shivaratri 2025, which coincides with the release of Nithin's highly anticipated *\*Thammudu\**. Though *\*Mad Square\** was initially slated for a 2024 release, the film's launch was delayed for undisclosed reasons.

The sequel will see the return of the original lead trio, Narne Nithin, Sangeeth Shobhan, and Ram Nithin, along with the stunning Gouri Priya, Ananthika Sanilkumar, and Gopika Udayan, who will reprise their roles as the female leads.

Adding to the excitement, actress Priyanka Jawalkar has reportedly joined the cast and will play a significant role in the film, bringing her charm and glam to the mad-cap entertainer.

The makers of *\*Mad Square\** have already generated buzz with the release of the song *\*Laddu Gaani Pelli\**, which quickly became a chartbuster, fueling anticipation for the film. The direction is once again helmed by Kalyan Shankar, who directed the first film, ensuring that the same energetic and



fun-filled vibe continues in the sequel. The film is produced by Haarika Suryadevara and Sai Soujanya under the banners of Sithara Entertainments and Fortune Four Cinemas, with Bheems Cecirleo composing the music.

Fans of the original *\*Mad\** are eagerly awaiting *\*Mad Square\**, and with a stellar cast, catchy music, and the signature madness that made the first movie a hit, the sequel is shaping up to be one of the most exciting releases of 2025.

## Suriya and Trisha Reunite for Suriya45: A Rural Entertainer with a Legal Twist

Kollywood star Suriya's upcoming project, *\*Suriya45\**, has generated immense excitement, especially with the announcement that Tamil film icon Trisha will be playing the female lead. The duo will be reuniting on screen after nearly 19 years since their last collaboration in the 2005 film *\*Aaru\**. This long-awaited reunion has thrilled fans of both superstars, marking their hat-trick collaboration and raising anticipation for the film's release.

A major update regarding the film reveals that both Suriya and Trisha will be portraying lawyers in *\*Suriya45\**, a legal drama directed by RJ Balaji. This marks the third time in just four movies that Suriya has taken on the role of a lawyer. His previous performances as a lawyer in the critically acclaimed *\*Jai Bhim\** and *\*Etharkkum Thunindhavan\** were widely praised, and his fans are eager to see him return to this role. The pairing of Suriya and Trisha in these distinct lawyer roles has generated considerable excitement, with many curious to see how their characters evolve throughout the story.

Set against a rural backdrop, *\*Suriya45\** is expected to be an entertainer with a mix of drama, action, and legal intrigue. The film is being produced by SR Prakash Babu and SR Prabhu under the Dream Warrior Pictures banner, a production company known for its commitment to quality cinema. The film's music is composed by Sai Abhyankar, adding to the expectations surrounding the project.

As more details about *\*Suriya45\** unfold, fans are eagerly awaiting further updates on the plot, supporting cast, and release dates. With Suriya and Trisha back together on screen and the promise of an



engaging rural entertainer with a legal twist, *\*Suriya45\** is shaping up to be one of the most highly anticipated films in Kollywood.

## Daaku Maharaj: Balayya's Grand Pre-Release Event in the US



With a large and passionate Indian community in the US, particularly among Telugu cinema fans, filmmakers are increasingly organizing special events abroad to build excitement ahead of film releases. While actor visits to US theaters before a film's release have become common, this trend is set to become the new normal. Following the footsteps of Ram Charan's *\*Game Changer\**, which will have a grand pre-release event in Dallas, Texas, on December 21st, 2024, another highly anticipated film, *\*Daaku Maharaj\**, will also host its own grand event in the US.

Directed by Bobby Kolli, *\*Daaku Maharaj\**, starring the charismatic Balakrishna (Balayya), is all set for a grand pre-release event in Dallas, Texas, on January 4th, 2025, beginning at 6 pm. The film, which will be released on January 12, 2025, as part of the Sankranti season, has already built considerable buzz among fans. Balayya will attend the event, along with director Bobby

Kolli, to engage with the fans and promote the film. More details regarding the event are awaited, but fans are eager to see the star and team of *\*Daaku Maharaj\** in person.

The promo for *\*Daaku Maharaj\**, titled *\*Daaku's Rage\**, was released recently, adding to the growing excitement. The full song will be released on December 14th, 2024, making it a highly anticipated musical treat. The film features a stellar cast, including Shradha Srinath, Urvashi Rautela, Pragya Jaiswal, and Chandini Chaudhary as the female leads. The music for the film has been composed by Thaman, ensuring that it will be an unforgettable auditory experience for the audience.

*\*Daaku Maharaj\** is produced by Naga Vamsi and promises to be an action-packed entertainer. As the film gears up for its January release, the grand US event is expected to take the anticipation for the movie to new heights, further cementing Balayya's global fanbase.

## Gamechanger Gears Up for Worldwide Premiere on January 9th, 2025

Mega Powerstar Ram Charan's much-anticipated film, *\*Gamechanger\**, is set for a grand release during Sankranti 2025. Directed by the acclaimed Shankar, the film stars Kiara Advani as the female lead. Fans are eagerly awaiting the movie, with its worldwide premiere confirmed for January 9th, 2025, ahead of its official release on January 10th, 2025.

The makers of *\*Gamechanger\** have announced that the film will have a grand premiere in the USA on January 9th, with bookings opening today. The official social media update read, "Let the games begin! GameChanger Overseas bookings open now Worldwide premieres on Jan 9th!" This marks the beginning of what is expected to be an exciting promotional journey for the film. Additionally, while USA premieres are confirmed for January 9th, there are reports that premieres will also be held in other locations globally on the same date.

However, there's uncertainty surrounding whether the premiere will happen in the Telugu States on the same day. Telangana's Cinematography Minister, Komatireddy Venkata Reddy, has already confirmed that there will be no permissions granted for benefit shows in the state. If the team plans to hold the premieres in Telangana on January



9th, they would need to obtain special permissions. Additionally, the filmmakers are reportedly making arrangements so that no official attendees, including the team and cast, will be present during the show.

*\*Gamechanger\** is being produced by Dil Raju under the Sri Venkateswara Creations banner. With Shankar's direction and Ram Charan in the lead, *\*Gamechanger\** is expected to be a major box office hit. Fans are eagerly awaiting both the global premieres and the official release, marking the film as one of the most awaited events of 2025.

## Bachhala Malli Trailer: A Promising Blockbuster in the Making

Allari Naresh is gearing up for a standout performance in his upcoming film *\*Bachhala Malli\**, where he plays the titular role. Directed by Subbu Mangadevi, the film has already generated significant buzz, with the teaser and three song releases receiving positive reactions. Adding to the excitement, Natural Star Nani unveiled the official trailer, further raising anticipation for the film's release.

The trailer offers a glimpse into the transformation of Allari Naresh's character, from a rebellious, brawling man to someone who becomes gentler after falling in love. His character, despite having a troubled past and bad habits, evolves completely for the woman he loves. However, their relationship faces a major hurdle when her father disapproves, adding a layer of emotional conflict to the story.



Allari Naresh delivers a powerful and nuanced performance, embracing a bold and intense character. His portrayal of a troubled yet defiant individual is both captivating and gripping. Amritha Aiyer, playing his love interest, brings a calm and composed presence to the screen, perfectly complementing Naresh's energy.

Director Subbu Mangadevi's choice of an intense, emotionally charged sto-

ryline ensures that the audience stays hooked, with tight pacing that builds tension throughout. Cinematographer Richard M. Nathan's visuals are a perfect match for the film's tone, while Vishal Chandrasekhar's music and background score elevate the emotional stakes of the narrative. The production values, under Razesh Danda and Balaji Gutta's Hasya Movies, are exceptional, adding depth to the overall experience.

With the trailer sparking excitement and showcasing clear blockbuster potential, *\*Bachhala Malli\** has quickly become one of the most anticipated releases of the year. The film is set to hit theaters on December 20th, and audiences are eagerly awaiting what promises to be an intense and emotional cinematic experience.