

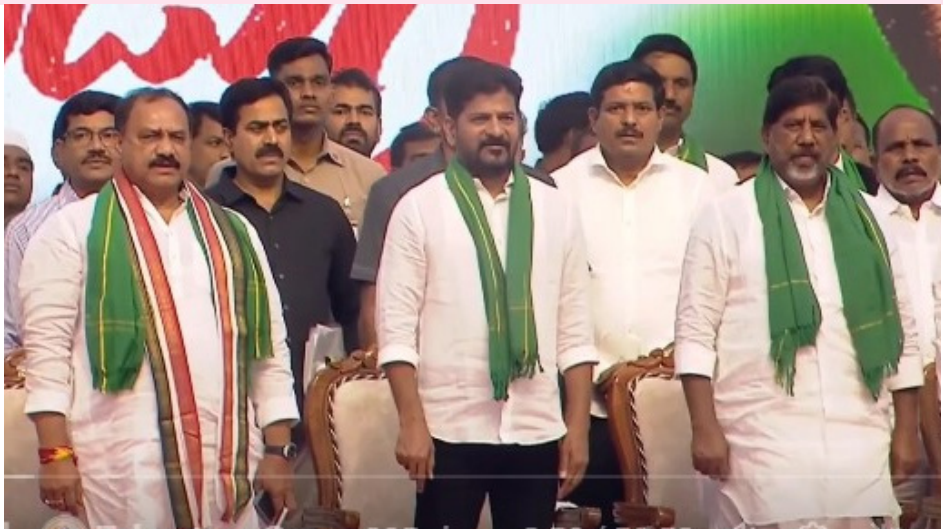


**Weather Forecast**

HYDERABAD	VIJAYAWADA	TIRUPATHI
TEMPERATURE	TEMPERATURE	TEMPERATURE
H 28°C L 21°C	H 29°C L 24°C	H 24°C L 22°C

# CM Revanth Champions Farmer Welfare in Palamuru

**Historic Farmer Loan Waivers Under Congress Rule  
Irrigation Projects Propel Record Rice Production  
Revanth Reddy Criticizes BRS for Stalling Development  
₹20,000 Crore Annual Demand for Mahabubnagar's Growth  
Lagacharla Farmers Offered Compensation and Employment**



TPN , Mahabubnagar : Telangana Chief Minister A. Revanth Reddy addressed a massive gathering in Palamuru, emphasizing his government's commitment to farmers and rural development. Speaking at the Farmers' Fair, he congratulated officials for their meticulous arrangements and reaffirmed his dedication to uplifting farmers in the state.

₹21,000 crore for loan waivers benefiting 25 lakh farmer families—a historic initiative in independent India. He contrasted this with the policies of previous governments, accusing BRS leaders of obstructing progress and exploiting farmers.

Recalling his roots, Reddy said, "As a child of Palamuru, I witnessed the struggles of our farmers. Today, after 70 years since Burgula Ramakrishna Rao, another son from

this soil has become CM. This is not an opportunity for personal gain but to serve our people."

He criticized the BRS government under KCR for neglecting irrigation projects and accused them of prioritizing personal wealth over public welfare. Reddy pointed out that ₹183,000 crore has been spent on irrigation projects under Congress leadership, enabling Telangana to produce 1.53 crore metric tons of rice this year, the highest since in-

dependence.

The CM alleged that KCR's family has obstructed the Palamuru Rangareddy Lift Project and industrial initiatives in the region, causing delays and hardships for farmers. He urged locals not to trust opposition leaders, saying their conspiracies only harm development.

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## Harish Rao Accuses Congress of Plans to Abolish Rythu Bandhu

- Harish Rao Criticizes Congress Over Rythu Bandhu Plans
- Farmers Question Benefits of Bonus Over Direct Support
- BRS Accuses Congress of Failing to Fulfill Bonus Promises
- Political Debate Intensifies Over Farmer Welfare Policies

TPN , Siddipet : Former minister and Siddipet MLA Harish Rao has alleged that the Congress government is planning to permanently abolish the Rythu Bandhu scheme, which provides financial assistance to farmers. He criticized the government for prioritizing a ₹500 bonus for poor-quality paddy over the Rythu Bandhu benefits. Harish Rao questioned the logic behind replacing Rythu Bandhu, under which farmers receive ₹7,500 annually, with a one-time bonus for poor-quality paddy. Citing data, he pointed out that the ₹500 bonus paid for 5,19,605 quintals of paddy amounts to ₹26 crore, a fraction of the Rythu Bandhu benefits.

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# Corruption Scandal in Irrigation Department

**ACB UnCOVERS ₹150 Crore in Illegal Assets**

TPN , Hyderabad : Massive corruption has been unearthed in the Irrigation Department as the Anti-Corruption Bureau (ACB) conducted raids at 25 locations linked to Nikesh Kumar, an Assistant Executive Engineer (AEE) in the department. The raids, which began early in the morning, uncovered illegal assets worth ₹150 crore, including agricultural land, buildings, farmhouses, and high-value electrical appliances.



a well-connected network of illicit activities. This is not the first time Nikesh Kumar has come under scrutiny. Earlier raids had also uncovered illegal assets, leading to his suspension. However, there appears to have been no change in his conduct, as fresh allegations of corruption have now surfaced. Authorities sus-

pect that bribes and illegal permissions were the primary sources of his amassed wealth. Despite crackdowns and legal action, the persistence of such corruption highlights ongoing challenges in tackling misconduct within government departments.

Nikesh Kumar is accused of accumulating assets disproportionate to his income. ACB officials discovered that he lacked valid documentation for these properties. The raids extended to the residences of his friends and relatives, revealing

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# CM Revanth Announces 4<sup>th</sup> Installment of Loan Waiver

**₹2,747.67 Crore Released to Benefit 3.14 Lakh Farmers**

**Congress Delivers on Promise of Comprehensive Loan Waiver**

TPN , Mahabubnagar : In a major relief for farmers, Chief Minister Revanth Reddy announced the release of ₹2,747.67 crore as the fourth installment of the loan waiver scheme. Speaking at the Rythu Pandaga Sabha in Mahabubnagar, the CM assured that the funds would be deposited in the accounts of 3.14 lakh farmers whose loans were previously not waived due to technical issues or loans exceeding ₹2 lakh.

liar waived loans for all farmers who borrowed less than ₹2 lakh, but technical problems, including Aadhaar-related issues, delayed waivers for some. CM Reddy emphasized that his government is committed to ensuring justice for all farmers and resolved the challenges to facilitate the release of funds.

Criticizing the previous BRS regime, the CM pointed out that only loans up to ₹1 lakh were waived during their tenure, benefitting 23 lakh

farmers in installments. In contrast, the Congress government has prioritized a comprehensive approach, waiving loans up to ₹2 lakh.

While some protests led by BRS continue in certain areas, farmers have expressed joy over the fulfillment of the Congress government's promise. The announcement has been hailed as a significant step toward alleviating the financial burdens of Telangana's farming community.

The Congress government had ear-

## Tiger Terror in Kumrambhim District

**Section 144 Imposed, Residents on High Alert**



seriously injured in a tiger attack in Dubbaguda, Sirpur Tea Mandal, just days after 21-year-old Lakshmi from Gannaram village tragically lost her life to a similar attack.

The forest department has imposed Section 144 in villages surrounding Kagaznagar, including Nazrul Nagar, Anuguda, Gannaram, Kadamba, Areguda, and Babunagar. Locals have been strictly warned against venturing into cotton fields or leaving their homes unnecessarily.

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TPN , Kumrambhim : Fear grips Kumrambhim district as a tiger continues to roam near Kagaznagar, leaving the residents of nearby villages in constant dread. A young man named Suresh was



## Farmer Welfare in Palamuru

continued from P-1

Reddy also highlighted the plight of farmers in Lagacharla, offering compensation of ₹20 lakh per acre and assuring employment through industrial parks. He said, "KCR and KTR spend their time in farmhouses while farmers suffer. We want to build industries and jobs, but their lies are misleading people."

Acknowledging the region's struggles over the past 70 years, Reddy demanded an annual allocation of ₹20,000 crore to Mahabubnagar to uplift migrants and improve livelihoods. He further expressed confidence that Congress would fulfill these promises. In a personal note, Reddy called Uttam Kumar Reddy "the son-in-law of Palamuru," referencing his connection to the district. The CM ended his speech with an emotional appeal to the people to stand united against opposition propaganda and work collectively for Palamuru's progress. The event marks a significant political statement as the Congress government aims to consolidate its support among farmers and rural voters.

## Abolish Rythu Bandhu

continued from P-1

"How will replacing Rythu Bandhu with such a bonus truly benefit farmers?" Harish Rao asked, accusing the Congress government of deceiving the farming community.

Agriculture Minister Tummala Nageswara Rao reportedly stated that farmers have expressed satisfaction with the bonus, claiming it is more helpful than Rythu Bandhu in addressing immediate concerns. However, Harish Rao dismissed this as a justification to dismantle the flagship scheme initiated by the BRS. Meanwhile, BRS leaders have criticized the Congress government for not fully disbursing the promised bonus to farmers, further compounding their challenges.

Harish Rao urged the government to clarify its stance on Rythu Bandhu and ensure that farmers are not deprived of the financial support crucial for their livelihood. The allegations have sparked a political debate over the future of farmer welfare in Telangana.

## Irrigation Department

continued from P-1

The ACB is currently registering details of the identified assets and preparing further legal action. If convicted, Nikesh Kumar faces the possibility of imprisonment, marking another chapter in the fight against systemic corruption in the state.

## Tiger Terror in Kumrambhim District

continued from P-1

Preliminary investigations by forest officials suggest that the tiger originated from Maharashtra and is a three-year-old male. Initially thought to be non-aggressive, recent incidents have forced officials to reconsider this assessment. The region is also reported to have a snow leopard and two tiger cubs, intensifying the panic. There have been five tiger-related incidents in the area since 2020, resulting in four fatalities, including the recent attacks. Forest officials are employing drones and combing operations to locate the tiger, but it remains elusive. Efforts are underway to educate residents on safety measures and to ensure they avoid any interaction with the tiger.

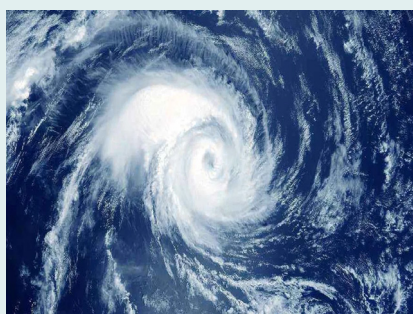
With mounting tension and frequent sightings, officials are working tirelessly to capture the tiger and prevent further tragedies. Until then, the residents of Kumrambhim district remain vigilant and anxious, awaiting relief from this ongoing nightmare.

## Cyclone Fengal Hits Puducherry Coast, Red Alert Issued

TPN , Telangana : Cyclone Fengal has made landfall near Puducherry, with the Indian Meteorological Department confirming that it is crossing the coast between Mahabalipuram and Karaikal. The process of landfall is expected to take around three hours to complete. As a result, Tamil Nadu, Puducherry, the southern coast of Andhra Pradesh, and Rayalaseema are experiencing heavy to very heavy rainfall.

Winds with speeds of 80-90 kilometers per hour are being recorded as the cyclone makes landfall. According to meteorological officials, Fengal is expected to weaken into a severe cyclonic storm by 11:30 PM. Heavy rains have already begun in several districts, including Kadapa, Tirupati, Nellore, and Prakasam in Andhra Pradesh. Authorities have warned of potential flash floods, with up to 20 cm of rainfall expected in some areas. The Disaster Management Agency has advised residents in low-lying areas to remain alert and take necessary precautions.

Officials continue to monitor the situation, urging the public to stay indoors and follow safety guidelines until the storm passes.



## CM Revanth Orders Strategy for Water Share Security

Review of Irrigation Projects and Water Disputes

Telangana's Strategy for Krishna and Godavari Waters

Preparation for Arguments at Brajesh Kumar Tribunal

Tracking and Monitoring Water Flow

Through Telemetry System

TPN , Hyderabad : Chief Minister A. Revanth Reddy has directed officials to ensure Telangana secures its rightful share of Krishna and Godavari waters. In a high-level review meeting with Irrigation Minister Uttam Kumar Reddy, senior officials, and legal experts, the Chief Minister outlined a comprehensive strategy for effectively presenting Telangana's case before the Brajesh Kumar Tribunal and other platforms.

Highlighting the State Reorganization Act, the CM instructed officials to prepare detailed records, including orders, evidence, and project data. He emphasized that Telangana,

which houses 70% of the Krishna river basin, should secure a proportional share of the 1005 TMC of Krishna waters. He also advocated for Telangana's 45 TMC share of Godavari water through upstream projects instead of the 80 TMC allocated to Andhra Pradesh for the Krishna Delta via Polavaram.

The CM stressed that telemetry systems should monitor water flow to prevent Andhra Pradesh from exceeding its allocated Krishna water share. Officials were directed to calculate water usage scientifically across all projects, including Srisailem, Pothreddypadu, Telugu Ganga, and KC Canal.



Further, the Chief Minister ordered urgent measures for the Sitarama project and Sammakka barrage to ensure irrigation coverage for the state's ayacut. He also called for a comprehensive report detailing Telangana's water losses since 2014, including relevant judgments and government orders.

The meeting was attended by

prominent legal and irrigation experts, including Standing Council Vaidyanathan, AG Sudarshan Reddy, Principal Secretary Seshadri, and Irrigation Secretary Prashant Patil. The Chief Minister reiterated the importance of protecting Telangana's interests and pursuing justice for the state in all water disputes.

## Sridhar Babu Inaugurates Tea Consult Event

117 Agreements Signed to Foster Innovation and Growth

Minister Sridhar Babu Highlights Youth Employment Opportunities

TPN , Hyderabad: The 2024 Cooperation Conference organized by Tea Consult at Tea Hub in Gachibowli witnessed the signing of 117 agreements, marking a significant step towards connecting innovators with investors. IT and Industries Minister Duddilla Sridhar Babu inaugurated the two-day event, highlighting its potential to foster development through collaborations between policy makers, innovators, and industry leaders.

Minister Sridhar Babu praised the efforts of Sandeep Maktala, the founder of Tea Consult, for organizing the conference. He emphasized that these new agreements would propel the state forward in terms of innovation and industrial growth.

The conference featured discussions on several key topics, including the Untapped Investor Program, T Consult Health, Doctors Pool, Talent Connect, and MSME Policy. Sridhar Babu noted that these discussions facilitated interaction between innovators and investors, providing valuable insights into the state's growth potential.



He also praised the conference for connecting IT professionals in Telangana with companies across 63 countries, highlighting its role in boosting employment opportunities for the state's youth. Additionally, the event explored the possibility of a student exchange program with Malaysia and Australia.

The conference also hosted the Backward Classes Indian Chamber of Commerce and Industry (BICCI) Founder Awards. Key participants included Transport Minister Ponnampalapati Prabhakar, Malkajgiri MP Etela Rajender, former Speaker Madhusudana Chari, and others.

## Harish Rao Accuses Revanth Reddy of Deceiving Farmers

Harish Rao Blasts Congress Over False Promises to Farmers

Rao Defends KCR's Role in Transforming Palamuru



TPN , Telangana : Former Minister Harish Rao strongly criticized Chief Minister Revanth Reddy and other Congress leaders over their handling of the recent Mahabubnagar Farmers Festival. Speaking on the issue, Rao condemned the lavishly organized event, claiming it portrayed Telangana's farmers unfairly. He accused Revanth Reddy of deceiving farmers with empty promises, particularly regarding the loan waiver and the Rs. 15,000 per-acre guarantee for this Yasangi.

Rao emphasized that the Congress government has failed to keep its word on important issues like the loan waiver, which he believes is critical for the development of Palamuru. He further challenged Revanth Reddy's claims about

the 1.53 crore tonnes of paddy harvested, attributing the success to the Kaleshwaram project under the BRS government, and not the projects initiated by the Congress.

Rao also took issue with Revanth Reddy's criticism of the KCR-led government, asserting that the current Chief Minister had failed to acquire land for development projects and had broken promises made during his election campaign. He pointed out that while the Palamuru Ranga Reddy project was near completion under the BRS, the Congress government had failed to finish the remaining work.

Rao also questioned Revanth Reddy's integrity, referring to his previous claims regarding the creation of a pharma city and his contradictions about the medical colleges in the Mahabubnagar district.

Finally, Harish Rao vowed to expose the truth about Revanth Reddy's governance, stating that the Congress government had done nothing for the people of Telangana in its first year except spread lies. He challenged Revanth Reddy to prove his allegations about KCR's assets in the Assembly, adding that they were prepared to expose the government's shortcomings.

## Minister Urges Caution After Tiger Attacks in Asifabad



TPN , Komuram Bheem Asifabad : The Forest, Environment, and Endowment Department has completed the process of providing Rs. 10 lakh compensation to the family of Kalyani, a Gannaram mandal resident who tragically died in a tiger attack in Eazgam, Kagaznagar. Minister Surekha expressed her sorrow over the incident, emphasizing that despite the precautionary measures taken by the forest department, such a tragedy had occurred. The minister assured that the family would receive appropriate support in line with government guidelines.

Minister Surekha also expressed concern over a separate tiger attack on farmer Suresh in Dubbagudem, Sirpur (T) mandal. The farmer's condition is stable after initial treatment, and he has been moved to Mancherla District Hospital for further care. The forest department confirmed that tiger movements have been detected towards Maharashtra.

In response to the attacks, Minister Surekha instructed the Public Chief Forest Conservator (PCCF) to conduct awareness programs in affected areas. She urged the public to follow the forest department's guidelines to avoid tiger encounters and warned officials to take strict action to prevent future incidents.

## Burra Venkatesh Appointed New Chairman of TGPSC



TPN , Telangana : Senior IAS officer Burra Venkatesh has been appointed as the new chairman of the Telangana Public Service Commission (TGPSC), with Governor Jishnu Dev Verma giving his formal approval on Saturday. Venkatesh's appointment follows the nearing end of the current chairman M. Mahender Reddy's term, which concludes on December 3.

The Telangana government had recently issued a notification to fill the post, receiving around 45 applications, including from retired IAS officers and university professors. Chief Minister Revanth Reddy selected Burra Venkatesh, and the file was subsequently sent to Raj Bhavan for the Governor's approval. With the Governor's formal sign-off, Venkatesh will take over the role of chairman of the commission.



## Bhatti: Congress Built Telangana's Projects



**TPN , Telangana :** Deputy Chief Minister Bhatti Vikramarka asserted that all major projects in Telangana were constructed by the Congress government. Speaking at a victory rally in Mahabubnagar district, Bhatti emphasized that the BRS (Bharat Rashtra Samithi) government had neglected farm-

ers and agriculture over the past decade. He particularly criticized the BRS for its lack of action on Krishna river waters, claiming the Congress government had initiated key projects such as the Kalvakurthi Lift Irrigation, Koil Sagar, and Palamuru-Ranga Reddy projects. Bhatti reminded the audience that Palamuru, once a drought-prone area, had been revitalized under the Congress regime.

Bhatti also addressed the issue of loan waivers for farmers. He recalled how the Congress government had committed to waiving loans of up to Rs. 2 lakh for farmers, a promise they fulfilled despite inheriting a debt burden of Rs. 8 lakh crores. In contrast, he accused the BRS of failing to honor its promises and resorting to

dharnas without taking meaningful action. He further criticized BRS for not adequately addressing issues like the SLBC project and the financial needs of farmers.

Referring to Chief Minister Revanthy Reddy's efforts, Bhatti praised the distribution of Rs. 3,000 crores to farmers and announced plans to organize festivals celebrating their welfare. He emphasized that the Congress government had always supported farmers with crop insurance and compensation for damaged crops, highlighting the Rs. 1,433 crores paid in insurance. Bhatti concluded by asserting that while the BRS continues to protest, the Congress party remains focused on progress and celebrating the success of its policies.

## BJP Not Run on Family Basis, Says Kishan Reddy

**TPN , Telangana :** BJP state president Kishan Reddy has stated that the party is not run on the basis of family, unlike Congress and BRS. Speaking at a gathering, Reddy emphasized that BJP operates on a democratic framework, where leadership is nurtured at the grassroots level, starting from the booth. He highlighted that Prime Minister Narendra Modi has expressed optimism about BJP's future in Telangana, with the public looking to the party for leadership.

Reddy criticized the state government's policies, calling for a fight against the anti-people measures of the ruling party. He also accused Congress leader Revanthy Reddy of lying about processing job notifications, asserting that no new notifications have been issued by the government. Reddy further pointed out that despite claims, not a single ration card has been provided in the past year.



Looking ahead, Reddy announced that BJP will release a charge sheet before the people of Telangana, highlighting the state government's failures. He also mentioned that BJP will organize a public meeting at Saroor Nagar Stadium on December 6, focusing on these issues, with national leaders like Amit Shah and JP Nadda expected to attend.

## RS Praveen Ready for Investigation Over Gurukul Allegations

**BRS Leader Challenges Allegations, Vows to Face Investigation**  
**Gurukul System in Crisis: Praveen Kumar Responds to Food Poisoning Claims**  
**"Ready for Jail or Gallows If Found Guilty"**

**TPN , Telangana :** BRS leader RS Praveen Kumar has firmly stated that he is ready for any investigation into his tenure as Secretary of Gurukuls, following allegations made by Konda Surekha regarding food poisoning incidents in Gurukul schools. Praveen Kumar, in response to Surekha's claims, declared that he would accept any punishment, including jail or even death, if found guilty of wrongdoing.

Praveen Kumar criticized the lack of accountability in the Telangana government, particularly regarding the issues faced by Gurukul schools. He pointed out that the state had not had an Education and Social Welfare Minister since 2018 and highlighted the alarming number of suicides and food poisoning incidents affecting Gurukul students. He also condemned the delayed salaries of Gurukul teachers, which have not been paid for the past



six months. He lashed out at Congress leaders, particularly CM Revanthy Reddy, accusing them of not understanding the education department and of using misleading rhetoric. He also rejected Konda Surekha's comments, saying that she was unqualified to be a minister and that the Congress party's stance on Gurukul issues was disconnected from reality.

Praveen Kumar reflected on his own journey, from studying in government

hostels to serving in the IPS and later as the Secretary of Gurukuls, where he worked for nine years. He emphasized his commitment to the welfare of students and challenged the current leadership to take responsibility for the ongoing problems in the Gurukul system. Praveen Kumar also reaffirmed his readiness for any investigation, asserting that his record in the Welfare Bhavan remains intact and that the power to investigate lies with the authorities.

## VH Calls for Separate BC Ministry, Caste Census

**TPN , Telangana :** Senior Congress leader V Hanumantha Rao (VH) made strong statements regarding the ongoing demand for justice for Other Backward Classes (OBCs) in India. Speaking to the media in Delhi on Saturday, VH criticized the Modi government for not paying attention to the demand for a caste census, a key step in addressing the needs of OBCs.



He highlighted that Congress leader Rahul Gandhi had called for such a census during his padayatra from Kanyakumari to Kashmir, asserting the need to understand the demographics of OBCs in society. VH also pointed out that the BC caste census bill was passed in the Telangana Assembly under the leadership of CM Revanthy Reddy, with 85 percent of the survey completed, yet the central government has failed to act on it.

Further, VH reminded that Con-

gress had supported the 10 percent reservation for the economically backward classes when it was introduced and had not obstructed its implementation. He emphasized the need for a separate ministry for BCs at the Centre and questioned the high costs of medical education, which he argued is unaffordable for the economically weaker sections. VH concluded by urging the Modi government to take immediate action on the issue of OBC justice.

## BRS Leaders Spreading Lies

**Mahesh Kumar Goud**

**TPN , Telangana :** TPCC President Mahesh Kumar Goud has criticized the BRS government, claiming that the state has been financially ruined under its rule due to an accumulated debt of Rs. 8 lakh crore. He accused BRS leaders of spreading false propaganda to maintain their positions, while the Congress party has been working to benefit the people. Speaking at Gandhi Bhavan, Goud expressed his frustration, stating that the BRS's history is marked by corruption and the destruction of the state.

He emphasized the importance of spreading the truth about the Congress government's achievements, noting that the party has accomplished in 10 months what BRS failed to do in 10 years. Goud also warned that if the party doesn't inform the public about its progress, it could be left behind. He also criticized the BJP, saying that they are benefiting from communal propaganda.

Goud called for efforts to reverse the false narratives propagated by the BRS, urging the Congress party to take its message directly to the people.



## MLA Satyam Accuses Praveen Kumar of Plotting Against Gurukuls



**TPN , Telangana :** Medipalli MLA Satyam has strongly criticized former minister KTR for his recent remarks against Chief Minister Revanthy Reddy, condemning his behavior and predicting a poor outcome for KTR in the upcoming local elections. "People sent you home because of your wrongdoings," said MLA Satyam, adding that KTR's actions would lead to the same electoral results as in the parliamentary elections.

Satyam also accused R. S. Praveen Kumar and his associates of conspiring against the state's Gurukul education system. "Praveen Kumar's gang is working against Gurukuls, following orders from KCR and KTR," he alleged. He defended the current government's efforts to strengthen the education system, contrasting it with the previous government's failure to increase diet charges or address issues in the Gurukuls.

The MLA further mentioned that the government had not only fulfilled its electoral promises but also worked to improve public services. Satyam demanded an apology from Praveen Kumar for his alleged actions against the students, urging him to take responsibility for his role in undermining the welfare of Gurukul students.

## Balkasuman Calls Revanthy Reddy's Actions 'Dirty Politics'



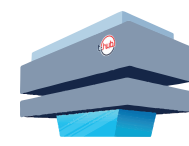
**TPN , Telangana :** Former MLA Balkasuman has sharply criticized Congress leader Revanthy Reddy, accusing him of undermining the Gurukul education system and weakening the education and welfare departments. Speaking out on social media, Balkasuman stated that Revanthy Reddy is "watering down" the Gurukul system and alleged that he is collaborating with corporate powers to diminish the quality of education for marginalized communities, such as SC, ST, mi-

nority, and BC students, who rely heavily on Gurukuls.

He further criticized Revanthy Reddy for "dirty politics," claiming that the Congress leader is trying to emulate former CM KCR's leadership style out of spite and is seeking to tarnish KCR's legacy. Balkasuman questioned how Revanthy Reddy could sit in a secretariat building constructed under KCR's rule and claimed that power is fleeting for anyone, suggesting that the current Congress leader-

ship is intoxicated by it.

Additionally, he highlighted concerns over food poisoning incidents affecting 934 students in the state, with Congress MLC Jeevan Reddy reportedly asking officials about the food being served in Gurukuls. Balkasuman also refuted claims about seat allocation in Gurukuls, asserting that admissions were based on merit and not influenced by R.S. Praveen Kumar.



### iFocus Mission

## Empowering the Youth and Society through a Revolutionary Platform



**TPN, Avinash:** The evening synergy event hosted by iFocus Mission at Sujanaalaya, Uppal Bhagayat, Hyderabad, was a resounding success. Graced by the presence of Telangana Finance Minister and BRS leader T. Harish Rao, Legislative Assembly Opposition Leader Dr. Madhusudhana Chary, local MLA Bandaru Lakshmi Narayana, and iFocus Mission leaders, the event highlighted the transformative efforts of iFocus in empowering the younger generation and middle-class communities.

iFocus Mission Chief Coordinator, Shri Vasudeva Sharma, set the tone for the evening with his inspiring address. Reflecting on the organization's journey under the guidance of Shri Sadguru Shivananda Murthi over the past 19 years, he remarked, "iFocus Mission is dedicated to empowering the younger generation to become responsible citizens. By uplifting the middle class, the largest section of society, we are nurturing them to be power citizens capable of transforming the nation."

Local MLA Bandaru Lakshmi Narayana expressed pride in having an organization like iFocus Mission in his constituency. He affirmed his unwavering support, stating, "I feel proud that iFocus operates in my constituency. I will always be available to assist the mission and its members whenever needed."

Dr. Madhusudhana Chary, Legislative Assembly Opposition Leader, shared his reflections, emphasizing the mission's unique ability to dispel negativity about younger generations. "Every generation blames the next for losing values, but iFocus Mission proves otherwise by nurturing individuals who illuminate the darkness with their virtues," he said.

iFocus Mission leader Akella Raghavendra Rao drew an analogy to the Mahabharata, highlighting self-improvement during challenging times. "When faced with adversity, individuals strive to better themselves, much like Arjuna did during his Vanavasa. iFocus members similarly empower themselves to

become competent and capable contributors to society," he said.

Chief guest T. Harish Rao delivered an impassioned speech, humbly describing himself as a student eager to learn from iFocus Mission. He commended the organization, saying, "iFocus Mission is not just a movement; it is a social revolution. It serves as a platform for social engineering and nurtures members as social soldiers. While others focus on civil rights, iFocus uniquely teaches civil responsibilities alongside rights, creating a balanced approach to societal empowerment."

The event underscored iFocus Mission's multifaceted contributions to social service, which Harish Rao lauded as exceeding even those of political organizations. With its innovative approach, iFocus Mission continues to inspire individuals across all age groups, transforming them into responsible citizens dedicated to the progress and prosperity of the nation.

## Blood Donor is a Life Donor!!

Heartfelt Congratulations to Sri Pilla Ayyappa Prasad



manity. When an urgent need for O+ve platelets arose at Apollo Hospital, Sri Ayyappa Prasad immediately responded and reached the blood bank within 40 minutes. His quick and selfless response is highly admirable.

Driven by the belief that it is our responsibility to help fellow human beings and save lives, Sri Ayyappa Prasad exemplifies the spirit of humanity. Following the ideals of Megastar Sri Chiranjeevi, he has donated platelets 10 times at the Chiranjeevi Blood Center and a total of 48 times at various blood banks, including CCT and others.

His exceptional contribution to saving lives through blood donation is an inspiration to all. On behalf of Megastar Sri Chiranjeevi, heartfelt congratulations are extended to Sri Pilla Ayyappa Prasad for his generosity and selflessness.

**TPN, Hyderabad:** Sri Pilla Ayyappa Prasad, a resident of Aminpur, Hyderabad, has proven the statement "Blood donor is a life donor" to be true with his commendable act of hu-

## Ponnam Prabhakar Honours BICCI Awards 2024



**TPN, Hyderabad:** The BICCI (Backward Classes Chamber of Commerce and Industry) Awards 2024 were held at Tea Hob in Gachibowli, with Transport and BC Welfare Minister Ponnam Prabhakar as the chief guest. During the event, Minister Prabhakar presented

Lifetime Achievement Awards to BC industrialists who have excelled in their respective fields.

The event saw the participation of Narahari IAS from Madhya Pradesh, former IAS officer Chiranjeevi, and other

BC industrial representatives. Minister Ponnam Prabhakar emphasized the government's commitment to empowering weaker sections, stating that better policies will be introduced to ensure justice for them. He also highlighted the state's new MSME policy and the government's efforts to ensure it addresses the needs of the weaker sections. Minister Prabhakar mentioned that a committee had been formed to review and incorporate these concerns into the MSME policy. In a significant move, Prabhakar announced that a nationwide social house-to-

house caste survey will be conducted to gather crucial data. He urged the participation of everyone in the survey and stressed the need for increased entrepreneurship within the weaker sections to secure easier access to bank loans for industrial setups.

Prabhakar assured that the government is working to implement policies that foster industrial growth in marginalized communities and voiced his unwavering support for justice to be delivered to the weaker sections.

## Telugu Student Killed in Chicago Shooting



**TPN, Telangana:** A tragic incident occurred in Chicago, USA, where a Telugu student, Nukarapu Sai Teja, was shot and killed. Sai Teja, a resident of Rammannapet in Khammam Rural Mandal, had moved to the United States four months ago to pursue his Master's degree. The shooting, carried out by assailants, resulted in his death. The local police have registered a case and are investigating the circumstances surrounding the incident. The news has left the community in shock as they mourn the loss of the young student.

## GHMC Standing Committee Meeting Ends in Disarray Amid Budget Disputes

**TPN, Hyderabad:** The GHMC Standing Committee meeting ended without reaching a conclusion due to objections raised by several corporators, particularly regarding the 2025-26 budget proposals. Members of the committee, including BJP corporators, criticized the budget figures, stating that they were unrealistic and did not reflect the true needs of the city.



to disrupt the meeting from the outset, objecting to what they described as arbitrary decisions being made by the committee.

Despite the protests, corporators from Congress, MIM, and BRS were also present in the

meeting. They raised issues about tax collection in various divisions, claiming that funds were being exclusively spent on the development of the Old City, while other areas were being neglected. Additionally, the corporators highlighted an

alleged scam of Rs 500 crore in the Advertisement Department, but expressed frustration that officials were not addressing these concerns.

In response to the objections, GHMC Commissioner and Mayor Gadwala Vijayalakshmi assured the corporators that they would visit each division to address the issues raised. The BJP corporators agreed to end their protest after receiving this assurance. However, the budget proposals will undergo revisions, and another Standing Committee meeting will be scheduled after December 9.

## Minister Surekha Reviews Caste Survey Progress

**TPN, Hyderabad:** Minister for Forest, Environment, and Endowment, Mrs. Konda Surekha, reviewed the ongoing caste, social, economic, education, and employment survey at her residence in Jubilee Hills, Hyderabad. The survey, part of a larger initiative for public welfare, aims to gather critical demographic data.



GHMC Deputy Commissioner Rajinikanth Reddy, Supervisor Gangadhar, and Enumerator Ramesh participated in the survey. During the meeting, Minister Konda Surekha inquired about the progress of the survey and emphasized the importance of completing the caste survey promptly. She instructed officials to work towards increasing public awareness and ensuring maximum participation. "This survey is a vital step towards the welfare of the people, and I urge everyone to cooperate and register their details," she said. Minister Konda Surekha reiterated that the survey is a key initiative driven by the goals of Chief Minister Revanth Reddy.



## Tension Escalates at Koti Women's College as Students Protest

**TPN, Hyderabad:** Tension flared at Koti Women's College on Monday as students staged a protest demanding that the institution be included in the University Grants Commission (UGC) list. The protest began early in the morning, with students raising concerns about the lack of recognition for their degrees.

The controversy stems from the decision by

the previous BRS government to rename the college as Mahila Vishwavidyalayam. However, students claim that despite the name change, the university has not received UGC recognition, leaving their degrees unrecognized. The current Congress government has since renamed it Chakali Ilamma Women's University, further fueling student confusion. Students expressed fears about the legitimacy of their degrees, questioning how they would

be awarded certificates without UGC recognition. They have appealed to Chief Minister Revanth Reddy to intervene and ensure that the university is officially included in the UGC list, urging swift action to secure their academic futures.

The protest continues as students await a response from the government.



## Tenant Farmers' Public Hearing on Dec 4

**TPN , Hyderabad:** On December 4, tenant farmers from across Telangana will gather at Dharna Chowk for a public hearing organized by the Sanyukta Kisan Morcha (SKM) and various farmers' and farm workers' unions. The event will seek recognition for tenant farmers and demand loan eligibility cards (LEC) to help them access bank loans and welfare schemes.



Representatives of SKM, during a press conference on November 30 at Basheerbagh Press Club, recalled the promise made by Chief Minister A. Revanth Reddy on September 13, 2023, when he was serving as the Telangana Pradesh Con-

gress Committee (TPCC) president. The CM had assured tenant farmers that they would be granted the necessary rights and assistance.

The public hearing will feature prominent figures such

as Prof. G. Haragopal, who will participate as a jury member. Tenant farmers are expected to present their challenges, including difficulties in obtaining bank loans, managing debts, procurement issues, and accessing welfare schemes.

Farmer union leaders also highlighted that the Licensed Cultivators Act, which granted LECs to tenant farmers, was introduced during the Congress government in undivided Andhra Pradesh. However, it was discontinued by the BRS government after the formation of Telangana in 2014, leaving tenant farmers without essential support.

## Metro-Style Seating Introduced in RTC Electric Buses



**TPN , Telangana :** In a bid to accommodate more passengers and improve revenue generation, the Telangana State Road Transport Corporation (TGSRTC) has introduced metro-style seating in some newly launched non-air-conditioned electric buses in Hyderabad. This initiative aims to maximize seating capacity on busy routes, particularly following the success of the 'Maha Lakshmi' free travel scheme for women, which has led to a surge in passengers.

The new seating arrangement involves removing grills that previously separated men and women, replacing them with new seats for better convenience. This pilot project is being tested in less-traveled or damaged buses, including 'Palle Velugu' and 'Deluxe Express' buses.

With the daily number of passengers in Hyderabad RTC buses growing from 11 lakh to between 18-20 lakh, metro-style seating will allow for greater capacity by removing middle seats and creating more standing room. If successful, the new seating plan will be expanded to other routes across the city. The aim is to ease overcrowding and improve commuter comfort.

## BRS Gurukula Bata Faces Resistance from School Management in Jagtial



**TPN , Telangana :** The BRS ranks have launched the Gurukula Bata program across the state, following a call by

KTR. However, the initiative faced resistance when BRS members attempted to visit the Allipur Gurukula School in

Raikal Mandal, Jagtial District, on Saturday morning. Upon their arrival, the school management promptly closed and locked the gates, displaying a sign stating that no one should enter without permission.

When BRS members inquired about the reason, the management claimed that the district collector had issued an order.

However, when the BRS members requested to see the official order, the management refused to provide it. In response, BRS ranks staged a protest in front of the school, demanding access to the premises to continue their program. The situation reflects growing tensions between the Gurukula staff and the BRS members in the region.

## Mujahidpur School Students Protest Poor Facilities



**TPN , Telangana :** Students of the Mujahidpur Model School in Vikarabad district have raised serious concerns over the poor conditions at their hostel. During a recent visit by the District Education Officer (DEO) to the school's hostel in Kulkacharla Mandal, students expressed

their dissatisfaction with the food and living conditions.

According to the students, they have been served tiger meat as tiffin for the past five months. They reported that milk was provided only 10 days a year, and eggs were given only twice

The students stated that the food quality is poor, making it difficult for them to eat properly. Additionally, the students have been cleaning their own rooms and fetching water in buckets from outside for the toilets.

The conditions in the hostel have also raised safety concerns, as the students mentioned that snakes are entering the premises due to the lack of cleanliness. Despite the cold weather, students have been forced to sleep on the floor and have had to bring their own bed sheets from home. The DEO was urged to address these issues, which highlight the poor state of government-run schools in the region.

## Koppula Eashwar and Sunke Ravishankar Arrested

**TPN , Karimnagar:** Former Minister Koppula Eashwar and former Choppadandi MLA Sunke Ravishankar were arrested by the police on Saturday. The two leaders had planned to visit a local Gurukul as part of a statewide initiative by their party to assess the situation in the schools.

While Ravishankar was waiting for Eashwar at a follower's residence in Rukmapur, police took him into custody and transported him to Ramadugu police station. Eashwar was arrested later at Prathima Hospital on the outskirts of Karimnagar and was taken to his residence in the city.

## High Alert Issued After Tiger Attack in Komuram Bheem Asifabad



**TPN , Telangana :** A large tiger has been spotted roaming the Kagaznagar Mandal of Komuram Bheem Asifabad district, causing panic among villagers in the area. The situation became critical after a tragic incident on Friday, when a young woman named Lakshmi from Gannaram village, near Bengali Camp No. 6, was attacked and killed by the tiger while she was picking cotton in the fields.

Following the attack, forest officials have issued a high alert for 15 villages, including Eidgam, Nazral Nagar, Sitanagar, Anukada, Gannaram, Kadamba, Areguda, and Babu Nagar. Authorities have warned local residents to avoid going into the fields and to keep their livestock secured, as the tiger poses a significant threat. The forest department has increased patrols in the region and is advising all villagers to stay cautious and report any sightings of the tiger immediately.

## Trainee Constables Told to Uphold Discipline and Honesty



**Khammam :** A total of 159 civil and armed reserve trainee constables recently reported to the Khammam Police Commissionerate after completing their nine-month training. Commissioner of Police Sunil Dutt addressed the new constables, acknowledging the challenges the police force faces in crime control and the significant changes in policing. Dutt urged the constables to be prepared for these challenges, emphasizing the importance of maintaining discipline both professionally and personally. He stressed that constables should approach their duties with courage, honesty, and a commitment to serving the public without giving room for allegations.

A similar meeting was held in Kothagudem, where Superintendent of Police B Rohith Raju interacted with 78 trainee constables. He encouraged them to perform their duties with discipline, honesty, and awareness of new criminal laws. The SP also emphasized the importance of being mentally and physically strong, obeying orders, and bringing any issues to the attention of superiors. Constables who demonstrate integrity and dedication, he noted, would earn special recognition within the department.

## Telangana Minister Calls for Increased Beds in Hospitals



**TPN , Hyderabad:** Telangana Health Minister C. Damodar Raja Narasimha, on Friday, November 28, stressed the importance of eradicating seasonal diseases and strengthening the Telangana Vaidya Vidhana Parishad (TVVP). He directed officials to ensure that primary hospitals

across the state are adequately staffed and stocked with necessary medicines.

Narasimha instructed the Telangana Director of Public Health, Dr. Ravinder Naik, to conduct inspections at government hospitals to prevent seasonal outbreaks.

He also discussed measures to increase the number of beds in government hospitals, particularly in Osmania General Hospital, Gandhi Hospital, and Petlaburj Modern Government Maternity Hospital, in line with National Medical Council (NMC) guidelines.

Further emphasizing quality healthcare services, the minister called for enhancing secondary healthcare and improving facilities at nursing colleges, transgender clinics, and emergency services like 108 and 102. Narasimha also highlighted the need to expand In Vitro Fertilization (IVF) services in the state.

During the meeting, the Director of Medical Education N. Vani briefed Narasimha about the progress of the Integrated Health Facility Management System and the appointment of doctors in teaching hospitals.

# India-Italy Relations Strengthen with Strategic Focus on Trade, Connectivity, and Defence



India's External Affairs Minister, S. Jaishankar, recently completed a significant three-day visit to Italy, which included participation in the G7 Foreign Ministers' Meeting and the inauguration of the new Indian Embassy in Rome. The visit underscored India's ongoing efforts to bolster its bilateral ties with Italy and reflected the broader strategic partnership between the two nations, which has been steadily growing in recent years.

The relationship between India and Italy had been somewhat strained in the past, but it has significantly improved following key visits by both countries' leaders. The turning point came in 2018 when Italian Prime Minister Giuseppe Conte visited India, setting the foundation for strengthened cooperation. This was further solidified by the launch of the first action plan for enhanced partnership (2020-2024). A major milestone came in October 2021, when Indian Prime Minister Narendra Modi visited Italy and announced the elevation of bilateral ties to a strategic partnership. Prime Minister Giorgia Meloni reciprocated in March 2023 by visiting India as the chief guest at the 8th Raisina Dialogue, a significant diplomatic event.

During Jaishankar's recent visit, discussions were focused on the newly signed Joint Strategic Action Plan (2025-2029), which aims to enhance collaboration in areas such as defence, trade, energy, and space. The plan, which was officially signed during the virtual G20 summit under Brazil's presidency, represents a deeper alignment between the two nations and is expected to drive future cooperation in critical global sectors. The focus of the discussions also included areas such as trade and connectivity, as well as security and defence.

Bilateral trade between India and Italy stands at an impressive €15 billion, with India benefiting from an export advantage. However, Italy's strategic role in Europe has also made it an important partner for India, particularly in enhancing connectivity between India and Europe. Italy's strategic location in the Mediterranean, coupled with its involvement in the India-Middle East-Europe Economic Corridor (IMEC), has the potential to create stronger trade routes and improve overall economic resilience.

A key area of focus is Italy's strategic port of Trieste, which holds significant

potential for expanding India's presence in Central and Eastern European markets. The port serves as a crucial gateway to these regions, and India's increased involvement could yield substantial commercial benefits. Notably, Trieste offers an alternative to ports that are under heavy Chinese influence, such as the Greek port of Piraeus, which is controlled by China's COSCO shipping corporation. By investing in Trieste and ports like Thessaloniki in Greece, India can avoid Chinese dominance in critical European trade routes and gain access to growing Central and Eastern European economies.

India's diplomatic outreach also includes the broader Mediterranean and Balkan regions, where it has worked to strengthen relationships with countries such as Cyprus and Greece. Jaishankar's recent visits and discussions with Balkan nations are part of India's larger strategy to enhance its influence in the Mediterranean, secure alternative trade routes, and diversify its global supply chains. Through these efforts, India aims to solidify its place as a leading strategic partner in Europe, fostering long-term economic and geopolitical stability.



## Israel PM Benjamin Netanyahu can leverage the Lebanon ceasefire for a broader deal

The fragile ceasefire in Lebanon, which began this week, presents two potential outcomes, both of which could have significant consequences for the region. Lebanese caretaker Prime Minister Najib Mikati has expressed hope that the ceasefire marks the beginning of a "new page," offering an opportunity to de-escalate the violence that has erupted since the October 7, 2023, Hamas attack on Israel. However, the other, more likely scenario points to the ceasefire merely serving as a temporary pause in the ongoing conflict.

Israeli Prime Minister Benjamin Netanyahu has already framed the ceasefire as a tactical break, during which Israel will ramp up its pressure on Hamas in Gaza and prepare for future operations, including addressing the growing threat from Iran. Central to this plan is a US deal offering \$680 million in small-diameter bombs and J-Dam kits, weapons that have played a key role in Israel's ongoing war with Hamas.

While Netanyahu views this arrangement as a strategic move to strengthen Israel's military position, the potential consequences of continuing on this path could be disastrous not only for Israel but also for Palestinians, Lebanese, and other regional populations. From Netanyahu's perspective, this deal, though negotiated by the outgoing Biden administration, serves as a significant win for US President-elect Donald Trump, who has positioned himself as a staunch supporter of Israel and as a figure who claims to be capable of ending wars. In the long run, this strategy risks further instability and violence, underlining the fragility of the ceasefire and the dangers of escalating conflict rather than seeking a meaningful, sustainable peace.



## Chinmoy Krishna Das' Arrest Highlights Minority Insecurity in Bangladesh

The arrest of Chinmoy Krishna Das, a prominent Hindu monk associated with ISKCON, has once again brought attention to the precarious situation faced by religious minorities in Bangladesh. On Tuesday, Das was taken into custody on charges of sedition after allegedly disrespecting the Bangladeshi flag. However, his supporters have vehemently denied the accusation, calling it unfounded and politically motivated.

The arrest sparked widespread protests across the country, particularly within the Hindu community, which makes up around 10% of Bangladesh's population. Tensions escalated as the demonstrations turned violent, leading to clashes between the protesters and the police. Tragically, a lawyer was killed in the unrest, further deepening the sense of instability surrounding the incident. Despite the uproar, Das was denied bail, and his legal team continues to fight for his release.

The government, in response to the court's inquiry, has assured that it has taken necessary actions to handle the situation. However, the court has demanded a report on the steps taken, which has raised questions about the impartiality of the legal process and the treatment of minorities in the country.

The arrest of Chinmoy Krishna Das serves as a stark reminder of the fragile state of law and order in Bangladesh, particularly when it comes to the protection of minority communities. Hindus, Buddhists, and Christians have long been subjected to oppression, violence, and discrimination, despite the country's Constitution promising equality for all citizens. During times of political uncertainty or changes in government, such incidents tend to rise, and the vulnerability of these communities increases significantly.

Bangladesh has witnessed a growing trend of mob attacks on minorities in recent years, with incidents of violence escalating during religious festivals and political unrest. The lack of consistent legal protections for these communities has only compounded their fears, as many feel they are left to navigate an environment where their safety is not guaranteed.

## Eknath Shinde's Decline: From Rising Star to Political Underdog

Eknath Shinde, once a prominent political figure and Chief Minister of Maharashtra, has seen his influence wane significantly following the recent Assembly election results, which have handed the Bharatiya Janata Party (BJP) its biggest-ever victory in the state. The outcome of the election has not only overshadowed Shinde's political career but has also effectively diminished his chances of securing a second term as Chief Minister. As a result, Shinde is ThePrint's Newsmaker of the Week.



In the 2022 power shift, Shinde led a rebellion against Uddhav Thackeray's Shiv Sena, aligning with the BJP to form a government. Shinde's rise to the top of the state government came at the cost of sidelining BJP's Devendra Fadnavis, who was pushed into the role of Deputy Chief Minister despite his initial reluctance. At the time, Shinde's elevation was seen as a victory for the Shiv Sena faction that broke away from Thackeray's leadership.

However, just two years later, Shinde's fortunes have reversed dramatically. The BJP's sweeping victory, securing a record 132 seats in the state Assembly, has effectively sealed Fadnavis's claim to the CM position, sidelining Shinde. Sources within the BJP have hinted that Fadnavis, who spearheaded the

BJP campaign, is now the frontrunner for the CM post, while Shinde's political clout has shrunk considerably.

The shift in power dynamics between Shinde and Fadnavis has been palpable. During a recent meeting with Union Home Minister Amit Shah, Fadnavis appeared confident and pleased, while Shinde's demeanor was notably subdued. Shah's confirmation that the BJP would install its Chief Minister in Maharashtra signaled the final blow to Shinde's hopes of retaining the top job.

In the aftermath of Shinde's rebellion, he was seen as a pawn in BJP's broader

strategy to weaken Uddhav Thackeray's Shiv Sena and assert control over the state. Shinde, however, gradually began to assert his own leadership, distancing himself from Fadnavis and pursuing his own political path. Notably, Shinde capitalized on the Maratha quota agitation led by Manoj Jarange Patil, a move that earned him support from the Maratha community and gave him a political edge over Fadnavis, who was criticized for the mishandling of the protests.

Despite these efforts, Shinde's leadership has not been enough to secure his position as the undisputed leader of Maharashtra. His close association with the BJP has not shielded him from the internal competition within his own faction. As his party's leaders begin to demand the CM post, Shinde is faced with the dilemma of managing expectations while navigating the shifting political landscape.

Shinde's rise and fall within Maharashtra's political scene exemplify the delicate balance of power between the BJP and Shiv Sena, highlighting the tensions that exist even within alliances. His journey from a "rising star" to a political underdog underscores the volatile nature of state politics, where yesterday's ally can quickly become today's challenger.



## “Ready to start working for better future of people of Wayanad”

Congress MP Priyanka Gandhi Vadra, fresh off her historic victory in the Wayanad Lok Sabha seat, arrived in Kerala for a two-day visit on Saturday. Expressing her commitment to serving the people of Wayanad, Priyanka said she was “ready to start working” toward ensuring a better future for the region.

“I am happy to be back here, and I am ready to start working. I will do whatever I can to help the people of Wayanad have a better future,” Priyanka stated outside Karipur Airport in Kozhikode. Her return to the constituency comes after a resounding win in the 2019 general elections, marking her first electoral success.

During her visit, Priyanka will be holding a joint public meeting with her brother, Rahul Gandhi, who is also the Leader of Opposition in the Lok Sabha. The meeting is scheduled to take place in Mukkam, within the Thiruvambadi assembly constituency in Kozhikode district.

Priyanka’s visit highlights her ongoing commitment to addressing the concerns of the people of Wayanad, and the Congress party’s emphasis on strengthening its presence in Kerala. In addition to her public engagements, Priyanka’s itinerary indicates a focus on local issues and outreach to her constituents, emphasizing her role in ensuring development and prosperity for the region.

As she begins her work in Wayanad, Priyanka Gandhi Vadra’s visit marks the beginning of a new phase in her political journey, where she is keen to make a tangible difference in the lives of the people she represents.

## Modi to attend new Maharashtra govt swearing-in on Dec 5

Prime Minister Narendra Modi is set to attend the swearing-in ceremony of the new Mahayuti government in Maharashtra on December 5, as Devendra Fadnavis emerges as the frontrunner for the chief minister’s post. The oath-taking ceremony will be held at 5 pm at Azad Maidan in South Mumbai, as confirmed by state BJP chief Chandrashekhar Bawankule.

While an official announcement regarding the chief minister is yet to be made, BJP sources indicate that Fadnavis, who has previously served as chief minister twice and as deputy CM in the last Eknath Shinde-led government, is most likely to assume the role. Shinde, who currently serves as the caretaker chief minister, has been under pressure due to dissatisfaction within his party and was reportedly unwell, running a high fever. He had visited his native village in Satara just before the meeting with top BJP leaders in Delhi on Thursday night, where discussions on the formation of the new government took place.

At a press conference in Pune, NCP chief Ajit Pawar confirmed that the chief minister would be from the BJP, with deputy CMs from the NCP and Shiv Sena. Pawar himself had previously held the deputy CM position. On Shinde’s illness, Shiv Sena leader Shambhuraj Desai mentioned



that Shinde had been advised to rest after returning from Delhi due to exhaustion.

The delay in government formation stemmed from the lack of consensus on the chief minister’s post, despite the Mahayuti alliance’s victory in the November 20 elections. The BJP won 132 seats, Shiv Sena secured 57, and the NCP gained 41 seats, far surpassing the simple majority of 145 in the 288-member assembly.

The delay in finalizing the CM candidate also prompted speculation and discussions within

the alliance, with Shinde facing internal pressure from Shiv Sena leaders who questioned whether he should accept a deputy CM role after serving as CM for over two years. Meanwhile, the NCP has already expressed its support for Fadnavis as CM.

The Opposition Maha Vikas Aghadi (MVA), which suffered a major defeat in the elections, has raised concerns about the misuse of Electronic Voting Machines (EVMs), with senior NCP leader Sharad Pawar supporting protests against alleged electoral malpractice in Pune.



## Be good neighbour, don't stoke fire of hatred, division: Manipur CM attacks Mizoram CM

The Manipur government strongly condemned Mizoram Chief Minister Lalduhoma on Friday night, accusing him of making divisive and unwarranted remarks that stoke hatred and division. The Manipur government called on Lalduhoma to demonstrate “better statesmanship” and be a “good neighbour” rather than fueling tensions with his comments.

In a statement, the Manipur government warned that India must remain vigilant against the “greater agenda” of creating a Kuki-Chin Christian nation, a concept that allegedly involves the contiguous areas of Myanmar, India, and Bangladesh. It claimed that this idea has been part of a long-term plan and warned against allowing such forces to fragment Northeast India. The government also expressed concern over what it described as “secessionist interests” being openly supported by the Mizoram CM.

The statement referenced Lalduhoma’s recent interview with \*Hindustan Times\*, in which he criticized Manipur Chief Minister N. Biren Singh, calling him a liability to both the state and the BJP. Lalduhoma even suggested that President’s Rule might be a preferable option for the state. He further raised concerns about the inability to stop smuggling of weapons, drugs, and guns along the Indo-Bangladesh border, despite the presence of border fences.

The Manipur government expressed its strong disapproval of Lalduhoma’s comments, particularly his mention of the possibility of armed militias in Manipur aiming their guns at Delhi. The statement emphasized the need for “sincere negotiations” with hill leaders to resolve ongoing issues in the state but made it clear that such remarks would not be tolerated.

The escalating tensions between the two states highlight the ongoing challenges in the region, with the Manipur government reiterating its commitment to ensuring the unity of Northeast India and safeguarding it from any external or internal forces aiming to sow division.

## Parliament must function in broader interest of people: Mayawati

Bahujan Samaj Party (BSP) president Mayawati on Saturday called on both the Centre and the Opposition to prioritize addressing the nation’s urgent issues during the ongoing Winter Session of Parliament. Her appeal came in light of the disruptions caused by controversies, including the allegations against the Adani Group and the ongoing Sambhal mosque survey dispute, which have dominated the proceedings in both Houses this week. In a statement issued by the BSP, Mayawati emphasized the need for a constructive and focused approach to the Parliament session. She urged both the government and opposition to put aside

partisan conflicts and work together for the welfare of the country. “Both the government and opposition should ensure that the ongoing Winter Session of Parliament focuses on the country’s pressing problems rather than partisan clashes,” she said.

The BSP leader further stressed that the functioning of Parliament should be in the broader interest of the people. She pointed out that the country is facing numerous challenges, and it is crucial for the ruling party and the opposition to show seriousness and commitment in addressing these concerns.

Mayawati’s comments come amid growing frustration with the frequent disruptions in Parliament, which have hindered meaningful debate on critical issues. The controversies surrounding major national matters, including corporate accountability and communal disputes, have added to the tension between the government and opposition.

The BSP president’s appeal serves as a reminder of the importance of a functioning democratic process, where both sides of the political spectrum work together to ensure that the people’s concerns are addressed effectively.

## New government in Maharashtra to be formed on Dec 5: BJP leader

The Mahayuti alliance in Maharashtra, comprising the Bharatiya Janata Party (BJP), Eknath Shinde-led Shiv Sena, and Ajit Pawar’s Nationalist Congress Party (NCP), is set to form the new government on December 5, with Devendra Fadnavis emerging as the frontrunner for the chief minister’s post, according to a senior BJP leader.

In the Maharashtra assembly elections held on November 20, the Mahayuti alliance secured a resounding victory, winning 230 out of the 288 seats. The BJP was the single largest party, bagging 132 seats, while the Shiv Sena won 57 and the NCP secured 41. Despite this electoral success, the formation of the new government has been delayed as the alliance partners have yet to finalize the chief ministerial candidate.

Although the poll results were announced on November 23, the coalition partners—BJP, Shiv Sena, and NCP—have been in discussions regarding power-sharing arrangements. Eknath Shinde, Fadnavis, and Pawar met with BJP president J.P. Nadda and Union minister Amit Shah late on Thursday to iron out details of the pact. A key Mahayuti meeting scheduled for Friday was postponed, but it is now expected to take place on Sunday. This delay was partly due to Shinde traveling to his native Satara district, which further pushed back the process of government formation.

A senior BJP leader confirmed that the swear-



ing-in of the new government is now scheduled for December 5. Fadnavis, who has served as chief minister twice before and as deputy chief minister in the previous government, is widely expected to take the top job. The oath-taking ceremony will take place at Azad Maidan in South Mumbai.

Before the formal swearing-in, a meeting will be held on December 2 to select the BJP legislature party leader. Caretaker Chief Minister Eknath Shinde has expressed his full support for the BJP leadership’s decision and has made it clear that he will not stand in the way of the process. Additionally, the NCP, led by Ajit Pawar, has expressed its backing for Fadnavis as the next chief minister.

## Crack The Whip: Rahul Gandhi's Request To M Kharge After Maharashtra Rout

Following consecutive electoral defeats in Maharashtra and Haryana, the Congress party is under mounting pressure to undertake serious introspection and take decisive action. Party leaders have pledged to address the party’s shortcomings under the leadership of Mallikarjun Kharge, with Rahul Gandhi urging the Congress chief to “crack the whip” and enforce discipline.

Addressing the Congress Working Committee (CWC) on Friday, Kharge warned against internal strife and anti-party remarks, emphasizing that “tough decisions” would be required to ensure accountability and to understand the reasons behind the electoral setbacks. Congress suffered a major blow in Maharashtra, winning only 16 out of 288 seats in the assembly elections. Its allies in the Maha Vikas Aghadi (MVA) coalition, the NCP (led by Sharad Pawar) and Shiv Sena (Uddhav Thackeray faction), performed poorly as well, securing just 10 and 20 seats, respectively.

Kharge expressed concern over the Haryana results, describing



them as “contrary to all expectations” and alleging electoral malpractices. In response to the defeats, CWC members are scheduled to visit both states to conduct thorough reviews. Kharge emphasized that the party must avoid internal divisions and unite to effectively challenge its political rivals. “Unless we fight elections unitedly and stop making statements against each other, how will we be able to defeat our opponents politically?” he asked during the meeting.

Rahul Gandhi supported Kharge’s call, urging him to take firm action. He reiterated that Congress must remain a “party of resistance” and that its leaders should place faith in the organi-

zation. Kharge also announced plans for state-by-state reviews to assess the party’s weaknesses and the reasons behind the defeats. Internal committees will visit Maharashtra and Haryana to engage with local leaders and understand the situation better.

The CWC resolution raised concerns about the functioning of the Election Commission, alleging that the integrity of the electoral process was under threat. Despite the setbacks, the resolution stressed the importance of perseverance and discipline. It also outlined plans for a nationwide movement, in collaboration with INDIA bloc parties, to address concerns over the electoral process.



# War Could End If Unoccupied Parts Of Ukraine Come Under NATO: Zelensky

Ukrainian President Volodymyr Zelensky called for NATO to provide guaranteed protection to the territories of Ukraine that remain under Kyiv's control, emphasizing the urgency of preventing further escalation in the ongoing conflict with Russia. Zelensky's remarks came on Friday during an interview with Sky News, where he proposed that NATO extend its protective umbrella to parts of Ukraine held by Kyiv to halt the "hot stage" of the war.

Zelensky suggested that while Ukraine could wait diplomatically to regain the portions of land currently occupied by Russian forces, securing NATO's support for the regions under Ukrainian control would help ensure their security and provide a strategic path forward. This, he said, could lead to a peaceful resolution, with Ukraine potentially reclaiming other territories through negotiations.

The timing of Zelensky's call for NATO protection coincides with heightened tensions and ongoing violence, as Russia launched a significant aerial assault targeting Ukraine's energy infrastructure in retaliation for Ukraine's missile strikes on Russian territory. Moscow's threats to attack Ukrainian government buildings in Kyiv further underscore the mounting pressure on the region.

Despite Russia controlling nearly 18% of Ukrainian land, including Crimea and the four eastern and southern regions of

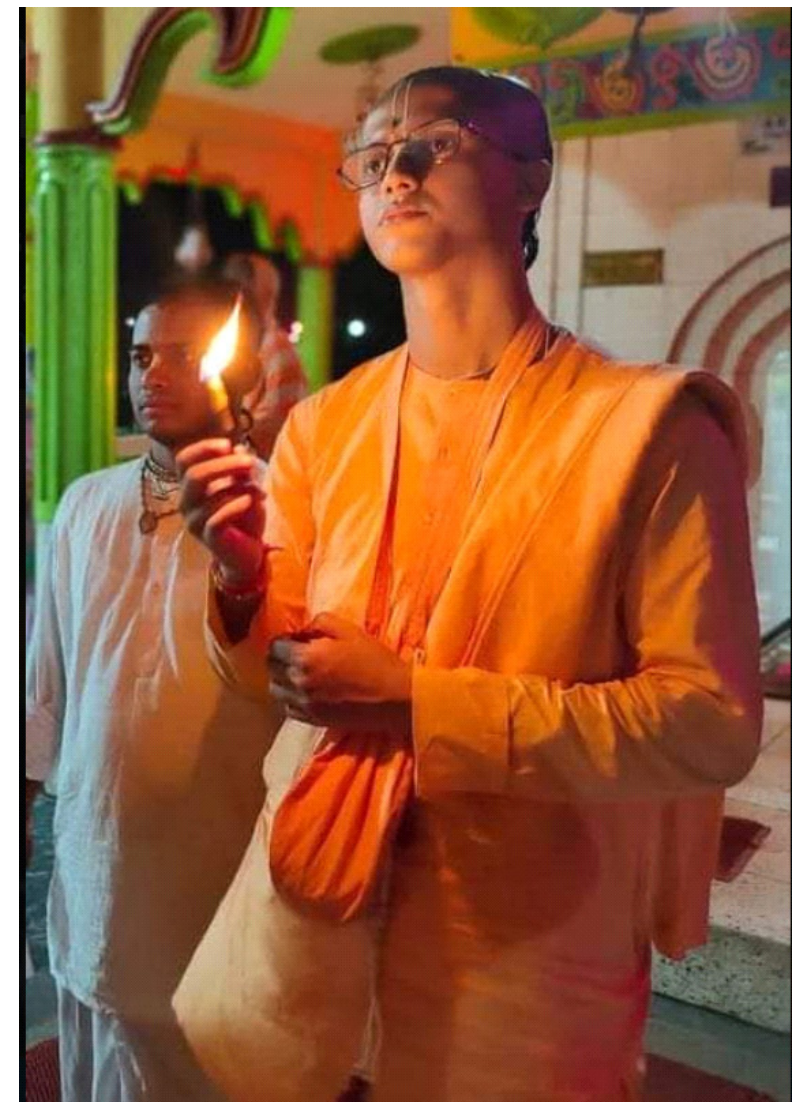


Donetsk, Kherson, Luhansk, and Zaporizhzhia, Zelensky has firmly ruled out any concessions of Ukrainian territory in exchange for peace. Russian President Vladimir Putin, on the other hand, has demanded Ukraine's withdrawal from these regions.

In his comments, Zelensky expressed that any potential NATO membership offer should cover the entirety of Ukraine, although the immediate focus would be on extending NATO's Article Five collective defense clause only to those areas still under Ukrainian control. Such protection, he argued, would prevent further Russian ag-

gression and provide essential guarantees for a stable ceasefire.

As the conflict intensifies on the battlefield, Zelensky has engaged with Western leaders, including UK's Keir Starmer, French President Macron, and German Chancellor Scholz. Meanwhile, the United States has increased military support for Ukraine, including permission to strike Russian territory with long-range missiles, prompting strong retaliatory threats from Moscow. In a bid to strengthen Ukraine's military capabilities, Zelensky also appointed Mykhailo Drapaty as the new Land Forces Commander.



## 2nd Hindu Priest Arrested In Bangladesh Amid Protests

In a developing story from Bangladesh, another Hindu priest has been arrested in the Chattogram district, just days after the detention of spiritual leader Chinmoy Krishna Das. The arrested individual, identified as Shyam Das Prabhu, was reportedly detained after attempting to meet Chinmoy Krishna Das in jail. Sources revealed that Shyam Das Prabhu was arrested without an official warrant, a practice under which authorities can detain individuals without charges, allowing for their eventual release.

Radharamn Das, Vice-President and Spokesperson for ISKCON Kolkata, shared the news of Shyam Das Prabhu's arrest on social media platform X (formerly Twitter) on Friday. He wrote, "Another Brahmachari Sri Shyam Das Prabhu was arrested by Chattogram Police today." This marks another significant incident in a series of arrests involving members of the Hindu community in the region.

The arrest of Chinmoy Krishna Das, a prominent spiritual leader, had already raised concerns among his followers and human rights advocates. His detention sparked widespread protests and appeals from various religious and social groups, demanding his release and criticizing what they perceive as religious discrimination. The arrest of Shyam Das Prabhu has only added to these tensions, with many questioning the motivations behind the arrests.

The legal process for individuals arrested without official warrants in Bangladesh remains opaque, and the possibility of their quick release further complicates the situation. While some speculate that these detentions are linked to growing religious tensions in the country, the authorities have yet to offer an official explanation for the recent arrests of these Hindu clerics.

The incidents have garnered attention from both local and international human rights organizations, which are calling for greater transparency and protection of religious freedoms in Bangladesh. Supporters of the detained priests continue to rally for their release, urging the government to ensure the fair treatment of religious minorities in the country.



## Justin Trudeau and Donald Trump Dine at Mar-a-Lago Amid Trade Tensions

Canadian Prime Minister Justin Trudeau dined with US President-elect Donald Trump on Friday evening at Trump's Mar-a-Lago resort in Florida, amid escalating concerns over a potential trade conflict between the two neighboring nations. The meeting comes as Trump has raised issues regarding trade relations and made threats to impose a 25% tariff on Canadian imports starting the first day of his presidency.

The dinner, which also included some members of Trudeau's cabinet, was seen as an opportunity for the two leaders to discuss key issues surrounding trade and border policies. Trump has voiced concerns over trade imbalances and has previously suggested that he would take a hard stance on tariffs, potentially triggering a trade war with Canada, one of the United States' closest trading partners.

During the campaign, Trump frequently criticized trade agreements and the flow of goods between the two countries, pledging to renegotiate or even scrap existing trade deals. The most significant of these is the North American Free Trade Agreement (NAFTA), which has governed trade between the US, Canada, and Mexico for decades. Trump's administration has since worked on renegotiating NAFTA, leading to the creation of the United States-Mexico-Canada Agreement (USMCA), which was signed in 2018 but is still awaiting full implementation.

The dinner at Mar-a-Lago is part of ongoing efforts to ease tensions and find common ground on these critical issues. Trudeau's team was hopeful that the informal setting could help foster a more cooperative relationship, despite the threats of tariffs that could negatively impact both countries' economies. Trudeau and Trump's meeting signals an attempt to engage in direct talks to prevent a potential trade war, with both leaders hoping to avoid any further escalation.

## Mexico president touts friendly Trump call, looks to ease tariff tensions

Mexico's President Claudia Sheinbaum announced on Thursday that she and US President-elect Donald Trump had a productive and friendly phone call, with both leaders agreeing to maintain a positive relationship. The conversation seemed to ease tensions between the two countries, which are major trade partners, amidst ongoing concerns over potential tariff impositions.

Sheinbaum took a more conciliatory approach following her earlier remarks, where she had warned of retaliation if Trump followed through on his pledge to impose a 25 percent tariff on Mexican and Canadian imports. During the press conference, Sheinbaum described the phone call as "a good conversation," though she clarified that tariffs were not directly discussed. Instead, the leaders exchanged views on the reasons Trump had given for considering the tariffs.

"We are going to keep having conversations," Sheinbaum said, emphasizing the willingness of both sides to engage in ongoing dialogue. She described the tone of the call as friendly and constructive, underlining their mutual agreement to maintain a good relationship moving forward.



The proposed tariffs, which Trump had previously threatened to impose on Mexican and Canadian goods, had sparked concerns among businesses and trade officials, as they could potentially disrupt the US-Mexico-Canada trade agreement (USMCA), a pact Trump signed into law during his first term. The agreement, which governs a significant portion of trade between the three countries, is due for review in 2026.

While tariffs were not a central topic of the conversation, Sheinbaum's remarks suggest a shift toward diplomacy and cooperation rather than confrontation. This phone call between the two leaders could signal a move toward de-escalating trade tensions and focusing on the broader relationship between the two neighboring nations.

## Kim Jong Un Reaffirms North Korea's Support for Russia's War in Ukraine

North Korean leader Kim Jong Un reaffirmed his country's unwavering support for Russia's war in Ukraine during a meeting with Russian Defence Minister Andrei Belousov, as reported by North Korea's state media on Saturday. The meeting, which took place on Friday, is part of growing concerns over the expanding cooperation between North Korea and Russia, particularly after reports that North Korea sent thousands of troops to Russia last month.

Kim and Belousov reportedly reached a "satisfactory consensus" on strengthening their strategic partnership, with a focus on defending their respective countries' sovereignty, security interests, and international justice amidst evolving global security challenges. Kim expressed his commitment to supporting Russia's efforts to defend its sovereignty and territorial integrity, particularly in opposition to what



both Moscow and Pyongyang characterize as NATO's aggressive eastward expansion and US-led efforts to undermine Russia's position.

In his remarks, Kim criticized the US decision earlier in November to

allow Ukraine to strike Russian targets with US-supplied long-range missiles, calling it a direct intervention in the conflict. He further praised Russia's recent strikes on Ukraine, describing them as "timely and effective measures" that show-

cased Russia's resolve.

North Korean support for Russia's invasion of Ukraine has been consistent, with both countries framing the conflict as a defensive response to Western hegemony. Reports from US, Ukrainian, and South Korean officials suggest that North Korea has sent over 10,000 troops to Russia, with some already participating in combat on the frontlines. Additionally, North Korea has allegedly provided Russia with artillery, missiles, and other conventional weapons to replenish its dwindling stockpiles.

While both North Korea and Russia have denied these reports, the growing military collaboration between the two nations has sparked international concern, particularly over the possibility that Russia could offer North Korea advanced weapons technology in exchange for military support.



## India's vision is to become world's most efficient, trusted trade hub: Revenue secy

India is focused on becoming the world's most efficient and trusted trade hub by increasing the participation of Authorized Economic Operators (AEOs), expanding integrated free zones, and implementing innovative policies, according to Revenue Secretary Sanjay Malhotra. Speaking at the Global AEO Conference, Malhotra highlighted the country's ambition to set new standards in trade facilitation and global connectivity.



Malhotra emphasized that technology and trust are the cornerstones of India's revenue department. He pointed out that the expansion of the Mutual Recognition Agreement (MRA) programme, which facilitates greater collaboration with regional and bilateral partners, is a key element of this vision.

Furthermore, Malhotra announced that India aims to make all services available online and electronic at ports, ensuring seamless operations at all times. Of India's 20 major ports, 17 are already fully automated, marking significant progress in trade facilitation.

"India is actively adopting technology in both direct and indirect tax administration," Malhotra stated, noting that most services are now available online, including appeals, refunds, and payments. This digital shift is part of a broader effort to modernize the country's trade processes, making them more efficient and transparent.

India's ongoing efforts to expand the scope of AEO participation, strengthen free trade zones, and embrace cutting-edge technology reflect the country's commitment to enhancing its role in global trade. With a focus on trust-building and regional cooperation, the nation is positioning itself to lead in international commerce and logistics.

## India Set to Lead Asia in Oil and Gas Pipeline Additions by 2028

India is poised to become the dominant force in oil and gas transmission pipeline expansions in Asia by 2028, according to a new report by GlobalData, a leading data and analytics firm. The country is expected to account for more than 40% of the region's total pipeline length additions over the next five years.



The report highlights that India will see the commissioning of over 50 planned and announced pipelines by 2028, which will collectively add more than 26,000 kilometers of transmission pipeline length. Approximately 24,000 kilometers of this addition will come from pipelines that have already secured the necessary approvals for development.

A significant portion of the upcoming pipeline additions will be natural gas and product pipelines, which will make up more than 80% of the new infrastructure in India. One of the most notable projects is the Kandla-Gorakhpur product pipeline, which will be the longest among all upcoming pipelines in India, stretching 2,809 kilometers. Expected to begin operations in 2025, the pipeline will help meet the increasing demand for LPG in Gujarat, Madhya Pradesh, and Uttar Pradesh.

Another key project is the Mehsana-Bhatinda natural gas pipeline, which will span 1,834 kilometers. Operated by GSPL India Gasnet Ltd, this pipeline is also slated to become operational by 2025. Additionally, the Mumbai-Nagpur-Jharsuguda natural gas pipeline, measuring 1,755 kilometers, will contribute significantly to the country's pipeline network. Managed by GAIL (India) Ltd, this pipeline is expected to begin operations in 2025 as well.

These additions are part of India's broader strategy to expand its energy infrastructure to meet the growing demand for natural gas and petroleum products, supporting economic growth and energy security in the region. With these projects, India is set to play a leading role in shaping the future of oil and gas transmission in Asia.

Another key project is the Mehsana-Bhatin-

## India's Forex Reserves Drop by \$1.31 Billion Amid Continued Decline

India's foreign exchange reserves saw a further dip of \$1.31 billion, reaching \$656.582 billion during the week ending November 22, according to the latest data from the Reserve Bank of India (RBI). This follows a significant drop of \$17.761 billion in the previous week, ending November 15.



The country's forex reserves had peaked at a record \$704.885 billion at the end of September. However, they have been on a steady decline in recent weeks, a trend that has coincided with increasing pressure on the Indian rupee. The continued drop in reserves is raising concerns as it reflects a combination of factors, including changes in global financial markets and domestic economic challenges.

Experts suggest that the decline in forex reserves is linked to a variety of factors, including the RBI's interventions to stabilize the rupee and address global market volatility. The rupee has faced increasing pressure against the dollar, which has compounded the situation.

back, India's forex reserves remain at a relatively healthy level compared to historical norms, but the trend of decline raises concerns over the stability of the currency and the potential impact on the broader economy.

The decline in reserves comes at a time when the global economic landscape remains uncertain, with inflationary pressures and shifts in market sentiment affecting currencies and reserves across emerging economies. Despite the set-

The RBI continues to monitor the situation, using its reserves to mitigate volatility in the foreign exchange market. However, economists are closely watching the trajectory of both the rupee and the reserves as signs of broader economic challenges in India and the global environment unfold.

## Reliance Industries Tops 2024 Wizikey News Score as India's Most Visible Corporate

Reliance Industries has once again emerged as India's most visible corporate entity, according to the 2024 Wizikey News Score rankings. The conglomerate, which is recognized as the largest corporate in India by revenue, profit, market value, and social impact, continues to dominate the media landscape, outshining key players in various sectors such as FMCG, banking, and finance.



With a remarkable score of 97.43 out of 100, Reliance Industries has reinforced its position at the top of the rankings, maintaining its lead for the fifth consecutive year since the inception of the Wizikey News Score. The company's visibility in the media has significantly surpassed even major firms in highly competitive sectors. Its news presence is not just high in volume but also reaches a vast audience across a variety of platforms.

84.9 in 2021. This growth highlights the company's strategic focus on strengthening its media outreach and staying relevant in an increasingly digital and fast-paced media environment.

Wizikey's News Score is a comprehensive measure of media visibility, which takes into account several factors, including the volume of news coverage, headline presence, the reach of publications, and readership. Reliance Industries' media footprint is impressive, with consistent and substantial coverage across national and international outlets. This high level of visibility reflects the company's continued prominence in both business and societal conversations, contributing to its strong influence on the public discourse.

Reliance's sustained dominance is a testament to its diversified operations and impactful initiatives across industries such as energy, retail, telecommunications, and media. The company has been at the forefront of shaping India's economic landscape, with significant investments in new technologies, sustainability, and innovation. As a result, its media presence continues to be a reflection of its substantial role in the nation's growth and development.

The company's ability to maintain and even improve its media presence over the years is evident in the steady rise in its News Score. In 2023, Reliance scored 96.46, up from 92.56 in 2022 and

In conclusion, Reliance Industries' achievement in topping the 2024 Wizikey News Score is not just a reflection of its business success but also its deepening connection with the media and the public. Its continued dominance in the rankings underscores the importance of corporate visibility in today's media-driven world and positions Reliance as a leader in both business and social impact.

## State Bank of India Launches Nationwide Drive to Promote Inoperative Account Activation

The State Bank of India (SBI) has launched a nationwide initiative aimed at raising awareness about the activation of inoperative accounts. In a statement issued on Saturday, the bank clarified that savings or current accounts are considered inoperative if there has been no transaction in the account for over two years. The drive focuses on encouraging customers to regularly activate their accounts and ensure they remain active.



To reactivate these accounts, customers must complete the Re-KYC (Know Your Customer) process, a critical step in complying with regulatory requirements and ensuring seamless transactions. SBI highlighted that regular transactions in accounts are essential not only for keeping them operational but also for preventing them from being classified as inoperative. The bank has emphasized that customers must be aware of the importance of maintaining their accounts in active status to avoid unnecessary complications.

The nationwide campaign will target customers with dormant accounts, helping them navigate the Re-KYC process and providing the necessary guidance to keep their accounts active. The bank's outreach efforts are expected to have a significant impact, especially among underbanked and rural populations, where awareness of account activity requirements may be lower.

SBI also highlighted the role of digital tools in facilitating the activation of these accounts. By leveraging its extensive network of branches, ATMs, and mobile banking services, the bank aims to simplify the process for customers, ensuring that they can complete their KYC updates and resume regular account transactions without hassle.

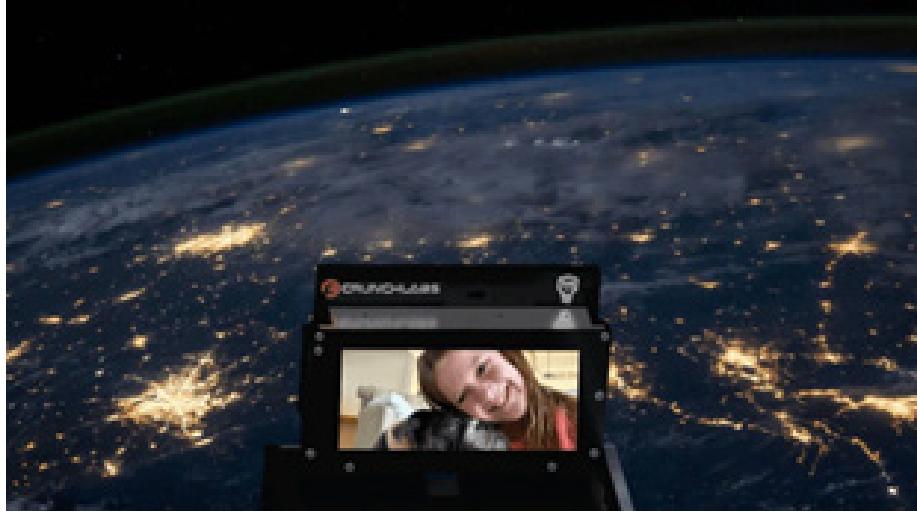
SBI's Chairman, C S Setty, underlined the importance of executing the Re-KYC process effectively, stating that it is vital to keep accounts linked to the Pradhan Mantri Jan Dhan Yojana (PMJDY) in active status. The PMJDY accounts are crucial for providing fi-

nanacial inclusion to millions of unbanked citizens in India, and keeping these accounts active is essential for ensuring that beneficiaries can access and manage their funds without disruptions. He urged Business Correspondents (BCs) to use technology and their outreach networks to assist customers in completing the Re-KYC process and activating dormant accounts.

This initiative aligns with SBI's broader efforts to enhance financial inclusion and ensure that all customers, particularly those with PMJDY accounts, have uninterrupted access to banking services. Through its nationwide drive, the bank hopes to foster a better understanding of account activity requirements and empower more customers to take control of their financial health.

## Mark Rober Teams Up with Google to Launch Satellite for Earth Selfies

Mark Rober, the former NASA engineer and popular YouTube content creator, is making waves once again with an exciting new venture. Known for his viral creations, including an obstacle course for squirrels and the world's largest Super Soaker, Rober is now launching a satellite that will allow people to take selfies with Earth from space.



In collaboration with Google and US-based telecommunications provider T-Mobile, Rober's satellite aims to bring a new perspective on our planet. The groundbreaking project combines technology with Rober's passion for science and innovation, offering users a unique opportunity to capture personal photos of themselves with Earth in the background, all from space.

Rober's reputation for combining engineering with entertainment is well-known on his YouTube channel, where he often showcases intricate and entertaining experiments. His previous projects, such as glitter-bombing porch pirates, have garnered millions of views and contributed to his wide-reaching influence.

The satellite, a significant technological achievement, is set to be a game-changer for space exploration enthusiasts and

photography lovers alike. By leveraging the power of T-Mobile's extensive network and Google's technological expertise, Rober's satellite will provide an accessible, interactive experience for users looking to create unforgettable Earth selfies.

This venture comes as part of a growing trend in the commercialization of space exploration, where private companies and collaborations between tech giants are making space more accessible to the public. With this innovative initiative, Rober is not only pushing the boundaries of what's possible in space technology but also bringing a sense of fun and creativity to space exploration.

As the project unfolds, it promises to further solidify Mark Rober's position as one of the most influential science communicators, continuing his legacy of combining learning and entertainment. This satellite is just the latest in a series of ambitious endeavors from Rober, and it's clear he's only getting started in his mission to inspire the next generation of scientists and innovators.

## Viral Video Shows Influencer Preparing Thanksgiving Turkey in a Toilet

Social media is no stranger to unusual food experiments, from creative chocolate rasgullas to bizarre Maggi recipes. Some trends fascinate and inspire, while others leave us questioning common kitchen practices. One such viral video that has raised eyebrows features Instagram influencer @katiwilltryanything preparing a Thanksgiving turkey—but not in a kitchen. Instead, she opts for an unexpected and shocking location: her toilet.



The video, shared on November 27, shows the influencer using a whole turkey along with vegetables, fruits, and seasoning to prepare the dish in her toilet. The unusual approach begins with her placing the skinned turkey inside the toilet bowl. She then stuffs the bird with a combination of onions, oranges, and celery sticks. For added flavor, the influencer seasons the turkey with what appears to be garlic powder.

Once the turkey is prepped, she transfers it onto a baking tray, adding a generous amount of butter inside the cavity. Following this, she places the turkey into an oven to roast, monitoring it until it turns a perfect golden brown. Throughout the video, the influencer adds a disclaimer in her caption, saying, "When it's your turn to make Thanksgiv-

ing dinner, but you don't know what you're doing... also don't freak out, germs are killed at 140 degrees. I cooked this at 300."

Though the video seems to take a humorous and lighthearted approach to Thanksgiving cooking, it has left many viewers questioning the sanitation of using a toilet for food preparation. While she reassures viewers that the turkey was cooked at a high enough temperature to kill any bacteria, the experiment has sparked a wide range of reactions online.

Despite the questionable choice of location, the influencer's video continues to gain attention, proving that in the world of food trends, there are no limits to what can go viral.

## WhatsApp Introduces New Sticker Sharing Feature for Beta Testers

WhatsApp has recently rolled out an exciting new feature for beta testers, enabling users to share their installed sticker packs with others. This update is available for users on both iOS and Android who have downloaded the latest beta versions of the app. With this feature, users can now choose a sticker pack from their collection and share it with a WhatsApp contact, allowing them to install the same pack on their own device.



The new feature, spotted by feature tracker WABetaInfo, relies on links to share sticker packs. After updating to WhatsApp Beta for Android version 2.24.25.2 (or newer) via the Google Play beta program, or WhatsApp Beta for iOS version 24.24.10.72 through TestFlight, beta testers can access this option directly in the sticker section. A new three-dot button will appear next to each sticker pack, giving users two options: "Send" and "Remove."

When a user selects the "Send" option, WhatsApp generates a link for the chosen sticker pack. The user can then select the recipient from their contact list, and once the "Send" button is pressed, the recipient will receive the link, allowing them to easily download and install the same sticker pack on their phone. This is a convenient way to share fun and personalized stickers without

having to manually transfer files.

In addition to the sticker-sharing feature, WhatsApp has also started allowing some beta testers to add messages when forwarding content. This change will make it easier for users to provide context when forwarding media or messages to others, enhancing communication and clarity on the platform.

The sticker-sharing feature is currently in the testing phase, and it may take some time before it becomes available to all users. However, it marks a notable step in enhancing WhatsApp's customization options, particularly for users who enjoy expressing themselves through personalized stickers.

## Chinese Scientists Race to Protect Potatoes from Climate Change Threats

Chinese scientists are urgently working to safeguard potatoes, a key global food crop, from the growing impacts of climate change. Research conducted by the International Potato Center (CIP) in Beijing has highlighted concerning findings that rising temperatures are drastically reducing potato yields. Simulated future climate conditions revealed that potatoes grown in such environments weighed less than half of typical varieties, stressing the need for immediate adaptation strategies.

The study, published in the *Climate Smart Agriculture* journal, is part of a three-year project led by molecular biologist Li Jieping. It showed that potatoes cultivated under temperatures 3°C higher than current averages in Hebei and Inner Mongolia experienced a more than 50% reduction in yield. While the potatoes grew faster, this accelerated growth came at the cost of size and weight, raising alarms about food security in China, the world's largest producer of potatoes.

Farmers in regions like Inner Mongolia are already grappling with the effects of climate change, such as unpredictable rainfall patterns, which are delaying harvests and aggravating crop diseases. Wang

Shiyi, a manager at Hebei Jiuen Agricultural Development Company, noted that heavy rains this year have significantly disrupted harvest efforts. Moreover, diseases like late blight, which thrive in warm and humid conditions, have become more resistant to traditional control methods.

In response to these challenges, Chinese researchers are employing cutting-edge techniques like aeroponics and genetic studies to create potato varieties that are heat-resistant and disease-tolerant. At a research facility in Yanqing, Beijing, scientists are propagating potato plantlets under controlled conditions, exploring ways to ensure long-term crop resilience.

Li Jieping emphasized that altering farming practices, such as changing planting seasons or shifting cultivation to higher altitudes, may be necessary in the coming decade to reduce yield losses. Without immediate intervention, researchers warn that both potato prices and farmers' livelihoods could face severe consequences as global temperatures continue to rise.

## Mining Could Have Drastic Impact on Water and Environment, Says Study

A recent study conducted by researchers at Duke University's Nicholas School of the Environment has revealed concerning water quality impacts linked to a historic lithium mine in North Carolina, near Kings Mountain. Led by Avner Vengosh, a Distinguished Professor of Environmental Quality, the research examines the elevated levels of lithium, rubidium, and cesium found in local waters near the mine site. The findings, published in *Science of the Total Environment*, offer valuable insights into how abandoned lithium mines can affect nearby water resources.

The study uncovered that while common contaminants like arsenic, lead, copper, and nickel

remained below the thresholds set by the U.S. Environmental Protection Agency (EPA), significant concentrations of lithium and rarer metals such as rubidium and cesium were detected in both groundwater and surface water. These elements are not federally regulated, and their presence in such quantities is unusual for natural water sources in the area.

According to Gordon Williams, the study's lead author and a PhD student at Duke University, the results raise concerns about the potential environmental and health implications of these metals. However, laboratory simulations showed that waste materials from the historic mine did not contribute to acidic runoff, which



is typically a concern with mining operations, such as those related to coal extraction.

The study's findings also underscore the gaps in

understanding the environmental impacts of current lithium extraction methods. While the research focused on the legacy mine's effects, Vengosh noted that active lithium extraction and processing methods—often involving chemical treatments—could pose new risks to water quality in the area if mining resumes.

In light of these findings, the researchers are now expanding their study to assess drinking water quality in lithium-rich areas across North Carolina. By analyzing both private wells and surface water, the team hopes to further understand the long-term effects of lithium mining on local water systems and inform future environmental management practices.

## PV Sindhu and Crasto-Kapila Reach Finals at Syed Modi International

Two-time Olympic medallist PV Sindhu cruised into the women's singles final at the Syed Modi International Super 300 badminton tournament in Lucknow on Saturday, securing a commanding straight-game victory. Sindhu, the tournament's top seed, defeated compatriot Unnati Hooda 21-12, 21-9 in just 36 minutes in the first women's singles semifinal. Sindhu will now face the winner of the second semifinal between Thailand's Lalinnat Chaiwan and China's Luo Yu Wu.



Earlier in the day, India's mixed doubles pair Tanisha Crasto and Dhruv Kapila advanced to the final with a straight-game victory over Chinese duo Zhi Hong Zhou and Jia Yi Yang. The fifth-seeded Indian pair triumphed 21-16, 21-15 in a 42-minute match, booking their spot in the final. They will now await the outcome of the other semifinal, which will see China's Pin Yi Liao/Ke Xin Huang facing the sixth-seeded Thai duo Dechapol Puavaranukroh/Supissara Paewsampran.

In the women's doubles competition, India's Treesa Jolly and Ashwini Ponnappa are set to

take on the Chinese pair Li Jing Bao and Qian Li in their semifinal. Meanwhile, star men's singles player Lakshya Sen will compete against Japan's Shogo Ogawa for a place in the final. In the men's doubles, Indian pair Pruthvi Krishnamurthy Roy and Sai Pratheek K will face off against compatriots Ishaan Bhatnagar and Sankar Prasad Udayakumar in their semifinal match.

With several Indian players advancing to the finals and semifinal stages across multiple categories, the Syed Modi International continues to showcase the strong performance of Indian badminton talent.

## Pakistan's Crucial Decision on Champions Trophy: Hybrid Mode and Final in Lahore

Pakistan has made a significant decision regarding its participation in the upcoming Champions Trophy, agreeing to operate in a "hybrid mode" for the tournament. This decision comes amid ongoing discussions about the location of the event, especially in the context of Pakistan's stance on future matches in India.



One of the key demands put forward by Pakistan is that the final of the Champions Trophy be held in Lahore, their home city. This proposal aligns with Pakistan's desire to host major international cricket events on their own soil. The country's cricket board has been pushing for the final to take place in Lahore, citing the city's modern infrastructure and the potential to enhance the profile of cricket in Pakistan.

However, the most significant point of contention revolves around the venue for matches between Pakistan and India. Pakistan has expressed that if they are required to play in India during the tournament, they will continue to play in "hybrid mode." This mode would allow matches to be played in neutral venues or be shifted to locations outside of India, ensuring that Pakistan's players and officials are comfortable and secure.

The decision to adopt this hybrid model comes after much deliberation and reflects Pakistan's concerns regarding political tensions and security issues between the two countries. The Pakistan Cricket Board (PCB) has made it clear that they will not compromise on the security and comfort of their players and officials.

The International Cricket Council (ICC) is expected to provide clarity on the matter within the next day or two. The ICC's response will be crucial in determining how the tournament is structured and whether Pakistan's demands will be met. This ongoing negotiation is one of the most closely followed developments in international cricket, as the outcome could set a precedent for future events between the two rival nations.

## Controversial VAR Decision Denies Southampton Victory Against Brighton

Southampton were denied a crucial victory in their Premier League clash with Brighton on Friday due to a controversial VAR decision. After Flynn Downes' equalizer canceled out Kaoru Mitoma's first-half opener for Brighton, Cameron Archer thought he had given Southampton the lead with a well-taken goal. However, after more than four minutes of VAR deliberation, the goal was disallowed. While Archer was judged to be onside, Adam Armstrong was penalized for being offside during the buildup, despite not touching the ball. The VAR officials determined that Armstrong's position interfered with play, a decision that left Southampton manager Russell Martin frustrated.

The decision meant Southampton had to settle for a 1-1 draw, their first away point of the season. They remain at the bottom of the Premier League table, four points away from safety. The result also saw Brighton move up to second in the standings, ahead of Manchester City on alphabetical order, pending their Sunday clash with leaders Liverpool.



Brighton dominated the first half, with Georginio Rutter hitting the post and Mitoma squandering a major chance early on. Brighton's persistence paid off in the 30th minute when Mitoma headed in Tariq Lamptey's cross to give them a 1-0 lead. Southampton responded in the second half, with teenager Tyler Dibling setting up Armstrong, whose shot was blocked but eventually led to Downes' goal from the edge of the box, leveling the score.

The drama continued when Dibling created another chance for Archer, whose finish seemed to give Southampton the lead. However, the VAR decision denied them the goal, leaving Martin to question the reasoning behind the disallowance. "I'm fed up talking about decisions," said Martin, expressing disbelief over how Armstrong's position could have influenced the goalkeeper's actions.

The VAR review caused 13 minutes of added time, during which Brighton nearly grabbed a late winner, but Southampton held firm to secure a point.

## Tom Davies' Late Goal Lifts Sheffield United to Top of Championship

Sheffield United surged to the top of the Championship with a 1-0 win over promotion contenders Sunderland on Friday, thanks to a late strike from Tom Davies. The match was a tense affair, with both teams reduced to 10 men late in the first half and Sunderland missing a crucial penalty. The result leaves Sunderland without a win in six games, while Sheffield United moves three points clear at the top of the table.



The game started with Sunderland having a golden opportunity to take the lead early on when Patrick Roberts was awarded a penalty. However, goalkeeper Michael Cooper made a fantastic save, diving to his left to deny Roberts' spot-kick, keeping the score level. The visitors' hopes were dashed even further five minutes before halftime when Chris Mepham was shown a red card for denying Tyrese Campbell a clear goalscoring opportunity.

Despite being reduced to 10 men, Sunderland remained determined, and in first-half stoppage time, Sheffield United also found themselves a man down. Harry Souttar received a second yellow card for a foul on Wilson Isidor, ensuring both teams would start the second half with a numerical disadvantage.

The second half saw both teams push for a breakthrough, but it was Sheffield United who capitalized on the pressure. In the 83rd minute, Tom Davies came off the bench and made an immediate impact. He won possession inside the Sunderland box before calmly slotting the ball past goalkeeper Anthony Patterson, giving Sheffield United all three points.

The defeat leaves Sunderland still in fourth place, but they are now five points off the top of the Championship. Sheffield United, meanwhile, sits at the summit, three points ahead of Leeds, who will have the chance to reclaim the top spot when they face Blackburn on Saturday.

## South Africa Moves to 2nd in WTC Standings After Win Over Sri Lanka

South Africa climbed to second place in the 2023-25 World Test Championship (WTC) standings on Saturday following an impressive 233-run victory over Sri Lanka in the first Test of their two-match series in Durban. The Proteas' dominant performance propelled them past Sri Lanka, New Zealand, and Australia in the points table, with their points percentage (PCT) jumping from 54.17 to 59.25.



South Africa's comprehensive win over Sri Lanka sees them in a strong position to secure a top finish in the ongoing WTC cycle. With three Tests remaining — one against Sri Lanka and two against Pakistan at home next month — the Proteas are poised to make a strong push for a place in the final. Their victory in Durban was built on a solid all-around performance, with both bat and ball contributing to their commanding triumph.

The win also highlighted South Africa's consistency and resilience in the longer format, particularly with key performances from their batting and bowling departments. The team will be looking to maintain this momentum as they head into the second Test of the series and their upcoming fixtures against Pakistan.

As the WTC 2023-25 cycle progresses, South Africa's rise to second in the points table is a significant step toward their goal of reaching the final. With just a few matches remaining for several teams, the battle for a top position is set to intensify, and the Proteas will be determined to secure crucial points in their upcoming Tests.



## Mouni Roy Steals the Spotlight at GQ India Event with Stunning Golden Gown

Mouni Roy, the actress, model, and entrepreneur, captivated the audience at the GQ India event with her dazzling presence. Embracing her glamorous persona, Mouni turned heads as she graced the red carpet in a striking golden sleeveless gown. The dress featured a daring thigh-high slit, adding an element of boldness, while its backless design showcased her confident and elegant style.

The actress complemented the gown with a pair of chic strappy heels, making a statement in every step she took. She accessorized with long gold earrings, which perfectly matched the hue of her gown, adding a touch of sophistication to her ensemble. Mouni's sleek braided hairstyle further enhanced her flawless look, completing the ensemble with an air of modern elegance.

Known for her impeccable fashion sense, Mouni's appearance at the star-studded event was a true reflection of her status as a style icon. Her poised and graceful demeanor effortlessly drew attention, and she became the center of admiration throughout the evening.

Mouni Roy's ensemble was more than just a fashion statement; it was a testament to her bold, confident approach to style and her ability to light up any occasion. As she made her way through the event, she left an indelible impression, confirming once again that she is a force to be reckoned with in both the entertainment and fashion worlds.

## Divyendu Sharma Joins Ram Charan's 'RC16' as Key Character

In an exciting update for movie buffs, it has been confirmed that Divyendu Sharma, widely known for his portrayal of Munna Bhaiya in the popular web series 'Mirzapur', will be playing a significant role in Ram Charan's upcoming film, tentatively titled 'RC16'. Directed by Buchibabu Sana, known for his success with 'Uppena', the film is shaping up to be an exciting sports drama set against the rural backdrop of Uttarandhra. Produced by Sukumar Writings and Vriddhi Cinemas under the banner of Mythri Movie Makers, 'RC16' is already creating a buzz among fans.



ya in 'Mirzapur' gained him widespread recognition, and the film's team believes his strong screen presence will be a major asset for 'RC16'.

Ram Charan, who is a global star, plays the lead role in this film, which will explore the world of sports in a rural setting. Joining him in a pivotal role is Janhvi Kapoor, who will be paired opposite Charan. Renowned composer A.R. Rahman has been roped in to provide the music, promising an unforgettable soundtrack that will complement the film's theme.

Fans are eagerly awaiting the collaboration of such an impressive ensemble of talent. With the combination of Ram Charan's star power, Divyendu Sharma's intensity, and the direction of Buchibabu Sana, 'RC16' is poised to become one of the most anticipated films of the year. Keep an eye out for more updates as production progresses and the film's release date draws closer.

The film's shooting has commenced in Karnataka, with the puja rituals already completed, marking the official start of production. Director Buchibabu Sana took to social media to announce Divyendu Sharma's casting, sharing a new poster that generated immediate excitement. Divyendu's performance as Munna Bhai-

## Pawan Kalyan Joins Final Schedule of 'Hari Hara Veera Mallu' Shoot

The much-anticipated film 'Hari Hara Veera Mallu', starring Power Star Pawan Kalyan, is finally nearing completion after several years of delays. Initially launched before the COVID-19 pandemic, the film faced multiple hurdles, but it is now in the final stages of production. The makers recently shared exciting news: Pawan Kalyan has joined the sets to kick off the film's last shooting schedule.

ing over the reins as the director. The film's music is being composed by the renowned MM Keeravani, ensuring a memorable soundtrack for this period drama. Nidhhi Agerwal plays the female lead, adding to the star-studded cast. Produced by A. Dayakar Rao, 'Hari Hara Veera Mallu' is slated for a worldwide release on March 28, 2025, and fans are eagerly awaiting its arrival in theaters.

The production house, Mega Surya Productions, took to social media to announce the update, posting, "Our Chief, our #HariHaraVeeraMallu @PawanKalyan garu has joined the shoot TODAY! More exciting updates coming your way soon. See you all in theaters on 28th March 2025!" The post also featured a new still of Pawan Kalyan, adding to the buzz surrounding the film's release.

Set in a historical backdrop, the film promises an exciting mix of action, drama, and a compelling narrative, with Pawan Kalyan's larger-than-life persona expected to captivate audiences. As the final shooting schedule begins, expectations are high for the film's grand release. The team is working tirelessly to ensure everything is in place for a spectacular cinematic experience.

Originally directed by Krish, the film has now seen a change in leadership, with Jyoti Krishna tak-

With the last stretch of filming underway, 'Hari Hara Veera Mallu' is gearing up to be one of the most awaited films of 2025.



## Venkatesh's 'Sankranti Aaynaam' First Single: A Nostalgic Hit

Tollywood's beloved hero, Victory Venkatesh, is all set to entertain fans with his upcoming film 'Sankranti Aaynaam', a blend of action and comedy, directed by the celebrated Anil Ravipudi. Featuring the talented Meenakshi Chowdhury and the young actress Aishwarya Rajesh as the leading lady, the film has generated a lot of buzz, and fans are eagerly awaiting its release. As the excitement builds, the makers have decided to release the film's first single, creating even more anticipation for the project.

What makes this first single even more special is the involvement of the legendary music director, Gaikudu Ramana Gogu, who brings his vintage touch



The full version of the song will be officially released on December 3, and fans are eagerly looking forward to it. The film's music is being composed by Bheems, known for his energetic compositions, while the movie is being produced by the renowned Dil Raju.

to the track. When the promo of the song was released, it was clear that Ramana Gogu's iconic voice has the power to transport listeners back to the golden era of music. The track, titled 'Godari Gattu', has already captured the hearts of fans, promising a nostalgic musical experience.

With such a talented team behind it, 'Sankranti Aaynaam' is shaping up to be a memorable addition to Tollywood's lineup. Fans can expect a perfect blend of action, comedy, and melodious music that will keep them entertained from start to finish. As the first single drops, it's clear that 'Sankranti Aaynaam' will be a film to watch out for this season.

## Varun Tej's 'Matka' Set for OTT Release After Theatrical Debut

Varun Tej's latest film 'Matka', which has been dubbed the biggest flop of his career, is making an early transition to OTT. Despite only releasing recently, the film will be available for streaming on Amazon Prime Video starting December 5, just a few weeks after its theatrical release. This quick shift to digital platforms highlights the film's poor reception and the struggles faced by the actor in recent years.

Varun Tej, known for his early hits like 'Fidaa' and 'Tholiprema', has seen his career take a downturn in recent times. His films 'Operation Valentine', 'Gandiva Dhari Arjuna', and 'Gaani' all failed to perform well at the box office, and 'Matka' has continued this trend, marking another setback in his journey. Critics and

audiences alike have expressed disappointment, with the film failing to recover even its modest production budget.

Directed by Karuna Kumar, who had a successful outing with 'Palasa 1978', 'Matka' was expected to be a turning point for Varun Tej. However, the film has been widely panned for its lackluster story and execution. Produced by Vijender Reddy Thigala and Rajani Talluri, 'Matka' features Meenakshi Chaudhary as the female lead, but even her performance couldn't salvage the film's fortunes.

The decision to release 'Matka' on Am-



azon Prime Video just a few weeks after its theatrical release further underscores the lackluster box-office performance. The film will be available in multiple languages, including Telugu, Tamil, Malayalam, Kannada, and Hindi, broadening its accessibility for viewers across different regions. Despite the early digital release, the film's poor reception means it has become another addition to Varun Tej's recent string of career setbacks.

As the actor looks to recover from this disappointment, fans will be hoping for better choices in the future, with a renewed focus on scripts and roles that can help him regain his footing in the competitive industry.