



**Weather Forecast**

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

# HOT & SWEET

## Revanth's First Year: Big Promises, Small Imprints

### Positives

- Introduction of free bus rides for women, enhancing accessibility and promoting gender equality.
- Provision of free LPG cylinders, alleviating financial burden on families.
- Farm loan waiver program benefiting farmers although there have been challenges in implementation.
- Vision for a Future City, aimed at boosting urban development and attracting investments.
- HYDRAA initiative was a promising step for urban development.

### Negatives

- Many of the "Six Guarantees" and election promises remain unmet, leading to dissatisfaction.
- Slow progress in key urban projects like Musi River beautification.
- Stagnation in Hyderabad's infrastructure and limited new investments.
- Poor communication handling of issues such as the caste survey and land acquisitions.
- Internal struggles within the Congress party, with key leaders not fully supporting Revanth Reddy's leadership.

**G. AVINASH | TPN , Hyderabad :** As Telangana Chief Minister Revanth Reddy marks his first year in office, the journey has been eventful but far from transformative. The expectations set during his election campaign, especially around his ambitious "Six Guarantees," remain largely unmet, leaving critics and citizens questioning the government's direction and effectiveness. In Telangana politics, the fulfillment of election promises is a critical

benchmark for success. Revanth Reddy's "Six Guarantees," which encompass thirteen specific pledges, were promised within 100 days of taking office. A year later, only four have seen partial implementation, and several flagship initiatives have sparked controversy. The Rythu Bandhu scheme has drawn significant criticism from farmers, while the loan waiver program has been marred by disputes over eligibility and implementation.

Key urban development projects like HYDRAA and the ₹1.5 lakh crore Musi River beautification plan have also drawn ire. HYDRAA's initial momentum, symbolized by the demolition of Nagarjuna's N-Convention Center, has since faltered amid allegations of selective targeting. The perception that the government is lenient toward influential individuals, including Revanth Reddy's own family, has further fueled discontent. Meanwhile, the Musi project,

instead of uplifting Hyderabad, has dampened investor confidence and slowed the real estate market. Hyderabad, the economic and cultural heart of Telangana, has seen little progress under Revanth Reddy's leadership. The city's infrastructure remains stagnant, and efforts to attract new investments have yet to yield results.



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## KTR Throwing NO BALL's at Revanth Reddy



**G. AVINASH | TPN, Hyderabad :** Since the defeat in the 2024 Telangana elections, KTR has found himself in a dilemma, trying to regain public attention with bold but often misguided remarks. His approach of targeting every issue without fully understanding how it will resonate with the public has made him come across as inconsistent. While the controversy surrounding the Lagacharla land acquisition has garnered some traction, KTR's statements have not had the desired impact.

Meanwhile, former CM KCR remains in his farmhouse, leaving KTR to struggle in the opposition role, a position he is unfamiliar with. As the first time in power slips away, KTR's attempts to hold the BRS party's ground are proving futile. His frequent outbursts and unpredictable approach to opposition politics have created more confusion than clarity. Instead of strategically focusing on one issue and resolving it, KTR's scattergun approach to criticism has left his credibility in question.

The Congress-led government under Revanth Reddy has certainly made mistakes, but KTR's continuous volley of remarks is not helping the situation. His attempts to damage the ruling party seem more like loose balls, allowing Congress to escape major setbacks. As BRS cadres lose ground and the BJP gains momentum, KTR's leadership is being questioned. His inability to handle the opposition role with maturity is making him appear as a small-time leader, rather than a formidable force.

In politics, it's essential for a leader to focus on a single issue and work towards its resolution rather than jumping from one topic to another without accomplishing anything. KTR's current strategy seems to lack this focus, and unless he changes his approach, the BRS might continue to lose its grip in Telangana.

## Minister Ponnam Invites KCR for Telangana Thalli Statue Unveiling

**TPN CORRESPONDENT, Hyderabad :** Minister Ponnam Prabhakar met former Telangana Chief Minister and BRS chief K. Chandrashekar Rao (KCR) at his Erravalli farmhouse to extend an invitation to the unveiling of the Telangana Thalli statue. The statue will be inaugurated on Monday, December 9, at the Secretariat premises. KCR warmly welcomed Minister Ponnam Prabhakar during the visit.

The Congress-led government is organizing the event, with Chief Minister Revanth Reddy and Minister Ponnam Prabhakar taking the lead in extending invitations to key figures. Apart from KCR, Union Ministers Kishan Reddy and Bandi Sanjay are also expected to receive formal invitations to the program.

The unveiling of the Telangana Thalli statue is seen as a significant event celebrating Telangana's culture and history.



## Has KCR Ever Played the Role of an Opposition Leader?

- It is not fitting for KCR to be elated if he wins... to be depressed if he loses.
- KCR went to the farmhouse as soon as he lost.

**TPN CORRESPONDENT, NALGONDA :** Has KCR ever played his role as an opposition leader during this year? Telangana CM Revanth Reddy said that during the BRS regime, they fought without hesitation if their MLAs were taken away. He stated that it is not fitting for KCR to be elated if he wins and depressed if he loses. He mentioned that even though he lost as an MLA in the past, he remained among the people and later won as an MP. But he

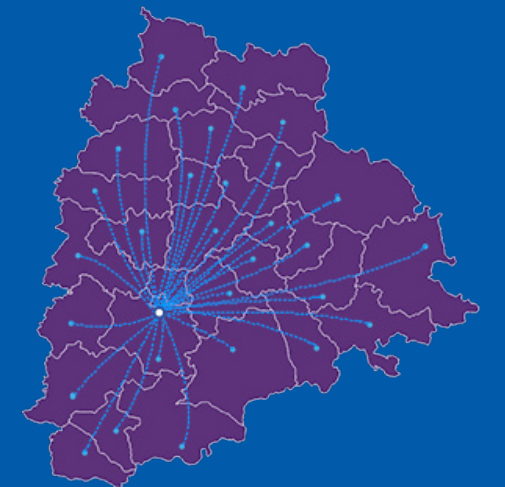
accused KCR of being depressed and going to his farmhouse once he lost. He spoke at the Congress victory rally held in Nalgonda.

He was upset that KCR had left the Gali batch behind. He questioned how the government would move forward if he did so. After Sankranti, they would invest in the farmer assurance funds... If money flows into farmers' accounts, the hearts of BRS leaders will beat like a drum.



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## Telangana to Roll Out 20 Mbps Internet for Rs. 300 via T-Fiber



## Shadnagar MLA withdraws comments against Velama community

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## HOT and SWEET

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Communication has emerged as a significant weakness for the government. The handling of sensitive issues like the caste survey and land acquisitions in Lagacharla has left the public confused and critical. Growing frustration among unemployed youth has led to protests, further compounding the challenges faced by the administration.

The first year of a new government is often considered a honeymoon period, but for Revanth Reddy, it has been a trial by fire. The opposition BRS Party has seized the opportunity to highlight shortcomings, amplifying the government's struggles. Within his own ranks, Revanth Reddy appears to lack full control over his cabinet. Senior leaders, apart from a few exceptions like Seethakka, seem hesitant to fully endorse his leadership, reflecting the Congress party's internal dynamics.

In the volatile landscape of Telugu politics, strong and decisive leadership is paramount. Revanth Reddy has yet to assert his authority and make a distinctive mark, both within his party and among the people. The coming year presents an opportunity for him to address these challenges, rebuild trust, and steer his government toward fulfilling its promises.

## Opposition Leader?

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He said that Nalgonda's role in the Telangana movement is unforgettable. He recalled that Srikanthachari, who sacrificed himself in the Telangana movement, was from Nalgonda district. He mentioned that when he stepped into Nalgonda, he remembered the armed peasant struggle. He pointed out that people thought that if Krishna water flowed in Nalgonda, the fluoride problem would be solved. He criticized that the projects started during the Congress rule were stalled during KCR's rule. He expressed frustration that more injustice was done to Nalgonda during KCR's rule than during the joint AP rule. He promised that Krishna water would be brought to Nalgonda and that the land would become fertile. He recalled that KCR had said in the past that if paddy is planted, it will be like hanging, but he gave a bonus of ₹500 along with the support price. He also stated that farmers are being paid for their paddy within three days. He mentioned that Telangana had set a record by producing the highest amount of paddy.

## Telangana to Roll Out 20 Mbps Internet for Rs. 300 via T-Fiber

- 20 Mbps internet for Rs. 300 with free phone and OTT services.
- T-Fiber is part of the central government's "Bharat Net" project.
- Launching in 2,096 villages with free connections to schools, offices, and CCTV networks.

**TPN CORRESPONDENT, Hyderabad :** The Telangana government is set to usher in a digital revolution with the launch of T-Fiber, a state-backed broadband service, on December 8. In its first phase, the service will be available in 2,096-gram panchayats across Narayanpet, Sangareddy, and Peddapalli districts, with plans to expand to the entire state in subsequent phases. Chief Minister Revanth Reddy will inaugurate the initiative tomorrow. T-Fiber is part of the central government's "Bharat Net" project, which aims to provide broadband connectivity to all villages across India. Telangana has received Rs. 2,500 crores under this scheme to establish a robust fibre network. Residents can avail high-speed internet at an affordable price of Rs. 300 per month, offering speeds of 20 Mbps. The package also includes free telephone service and access to select OTT platforms.

The initiative extends beyond households, with plans to connect schools, gram panchayat offices, and other government institutions in villages. Additionally, CCTV cameras will be installed at key junctions and linked to the Police Command Control Centre, enhancing security and surveillance across rural areas.

This move is expected to transform digital connectivity in Telangana, bridging the urban-rural divide and fostering greater access to education, services, and technology.

# CM Revanth Inaugurates 800 MW Unit 2 of Yadadri Thermal Power Station

**TPN CORRESPONDENT, Hyderabad :** Chief Minister A. Revanth Reddy on Saturday inaugurated the 800 MW Unit 2 of the Yadadri Thermal Power Station (YTPS), a 4,000 MW (5x800 MW) mega project by the Telangana Power Generation Corporation (TGGENCO) at Damaracherla in Nalgonda district. The project is poised to make Telangana a power-surplus state, marking a significant milestone in its energy infrastructure.



The YTPS, envisioned by former Chief Minister K. Chandrashekhara Rao, is the largest public-sector thermal plant in India. It was initiated shortly after Telangana's formation, reflecting an ambitious effort to address the state's energy needs. While delays were caused by the COVID-19

pandemic and environmental clearance hurdles, the project has steadily progressed.

Stages I and II of the thermal plant are already operational and connected to the grid. The remaining units are set to be completed by May 2025. Once fully operational, the plant will generate 4,000 MW across five

units, significantly bolstering Telangana's energy capacity.

The project's foundation stone was laid by Chandrashekhara Rao on June 8, 2015. Environmental clearance was granted on June 29, 2017, and work officially began on October 17, 2017, by BHEL. However, the project faced legal challenges when a

Mumbai-based NGO contested the clearance in the National Green Tribunal (NGT). The case was resolved with directives from the NGT, leading to further approvals and amendments to environmental clearances in November 2023. The inauguration ceremony saw the presence of Deputy Chief Minister Mallu Bhatti Vikramarka, Irrigation Minister N. Uttam Kumar Reddy, Health Minister C. Damodar Raja Narasimha, Energy Secretary Sandeep Kumar Sultania, and senior officials.

The Yadadri Thermal Power Station, once fully operational, is expected to cement Telangana's position as an energy-rich state, meeting growing demands and fostering economic growth.

## Phone Tapping Case

### HC Reserves Decision on Bail Plea of Ex Task Force Chief

**TPN CORRESPONDENT, Hyderabad :** The Telangana High Court has reserved its judgment on the bail petition of A. Radha Kishan Rao, a former chief of the Task Force and a retired police officer, who is currently in custody over allegations of phone tapping. The decision comes after hearing detailed arguments from both the defense and the prosecution.

#### Defense Arguments

Radha Kishan's counsel, Uma Maheswara Rao, argued that his client, being a retired officer later appointed as an Officer on Special Duty (OSD), should not face charges related to phone tapping. He asserted that the alleged seizure of hawala money did

not amount to criminal activity and contended that Radha Kishan was being unfairly targeted.

#### Prosecution's Stand

On the other hand, public prosecutor Pale Nageswar Rao opposed the bail plea, accusing Radha Kishan of significant involvement in illegal activities, including unauthorized phone tapping and misuse of his official position. The prosecutor alleged that Radha Kishan tapped over 5,000 phones in a short span and misused his role to facilitate the distribution of seized money.

The prosecution also linked Radha Kis-

han to frequent meetings with BRS leaders, including MLCs Venkatram Reddy and K. Kavitha, suggesting his activities were aligned more with political strategies than legitimate law enforcement. It was further highlighted that the Election Commission had previously directed the state to curtail Radha Kishan's involvement in election duties due to these allegations. Raising concerns about potential tampering with evidence or influencing witnesses if granted bail, the prosecution urged the court to deny the plea. After hearing arguments from both sides, Justice K. Sujana reserved her judgment on the bail application. A decision is expected in the coming days.

## TGEJAC Meets Telangana Dy CM, Presents 54 Employee-Related Issues

On Saturday, December 7, representatives of the Telangana Government Employees Joint Action Committee (TGEJAC) met Deputy Chief Minister Bhatti Vikramarka at Mahatma Jyotiba Phule Praja Bhavan to submit a representation highlighting 54 key demands.

The primary demand was to halt the implementation of the compensatory pension scheme (CPS) or the UPS proposed by the Centre and revert to the old pension scheme. The employees also urged the state government to address the issues of those who lost their local status due to Government Order (GO) 317, create supernumerary posts, and provide employment for the affected employees within their local zones.

Additionally, TGEJAC representatives called for the formation



of a state joint staff council or officers committee to resolve employee and pensioner issues, and sought official recognition for major employee unions. They also requested that the government refrain from extending the services of retired

employees to protect the interests of junior staff regarding promotions.

Other demands included the establishment of a nursing directorate, pensioners' directorate, outsourced workers' corpora-

tion, approval of time-scale for MGNREGS workers, payment of salaries to teachers at gurukul and model schools on the first of each month, and the regularization of contract and outsourced employees.

Deputy CM Bhatti Vikramarka assured the representatives that a cabinet sub-committee had been set up to address their concerns and that they would be invited to future meetings. He appreciated the employees for their role in successfully conducting the caste survey and emphasized the importance of their participation in devising the action plan.

Bhatti Vikramarka also encouraged the employees to attend the "Praja Palana Vijayotsavalu-Telangana Carnival" at Necklace Road, which was being held from December 7 to 9.

## Shadnagar MLA withdraws comments against Velama community



**TPN CORRESPONDENT, Hyderabad :** Shadnagar Congress MLA Veerlapally Shankariah withdrew his controversial remarks against the Velama community on Saturday, December 7, following widespread backlash.

Shankariah clarified his intent, stating, "My words were not meant to target the entire Velama community but to criticize the social dominance of the Kalvakuntla family. I regret my choice of words and withdraw my comments."

The controversy began on December 6, when a video surfaced of Shankariah threatening to attack the Velama community. The remark sparked outrage, with Bharat Rashtra Samithi (BRS) MLC K. Kavitha, a member of the Velama community, demanding clarity from Congress leadership on whether the comments represented their party's stance.

In response, Telangana Pradesh Congress Committee (TPCC) president Mahesh Kumar Goud sought an explanation from the MLA, leading to his retraction. The Velama community filed a police complaint in Jagtial, demanding an apology from Shankariah by Saturday evening and warning of protests if their concerns were not addressed. Community leaders criticized the remarks as an attempt to stir caste-based divisions and urged political leaders to reject such tactics.

The incident highlights rising tensions over caste-related rhetoric in Telangana politics, with calls for accountability and unity across party lines.

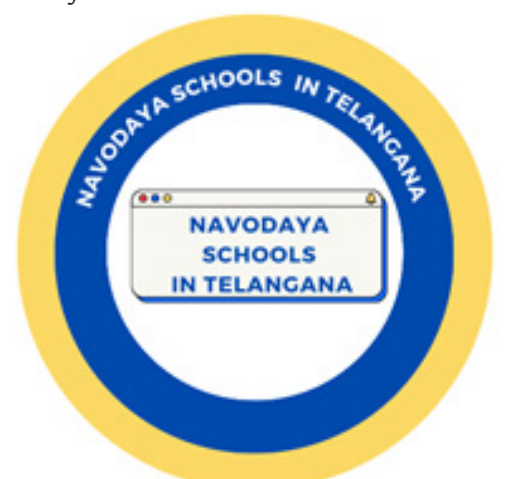
## Centre Approves Seven Navodaya Schools for TG

**TPN CORRESPONDENT, Hyderabad :** The Union Cabinet has approved the establishment of 28 new Jawahar Navodaya Vidyalayas (NVs) and 85 new Kendriya Vidyalayas (KVs) across India, with Telangana receiving approval for seven NVs. The schools will be set up in Jagtial, Nizamabad, Bhadradri-Kothagudem, Medchal-Malkajgiri, Mahbubnagar, Sangareddy, and Suryapet districts.

Telangana Chief Minister A. Revanth Reddy and Deputy Chief Minister Mallu Bhatti Vikramarka had earlier requested Prime Minister Narendra Modi to establish 24 NVs in the state during a meeting in July. While the approval falls short of the original request, it marks a significant step in improving access to quality education in the state.

The initiative is part of a nationwide effort to enhance educational infrastructure, focusing on providing quality education to talented stu-

dents from rural areas. The total funding for the newly approved schools is ₹2,359.82 crore for NVs and ₹5,872 crore for KVs. The new NVs are expected to accommodate approximately 15,680 students, while the KVs will provide education to over 82,000 students across the country.





## Opposition Leader?

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They appealed to farmers to cultivate sanna.

The Chief Minister said that a future city would be built within a stone's throw of the airport. BRS leaders said that they are not willing to do a Musi purge, but they demanded that the experienced KCR express his stance on the issue. They warned that if the purge is not done, they would face punishment.

### Advice to Kishan Reddy and Etala Rajender

BJP leaders Kishan Reddy and Etala Rajender said that they have only one thing to say: they should change their thinking. "If you make friends with those thieves... if you listen to those thieves, you will also become like them. If you get on the bandwagon of thieves, you will lose respect for yourself," they said. They mentioned that the government had waived off loans worth ₹21,000 crores in one year of rule, but questioned whether Prime Minister Modi or KCR had done the same.

## SC Fines Telangana Govt ₹1 Lakh Over Student Scholarship Delay

**TPN CORRESPONDENT, Hyderabad :** The Supreme Court has fined the Telangana government ₹1 lakh for delays in addressing a scholarship case under the Ambedkar Overseas Education Fund. The court directed the state to pay the fine within two weeks.

The case involved a student whose application for a ₹10 lakh scholarship was rejected by the state government, citing that the student's father's annual income exceeded ₹2 lakh. Challenging this decision, the father approached the High Court, which ruled in favor of the student and ordered the government to grant the scholarship for 2023.

However, the Telangana government filed a writ petition challenging the High Court's ruling after a delay of 161 days, which was dismissed on September 9. The state then appealed to the Supreme Court on October 19.

During the hearing before Justices J.B. Pardiwala and R. Mahadevan, the Supreme Court criticized the government for its significant delay and dismissed the appeal. The court imposed the ₹1 lakh fine as a penalty for the delay and failure to comply with earlier rulings.

# Congress is Standing on Crutches, Will Fall Anytime, Says Nadda

**TPN CORRESPONDENT, Telangana :** BJP national president and Union Minister JP Nadda criticized the Congress party, calling it a "parasite" that wins elections with the support of regional parties only to weaken them after coming to power. Addressing a public meeting organized by the State BJP to highlight the failures of the Congress government in Telangana, Nadda stated that Congress had become so weak it could no longer win elections without regional party support. He claimed Congress was "standing on crutches" and would collapse at any time.

Nadda emphasized that the future of Telangana lies with the BJP, asserting that his party is the only one capable of developing the state.

He pointed to the development seen in states where BJP has formed the government, vowing that Telangana would benefit similarly under BJP leadership.

Union Coal Minister and BJP state president G Kishan Reddy accused the Congress government of failing to deliver on its promises, including the Six Guarantees. He claimed that people in the state felt cheated by the Congress.

Union Minister of State for Home Bandi Sanjay warned that if the Congress government did not fulfill its poll promises by Sankranti, the BJP would hold Congress leaders accountable and not allow them to roam freely in the state.



## Survey Predicts KCR's Comeback as Public Loses Faith in Congress Rule

**TPN CORRESPONDENT, Hyderabad :** BRS Working President K.T. Rama Rao (KTR) stated that a survey representative told him people are already disappointed with the Congress government after just one year in power and that KCR would return to power if elections were held again. KTR made these remarks during the preview of the short film Nammi Nanaboste, produced by BRS leader and former MLA Rasamay Balakishan.



KTR mentioned that a representative connected to an election survey met him earlier and shared insights about public sentiment. The representative reportedly explained the current situation in constituencies where MLAs had defected from the BRS to the Congress, predicting a challenging scenario for the Congress if elections were held now.

KTR pointed out that while public opposition to a government typically emerges after three to four years, dissatisfaction with the Congress government has surfaced within a year. He credited the BRS's strong fight under KCR's leadership

and expressed confidence that the party would regain power if the momentum continues.

He remarked that Telangana Bhavan is bustling with activity, while Gandhi Bhavan appears subdued. KTR highlighted the efforts of the BRS legal cell team in supporting the victims of the Lagacharla incident and expressed optimism that tribal farmers currently jailed would be released. He also shared that complaints have been filed with the National Human Rights Commission and the SC-ST Commission regarding the issue.

KTR noted that former sarpanches are demanding payment of dues, and ASHA workers are raising their grievances in the Assembly. He said that many people visited Telangana Bhavan to discuss their concerns and seek solutions.

Speaking about the short film Nammi Nanaboste, KTR described it as heart-wrenching and said it reflects the anger of Telangana's people against the Congress government. He affirmed the BRS's commitment to fighting on behalf of the people, stating, "We may have lost power, but not the energy or determination to fight."

## Sharmila Congratulates Revanth Reddy on Congress' First Anniversary in Telangana



**TPN CORRESPONDENT, Telangana :** YS Sharmila, president of the Andhra Pradesh Congress Committee, congratulated Telangana Chief Minister Revanth Reddy and his cabinet on the completion of one year of Congress governance in the state. She shared her message of appreciation through a post on the social media platform X (formerly Twitter). In her message, Sharmila praised the state government's commitment to fulfilling election promises and fostering welfare and development for all. She wrote, "Heartfelt congratulations to Chief Minister Revanth Anna, ministers, MLAs, and every Congress worker on completing one year of Congress rule in Telangana. The focus on making Telangana a state of welfare and development through inclusive governance is commendable. Only Congress can bring development; the Hand symbol remains the nation's symbol of support."

Sharmila also tagged several key Telangana Congress leaders, including Deputy Chief Minister Mallu Bhatti Vikramarka and ministers Komatireddy Venkata Reddy, Konda Surekha, Uttam Kumar Reddy, Damodar Rajanarasimha, Duddilla Sridhar Babu, Seethakka, Pon guleti Srinivas Reddy, Ponnamp Prabhakar, Tummalala Nageshwar Rao, and Jupally Krishna Rao.

## Controversy Over Missing Bulls from Vemulawada Goshala

**TPN CORRESPONDENT, Telangana :** A controversy has arisen regarding the allocation of bulls (kodelu) from the Vemulawada goshala, with allegations of irregularities and missing animals. The bulls were reportedly allocated to the Sri Rajeshwara Society in Manugoda based on a recommendation from Endowment Minister Konda Surekha, allegedly by-passing established norms.

The temple authorities had previously stopped allocating bulls to various societies and began distributing them only to farmers to prevent misuse. However, it is claimed that the allocation to the society was made in violation of these rules. Madasi Rambabu, president of the Sri Rajeshwara Society, reportedly submitted an application on August 12, 2024, requesting the bulls. The Endowment Minister allegedly endorsed the request, which led to the allocation of 60 bulls to the society.

Recent developments revealed that 49 of the bulls went missing, which came to light after a police inspection in Geesukonda on November 29, following a complaint from local youth. The Geesukonda police have since registered a case against Rambabu and requested clarification from the temple authorities. The temple administration has denied any wrongdoing, stating that only two bulls were provided to Rambabu, and that the distribution was done following proper norms. Executive Officer Vinod Reddy emphasized that all bulls were tagged and could not have disappeared without significant alteration. He further suggested that legal action would be taken against those spreading false information.

## Anti-Velama Remarks : TPCC Chief Demands Explanation from Shadnagar MLA

**TPN CORRESPONDENT, Hyderabad, DEC :** Telangana Pradesh Congress Committee (TPCC) President Mahesh Kumar Goud has sought an explanation from Shadnagar MLA V. Shankaraiah over his controversial remarks targeting the Velama community. The MLA, in a video that went viral on December 6, was heard using derogatory language and issuing threats of physical violence against members of the community. "As the Shadnagar MLA, I'm telling you, I will resort to physical attacks against you Velamas," Shankaraiah said in the video.

### Velama Community's Outrage

The Velama community reacted strongly, filing a complaint against Shankaraiah with the local police in Jagtial. Community leaders have demanded a public apology by Saturday evening, warning that failure to do so could lead to protests and further tensions.



Leaders from the community have criticized Chief Minister Revanth Reddy, accusing him of fostering caste-based politics by not addressing divisive rhetoric within his party. They emphasized that political sustainability cannot

be achieved by promoting caste divisions and called for leaders from both the Congress and BJP to denounce such tactics.

### BRS Slams Congress

BRS MLC K. Kavitha condemned Shankaraiah's remarks, questioning whether his comments reflect the Congress party's official stance towards the Velama community. Kavitha demanded a response from CM Revanth Reddy and TPCC President Mahesh Kumar Goud, urging them to clarify their position on the incident.

The incident has triggered significant backlash, with calls for accountability and an end to caste-based rhetoric in Telangana's political landscape. The Congress party faces mounting pressure to take action against Shankaraiah and address the concerns of the Velama community.

# Congress MLC Mallanna Criticizes Lack of Protocol at Government Programme



**TPN CORRESPONDENT, Telangana :** Congress MLC C. Naveen Kumar,

popularly known as Teenmaar Mallanna, has expressed displeasure over being excluded from the official invitation for the launch of the Yadadri power plant. Mallanna, elected as the Member of the Legislative Council (MLC) by Nalgonda Graduates, took to social media to voice his concerns, questioning the State government's protocol practices.

In a widely shared video, Mallanna criticized the omission of his name, noting that other MLCs were included in the invitation. "I fail to understand why my name was left out. Am I not an MLC? This feels like an indirect message discouraging me from attending," he said. He also demanded an explanation

from Principal Secretary Sandeep Kumar Sultania and Nalgonda Collector for the oversight.

This incident is not isolated, as several Congress leaders have previously raised concerns over being sidelined at official events. Nakkeral MLA Vemula Veerasham, accompanied by MLAS Kavvampally Satyanarayana and B. Laxma Reddy, had earlier complained to Speaker G. Prasad Kumar about protocol violations during a ministerial review meeting in the Bhuvanagiri constituency. Veerasham was reportedly obstructed by police while attempting to greet the ministers at a helipad, prompting him to leave the venue in protest.

Another instance occurred on No-

vember 21, during the foundation stone ceremony for a super-specialty hospital in Mancherla. While Ministers Damodara Rajanarasimha, D. Sridhar Babu, and D. Aanasuya were present, tensions arose as Congress leaders, including MP G. Vamshi and MLAs Dr. G. Vivek and Vinod, engaged in a blame game over protocol lapses.

These repeated incidents of perceived protocol neglect have fueled dissatisfaction among Congress representatives, who feel their roles are being undermined in government events. The issue has prompted calls for better adherence to protocol to ensure inclusivity and respect for all elected officials.



## Telangana Leads in Malware Detection Hyderabad Ranks 3rd Among Cities

**TPN CORRESPONDENT, Hyderabad :** Telangana has emerged as the state with the highest malware detection rate in India, while Hyderabad ranked third among cities, according to the India Cyber Threat Report 2025 published by the Data Security Council of India (DSCI) on December 5.

The report revealed Telangana recorded 55.90 detections per endpoint, accounting for 15.03% of the total malware detections nationwide. This is attributed to the state's robust IT sector and its alignment with national information technology trends. Hyderabad's IT corridor played a key role in the high detection rates.

The southern technology belt—comprising Telangana, Karnataka, and Tamil Nadu—accounted for 36.37% of malware detections, reflecting the region's strong presence in the tech sector and widespread digital adoption. Tamil Nadu ranked second among states with 44.54 detections per endpoint (11.97%), driven by Chennai's IT infrastructure, while Delhi stood third with 43.86 detections per endpoint due to its status as a high-value business hub.

Hyderabad ranked third among cities for malware detection, with 54.93 detections per endpoint (11.55%), following Bengaluru and Surat, which topped the list due to its industrial strength. Together, Hyderabad and Bengaluru accounted for



22.48% of the total malware detections in India, underscoring their significant IT infrastructure.

Despite being India's commercial capital, Mumbai recorded a notably lower malware detection rate compared to other cities like Jaipur, Chennai, and New Delhi, which showed similar levels of detection efficiency.

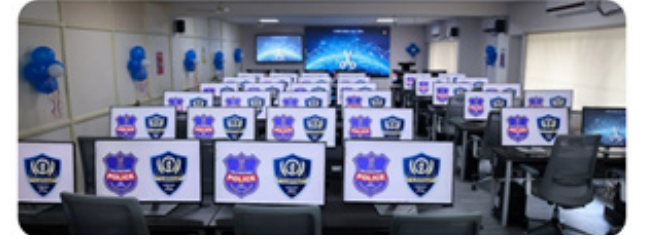
The report highlights the need for heightened cybersecurity measures, particularly in tech-heavy regions, to mitigate evolving threats in the digital landscape.

## DGP Inaugurates Cyber Shield Lab in Hyderabad

**TPN CORRESPONDENT, Hyderabad :** Telangana DGP Dr. Jitendar inaugurated the Cyber Shield Lab at RBVRR Telangana Police Academy (TGPA) on Saturday. The lab is designed to equip officers with the skills needed to tackle the growing threat of cybercrime.

Dr. Jitendar highlighted the importance of technology in modern policing and urged officers to utilize the new facility to strengthen their capabilities in combating cyber fraud and other digital crimes.

The Cyber Shield Lab is a crucial step in Telangana Police's efforts to stay ahead of evolving cyber threats, providing officers with advanced tools and training to ensure a safer digital environment for citizens.



## Producer Dil Raju Meets Telangana CM Revanth Reddy



**TPN CORRESPONDENT, Hyderabad :** Tollywood producer Dil Raju met Telangana Chief Minister Revanth Reddy at the CM's residence in Jubilee Hills, Hyderabad. The meeting followed the government's appointment of Dil Raju as the chairman of the Telangana Film Development Corporation (TFDC).

Expressing his gratitude, Dil Raju thanked the Chief Minister for entrusting him with the role.

Accompanied by his brother Sirish, Dil Raju discussed initiatives for the development of the film industry during the meeting. As a gesture of goodwill, CM Revanth Reddy felicitated the producer by draping him with a shawl.

The appointment of Dil Raju as the TFDC chairman was formalized through an order issued by Telangana Chief Secretary Shanthikumari. Known for his blockbuster debut as a producer with the film Dil in 2003, the success of the movie earned him the moniker "Dil Raju." Currently, he is involved in the production of three films.

## Man steals ambulance in Hyderabad, leads police chase to Vijayawada

**TPN CORRESPONDENT, Hyderabad :** In a dramatic turn of events, a vehicle thief led police on a high-speed chase spanning over 150 kilometers on the Hyderabad-Vijayawada National Highway early Saturday. The suspect stole a 108 ambulance from Hayathnagar and drove recklessly with its siren blaring, causing chaos along the route.

Police stations along the highway were immediately alerted as the stolen ambulance sped past, evading multiple attempts at capture. In a shocking incident during the chase, the thief attempted to run over Assistant Sub-Inspector John Reddy at Chityala, leaving the officer critically injured. Reddy was rushed to a private hospital in Hyderabad, where his condition remains critical.

The chase intensified as the suspect crashed through the Korlapahad toll gate, forcing authorities to escalate their efforts. The pursuit finally ended near Tekumatla in Suryapet mandal, where police set up a strategic roadblock using trucks to halt the stolen ambulance. The suspect, reportedly involved in several major thefts, was arrested after a two-and-a-half-hour chase.

Authorities are continuing their investigation into the incident, while ASI John Reddy's condition is being closely monitored. The incident has raised concerns over highway security and the audacity of vehicle lifters in the region.

## Telangana Government Increases Benefits for Home Guards

**TPN CORRESPONDENT, Hyderabad :** The Telangana government has announced a significant increase in benefits for home guards in the state. The Dearness Allowance (DA) has been raised from ₹921 to ₹1,000, with official orders issued to implement the change. Additionally, the Weekly Parade Allowance has been increased from ₹100 to ₹200, offering better financial support to home guards.

In a move to further support the families of home guards, the government has introduced an ex-gratia payment of ₹5 lakh for the families of those who lose their lives while on duty. These new measures are set to come into effect starting January of the upcoming year. The announcement has been met with widespread appreciation from the home guards, who have expressed gratitude for the government's efforts to improve their welfare and recognize their contributions to maintaining law and order in the state.



## BJP MLA Raja Singh Opposes New OGH at Goshamahal Stadium

**TPN CORRESPONDENT, Hyderabad :** BJP MLA from Goshamahal, T Raja Singh, has urged the Telangana government to reconsider its decision to construct the new Osmania General Hospital (OGH) building at Goshamahal stadium. He suggested that the new facility should instead be built on the existing Osmania General Hospital premises, citing better connectivity and accessibility for patients.



"The Osmania General Hospital is centrally located and well-connected, making it convenient for people to reach. Constructing the new building at Goshamahal stadium, where connectivity is poor, will create difficulties for patients," Raja Singh stated.

This comes after Telangana Health Minister Da-

modar Raja Narasimha announced plans for a state-of-the-art OGH facility featuring over 2,000 beds, to be built at a cost of ₹2,000 crore. The foundation stone for the project is expected to be laid soon, with the land transfer process already completed. The proposed hospital aims to address the current challenges at OGH, which sees 2,000-2,500 patients daily and struggles with a severe space crunch, often resulting in postponed surgeries and admissions. As part of the development, the state government has also sought ₹250 crore from the World Bank to equip the new facility with advanced medical equipment.

Raja Singh emphasized that prioritizing the existing hospital premises for redevelopment would better serve the community's needs while preserving accessibility for all.

## LIC Golden Jubilee Foundation Donates EV to Hare Krishna



**TPN CORRESPONDENT, Hyderabad :** In line with its Corporate Social Responsibility (CSR) initiatives and commitment to sustainable development, the Life Insurance Corporation (LIC) Golden Jubilee Foundation has donated an electric vehicle (EV) valued at ₹16 lakh to the Hare Krishna Movement in Hyderabad for food distribution.

Sri Satya Gaura Chandra Dasa Prabhujii, President of the Hare Krishna Movement in Hyderabad, expressed his gratitude, stating, "This donation marks a significant step in prioritizing social impact and environmental awareness, contributing to a cleaner and greener future."

The event saw participation from Sri Maha Vishnu Dasa Prabhhu, Vice-President of the Hare Krishna Movement, Hyderabad, along with Puneet Kumar, Zonal Manager of LIC South Central Zone, Hyderabad, G.B.V. Ramayya, Regional Manager (Corporate Communications), and Madhusudan, Senior Divisional Manager (Secunderabad Division), according to a press release.

Aspirants who have received admit cards are re-

## 60 Tonnes of Spiked Coconut Powder Seized in Hyd



**TPN CORRESPONDENT, Hyderabad :** Telangana food safety department officials seized 60 tonnes of adulterated desiccated coconut powder during a raid on Akash Trading Co. in Begum Bazaar on Friday, December 6.

The company was found repacking imported desiccated coconut mixed with locally produced

non-desiccated powder, violating food safety regulations. The seized stock, valued at ₹92.47 lakh, was confiscated, and legal action under the Food Safety Act of 2006 is being initiated.

The raid, conducted alongside the SOT police team, is part of a broader crackdown on food adulteration in Hyderabad.

In November, the commissioner's task force raided 'Sony Ginger Garlic Paste' in Secunderabad, exposing the use of substandard raw materials. Similarly, a food processing unit in Khammam was found manufacturing 960 kg of adulterated ginger garlic paste.

Earlier in October, widespread adulteration of loose tea powder was uncovered at Konark Tea in Fatehnagar, where harmful substances were being mixed before distribution.

The food safety department continues its aggressive inspections to curb adulteration and ensure public health safety.

## Indian Army Recruitment Rally for Agniveers in Hyderabad from December 8 to 16

**TPN CORRESPONDENT, Hyderabad :** The Indian Army will conduct a recruitment rally for Agniveers at the GMC Balayogi Athletic Stadium in Gachibowli, Hyderabad, from December 8 to 16. The rally will also include recruitment for Woman Military Police (WMP) from Tamil Nadu, Andhra Pradesh, Telangana, and Puducherry.

Candidates will be screened for various categories, including Agniveer General Duty, Agniveer Technical, Agniveer Clerk/Store Keeper Technical, Agniveer Tradesman (Class X pass), Agniveer Tradesman (Class VIII pass), and WMP.

Aspirants who have received admit cards are re-

quired to bring all necessary documents to the rally site, as outlined in the notification.

The recruitment process will be fully automated, fair, and transparent. Candidates are advised to beware of touts and fraudsters who may claim to help them pass or secure enrollment. These

agents have no involvement in the process, and candidates should avoid falling for such offers. For further information or to address recruitment-related queries, candidates can contact the Army Recruitment Office, Secunderabad at 040-27740059 or 27740206.

## On the lines of Dubai and Singapore...CM Revanth's Key Instructions

**TPN CORRESPONDENT, Hyderabad** : Chief Minister Revanth Reddy has instructed officials to prepare a new tourism policy for Telangana by December 31. He suggested that the policies implemented by countries like Dubai, Singapore, and China should be studied for the development of tourist destinations.

Chief Minister Revanth reviewed the issue of formulating a tourism policy in a high-level meeting on Friday. Although there are good opportunities for the development of the tourism sector in the state, it has suffered due to the lack of a special policy over the last ten years. He emphasized that the best policy should be prepared, espe-



cially since the weather in Hyderabad is favorable 365 days a year.

The meeting discussed in detail the areas with potential for tourism development. On the occasion of the

completion of one year of the formation of the public government, a short film on tourist destinations prepared by the Tourism Development Organization was unveiled.

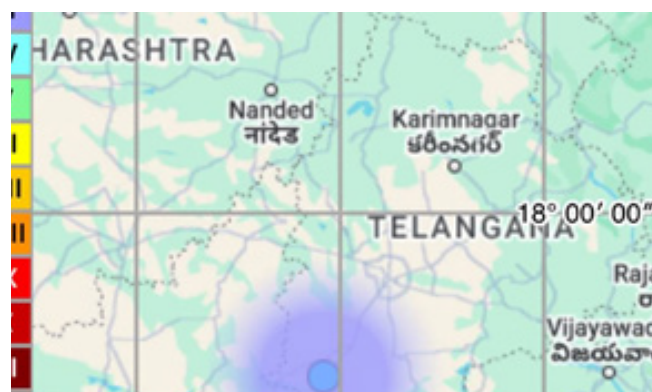
He suggested that tiger reserve forests should be connected with temples, and efforts should be made to increase the number of tourists in reserve forest areas. The CM also proposed focusing on concept tourism instead of routine tourism. A study should be conducted on setting up a mega convention center in Future City to attract tourists, ensuring that the center is reachable within 20 minutes from the airport.

The Chief Minister inquired about the leases of tourism department sites in the state, urging the preparation of a comprehensive report. Strict action should be taken against those who do not vacate properties after their lease expires, and court cases should

be dealt with seriously to lift stays. He said that from now on, tourist sites will be leased only to companies with a good reputation.

The heritage building of Osmania Hospital, which is to be vacated, should be developed into a prominent tourist destination. Conditions should be created to increase the number of tourists visiting Charminar. The tourism department should work hard to become self-sufficient. Minister Juppally Krishna Rao, CM's advisor Vem Narender Reddy, Tourism Corporation Chairman Ramesh R Patel, Tourism Department Secretary, and other senior officials participated in the meeting.

## Second Earthquake Strikes Telangana Within a Week



**TPN CORRESPONDENT, MAHBUBNAGAR** : Telangana experienced its second earthquake in less than a week, with a magnitude 3.0 tremor striking Mahabubnagar district on Saturday afternoon. The earthquake, which occurred at approximately 12:15 PM, was centered in Dasaripalle village of Koukuntla Mandal. Frightened residents reported feeling the tremors and quickly evacuated their homes. No immediate reports of damage or injuries have been received, and further details are awaited.

This latest earthquake follows a stronger tremor earlier this week in the Mulugu district, which registered a magnitude of 5.3 on the Richter scale. That quake, felt across a 240-kilometer radius, impacted parts of Telangana and Andhra Pradesh, sending shockwaves through an area that rarely experiences seismic activity. It was the strongest earthquake recorded in the state in two decades, leaving residents alarmed.

The recurrence of earthquakes in such a short span has raised concerns among locals and officials. While seismic activity in Telangana is uncommon, these incidents have prompted authorities to closely monitor the situation and review safety measures. Further updates are expected as investigations into the causes of these tremors continue.

## Forest Department Plans Organic Sitafal and Bamboo Projects for Adilabad Tribals

**TPN CORRESPONDENT, Adilabad** : In a bid to provide sustainable livelihoods for tribal communities in Adilabad, the Forest Department has proposed two ambitious projects: the plantation of custard apple trees (Sitafal) and a bamboo rejuvenation initiative. These projects, aimed at empowering local tribes, are expected to begin soon after receiving government approval.

The custard apple plantation will cover 200 hectares in Echoda mandal, targeting Raj Gonds and Thottis, who traditionally gather fruits from forests. With an estimated cost of ₹2 crore, the initiative includes setting up a nursery and a food processing unit under the "Adilabad Forest Organic Sitafal" project. Tribals will receive training to create value-added products like ice creams, puddings, and desserts from custard apples, offering them new livelihood opportunities.

The bamboo rejuvenation project, budgeted at ₹3 crore, will span 200 hectares in the Sathnala block between Bela and Jainath mandals. This initiative aims to support the Kolam tribe, a particularly vulnerable tribal group that has relied on bamboo crafts for generations. Tribals will be trained to produce eco-friendly items such as baskets, mats, decorative pieces, and other bamboo-based products, along with guidance on marketing their crafts. District Forest Officer (DFO) Prashanth B. Patil confirmed that discussions with higher officials regarding funding and implementation are underway. Once approved, the projects are expected to launch within the next two months, creating new livelihood avenues for the indigenous communities of Adilabad.

## Five Killed as Car Plunges into Lake in Telangana's Bhongir

**TPN CORRESPONDENT, Bhongir** : Five people lost their lives, and one person was injured in a tragic accident in Telangana's Yadadri-Bhongir district early Saturday, December 7. The incident occurred near Jalalpur village in Bhoodan Pochampally mandal when the driver lost control of the vehicle, causing it to plunge into a lake.

The deceased have been identified as Harsha, Dinesh, Vamshi, Balu, and Vinay, all residents of LB Nagar in Hyderabad. The car reportedly skidded off the road before plunging into the water. A sixth occupant, a man from Lakshmapuram village in Valigonda mandal, managed to escape with injuries.

Local villagers and the Bhongir police initiated search operations at the site of the accident. Investigations are ongoing, and further details are awaited.



## Centre's AYUSH and Telangana Govt Clash Over Bhupalpally Hospital Building

**TPN CORRESPONDENT, Bhupalpally** : A dispute has arisen between the Centre's AYUSH Ministry and the Telangana government after the district administration installed a Government Nursing College board on the newly constructed AYUSH hospital building in Bhupalpally. The AYUSH Department has lodged a formal complaint with the State Medical and Health Department Secretary over the matter.

AYUSH officials alleged that the district administration, without consulting them, placed the nursing college board on the hospital building funded by the AYUSH Ministry. The Centre had sanctioned AYUSH hospitals with 50-bed capacities in Bhupalpally, Siddipet, and Vikarabad districts, allocating ₹15 crore for each facility—₹10 crore for construction and ₹5 crore for equipment and staff recruitment.

The Telangana State Medical Services and Infrastructure Development Corporation (TGMIDC) was tasked with constructing the buildings. While construction has been completed,

the nursing college board's installation without AYUSH's consent has sparked tensions.

AYUSH officials expressed concern, stating that a central inspection team had already reviewed the completed Siddipet hospital and handed it over to local staff. A similar inspection for the Bhupalpally facility is imminent, and the presence of the nursing college board could lead to complications, given that the building was funded with central resources. When questioned, district officials reportedly claimed they were acting under the Collector's instructions. AYUSH officials worry that the move might disrupt the planned operations of the hospital and potentially result in non-compliance with central directives.

A TGMIDC engineer clarified that the building was constructed as per the original plan for an AYUSH hospital and assured that it would soon be handed over to the AYUSH Department, dispelling concerns about any permanent changes in its intended use.



This disagreement underscores the need for better coordination between the Centre and the state to avoid conflicts over public infrastructure projects.

## Chillapalli Panchayat Earns National Recognition

**TPN CORRESPONDENT, Peddapalli** : Chillapalli panchayat in Manthani mandal has secured the second rank nationally in the Deen Dayal Upadhyay Panchayat Satat Vikas Puraskar under the Women-Friendly Panchayat category for the year 2022-23. The award highlights the panchayat's efforts in empowering women through self-help groups (SHGs) and individual entrepreneurship. Women in the village, once facing financial challenges, have transformed their lives by engaging in various income-generating activities. Numerous women's groups operate successful businesses funded by bank loans, while individual women manage ven-

tures such as grocery stores, beauty parlors, tailoring units, mini ATMs, chicken centers, photocopy services, and more.

The panchayat has extended financial support of ₹15 lakh to SHGs and ₹2 lakh to ₹3 lakh to individuals. Remarkably, all loans are being repaid on time, with no defaults reported. The panchayat has also ensured proper record-keeping and regular meetings to support these initiatives. Chillapalli's achievement underscores its commitment to fostering financial independence and empowering women through sustainable development initiatives.

## Konda Surekha Denies Allegations of Illegal Sale of Heifers at Vemulawada Temple

**TPN CORRESPONDENT, Telangana** : Telangana Minister Konda Surekha dismissed allegations of illegal sales of heifers offered by devotees at the Vemulawada temple, labeling the reports as baseless and part of a conspiracy to tarnish the government's reputation. Surekha pointed out that during the previous administration, the management of the heifers at the temple was disorganized, leading to the deaths of several animals.

To address these issues, a committee was formed in May, chaired by the Sirisilla District Collector with the Vemulawada Temple Executive Officer (EO) as the convener. The committee established guidelines for managing the heifers offered by devotees. These guidelines were formalized with a Government Order (GO), ensuring proper distribution and care of the animals. Under the new guidelines, farmers can receive two heifers if they provide the required documents, including a Pattadar passbook, Aadhaar

card, phone number, and certificates issued by the Mandal Agriculture Officer.

The minister emphasized that all distributions were conducted transparently and strictly adhered to these guidelines. Surekha also highlighted the government's efforts to improve conditions at the temple's cowsheds, including the installation of CC flooring, adequate sheds, and drinking water facilities. He reaffirmed the government's commitment to the proper care and management of the cows.

The minister stated that all heifers in the temple are tagged and accounted for, and no tagged cows have been found outside the temple premises. He further clarified that applications for cow distribution were reviewed as per protocol, and there were no irregularities in the process. The temple authorities have also confirmed that the reports of illegal sales are unfounded.

## Another tiger attack: Cow manages to escape in Mancherial

**TPN CORRESPONDENT, Mancherial** : A cow narrowly escaped a tiger attack while grazing in the forests of Oddugudem village, Vemanapalli mandal, Mancherial district, on Saturday. The incident occurred when a shepherd took his herd deep into the forest. A tiger, prowling in the area, lunged at one of the cows. Despite sustaining injuries to its neck, the cow managed to break free and returned home bleeding. The rest of the herd scattered in fear, according to the shepherd.

Forest officials, alerted by locals, inspected the injured cow and confirmed that the wounds were caused by a tiger. They urged villagers to avoid taking cattle into the forest to prevent encounters with wild animals. Additionally, they cautioned against the use of electrified fences, which could harm wildlife.

Officials explained that the tiger likely migrated from Kumram Bheem Asifabad district, where it had been seeking new territory for some time. They believe this movement led to the attack on the cow.

## Persecution of Hindus: A Blindspot of Global and Indian Liberal Intelligentsia

For decades, self-proclaimed intellectuals in both India and the West have positioned themselves as defenders of marginalized communities, often using their platforms to advocate for minorities. However, their advocacy has often ignored or downplayed the systemic persecution of Hindus in countries like Pakistan and Bangladesh. These nations, formed on the basis of Islamic identity, have subjected Hindus to state-engineered oppression, yet this reality is rarely acknowledged by the liberal intelligentsia.

A key issue is the tendency to draw false equivalences between isolated incidents of violence in India and the systemic, state-sponsored persecution of Hindus in neighboring Islamic states. While India has its social issues, the treatment of minorities there cannot be equated with the institutionalized discrimination Hindus face in Pakistan and Bangladesh. These countries have created laws that marginalize Hindus, stripping them of property, citizenship, and even safety.

In Bangladesh, the Vested Property Act of 1974 allowed the government to seize Hindu lands claiming they belonged to "enemy" sympathizers of India. Successive governments have continued to expropriate Hindu property, with political allies and goons taking control of land and forcing Hindus into displacement. Despite some attempts to



return the property, over 26 lakh acres of Hindu-owned land remain seized, displacing over a million Hindus. The erasure of nearly 8 million Hindus from Bangladesh's census further illustrates the magnitude of this persecution.

Meanwhile, in Pakistan, Hindus face similar challenges, often living under the constant threat of violence, forced conversions, and discrimination. The state has actively sidelined Hindu citizens through legal and social systems designed to maintain Islamic hegemony, further fueling their marginalization.

Despite these grim realities, the liberal intelligentsia, both in India and globally, has largely turned a blind eye to these issues. Instead, they focus on In-

dia's treatment of its Muslim minority, often portraying it as an example of Hindu-majority oppression. This selective blindness stems from ideological alliances that prioritize certain narratives over others, particularly the "Islamist-Leftist alliance," which shields Pakistan and Bangladesh from scrutiny while criticizing India.

If the global and Indian intelligentsia genuinely care about human rights and minority rights, they must acknowledge the persecution of Hindus in Pakistan and Bangladesh. Only through an honest and balanced approach to religious persecution can we foster true dialogue on human rights, ensuring that all victims, regardless of their faith, receive the attention and justice they deserve.

## Jasprit Bumrah: The Ideal Candidate for India's Next Test Captain

Indian cricket is currently at an exciting juncture, with a third consecutive World Test Championship final and a potential hat-trick of Test series wins in Australia on the horizon. As India dominates the ICC rankings across formats and continues to produce a strong supply of talent, one key question looms: who will be India's next Test captain once Rohit Sharma retires? The answer seems clear—Jasprit Bumrah, the current vice-captain and pace spearhead.



The obvious choice for captaincy is often the most appealing, and in Bumrah's case, it is hard to look beyond him. As vice-captain, he is naturally next in line to take over leadership duties when Rohit steps down. Bumrah's leadership qualities are evident, and his performance on the field is a crucial factor in his suitability for the role.

A Test match against Australia in Perth in 2022 showcased Bumrah's impact. His match figures of 8/72 earned him the Man of the Match award, underlining his ability to turn the game with his bowling. Test cricket is often decided by the collective performance of the team, but Bumrah's brilliance made the difference. He has that rare ability to dominate conditions and deliver decisive blows, reminiscent of Kapil Dev, India's only other fast-bowling Test captain.

Bumrah's brief stint as captain in the 2022 Birmingham Test against England further highlighted his leadership potential. Although India lost the match, Bumrah's five-wicket haul and his calm, practical approach to leadership left a strong impression. His humility and job awareness stood

out, as he took the captaincy in stride, saying, "You have to do the job."

Moreover, Bumrah's rapport with teammates is another strength. His down-to-earth nature and willingness to guide juniors, like Harshit Rana during the recent Perth Test, show his ability to foster a supportive and encouraging environment. His leadership style emphasizes learning and collaboration, key traits for any successful captain.

Fast bowlers often face skepticism about captaining, with many preferring batters due to the strategic demands of the role. However, Bumrah's ability to manage his workload and make tactical decisions during a match makes him a strong candidate. Despite recent injury concerns, Bumrah's return to form and his captaincy of India's B-team during a successful T20 series against Ireland demonstrate the selectors' trust in his leadership.

With Rohit's eventual retirement on the horizon, Bumrah stands out as India's next Test captain—someone who can inspire with his performance, lead by example, and provide a fresh, effective approach to leadership.

## From South Korea to US, democracy could die or get stronger

Friedrich Nietzsche's famous aphorism, "What does not kill me makes me stronger," has long been a source of inspiration, turning moments of despair into opportunities for growth. Could this idea also apply to democracy?

For those who value freedom, democracy, and human rights, the global political climate has been worrying for over 18 years, according to Freedom House. The world has been experiencing a democratic recession, with more and more nations veering away from democratic norms. This decline seems to be accelerating, impacting not only developing countries in Africa but also established democracies in the West.

In Hungary, Viktor Orbán has spent 14 years consolidating power and dismantling democratic institutions. Under his leadership, the country's media, judiciary, universities, parliament, and business sectors have all been methodically brought under his control, transforming Hungary into an autocracy, though still officially a democracy. Orbán's tactics have made him a role model for other strongmen, including former U.S. President Donald Trump, who has expressed similar intentions of curbing democratic checks and balances in the United States.

This authoritarian wave has sparked numerous

imitators, some more successful than others. In South Korea, President Yoon Suk Yeol's recent attempts to consolidate power have fallen flat, highlighting the vulnerabilities of even the most sophisticated authoritarian efforts. Unpopular and facing growing domestic opposition, Yoon declared martial law unexpectedly, perhaps hoping to strengthen his grip on power. However, his move was quickly thwarted as South Korea's parliament, media, and public resistance brought an abrupt end to the situation.

While the global trend toward authoritarianism is concerning, it also reveals a key resilience in democratic societies: their ability to resist overreach and authoritarian impulses. Whether in South Korea or elsewhere, democratic institutions—such as an independent press, judicial checks, and vibrant public debate—have proven to be powerful safeguards. These structures allow democracy to adapt and survive, even in challenging times.

In the face of rising authoritarianism, the question remains whether democracy can withstand the forces working to erode it. But as Nietzsche's words suggest, adversity may ultimately strengthen democratic institutions, making them more robust and capable of defending freedoms even in the darkest times.



## Deadlock at UN Talks on Plastic Pollution: Production Cuts Remain Unresolved



The fifth United Nations Intergovernmental Negotiating Committee (INC-5) meeting, held in Busan, South Korea, aimed to create a legally binding global treaty to tackle plastic pollution. However, like the recent COP29 climate change conference, the week-long talks ended in deadlock, primarily over a dispute on cutting plastic production.

Over 200 countries attended the meeting, where negotiations focused on how to address the growing plastic crisis. A key point of contention was the proposed reduction in plastic production. More than 100 nations supported a draft resolution calling for legally binding cuts in production, viewing it as essential to addressing the root of the problem. However, a group of oil-producing nations, including Saudi Arabia, Iran, and Russia, opposed such measures. They argued that the real issue was plastic pollution itself, not the production of plastics.

Saudi Arabia, in particular, stated that the problem lay in pollution, not plastics as materials, and resisted efforts to reduce production. This disagreement highlights the ongoing tension between countries that see the reduction of plastic production as a necessary step and those whose economies are tied to the fossil fuel industry, which is responsible for much of plastic production.

The UN had passed a resolution in 2022 calling for global efforts to end plastic pollution, acknowledging the severe environmental harm caused by plastic waste. While plastics have practical uses, they are notoriously harmful to ecosystems, with their indestructibility leading to pollution of land, seas, and air. Microplastics, which result from the breakdown of larger plastic items, are particularly concerning. Studies have shown that microplastics can accumulate in the human body, including in internal organs, breast milk, and even the linings of arteries.

At the INC-5 meeting, one delegate remarked that attempting to reduce plastic pollution without cutting production was like trying to dry the floor with the tap still running. Recycling, often touted as a solution, is not always feasible on a global scale. As the negotiations concluded without agreement on significant production cuts, it became evident that finding common ground on this issue remains a significant challenge.

The deadlock underscores the complexities of addressing plastic pollution on a global scale, with industrial interests and environmental concerns at odds. Until a consensus is reached, the battle against plastic pollution will likely continue to be hindered by this critical issue.

# Calls 'Rahul Gandhi traitor of highest order'

BJP accuses US State Dept of trying to 'destabilise' India

TPN CORRESPONDENT  
DELHI, DEC-8

In a fiery statement, the Bharatiya Janata Party (BJP) has accused the United States' State Department of attempting to "destabilise India" by allegedly targeting Prime Minister Narendra Modi. BJP spokesperson Sambit Patra and MP K Laxman claimed that the US "deep state" was working against the Indian government, with the US State Department allegedly playing a key role.

The BJP also leveled severe accusations against Congress leader Rahul Gandhi, calling him a "traitor of the highest order" and linking him to international forces purportedly aiming to disrupt India's stability. The party alleged a connection between Gandhi, billionaire investor George Soros, the US-based investigative media platform Organized Crime and Corruption Reporting Project (OCCRP), and other international



agencies. Referring to a report by French media outlet Mediapart, Patra stated that the OCCRP, which collaborates with over 50 media partners globally, relies heavily on funding from Soros and US agencies. "If 70 percent of their resources come from

one source, they cannot be neutral," he argued. Patra accused Gandhi of using OCCRP reports to criticize the Modi-led government on various occasions, including controversies such as the Pegasus spyware allegations and claims surrounding the Covaxin vaccine deal with

Brazil. Patra further alleged that Rahul Gandhi's press conferences and public criticisms based on such reports were part of a "dangerous triangle" aimed at inciting public discontent and forcing regime change. He referenced a 2021 instance where Gandhi attacked the BJP government following an OCCRP report on Brazil canceling a \$324 million order for Covaxin. The BJP spokesperson dismissed the report as an attempt to malign India, claiming that Gandhi's actions only fueled baseless allegations. The BJP raised the issue in the Lok Sabha, leading to heated debates and eventual adjournments amid uproar from both sides. The ruling party's claims mark a significant escalation in its rhetoric against international organizations and opposition leaders, reflecting heightened tensions over political narratives as the country approaches upcoming elections.

# ED Attaches Assets Worth ₹388 Crore in Mahadev App Scam

TPN CORRESPONDENT  
CHHATTISGARH, DEC-8

The Enforcement Directorate (ED) has attached fresh assets worth ₹388 crore in connection with the Mahadev online betting case, bringing the total value of seized and frozen assets to ₹2,295.61 crore. The investigation, which centers around money laundering and illegal betting operations, has also implicated high-ranking politicians and bureaucrats from Chhattisgarh.

The newly attached assets include investments made by Mauritius-based Tano Investment Opportunities Fund, linked to Dubai-based hawala operator Hari Shankar Tibrewal, through Foreign Portfolio Investment and Foreign Direct Investment channels. Properties in Chhattisgarh, Mumbai, and Madhya Pradesh, owned by betting app promoters and their associates, were also seized.

The ED alleges that the Mahadev app acts as a syndicate enabling online betting, creating user IDs, and laundering money through proxy bank accounts. The agency has filed four chargesheets and arrested 11 individuals, including key operators Sourabh Chandrakar and Ravi Uppal, both from Chhattisgarh. Efforts are underway to extradite Chandrakar from Dubai.

Assets seized so far include ₹19.36 crore in cash, valuables worth ₹16.68 crore, and movable assets like bank balances and securities totaling ₹1,729.17 crore. Previous operations recovered ₹5.39 crore in cash and ₹15.59 crore in bank balances. The ED has also summoned Bollywood celebrities linked to the case. The investigation continues to unravel the nexus of political, financial, and offshore networks tied to the Mahadev app, making it one of the largest money laundering probes in recent years.



# On Mamata Banerjee Leading INDIA, Congress' Caution, Samajwadi's Support

TPN CORRESPONDENT  
DELHI, DEC-8

West Bengal Chief Minister Mamata Banerjee's remarks about potentially leading the opposition INDIA bloc have stirred diverse reactions from allies within the coalition. Speaking to a news channel on Friday, the Trinamool Congress (TMC) supremo expressed frustration over the alliance's leadership and coordination, hinting at her willingness to take charge if needed.

"I had formed the INDIA bloc. Now it is up to those leading it to manage. If they can't run the show, what can I do? Everyone needs to be taken along," Banerjee said. She added, "If given the opportunity, I would ensure its smooth functioning. I don't want to go outside West Bengal, but I can run it from here."

Banerjee's remarks triggered speculation about her intentions, prompting TMC spokesperson Kunal Ghosh to clarify. "She never expressed personal ambition for leadership. Her focus is West Bengal, and she is not seeking a chair in Delhi. If the INDIA bloc demands her leadership, she will lead from Kolkata," Ghosh said.

The comments drew mixed responses from allies. CPI(M) leader D Raja acknowledged the INDIA bloc's limited meetings but emphasized the alliance's broader goal of removing the BJP. "The situation is not uniform across states, and coordination is crucial," he said.

The Congress, the largest party in the bloc, responded cautiously. Congress leader TS Singhdeo said, "She has her opinion and intent. Leadership decisions will naturally involve collective discussions." Congress MP Tariq Anwar reiterated that such decisions require consensus. "Leadership in a coalition like this is decided collectively, not unilaterally," he said.

Congress leader Rashid Alvi highlighted that other leaders, including Bihar Chief Minister Nitish Kumar, have also shown interest in leading the bloc. "Leadership decisions are not about individual ambitions but collective agreement," he remarked. Another Congress MP, Tanuj Punia, suggested that these matters should be addressed internally, involving Rahul Gandhi and other senior leaders.

Amid cautious responses, Samajwadi Party leader Udaiveer Singh voiced support for Banerjee. "She is a senior leader with significant experience. Our party has a good relationship with her and trusts her leadership. If a decision to make her the leader is taken, we will support it," Singh said. The TMC's recent bypoll victories in West Bengal, defeating the BJP, have solidified Mamata Banerjee's position as a formidable anti-BJP leader. TMC MP Kalyan Banerjee recently called on Congress and other allies to set aside egos and recognize her leadership potential within the INDIA bloc. Despite its formation to counter the BJP's dominance, the INDIA bloc continues to grapple with internal divisions and leadership challenges. While the coalition saw mixed electoral performances in states like Haryana and Maharashtra, differences over strategy and coordination have raised questions about its effectiveness.



# Was Khan Sir Arrested Amid Protests By Bihar Civil Service Aspirants?

TPN CORRESPONDENT  
PATNA, DEC-8

Patna witnessed unrest as civil service aspirants protested against the "normalisation" process in the Bihar Public Service Commission's (BPSC) preliminary test. Amid reports on social media suggesting that renowned educator and YouTuber Faizal Khan, popularly known as Khan Sir, was arrested during the protests, Patna Police issued a statement denying the claims.

Dr. Anu Kumari, Sub-divisional Police Officer of Sachiwalaya, called the allegations "baseless, misleading, and provocative." She clarified that Khan Sir had voluntarily visited the Gardanibagh police station and

was later escorted to his vehicle upon his request.

The protests stem from changes to the examination process for the upcoming 70th BPSC Preliminary Examination, scheduled for December 13, 2024. Aspirants are demanding that the exam be conducted in a single shift with a single paper, eliminating the need for the normalisation process. Protesters argued that the current system could disadvantage some candidates due to variations in question paper difficulty.

On Thursday, police resorted to a mild lathi charge near the BPSC office to disperse aspirants staging a sit-in. The crackdown escalated tensions, leading to public outrage and

demands for accountability. Notable educators, including Khan Sir and Motiur Rahman Khan (Guru Rahman), joined the protests, criticising the BPSC for its alleged lack of transparency and inadequate communication.

Speaking to reporters, Khan Sir expressed solidarity with the aspirants, stating, "With just a week left for exams, it is unfortunate that students are compelled to protest. We are not against the system but are asking for fairness. We demand the removal of normalisation and an extension of the exam date."

He further urged the authorities to address aspirants' concerns and reconsider applications rejected due to server discrep-

ancies. Khan Sir emphasised, "We don't have personal issues with anyone. We only seek a fair process and hope the government will listen."

Amid the growing uproar, BPSC released an official clarification, asserting that the normalisation process is irrelevant for the 70th examination as it will be conducted in a single shift. The exam is scheduled for December 13, 2024, from 12 PM to 2 PM. The Commission assured aspirants that no changes have been made to the advertised examination process.

The protests have underscored a significant rift between students and the examination authorities, with demands for reform continuing as the exam date approaches.

# Mamata Banerjee Signals Readiness To Lead INDIA Bloc

TPN CORRESPONDENT  
KOLKATA, DEC-8

West Bengal Chief Minister and Trinamool Congress (TMC) supremo Mamata Banerjee has expressed dissatisfaction with the functioning of the opposition INDIA bloc, hinting at her readiness to take charge of the alliance if given the opportunity. Speaking in an interview with News 18 Bangla on Friday, Banerjee said she could handle the dual responsibility of leading the

bloc while continuing her role as Chief Minister of West Bengal.

"I had formed the INDIA bloc. Now it is up to those leading it to manage it. If they cannot run the show, what can I do? Everyone needs to be taken along," Banerjee remarked.

When asked why she does not step up as the bloc's leader, Banerjee responded, "If given the opportunity, I would ensure its smooth functioning. I don't want to go outside Bengal, but I can run it from here." The INDIA bloc,

a coalition of over two dozen opposition parties, was formed to counter the Bharatiya Janata Party (BJP). However, internal differences and a lack of coordination have drawn criticism, including from within the alliance.

Banerjee's comments follow a call by TMC MP Kalyan Banerjee urging the Congress and other allies to put aside their egos and recognise her as the natural leader of the opposition bloc, citing her credentials as a strong anti-BJP force.

The INDIA bloc recently faced mixed electoral outcomes. While the bloc staged a strong comeback in Jharkhand with the Jharkhand Mukti Morcha (JMM) leading the charge, its performance in Maharashtra was dismal. The BJP achieved a record-breaking victory in Maharashtra, propelling the Mahayuti alliance to a landslide win. Meanwhile, the Congress posted its worst-ever performance in the state, further diminishing its stature as a key opposition player.

# Trump Travels to Paris for Notre Dame Cathedral's Reopening and Macron Meeting

Donald Trump is traveling to Paris for his first international trip as president-elect, where he will join world leaders and dignitaries for a special celebration marking the reopening of Notre Dame Cathedral. The cathedral, which was severely damaged by a fire in 2019, has undergone extensive renovations, and the event on Saturday will commemorate its restoration.

Trump praised French President Emmanuel Macron for overseeing the restoration, calling it a "wonderful job" that has returned the iconic landmark to its full glory, and perhaps even improved it. In his acceptance of the invitation earlier this week, Trump expressed his excitement about attending the event, emphasizing its significance as a global celebration of cultural heritage.

Macron, who has had a complicated relationship with Trump in the past, has actively worked to build a rapport with the president-elect. Since Trump's victory over Vice President Kamala Harris last month, Macron and other European leaders have been keen to strengthen their



ties with him, particularly in regard to maintaining support for Ukraine in its ongoing conflict with Russia. Despite Macron's efforts to cul-

tivate a good relationship with Trump, the French presidency sought to downplay the political weight of the invitation. A statement from Macron's office clarified that other non-office-holding politicians were also invited to the event, suggesting that Trump's attendance was not unusual.

While Macron extends a warm welcome to Trump, U.S. President Joe Biden was also invited but will not be attending the event. White House press secretary Karine Jean-Pierre explained that Biden had a scheduling conflict, and the U.S. will be represented by First Lady Jill Biden instead.

The event highlights not only the cultural significance of the restoration of Notre Dame but also the diplomatic efforts underway between the U.S. and European leaders, as they look to secure ongoing support for key geopolitical issues such as the conflict in Ukraine.



## South Korean President Apologizes for Martial Law Attempt but Resists Calls to Resign

South Korean President Yoon Suk Yeol apologized on Saturday for his recent attempt to impose martial law but firmly resisted calls to resign, even as pressure mounted from within his own ruling party. His apology came just hours before a planned impeachment vote, where political opponents were pushing for his removal from office.

Yoon's decision to declare martial law marked the first such action in South Korea since 1980. He acknowledged the gravity of the situation and expressed regret for his actions, admitting that the decision was made out of a sense of desperation. Despite the apology, the president made it clear that he would not seek to evade legal or political responsibility for the controversial move.

The attempted declaration of martial law, which was quickly opposed by political leaders, civil rights groups, and the public, followed escalating protests and political unrest in the country. Critics argued that such drastic measures were an overreaction to the demonstrations, which had been primarily driven by economic and political grievances.

Yoon's decision to press ahead with martial law had prompted widespread criticism, including from some members of his own party, who voiced concerns about the long-term impact on South Korea's democracy. Even though he issued the apology, the call for his resignation remained strong, as many questioned his judgment and leadership.

In response to the growing unrest, President Yoon stated that he would engage in further consultations with political leaders and the public to resolve the crisis. However, the apology did little to quell the calls for his departure, and the looming impeachment vote remained a significant challenge to his presidency. The incident has highlighted the deep divisions within South Korean politics and raised concerns about the future stability of Yoon's administration.

## Russia Plans to Deploy Hypersonic Oreshnik Missiles in Belarus by 2025

Russian President Vladimir Putin announced on Friday that Russia could deploy its newly developed hypersonic Oreshnik missiles in Belarus by the second half of 2025, as production of the missile ramps up. The Oreshnik, a nuclear-capable weapon, was recently unveiled by Russia after being used in a strike on the Ukrainian city of Dnipro, marking an escalation in the ongoing conflict.

Putin made the statement during a televised meeting with Belarusian President Alexander Lukashenko in Minsk. He confirmed that the missile deployment would be possible once "serial production" of the Oreshnik missile is scaled up in Russia.



The missile, which experts believe can travel at ten times the speed of sound, is reported to have a range of up to 5,500 kilometers (3,400 miles), making it capable of striking targets deep within enemy territory. This advancement in missile technology comes amid Russia's ongoing military operations in Ukraine and the broader strategic alliance between Moscow and Belarus.

In 2023, Russia had already deployed tactical nuclear weapons in Belarus, strengthening the military ties between the two nations. These tactical nuclear weapons are designed for use on the battlefield and are smaller in scale than strategic nuclear weapons, which are capable of obliterating entire cities. However, tactical nuclear weapons remain highly destructive and represent a significant escalation in the military capabilities of the two countries.

Belarus, a close ally of Russia, has played a key role in supporting Moscow's military actions during the war in Ukraine. The deployment of the Oreshnik missiles to Belarus further solidifies the partnership between the two nations, as they continue to bolster their military cooperation in response to increasing tensions in the region. As Russia advances in its missile capabilities, concerns over security in Europe and the broader international community continue to grow.

## "Unacceptable": US Congressman Calls On Bangladesh To End Anti-Hindu Violence



US Congressman Raja Krishnamoorthi has expressed deep concern over the escalating violence in Bangladesh following the arrest of ISKCON priest Chinmoy Krishna Das Brahmachari. In an official statement, Krishnamoorthi urged the Bangladeshi government to respect human rights, ensure legal protections, and put an end to the violence targeting Hindus and other minority groups.

"The ongoing violence against Hindus and others across Bangladesh is unacceptable and must end immediately," Krishnamoorthi said. "I strongly urge the government of Bangladesh to take decisive steps to reduce tensions peacefully now." He stressed the importance of safeguarding peaceful protests and providing arrested individuals with proper legal representation.

The unrest began after sedition charges were filed against Chinmoy Krishna Das for allegedly raising a saffron flag above Bangladesh's national flag in Chittagong on October 25. His arrest on November 25 sparked protests, leading to violent clashes between his followers and law enforcement on November 27, outside the Chattogram Court Building, which resulted in the death of a lawyer. The violence intensified following additional arrests.

ISKCON Kolkata reported that two monks, Adipurush Shyam Das and Ranganath Das Brahmachari, were detained on November 29 after visiting Chinmoy Krishna Das in custody. The situation worsened further when rioters vandalized an ISKCON center in Bangladesh. The Bangladesh Hindu Buddhist Christian Unity Council condemned the charges filed against 70 minority lawyers and two journalists, describing them as "false and harassing."

## Imran Khan Calls for Rally and Civil Disobedience in Pakistan Amid Deadly Protest Clashes

Imran Khan, Pakistan's jailed former Prime Minister, has called for a rally on December 13 in the city of Peshawar, following a deadly protest march in Islamabad led by his political party, Pakistan Tehreek-e-Insaf (PTI). Khan, who remains incarcerated, used social media platform X to issue a call to action, urging his supporters to join the rally in Peshawar, the capital of Khyber Pakhtunkhwa province, which is governed by PTI. Khan's call comes in the wake of the November 25 protest, which was met with a violent crackdown by authorities. The former prime minister claimed that at least 12 of his supporters were killed during the clashes. He has demanded a thorough judicial investigation into the events of the protest, accusing the government of using excessive force against peaceful demonstrators.

In addition to the rally, Khan threatened to initiate a civil disobedience movement across the country if the government fails to address his demands for accountability. His statements suggest escalating tensions between his party and the ruling government, which has already faced multiple protests and political challenges since Khan's ousting in 2022. The call for civil disobedience echoes Khan's previous efforts to challenge the government, with PTI organizing widespread protests and marches since his removal from office. Khan's supporters have rallied behind him, viewing his imprisonment as politically motivated, while the government insists that his legal troubles stem from corruption charges and other criminal cases.

## Assad Loses Another Syrian City, Rebels March Towards Damascus

In a significant blow to President Bashar al-Assad's grip on power, Syrian government forces have lost control of Daraa city, which is considered the birthplace of Syria's 2011 civil uprising. Daraa, located about 100 kilometers from Damascus, became the epicenter of nationwide protests after the Assad regime detained and allegedly tortured a group of boys for anti-government graffiti. What began as peaceful demonstrations soon escalated into a violent conflict that has claimed over 500,000 lives and displaced millions.

According to the UK-based Syrian Observatory for Human Rights, opposition forces now control over 90% of Daraa province, with regime forces retreating in multiple waves. Daraa's fall follows the earlier losses of Alep-

po, Syria's second-largest city, and Hama in the central region. These key victories have encouraged rebel forces to push south toward Homs, Syria's third-largest city, and even closer to Damascus, the heart of Assad's power. Leading the offensive is Hayat Tahrir al-Sham (HTS), a group with origins in Al-Qaeda, which seeks the overthrow of Assad despite being designated a terrorist organization by Western nations.

In eastern Syria, government forces have withdrawn from Deir Ezzor, ceding territory to the Kurdish-led Syrian Democratic Forces (SDF), backed by the United States. This sudden retreat has left the regime regrouping in Palmyra, a key strategic location on the road to Homs. Syrian and Russian airstrikes

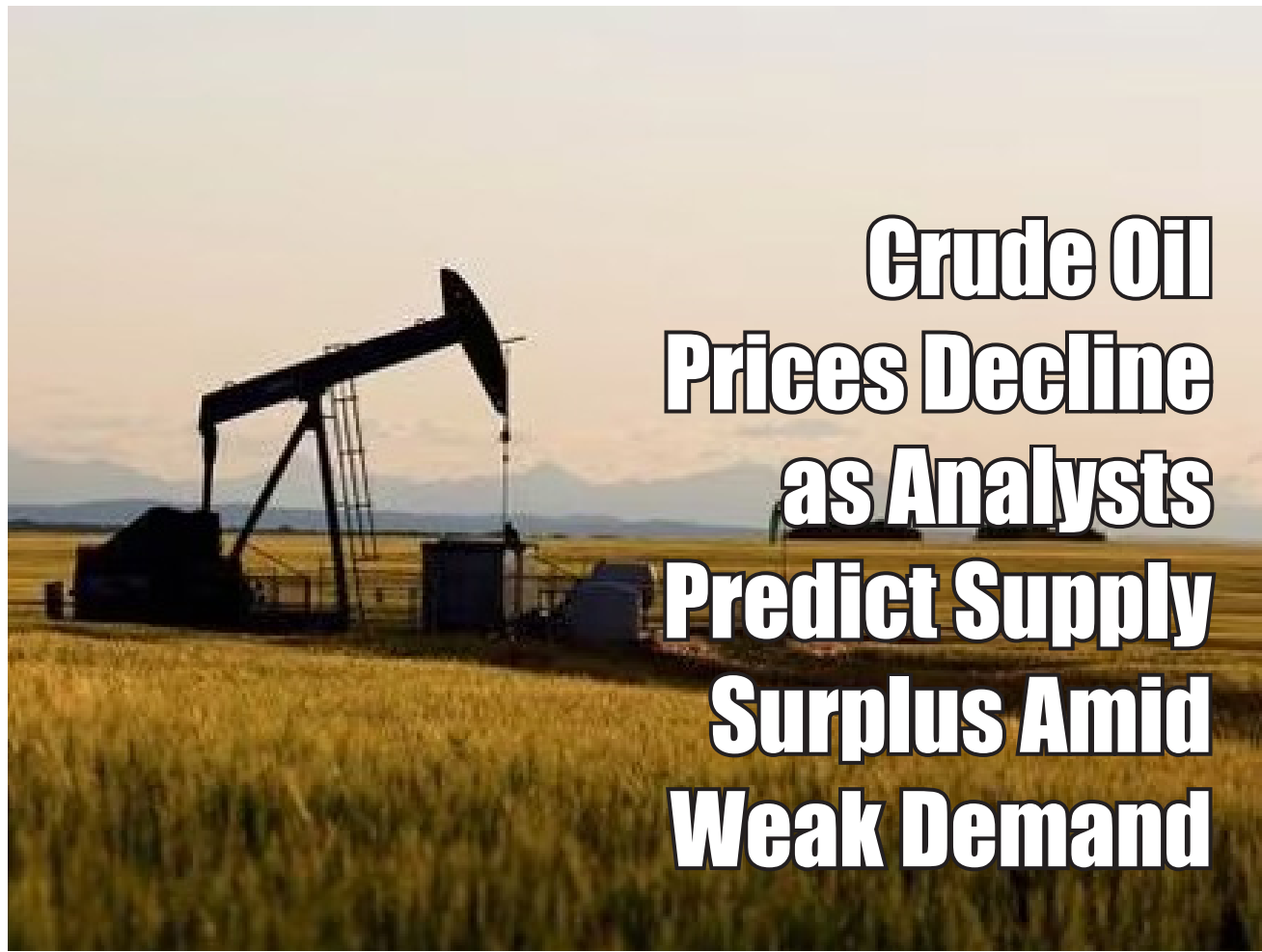


have attempted to slow the rebel advances but have been limited, possibly due to Russia's commitments elsewhere, particularly in Ukraine.

International responses have been varied: Jordan has closed its border crossings with Syria, while Lebanon has imposed travel restrictions. Israel, which controls the Golan Heights, has reinforced its aerial and ground forces. Turkey, a supporter of the opposition, has expressed a cautious approval of the rebel gains. Meanwhile, Iran has started evacuating its military personnel from Syria, reflecting growing hostility toward the Iranian regime for its continued backing of Assad.

UN estimates show that over 280,000 people have been displaced since the offensive began, and tens of thousands are fleeing Homs in anticipation of the rebel push.





## Crude Oil Prices Decline as Analysts Predict Supply Surplus Amid Weak Demand

Crude oil prices fell by more than 1% in the previous session, marking a weekly loss as analysts projected a supply surplus in 2025 due to weak demand. This comes despite the Organization of Petroleum Exporting Countries and its allies (OPEC+) recently deciding to delay oil output hikes until April 2025 and extend deep production cuts until the end of 2026.

Brent crude futures settled at \$71.12 a barrel, down 97 cents or 1.4%, while US West Texas Intermediate (WTI) crude futures finished at \$67.20 a barrel, falling \$1.10 or 1.6%. Over the week, Brent lost more than 2.5%, while WTI dropped by 1.2%. In India, crude oil futures settled 1.4% lower at ₹4,724 per barrel on the Multi

Commodity Exchange (MCX).

Several factors have contributed to the decline in prices. An increase in the number of oil and gas rigs in the US this week suggests rising production from the world's largest crude producer, further putting downward pressure on prices. A mixed US jobs report, showing strong hiring but a slight rise in the unemployment rate, also added to the bearish sentiment in the oil market.

On Thursday, OPEC+ extended the timeline for its output rise plan, pushing back the start to April 2025 and delaying the full unwinding of cuts until the end of 2026. While this decision strengthens market fundamentals in the short term, analysts

noted that it also reflects concerns over weak global demand, particularly from China, the world's largest crude importer. Rising oil production from other regions has added to the pressure on oil prices, forcing OPEC+ to delay its production increase plans.

HSBC Global Research analysts suggested that OPEC+'s decision could be seen as an implicit acknowledgment of sluggish demand. Meanwhile, Bank of America predicts that increasing oil surpluses will push Brent prices down to an average of \$65 per barrel in 2025, with oil demand growth expected to recover to 1 million barrels per day in the coming year.

## FM Sitharaman: GDP Slowdown in Q2 Not Systemic, Q3 to Offset Moderation

Finance Minister Nirmala Sitharaman has reassured the public that the slowdown in India's GDP growth during the second quarter (Q2) of the financial year is not indicative of a systemic issue. She emphasized that the moderation observed in Q2 is expected to be temporary, with the third quarter (Q3) likely to compensate for the slowdown.

India's GDP growth decelerated in Q2, reflecting a decrease in economic momentum, driven by factors like weak global demand, inflationary pressures, and challenges in key sectors. However, Sitharaman asserted that the economy remains resilient, and the current dip is a temporary blip in the broader growth trajectory.

Highlighting that the moderation was not a reflection of any underlying structural problems, Sitharaman pointed out that many factors were at play, including a normalizing base effect and seasonal fluctuations. She expressed confidence that India's economic fundamentals remain strong, citing positive indicators like rising exports, robust domestic consumption, and an uptick in investments.

The Finance Minister stressed that the Indian economy has shown remarkable resilience in the face of global uncertainties and that the government remains committed to supporting growth through targeted fiscal measures and reforms. In this con-



text, Sitharaman expects the economy to regain its momentum in Q3, driven by the festive season, improved industrial output, and a recovery in global demand.

Additionally, Sitharaman reassured investors and businesses that the government is monitoring the situation closely and will take any necessary corrective actions to support the economy's recovery. Despite global challenges, including geopolitical tensions and inflation, India's economic outlook remains positive, she emphasized.

Looking ahead, the Finance Minister remains optimistic about achieving the country's growth targets for the fiscal year, maintaining that India is on track for a strong and sustainable recovery in the coming quarters.

## India's Exports Surge 67% in FY2023-24, Reaching \$778 Billion



India has seen a remarkable surge in its exports, reaching approximately \$778 billion in FY2023-24, a 67% growth compared to \$466 billion in FY2013-14. This strong performance has elevated the country's global standing, with its share in world merchandise exports improving from 1.66% to 1.81%, propelling India from 20th to 17th in global rankings, according to Union Minister of Commerce and Industry, Piyush Goyal.

This growth can be attributed to several government initiatives aimed at sustaining and accelerating export performance. The positive momentum was also reflected in India's trade performance in the first quarter of the current fiscal year, as reported by NITI Aayog's Trade Watch report. The report indicated a stable and moderate growth trend, with India's total trade in H1 2024 increasing by 5.45% year-on-year to reach \$576 billion.

Merchandise exports showed a 5.95% rise in Q1 FY25, reaching \$110 billion, while imports grew by 8.40% to \$173 billion, widening the trade imbalance. De-

spite these challenges, the export growth to Free Trade Agreement (FTA) partners stood strong, with a notable 12% increase. Exports to North America accounted for 21% of India's total exports, followed by the European Union at 18.61%. Meanwhile, the country's imports primarily came from Northeast Asia, West Asia, and ASEAN countries, which contributed to 51% of total imports.

However, not all sectors saw positive growth. Exports of iron and steel saw a significant decline of 33% in Q1 FY25, driven by weak domestic demand and excess supply in China's steel market. Despite these challenges, India's strategic focus on high-growth sectors such as electronics and semiconductors has yielded positive results, with the country improving its rank among the top 10 global suppliers.

Overall, India's export growth highlights its growing presence in the global market, with continued efforts from the government to diversify and sustain this upward trajectory.

## ADB Approves USD 350 Million Loan to Modernize India's Logistics Sector



The Asian Development Bank (ADB) has approved a USD 350 million policy-based loan to support India's efforts to modernize and strengthen its logistics sector. The loan will fund the second subprogram of India's comprehensive strategy, aiming to develop a robust policy, planning, and institutional framework at both the state and city levels.

India's logistics sector is crucial for enhancing the competitiveness of its manufacturing industry. With a focus on strategic reforms, infrastructure upgrades, and digital integration, the Indian government is spearheading initiatives to transform this sector. According to ADB, these reforms will reduce operational costs, improve efficiency, and promote employment opportunities while fostering gender inclusion, which is expected to contribute to sustainable economic growth.

India has already launched several key policies to address logistics sector constraints, including the Prime Minister Gati Shakti-National Master Plan (PMGS-NMP) and the National Logistics Policy (NLP). These initiatives aim to improve infrastructure, streamline logistics processes, and drive digitization across the sector.

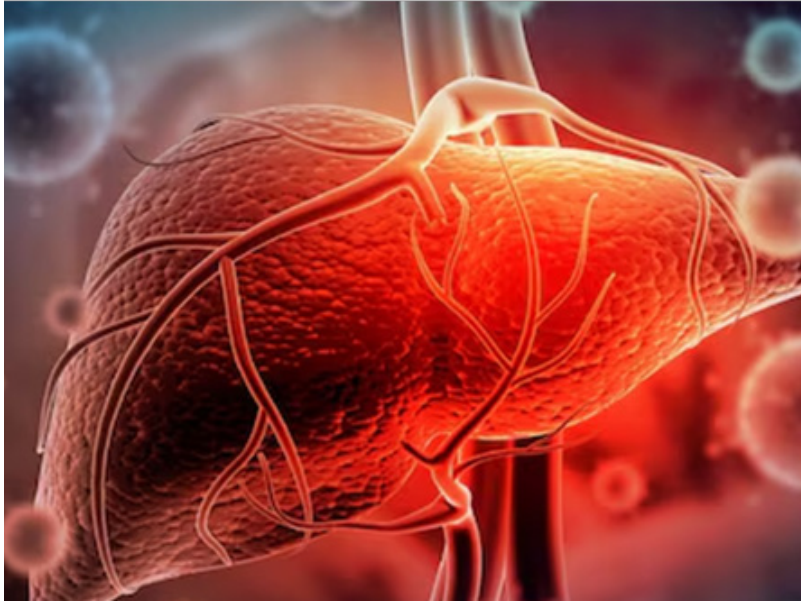
Sameer Khatiwada, ADB's Senior Public Management Economist, emphasized the profound impact that logistics sector development can have on manufacturing competitiveness. He highlighted that efficient logistics reduces transaction costs, enhances supply chain resilience, and boosts export competitiveness. Additionally, integrating digital technologies and standardizing processes will facilitate smoother movement of goods, essential for driving manufacturing growth.

India has already seen significant growth in its goods exports, with figures rising from USD 48.5 billion in 2000 to USD 467.5 billion in 2022. Industrial exports grew from USD 39.6 billion to USD 317.4 billion during the same period. The Indian government aims to achieve USD 2 trillion in exports of goods and services by 2030.

ADB's policy-based loan will help India realize this target by enhancing productivity, reducing logistics costs, and facilitating the transfer of goods. Moreover, the program will contribute to reducing greenhouse gas emissions, supporting India's broader sustainability goals.

## Doctor Shows 'Weekends Only' Drinker's Liver vs Non-Drinker, Sparks Debate

Dr. Cyriac Abby Philips, known as "The Liver Doc" on social media, recently shared a striking post on X (formerly Twitter) to challenge the misconception that drinking alcohol only on weekends has no harmful effects. The post featured a comparison of two livers: one from a 32-year-old man who drank alcohol exclusively on weekends and another from his wife, a non-drinker. The image quickly went viral, sparking a heated debate on the health risks associated with alcohol consumption.



In his post, Dr. Philips explained that the liver in question belonged to a man who had consumed alcohol only on weekends, while the healthy liver belonged to his wife, a non-drinker. The man later received his wife's liver transplant to survive and watch their daughter grow up. Dr. Philips added that this was a wake-up call for many who underestimate the damage caused by even occasional drinking. His post has garnered more than 100,000 views.

The conversation around the liver comparison quickly caught the attention of many social media users. Some users were shocked at the state of the liver, suggesting the man's alcohol consumption might be more frequent than just on weekends. Dr. Philips responded to these comments by reinforcing his point, urging people to look beyond their biases and learn from experience.

Dr. Philips' post also generated comments from individuals sharing their personal family experiences with cancer, arguing that alcohol consumption should not be the sole cause of health issues. In response, the doctor dismissed such counterarguments, emphasizing that alcohol is a toxic substance that can lead to severe liver damage, including fatty liver, cirrhosis, and liver failure.

The World Health Organization (WHO) has long stated that "there is no safe amount" of alcohol for human health. The WHO has classified alcohol as a Group 1 carcinogen, meaning it carries the same cancer risks as tobacco and asbestos. Alcohol has been linked to at least seven types of cancer, including bowel and breast cancer. The WHO stresses that any beverage containing alcohol increases the risk of developing cancer, regardless of its quality or cost.

## Google DeepMind Unveils GenCast for Enhanced Extreme Weather Tracking

Google DeepMind has introduced a new AI-powered weather forecasting tool named "GenCast", designed to provide superior predictions, especially for extreme weather events like deadly storms. In a blog post on December 4, 2024, DeepMind revealed that the tool can offer more accurate forecasts than traditional systems, including the European Centre for Medium-Range Weather Forecasts (ECMWF) ENS, for up to 15 days in advance.



The GenCast model works by generating probabilistic ensemble forecasts, which predict a range of possible weather scenarios rather than relying on a single forecast. This method, as opposed to traditional models that provide deterministic forecasts, is more reliable because it accounts for uncertainties in weather prediction. According to DeepMind, this probabilistic approach helps improve forecast accuracy, particularly when dealing with unpredictable extreme weather events.

To assess GenCast's capabilities, researchers conducted a comparison of its forecasts with those produced by traditional weather systems. They evaluated predictions for a variety of weather factors at different lead times, totaling

1,320 different combinations. The results showed that GenCast consistently outperformed the top operational system, ECMWF ENS, demonstrating its potential as a game-changer in weather prediction.

In late 2023, Google introduced another AI weather agent, further showcasing the company's commitment to leveraging artificial intelligence for climate and weather-related solutions. The introduction of GenCast signals a significant step forward in enhancing our ability to track and predict extreme weather events with greater accuracy, providing critical insights that could improve disaster preparedness and response.

## World's Most Expensive Dinosaur Fossil 'Apex' Returns To NYC



A 150-million-year-old Stegosaurus fossil, which became the most expensive dinosaur fossil ever sold earlier this year, is now on display at the American Museum of Natural History in Manhattan. Nicknamed "Apex", the Stegosaurus was purchased by billionaire Kenneth C. Griffin for a record-breaking \$44.6 million. He has generously loaned the fossil to the museum, where it will be on display for the next four years. After this period, a cast replica will take its place.

The rare and impressive specimen was unveiled to reporters, photographers, and museum staff ahead of its public debut, which is set for Sunday, December 8. The fossil is expected to draw large crowds as it offers a unique opportunity to view a dinosaur that has become a familiar icon for many.

"This is one of the dinosaurs that every kid knows how to draw," said Sean M. Decatur, president of the museum. "This is a unique opportunity

to have something that resonates in the public imagination about dinosaurs, but also provides valuable insights for research. It's a pretty special specimen." Decatur hopes that visitors will be just as awe-struck by "Apex" as the museum team is.

Kenneth Griffin expressed his excitement about lending the fossil to the museum, stating that "Apex" provides a "unique window into our planet's distant past." He expressed gratitude that millions of visitors and researchers would have the chance to study the magnificent specimen. "The joy and awe every child feels coloring a Stegosaurus will now be brought to life for millions of people who have the opportunity to see this epic dinosaur in person," Griffin said.

This isn't the first time Griffin has shown his support for dinosaur exhibits. In 2017, he donated \$16.5 million to Chicago's Field Museum to fund an exhibit featuring the largest Tyrannosaurus rex skeleton ever discovered.

## Humans and Dogs Became Friends 2,000 Years Earlier, Study Finds

A recent study has uncovered that the bond between humans and dogs began around 12,000 years ago, much earlier than previously believed. This research, conducted by the University of Arizona and published in "Science Advances", reveals that this close relationship between humans and their canine companions dates back approximately 2,000 years earlier than earlier records in the Americas.

The study, led by Francois Lanoe, an assistant research professor at the School of Anthropology, focuses on archaeological remains found at Swan Point, a long-standing site in Alaska. In 2018, researchers uncovered the tibia, or lower-leg bone, of an adult canine. Radiocarbon dating determined that the dog lived around 12,000 years ago, near the end of the Ice Age. The remains also indicated that the dog had a close connection with humans.

Chemical analysis of the canine's remains revealed significant traces of salmon proteins, suggesting that the dog was regularly consuming fish. Interestingly, local wild canines typically hunted only on land, so the presence of fish in the diet suggests that the dog might have relied on humans for its food.



Francois Lanoe emphasized the importance of this discovery, noting that it offers crucial evidence about the early relationship between humans and dogs in the Americas. "This is a significant contribution," Lanoe said. "It shows that people and canines had closer relationships earlier than previously known."

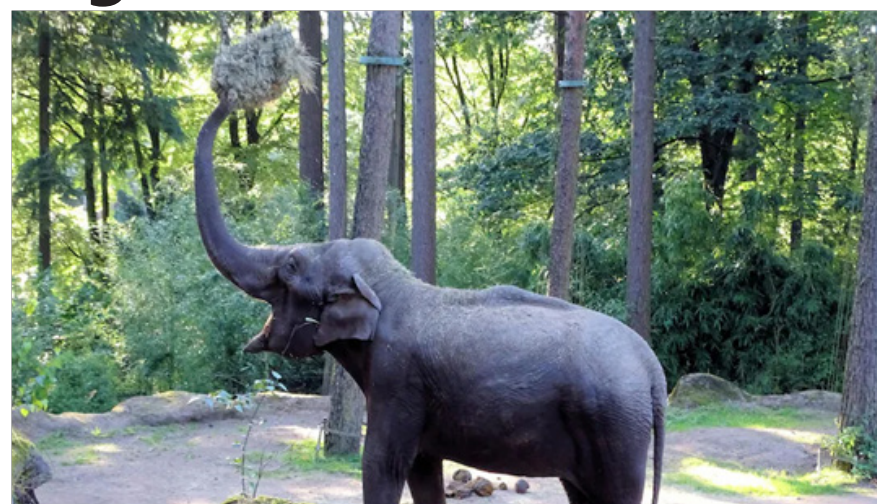
In a related discovery, an 8,100-year-old canine jawbone found at a nearby site in June 2023 also showed signs of close inter-

action with humans, further supporting the idea that early humans and canines had developed strong bonds. However, scientists caution that it is still too early to say for certain that these early canines were fully domesticated.

This groundbreaking research offers new insights into the ancient and enduring friendship between humans and dogs, pushing back the timeline of domestication and human-canine partnerships in the Americas.

## Tax Collector' Elephant in Sri Lanka Goes Viral for Stopping Vehicles and Demanding Food

Raja, a wild elephant in Sri Lanka, has gained viral fame for his unique role as an unofficial "tax collector" along the Buttala-Kataragama road. The 40-year-old elephant has become a beloved figure among locals and tourists alike. Known for his patient yet assertive approach, Raja stops vehicles traveling on this popular route, using his massive trunk to gently prod drivers for food.



As drivers approach, Raja, standing tall by the roadside, calmly demands treats, especially bananas and other fruits, which passersby eagerly offer. What began as a simple food request has grown into a well-established tradition. Motorists, aware of Raja's presence, often purchase fruit from roadside stalls in anticipation of their encounter with the majestic elephant.

media users applauding his peaceful approach to collecting his "toll." Locals and visitors alike view the encounter as a memorable part of their journey, making Raja an unexpected yet endearing symbol of Sri Lanka's vibrant wildlife culture.

The Buttala-Kataragama road, a major link between Sri Lanka's west and south-east coasts, runs through a lush jungle, offering a rare opportunity for travelers to experience wildlife up close. The tradition has garnered attention on social media, where users have showered Raja with praise, endorsing his gentle "bureaucratic" role in the wild.

Raja's antics are now widely shared online, with social

## England Sets Historic World Record with 533-Run Lead Against New Zealand

England has set a historic world record, becoming the first team in the 147-year history of Test cricket to score 500,000 runs. This milestone came during the second Test against New Zealand in Wellington on Saturday, where England took a commanding 533-run lead on Day 2. With 378/5 at stumps, the Ben Stokes-led team was in full control of the match.

England's dominance began after they posted 280 runs in their first innings, before dismissing New Zealand for a mere 125. Gus Atkinson claimed a hat-trick, removing New Zealand's last three wickets with successive deliveries, and finished with impressive fig-

ures of 4-31. This performance helped extend England's advantage, leaving New Zealand with a daunting task ahead.

In their second innings, England capitalized on their solid lead, with four batters scoring over 50. Jacob Bethell (96) and Ben Duckett (92) formed an untroubled 187-run partnership, before both fell in the 90s. Joe Root remained at the crease, scoring 73, while Captain Stokes struck a whirlwind 35\* to further assert England's dominance.

The New Zealand team now faces the enormous challenge of chasing down a record fourth-innings total. The highest successful

chase at the Basin Reserve is 274, a record set by Pakistan in 2003. With England's control over the match, New Zealand's hopes of squaring the series seem slim.

The match also saw Root achieving a personal milestone, becoming the fourth player to reach 50 runs in 100 different Test innings. Meanwhile, England's seamer Brydon Carse played a key role, claiming 4-46 in New Zealand's first innings.

With history firmly on England's side, the match is setting up to be a thrilling conclusion as New Zealand seeks to fight back.



## Paris Saint-Germain Held Again In Draw With Auxerre

Paris Saint-Germain were held to a frustrating 0-0 draw at Auxerre on Friday, extending their struggles in front of goal. Despite dominating possession and creating several chances, PSG were denied by a combination of excellent goalkeeping and poor finishing. The result marks a second consecutive domestic draw for PSG, following a 1-0 defeat to Bayern Munich in the Champions League at the end of November.

Although PSG remains unbeaten in Ligue 1 and continues to sit comfortably at the top of the table with an eight-point lead over their nearest rivals, Monaco and Marseille could close the gap to five points with victories this weekend. However, PSG's offensive woes are becoming a growing concern. The team has scored just once in their last three outings, highlighting their struggles in finding the back of the net.



work in the second half.

PSG manager Luis Enrique expressed his frustration but defended his players, saying, "I have nothing to reproach my players for. They gave everything. I am not going to criticize them, even internally." Despite the return of Portuguese striker Goncalo Ramos, who has been out with injury for over three months, PSG's attack failed to find its rhythm. Ramos, along with Achraf Hakimi and substitute Randal Kolo Muani, were denied by Auxerre goalkeeper Donovan Leon, who made several key saves, including one from Ramos and another from Hakimi. Vitorinha also struck the wood-

work in the second half. Despite the result, Luis Enrique acknowledged Auxerre's strong performance, stating, "Don't forget that we were up against the second-best team at home." Auxerre, who are enjoying a strong season following their promotion, sit just outside the European places and earned a point they felt was worth much more.

PSG's focus now turns to their upcoming Champions League clash with Salzburg on Tuesday, as they seek to secure a spot in the knockout phase after a disappointing start to their European campaign.

## Inter Milan Move Close to Napoli with 3-1 Victory Over Parma

Inter Milan closed the gap to Serie A leaders Napoli with a 3-1 victory over Parma at the San Siro on Friday, moving within a point of the top spot ahead of a crucial Champions League clash at Bayer Leverkusen. Italian internationals Federico Dimarco and Nicolò Barella scored stunning goals either side of half-time, while Marcus Thuram sealed the win with a neat volley in the 67th minute. The result leaves Simone Inzaghi's team level on 31 points with second-placed Atalanta, who can take the provisional league lead with a win over AC Milan later in the evening.



Inzaghi expressed satisfaction with his team's performance, saying, "We scored some great goals today... The only disappointing thing is that we conceded. We didn't deserve to, given how we played over the 94 minutes." Despite the win, Inter's defense was slightly blemished by a late own goal from Matteo Darmian that gave Parma a consolation goal.

Inter Milan are now unbeaten in 14 matches across all competitions, a run that includes a solid start to their Champions League campaign. With a win over Leverkusen on Tuesday, they could almost certainly secure direct qualification to the last 16 with two games remaining. Inzaghi

also made sure to select his strongest lineup, including captain Lautaro Martinez, who was making his 300th appearance for the club.

Although Martinez has struggled for form this season, he had an early strike ruled offside and missed a few chances to add to Inter's tally. One missed opportunity was particularly frustrating for the 27-year-old, who poked wide when one-on-one with Parma goalkeeper Zion Suzuki, six minutes after Thuram's goal.

The win was also significant for Thuram, who scored his 10th league goal of the season. Thuram, born in Parma where his father Lilian played, made the victory even more meaningful with a memorable performance in his hometown.

## Travis Head Shines with Century as Australia Take Command Against India

Travis Head played a remarkable knock, scoring a scintillating 140, as Australia took a commanding 157-run lead over India on the second day of the pink ball Test at Adelaide. With Marnus Labuschagne also returning to form with a solid fifty, Australia finished their first innings on 337, in reply to India's 180.

The day belonged to Head, who delighted his home crowd with an aggressive and entertaining century. Despite being dropped twice during his innings, Head made sure to capitalize on the reprieves, producing an almost run-a-ball 141-ball effort. His knock included 17 boundaries and 4 sixes, proving crucial in shifting the momentum of the game in Australia's favor.

The Indian bowlers, led by the ever-reliable Jasprit Bumrah, fought hard to break the Australian partnership. Bumrah's disciplined bowling saw him claim 4 wickets for 61 runs. Mohammed Siraj, who was also exceptional throughout the day, took 4 wickets for 98, as he dismissed Head and troubled Australia's middle order.

Head's dismissal came when Siraj finally ended his attacking innings, but not before the Australian lower order had the freedom to accelerate the score. As



a result, India found themselves unable to make any significant breakthroughs, and Australia extended their lead comfortably.

Marnus Labuschagne, who had been struggling for form recently, also provided valuable support with a gritty 50. His composed innings allowed Head to play his natural aggressive game, while also stabilizing the Australian innings after an early wicket fall.

With the tailenders adding quick runs, Australia were all out for 337, leaving India with a significant challenge to claw back into the match. Despite a valiant effort by Bumrah and Siraj, the Indian bowlers couldn't contain the Australian charge, and the day ended with the hosts in a dominant position.

## India and Bangladesh Set for Thrilling U19 Asia Cup Final Clash

The ACC U19 Men's Asia Cup final promises an exciting contest between India's formidable batting lineup and Bangladesh's sharp bowling attack at the Dubai International Cricket Stadium on Sunday. India, with eight titles to their name, is looking to reclaim the crown after a three-year gap. Bangladesh, the defending champions who eliminated India in the previous edition, will be eager to retain their title in a rematch of the 2023 semi-final.

India's batting has been led by opener Ayush Mhatre, who has scored 175 runs, and the prodigious 13-year-old Vaibhav Suryavanshi, who has contributed 167 runs to the team's total. Their combined efforts have been crucial in propelling India to the final. On the other hand, Bangladesh's bowlers have been the backbone of their campaign, with Md. Al Fahad and Md. Iqbal Hasan Emon taking 10 wickets each, making them key players in their quest for victory.

India's journey to the final has been one of recovery. Despite a loss to Pakistan in the opening match, the team bounced back strongly, overcoming Sri Lanka in the semi-final with 28 overs to spare. This impressive win showcased their resilience and skill.

Bangladesh has maintained consistency



throughout the tournament, with their only group-stage defeat coming at the hands of Sri Lanka. In the semi-final, they produced a dominant seven-wicket win over Pakistan, securing their place in the final.

While Bangladesh has the upper hand from last year's edition, Indian captain Mohamed Amaan and his team will be determined to reverse the outcome and prove their dominance in the tournament. The final promises to be a thrilling encounter, with both teams bringing their best to the field as they battle for the prestigious title.



## “Lopaliki Ra Chepta” First Song Launched with a Unique Twist!

Mass Bank Movies is all set to deliver a unique cinematic experience with its upcoming horror-comedy entertainer, “Lopaliki Ra Chepta.” Directed by Konda Venkata Rajendra, the film features Konda Venkata Rajendra, Anala Susmitha, Manisha jasshnani, Sanchi rai. Produced by : Konda Venkata Rajendra, Lakshmi Ganesh Chedella.

The much-anticipated movie recently wrapped up its shoot, and today, the makers launched the first single titled as LADY KALLA PILLA, creating quite a buzz.

Breaking away from the norm, the film’s first song was unveiled in a unique style — featuring an ordinary delivery boy named Jaffer as the face of the launch. The song, titled “Lady Kalla Pilla,” is a catchy number brought to life by renowned music director DavZand (Eagle fame) & Kapil Kapilan lends his magical voice to the track, making it an instant earworm.

A little more about the film, director Konda Venkata Rajendra shared, “Our hero plays the role of a delivery boy in the film, which is why we wanted to make the launch special by having a delivery boy launch the song. The film is a mix of horror and comedy, guaranteed to entertain audiences of all ages. We are gearing up for a February release.”

### Star Cast and Crew at a Glance

The film has a talented ensemble cast, including Vamshidhargoud, Praveen katari, Ajay Karrthik Ramesh Kaiguri and Vani Aida in pivotal roles. Behind the scenes, the magic is created by cinematographers Revanth Levaka and Aravind Ganesh, and



with Vamsi’s edit. The movie’s music is acquired by the prestigious label Saregama, promises to be a key highlight.

“Lopaliki Ra Chepta” promises a perfect blend of chills and laughs, with a relatable story revolving around an ordinary delivery boy caught in extraordinary circumstances. With its quirky concept, engaging songs, and stellar team, the film is poised to leave an indelible mark on Telugu cinema.

Mark your calendars for February 2025 — this horror-comedy is ready to knock at your doors!

Starring: Konda Venkata Rajendra, Anala Susmitha, Manisha jasshnani, Sanchi rai, Vamshidhargoud, Praveen katari, Ajay Karrthik.  
Written & Directed by: Konda Venkata Rajendra  
Banner: Mass Bunk Movies

Produced by : Lakshmi Ganesh Chedella, Konda Venkata Rajendra  
Cinematographer: Revanth levaka, Aravindh Ganesh  
Editor: Vamsi  
Make Up : Johnny  
Stunts : Sagar Sailesh  
PRO: B.Veera Babu  
Production Controller: Deepthi Ambati  
Co Director : Kns Kalyan Chakravarthy  
Associate Directors: Hemanth Muthoju, Malyadri Reddy  
Executive Producer: Rama Krishna Vadarevu, Nikhil Reddy.  
Line producer : Kishore Thokala  
Post Production :  
Content Que studios

## Kalki 2898 AD Unveils Japanese Trailer Released Ahead of January Release



Prabhas, the pan-India star, has once again captured the audience’s attention with his sci-fi mythological film \*Kalki 2898 AD\*, which proved to be a massive success at the Indian box office. Directed by Nag Ashwin, the film’s unique subject, stunning visuals, and star-studded cast made it a visual feast for viewers, earning rave reviews and solidifying its place as a box-office hit.

Now, \*Kalki 2898 AD\* is all set to entertain audiences in Japan, a country where Prabhas already enjoys a strong fanbase. The filmmakers are confident that Japanese audiences will appreciate the film’s cutting-edge visuals and thrilling storyline. The movie is scheduled for release in Japan on January 3, 2025, and the excitement surrounding its international debut is already growing.

To build anticipation, the latest trailer of \*Kalki 2898 AD\* has been released in Japa-

nese, further fueling the buzz on social media. The trailer highlights the film’s spectacular visual effects and the star power of Prabhas, Amitabh Bachchan, Kamal Haasan, Deepika Padukone, Disha Patani, Rajendra Prasad, and others, all of whom play significant roles in the film.

Produced under the Vyjayanthi Movies banner, \*Kalki 2898 AD\* boasts a musical score by Santhosh Narayanan, which adds to the film’s grandeur. The movie’s global appeal and impressive cast have already set high expectations for its success in Japan.

As the film prepares for its release in Japan, fans are eagerly awaiting to see what kind of sensation \*Kalki 2898 AD\* will create in the Japanese market. With its groundbreaking visuals and compelling narrative, the movie is poised to become another milestone in Prabhas’ already illustrious career.

## Rashmika’s Upcoming Film \*The Girlfriend\* Teaser Release Date Announced

National crush Rashmika Mandanna, who has taken the nation by storm with her stellar performance as Srivalli in \*Pushpa-2\*, is all set to impress her fans once again with her next film, \*The Girlfriend\*. While audiences are still captivated by her role in \*Pushpa-2\*, Rashmika has already caught everyone’s attention with the announcement of her upcoming movie.

The film unit of \*The Girlfriend\* recently unveiled an exciting update through a new poster, revealing that

the teaser showcasing Rashmika’s role will be released on December 9. The announcement has sent fans into a frenzy, eager to see what this talented actress has in store for them in her new avatar.

Rashmika’s performance in \*Pushpa-2\* has garnered massive praise, especially for her dance moves, which have gone viral on social media. Director Sukumar, who is known for his keen eye for talent, has already expressed admiration for her acting skills in \*The Girlfriend\*. Fans

are now eagerly awaiting to see how Rashmika will bring her character to life in this new film.

\*The Girlfriend\*, directed by Rahul Ravindran, promises to be a fresh and exciting film. With the makers planning to release it as a pan-India movie, expectations are high for Rashmika’s performance in this role. Her versatility as an actress continues to shine, and this movie is expected to further solidify her place as one of the top stars in Indian cinema. With the teaser set for release in just



a few days, fans are excited to get a glimpse of Rashmika’s character and to see what new dimensions she will bring to her performance in \*The Girlfriend\*.

## Adivi Sesh Teases Thrilling Updates for \*Decoit\* and \*Gudhachari 2\*



Adivi Sesh, one of Tollywood’s most promising and versatile actors, has carved a niche for himself with a string of successful thrillers and action-packed films. Known for his gripping performances and solid storytelling, Sesh has become a favorite among fans, especially for his roles in intense thrillers. After taking a short break from the limelight, the actor is back in action with multiple upcoming projects, including \*Decoit\* and the highly anticipated spy thriller \*Gudhachari 2\*.

Sesh recently promised his fans some exciting updates about these films, building up the anticipation even more. He revealed that December will bring a surprise for his fans regarding \*Decoit\*, while January will offer thrilling updates on \*Gudhachari 2\*. Both films have been highly awaited, and Sesh’s promise of

surprises has further fueled the excitement surrounding their release.

\*Decoit\* is expected to be a gripping action film, while \*Gudhachari 2\*, the sequel to the hit \*Gudhachari\*, is poised to take the spy thriller genre to the next level. Both films are highly anticipated, and Sesh’s track record suggests that these projects will not disappoint.

Fans are eagerly waiting to see what surprises Sesh has in store, with the promise of thrilling revelations in the coming months. As the actor continues to push boundaries with his diverse roles, it’s clear that Adivi Sesh’s upcoming projects are worth the wait. The updates for both \*Decoit\* and \*Gudhachari 2\* are expected to raise the stakes and leave audiences craving for more.

## Vicky Kaushal’s Postponement of Chhaava to February 2024

Vicky Kaushal, one of the most beloved actors in Indian cinema, is all set for his much-anticipated historical drama \*Chhaava\*, which will now release on February 14, 2024. The film, initially scheduled for a December 6, 2024, release, was postponed at the last moment due to the much-anticipated launch of \*Pushpa 2\* on December 5, 2024.

This move has been widely regarded as a smart decision by Vicky and the film’s producers. Despite \*Chhaava\* receiving positive pre-release buzz and reviews, the massive box office draw of \*Pushpa 2\*, especially in Hindi-speaking regions, made it clear that the film would have been overshadowed by the frenzy surrounding Allu Arjun’s action-packed sequel. With \*Pushpa 2\* already dominating the screens, \*Chhaava\* could have struggled to make a mark and attract the same level of attention.

The new release date for \*Chhaava\* positions the film in a less crowded window, allowing it to shine without the overwhelming competition from other blockbusters. Directed by Lakshman Utekar, \*Chhaava\* is a grand period drama that stars Vicky Kaushal in a pivotal role, with popular actress Rahmika playing the heroine. The film’s storyline and the historical backdrop have sparked significant interest among moviegoers, and the new timing could give it the attention it deserves.

Vicky Kaushal’s decision to delay the release ap-



pears to be a wise one, as it ensures that \*Chhaava\* gets a fair chance to establish itself in the competitive market. With the shift in release dates, the film is poised to attract audiences eager for a historical drama, and Vicky’s growing star power will only add to its appeal.