



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

THE RUCKUS BETWEEN THREE POWER CENTRES MADE TTD INEFFICIENT, CAUSING THE STAMPEDE

TPN Correspondent, Tirupati | Jan 10 : What are the reasons behind the stampede that happened at Tirupati? Who are the culprits behind the deaths of six devotees? Whose failure caused this tragic incident? The basic answer from the TTD staff is simple: the three power centers at Tirumala or TTD. The failure of coordination was caused only because of these three power centers. The lack of proper direction to the staff and the police is due to these three power centers. The division of staff into three groups is also a result of these three power centers. The wrong decisions taken by TTD were due to these three power centers.

cial, including police personnel, at TTD, which led to a lapse due to the lack of experienced officials. The second mistake was the attitude and behavior of Mr. Shyamala Rao, who failed to listen to others and took unilateral decisions without consulting concerned persons. The third mistake was made by Mr. Venkanna Chowdhary, who came on deputation for three years from the central service. He was referred by Mr. Lokesh Nara as part of his campaign. Being an IRS officer, he allegedly showed his attitude against the EO and wanted to make independent decisions. The last mistake was Mr. BR Naidu's overaction. His public visits and attempts to project himself as a reformer of TTD allegedly created a ruckus between staff and officials.

So, what are these three power centers? One is TTD EO Shyamala Rao, the second is TTD AEO Venkanna Chowdhary, and the third is Mr. BR Naidu, the Chairman of TTD. Allegedly, the first mistake was made by Mr. N. Chandrababu Naidu, the Chief Minister of Andhra Pradesh. After taking power, Mr. Naidu visited the Tirumala temple and announced that he would cleanse TTD. Based on this, he replaced many senior offi-

Thus, three power centers were created, and staff were divided between them, leading to inefficiency and inexperience.

The divided teams made decisions jointly to ensure the success of the Vaikuntha Dwara Darshan, a prestigious event for TTD every year.



However, the problem was that each group began to compete for credit for the event's success.

They gave wide publicity to the event and announced 120,000 tokens, giving the impression that a huge number of devotees would be allowed. Simultaneously, they abolished Sarva Darshanam for ten days, which led all devotees to enter through a single door. They opened 91 counters at 9 places but allowed more devotees at each counter than its capacity. Devotees arrived early in the morning, and the queues grew heavily, but nobody was allowed entry before 9 PM. By that time, no one had even received drinking water — this was the care

provided by the three groups. Due to this overwhelming volume, the crowd exceeded capacity, leading to the stampede. At one counter, a woman fell, and others tried to pass her by pressing forward. To avoid this situation and save the woman, the DSP opened a gate.

Despite the above factors, TTD Chairman and others have placed the blame solely on the DSP for opening the gate, ignoring other facts. However, everyone is questioning the capacity of TTD authorities in organizing this event, which resulted in the stampede and the deaths of six people. It is unfortunate that even the Minister for Home and other leaders have suggested a

possible conspiracy behind the tragic incident, which many consider to be an absurd claim. Furthermore, the media of TDP has pointed to the token system introduced by TTD under Jagan's regime as the cause, but this argument is backfiring on the Alliance Government. Nobody is accepting these arguments; most people believe that TTD's failure was behind the incident, and the comments made by Chief Minister Naidu have further supported these views.

The last issue to address is that there was no driver available for the ambulance at the time of the incident, which is shameful for TTD, a world-famous temple organization.

KTR Faces ACB in Formula E Case

**Lengthy Questioning by ACB
KTR Denies Allegations, Labels Case Political
No New Questions Asked, Says KTR
Formula E-Race Case Under Dual Investigation
KTR Vows Full Cooperation with Authorities**

TPN Correspondent, Hyderabad | Jan 10 : Bharat Rashtra Samithi (BRS) leader K.T. Rama Rao (KTR) appeared before the Anti-Corruption Bureau (ACB) on Thursday for questioning in connection with the Formula E-car racing case. The questioning, which lasted for nearly six and a half hours, was supervised by ACB Joint Director Rithiraj, with DSP Majid Khan leading the interrogation.

times as required, emphasizing his commitment to cooperating with the authorities.

The case pertains to allegations of fund misuse in the organization of the Formula E-race event. Alongside the ACB, the Enforcement Directorate (ED) is also probing the matter.

KTR dismissed the allegations, terming the investigation a "bad case." He questioned the rationale behind pursuing such a case, which he claimed was being used as a tool for political vendetta. Despite the prolonged questioning, KTR maintained his stance and expressed confidence in his responses.

Speaking to the media after the session, KTR stated that he fully cooperated with the investigation. He revealed that the ACB officials had not asked any new questions and that he had answered all queries to the best of his knowledge.

Labeling the case as "politically motivated," KTR criticized the decision to investigate the matter, asserting that it was an irrelevant and baseless case. He reiterated his willingness to appear for questioning as many

This high-profile questioning has garnered significant public and political attention. KTR's assertion of political bias in the investigation is likely to stir further debate in Telangana's political landscape as the case unfolds.



Bandi Sanjay Slams CM on Dues

**Arogyashri Dues Cross ₹1,000 Crore
Bandi Sanjay Criticizes Lavish Spending**

**Fee Reimbursement Crisis Worsens
BJP Threatens Protests Over Arrears**

TPN Correspondent, Hyderabad | Jan 10 : Union Minister and BJP leader Bandi Sanjay has penned an open letter to Telangana Chief Minister Revanth Reddy, criticizing the state government for its handling of the Arogyashri and fee reimbursement schemes. Sanjay accused the Congress government of neglect and incompetence, alleging that it has plunged the state's education and healthcare sectors into crisis.



In his letter, Bandi Sanjay highlighted the plight of patients and students, blaming the government for non-payment of dues under the Arogyashri health scheme and the fee

reimbursement program. He pointed out that over ₹1,000 crore in Arogyashri dues have accumulated, leaving poor patients unable to access essential healthcare services despite promises to increase the scheme's

limit to ₹10 lakh.

Similarly, he noted that fee reimbursement arrears have crossed ₹7,000 crore, affecting thousands of students and educational institutions. Sanjay criticized the government's failure to release funds on time, forcing colleges to withhold certificates and threatening their closure. "It is shameful that tokens worth ₹380 crore were issued, but payments remain pending for months. Proposing a one-time settlement (OTS) while dues continue to accrue with interest is an atrocity," Sanjay said.

ACB Court Permits Revanth Reddy to Travel Abroad

**Court Approves Revanth Reddy's Foreign Tour
Passport Temporarily Released for Travel
Return Deadline Set for July 6**

TPN Correspondent, Hyderabad | Jan 10 : The ACB court has granted permission to Telangana Chief Minister Revanth Reddy to travel abroad. Revanth Reddy will visit Australia, Singapore, and Davos between January 13 and January 23.



In light of his travel plans, the Chief Minister had filed a petition seeking the temporary release of his passport, which was surrendered to the court due to his involvement in the vote-for-cash case. The court, after reviewing the petition, accepted his request and allowed him to retrieve his passport. However, the court directed him to return the passport by July 6.

Revanth Reddy is facing charges in the high-profile vote-for-cash case, and as part of legal procedures, he had submitted his passport to the

court. This approval marks a significant development, allowing the Chief Minister to fulfill his international commitments while ensuring adherence to legal obligations.

The court's decision highlights the balance between permitting the fulfillment of official responsibilities and maintaining the integrity of judicial proceedings. Revanth's foreign tour is expected to include discussions on investment opportunities and state partnerships.



**Arvind Kumar
Grilled in
Formula E Scam**

Arvind Kumar Faces Six-Hour Interrogation by ED

ED Investigates ₹55 Crore Formula E Payments

KTR and Reddy Also Under ED and ACB Scrutiny



CM on Dues

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He accused the government of prioritizing lavish expenditures on foreign trips and other projects over the welfare of the poor and students. "With a state budget of ₹2.75 lakh crore, why can't ₹8,000 crore be allocated to clear these dues?" Sanjay questioned. Demanding immediate payment of arrears, he warned that the BJP, under state president G. Kishan Reddy, would launch protests alongside students and patients if the government fails to act. He held the Congress government responsible for any fallout resulting from its inaction. This letter intensifies the political debate over Telangana's governance and the priorities of CM Revanth Reddy's administration.

Arvind Kumar Grilled in Formula E Scam

TPN Correspondent, Hyderabad | Jan 10 : Arvind Kumar, the former Hyderabad Metropolitan Development Authority (HMDA) commissioner, was grilled for six hours by the Enforcement Directorate (ED) on January 9, 2025, in connection with the alleged Formula E scam. The investigation involves a suspected financial irregularity of ₹54.88 crore related to the Formula E event. Kumar appeared at the ED regional office around 11 a.m. on Thursday, where he was questioned under the Prevention of Money Laundering Act (PMLA) and about potential violations of the Foreign Exchange Management Act (FEMA). The inquiry is linked to a First Information Report (FIR) filed by the Anti Corruption Bureau (ACB).

Kumar, along with former Telangana minister KT Rama Rao (KTR) and former HMDA chief engineer BLN Reddy, is accused in the scam. Reddy, who was questioned by the ED on January 8, reportedly said that he acted under Kumar's orders for the transfer of ₹55 crore to UK-based Formula E Operations (FEO) without RBI clearance. The ACB's FIR was filed under several sections of the Prevention of Corruption Act and the IPC, including charges of criminal misconduct and conspiracy. The agency is investigating whether the transfer violated financial procedures, leading to a loss for the state government. KTR, who is the primary accused, appeared before the ACB on January 9 and is scheduled to meet with the ED on January 16. The ED had previously issued notices to both Reddy and Kumar, asking them to appear in early January, but they had requested additional time.

Tummala Highlights Congress' Support for Farmers

TPN Correspondent, Hyderabad | Jan 10 : Telangana's Agriculture Minister, Tummala Nagewara Rao, reaffirmed that the Congress government is deeply committed to farmer welfare, emphasizing the significant funds invested in agricultural development. In his statement, Tummala highlighted the government's achievements in supporting farmers, particularly focusing on loan waivers up to Rs 2 lakh, a policy spearheaded by Chief Minister Revanth Reddy. Tummala credited the Congress government for implementing numerous farmer-centric policies, especially the Sitarama project, which aims to provide irrigation water from the Godavari River. He stressed that the initiative will benefit farmers in the joint Khammam district, ensuring reliable water supply for crop cultivation. He also mentioned plans to extend irrigation to areas like Vaira, Madhira, and Sathupalli, utilizing Godavari water when necessary to substitute Sagar water.

The minister also addressed the government's efforts to support cooperative societies, offering subsidies for agricultural machinery to help farmers improve productivity. Tummala assured that the government would continue to focus on the well-being of all communities and would allocate funds for the betterment of the agricultural sector. He contrasted the current administration's dedication to development with the previous government's tenure, claiming that Telangana was burdened with debt during their rule. Tummala's comments come as the Congress government looks to consolidate its position in the state with an ongoing commitment to agricultural growth and prosperity.



Congress to Waive Crop Loans, Says Bhatti

Palamuru to Become Rice Bowl, Says Bhatti

Congress Government Pledges Loan Waivers and Welfare Schemes

Bhatti Criticizes TRS for State's Debt and Delayed Projects



TPN Correspondent, WANAPARTHY | Jan 10 : On Thursday, Deputy Chief Minister Bhatti Vikramarka Mallu addressed Congress party workers at the district headquarters in Wanaparthi, Nagar Kurnool district, where he highlighted various development initiatives for Telangana and reaffirmed the Congress government's commitment to the welfare of the people.

three years and expressed his vision to transform Palamuru, once known for migration, into a major rice bowl. He emphasized that key irrigation projects such as Koyal Sagar, Bhima, Kalwakurthy, and Nettempadu were all completed under Congress rule. Bhatti also assured that the Elimineti Madhava Reddy, Srisailam tunnel, and Dindi projects would be prioritized.

2 lakh would be waived, urging farmers who had not yet availed the waiver to inform the government. He criticized the TRS government for pushing Telangana into a debt trap, stating that the Congress government had already paid Rs 66,000 crore toward loan repayment.

Rs 10 lakh in insurance coverage. He assured that the government is taking significant steps to improve infrastructure, including the construction of a Skills University, Sports University, and other major projects.

Concluding his address, Bhatti stressed the Congress party's commitment to the welfare of Telangana's people and its ongoing efforts to transform the state into a model of development.

Bhatti announced that the Palamuru-Ranga Reddy Lift Irrigation (LI) scheme would be completed in

Discussing the government's commitment to farmers, Bhatti confirmed that crop loans below Rs

Bhatti also outlined various welfare schemes, including Rytu Bharosa, which has been increased to Rs 12,000, and the Rajiv Aarogya Sri scheme, which now provides up to

KTR Challenges Revanth Reddy to Lie Detector Test

KTR Dismisses Corruption Allegations

Challenges Revanth Reddy to Lie Detector Test

Calls Formula E Case Baseless and Politically Motivated

TPN Correspondent, Hyderabad | Jan 10 : BRS Working President K.T. Rama Rao (KTR) has reiterated that no corruption occurred in the Formula E car racing case. Addressing the media at Telangana Bhavan after his questioning at the ACB office, KTR openly challenged TPCC chief Revanth Reddy to take a lie detector test to settle the matter.

KTR accused Revanth Reddy of baseless allegations and lack of understanding regarding the case. "With his limited knowledge, he thinks a scam has taken place. A thief sees the world through a thief's eyes. Revanth Reddy, if you have the courage, come tomorrow or I will come to your Jubilee Hills residence. Let's take a lie detector test together on live camera. The people of Telangana and the country will see who is honest and who is not," KTR declared.

Dismissing the allegations, KTR emphasized, "I have not committed a single act of corruption. These theft and loot cases you mention will not stand. If you are brave, take the test. Let the people decide who is truthful."

KTR also criticized Revanth Reddy for alleged past misconduct, questioning his treatment of officers and his credibility. He maintained that he fully cooperated with the ACB and was prepared to return for questioning if summoned.

Referring to his interaction with ACB officials, KTR said, "There was nothing new in their questions. The case has no merit, no evidence, and no basis." He concluded by reaffirming his willingness to confront Revanth Reddy openly, leaving the final judgment to the public.

This escalating war of words between KTR and Revanth Reddy has added another layer of political tension in Telangana's dynamic political arena.



Telangana RTC Prepares for Sankranti Rush with Special Buses



TPN Correspondent, Telangana | Jan 10 : The Telangana State Road Transport Corporation (TSRTC) is all set to handle the festive rush during Sankranti with special arrangements for safe and efficient travel. To accommodate the increased passenger demand, the TSRTC will operate 6,432 special buses for the festival. The busiest days are expected to be the 10th, 11th, and 12th of January, with heightened passenger traffic. The corporation has also made arrangements for the return traffic on the 19th and 20th.

systems, drinking water, and mobile toilets, will be provided to ensure passenger comfort.

In line with the state government's directive, the TSRTC has revised the ticket prices for special buses, which will be applicable on the 10th, 11th, and 12th, as well as on the return days, 19th and 20th. The fare increase is capped at 1.50 times the regular price for special buses traveling to both Telangana and other states. Normal fares will apply for regular buses during this period.

Special buses will be available from high-traffic areas in Hyderabad such as MGBS, JBS, Uppal Cross Roads, Aramgarh, LB Nagar Cross Roads, KPHB, Boyampally, and Gachibowli. Additional facilities, including pandals, shamianas, chairs, public address

As part of the state's Mahalaxmi scheme, free bus transport for women will continue on Palle Velugu, Express, City Ordinary, and Metro Express buses running for Sankranti, ensuring accessible travel for all.

CM Revanth Reddy to Visit Tirumala On Thursday for Vaikuntha Ekadashi



TPN Correspondent, Hyderabad | Jan 10 : Chief Minister Revanth Reddy is scheduled to visit Tirumala on Thursday, January 10, along with his family members, to offer prayers at the Tirumala Srivari temple on the occasion of Vaikuntha Ekadashi. Special arrangements have been made by Tirumala Tirupati Devasthanam (TTD) officials in anticipation of his visit. This marks CM Revanth Reddy's second visit to the temple since assuming office as the Chief Minister of Telangana. He had previously visited Tirumala Srivari immediately after taking charge.

Ravula Sridhar Reddy Defends KTR, Criticizes Congress Leaders

TPN Correspondent, Hyderabad | Jan 10 : Ravula Sridhar Reddy, a prominent leader of the Bharat Rashtra Samithi (BRS), has strongly defended BRS working president K.T. Rama Rao (KTR), dismissing the corruption allegations against him as a fabricated case. Reddy accused Congress leaders of taking pleasure in KTR's questioning by the Anti-Corruption Bureau (ACB), calling it a diversionary tactic to stay in the news. He specifically criticized Bhuvanagiri MP Chamala Kiran Reddy, labeling him a "broker" who entered politics through a payment quota and has no right to speak about KTR's contributions to Telangana.

Reddy further pointed out that KTR, who played an instrumental role in the Telangana movement and served as a minister for ten years, has earned his political stature. In contrast, Kiran Reddy, according to Reddy, "drank water from Revanth Reddy's elbow" and became an MP.

Reddy also slammed the Congress for failing to hold press conferences on the state's



debt of Rs 1.37 lakh crore and questioned the Congress leaders' contributions to the Telangana movement.

He called their criticism of KTR baseless and urged them to focus on discussions about development under Former Chief Minister K. Chandrashekar Rao's leadership instead of engaging in mud-slinging politics.

MP Kiran Accuses Kavitha of Involvement in Liquor Business for Commission

TPN Correspondent, Hyderabad | Jan 10 : In a scathing attack, MP Chamala Kiran accused BRS working president K.T. Rama Rao (KTR) and his sister, Kavitha, of being involved in corrupt activities. Kiran alleged that Kavitha was involved in the liquor business for commission, questioning the ethical practices of the family. He also criticized KTR, calling him a "prince" rather than a true Telangana soldier, and accused the family of using the Telangana movement to enrich themselves.

Kiran further accused the KTR-led government of corruption, alleging that the government borrowed Rs 7 lakh crores, which was looted by contractors. He also questioned the role of KTR's associates in these dealings. Kiran continued to criticize KTR's governance, accusing him of diverting 55 crores by violating RBI regulations.

Medipalli MLA Satyam also joined the criticism, asserting that KTR should fully cooperate with the investigation and warned of consequences if he fails to clear his name. He further mentioned that Revanth Reddy did not indulge in similar corrupt practices, especially pointing to land irregularities in Sircilla with KTR's alleged support. Satyam stated that KTR would have to answer for his actions.

MLC Slams Dil Raju for Insulting Telangana Culture

TPN Correspondent, Hyderabad | Jan 10 : MLC Deshpathi Srinivas recently launched a strong critique against prominent film producer Dil Raju, questioning his commitment to Telangana's culture and accusing him of prioritizing commercial interests over the local population. His comments came in the wake of Dil Raju's involvement in the ticket price hike for the movie Game Changer and the release event of the movie in Nizamabad, which, according to Srinivas, lacked the right "vibes" for the Sankranti festival.



Srinivas mocked Dil Raju's remarks, suggesting that if the vibes in Telangana were lacking, the producer should abandon making films and instead open a toddy shop and a meat stall. He further accused Dil Raju of never representing the interests of Telangana and criticized him

for insulting the state's culture.

The issue of movie ticket price hikes was also addressed by former MLA Rasamayi Balakrishnan, who questioned CM Revanth Reddy's decision to allow price increases despite earlier

assurances that they would not be permitted. Rasamayi and Srinivas both expressed disappointment over what they described as a U-turn from the CM, particularly in light of the special exemptions given to Game Changer. They questioned the reasoning behind granting additional shows and increased ticket prices for Dil Raju's movie and asked the public to be aware of the motives behind these decisions.

Both leaders emphasized that Dil Raju has long been associated with Andhra, rather than Telangana, and criticized him for disregarding the interests of the people. They also condemned the notion that the public should wake up early just to watch a movie, calling it an unnecessary burden on the people of Telangana.



Beerla Ilayya Warns KTR Over Remarks Against CM Revanth Reddy

TPN Correspondent, Hyderabad | Jan 10 : Government Whip Beerla Ilayya has strongly criticized BRS Working President KTR for making what he described as "shameless" statements. Ilayya accused KTR of approving a payment of Rs. 55 crore to foreign companies in the Formula E car race case without government permission.

In a video shared recently, Ilayya warned KTR to be cautious in his remarks against Chief Minister Revanth Reddy. He suggested that KTR, who has lost political power, is speaking out of frustration and will soon face legal consequences. Ilayya emphasized that CM Revanth is diligently addressing the state's issues, including correcting the mistakes and debts left by KTR's administration.

Ilayya further advised KTR to reconsider his actions and cautioned that if the public criticizes him and he is sidelined, he should be careful about speaking out against CM Revanth Reddy, warning that he could face legal repercussions.



KTR Criticized by MLC Balmoor Venkat for Corruption Allegations

TPN Correspondent, Hyderabad | Jan 10 : MLC Balmoor Venkat has strongly criticized BRS Working President KTR, accusing him of involvement in several corruption scandals. Venkat labeled KTR as a "drama artist" and claimed that the politician had failed to secure relief in the Supreme Court and High Courts. He also accused KTR of lacking clarity on the issues concerning Hyderabad, citing alleged scams in the Irrigation Department and illegal land allocations in Hyderabad, Ranga Reddy, and Medchal districts.

Venkat further questioned KTR's integrity, alleging that his family was involved in illegal activities, including sand transport fraud in Karimnagar, the liquor scam linked to KTR's sister Kavitha, and irregular electricity deals with Adani. He also criticized KTR's claims of developing Hyderabad in the IT sector, asserting that the family had exploited the state instead.

Venkat urged KTR to cooperate fully with the Anti-Corruption Bureau (ACB) and prove his innocence, claiming that Telangana citizens no longer trusted the KTR family due to their alleged involvement in multiple scandals.

MLA Danam Nagender Comments on Formula-E and Revanth Reddy



TPN Correspondent, Hyderabad | Jan 10 : Congress MLA Danam Nagender recently addressed the media regarding the Formula-E event, offering mixed views on the matter. He acknowledged that the arrival of Formula-E has significantly boosted Hyderabad's

brand image, similar to the earlier plans of Chandrababu Naidu, who had acquired land in Gachibowli for Formula-1 but could not execute it. Nagender noted that the event, hosted in the Khairatabad constituency, garnered international attention, which he believes is beneficial for the city.

When questioned about the allegations of corruption surrounding the Formula-E case, Nagender refrained from making direct claims. He shared that during the competition, KTR had insisted on bringing the event to Hyderabad, despite initial plans to take it to Dubai. While Nagender did not explicitly comment on the corruption issue, he emphasized that it is inappropriate to make hasty judgments without further investigation.

Former MLA Sunke Ravi Shankar Warns of Protests Over False Cases Against KTR

TPN Correspondent, Gangadhara, Jan 10 : Former MLA Sunke Ravi Shankar has warned of serious unrest in the state if BRS Working President KTR is illegally arrested through fabricated cases. Speaking at a press conference in Gangadhara on Thursday, he criticized the government for harassing KTR and other leaders, including Minister Harish Rao, with false accusations despite no evidence of corruption in the Formula-E race.

Ravi Shankar expressed frustration over the government's attempts to target KTR and Harish Rao for questioning the administration's failures and unfulfilled election promises. He



emphasized that the state flourished under the leadership of KCR but is now deteriorating under CM Revanth Reddy's rule.

The former MLA also addressed local concerns, particularly regarding the Narayanpur reservoir, which he called vital for the Choppadandi constituency. He urged the government to fill the reservoir with water from Yellampally to support irrigation for 70 acres of land. Ravi Shankar warned that farmers would protest if water was not released within four days.

Several local leaders, including Gangadhara Single Window Chairman Dhulam Balagoud and former AMC Chairman Sagi Mahipal Rao, attended the press conference in support.



Prajavani Program Rescheduled Due to Sankranti Festival



TPN Correspondent, Hyderabad | Jan 10 : In light of the upcoming Sankranti festival, the Telangana government has rescheduled the Prajavani programme. Originally planned for Tuesday, January 14, the session will now be held on Friday, January 17, at Mahatma Jyothiba Phule Prajabhavan, Begumpet. The government has requested all petitioners to note the revised date and attend the session on the new date.

TGSRTC Increases Ticket Fares During Sankranti Holidays

Ahead of the Sankranti festival, the Telangana State Road Transport Corporation (TGSRTC) has announced a revision in ticket fares. The fare hike of 1.5 percent will be applicable to certain RTC buses operating on January 10, 11, 12, 19, and 20. To manage the expected travel rush, the TGSRTC will operate 6,432 special buses during the festival, including buses for both outbound and return journeys.

Sankranti Holidays for Banks in Telangana

In addition to schools and junior colleges, banks in Hyderabad will observe a holiday on January 14 for Sankranti. The holidays for banks in the city will follow this schedule:

- January 11:** Second Saturday
- January 12:** Sunday
- January 14:** Sankranti
- January 19:** Sunday
- January 25:** Fourth Saturday
- January 26:** Republic Day

These holidays will apply to all banks in Hyderabad.

KTR Clashes with Police Over Media Access



TPN Correspondent, Hyderabad | Jan 10 : KT Rama Rao (KTR), working president of Bharat Rashtra Samithi (BRS), engaged in a heated argument with Hyderabad police on Thursday, January 9, after undergoing intense questioning by the Anti Corruption Bureau (ACB) for six and a half hours. KTR had been summoned regarding alleged irregularities in the Formula E 'scam' case. Following the questioning, KTR attempted to interact with the media, but police officers advised him to address journalists at his party office instead. "What's the problem if I speak here?" KTR was heard challenging the police, questioning, "Why are you scared if I talk to the media?" The officers responded, saying that speaking there could cause a traffic jam and they were simply doing their duty.

Meanwhile, party workers warmly welcomed KTR at Telangana Bhavan, carrying him on their shoulders in a show of support. Before the questioning, KTR denied any involvement in corruption, accusing Congress leaders of defaming him for personal gain. He expressed confidence in the judicial system, asserting that he would face any challenges with full respect for the law and the constitution.

Ranganath Warns Action Against Pond Encroachments

TPN Correspondent, Shamshabad Rural | Jan 10 : Hydra Commissioner Ranganath expressed strong dissatisfaction with the lack of attention from irrigation authorities regarding the encroachment of ponds and kuntas. His remarks came in response to recent media reports about the encroachment of Gollavani Kunta and Dharmamoji Kunta in Shamshabad Municipality. Ranganath personally inspected the areas in question.

Gollavani Kunta, which spans 22 acres and 23 kuntas in Survey No. 104, has been completely destroyed, with large buildings being constructed on the site. Additionally, encroachments were found at Dharmamoji Kunta, located in Survey No. 73, where constructions are ongoing in the FTL and buffer zones of the pond.

The Commissioner warned that legal action will be taken against those responsible for encroaching on these water bodies. Upon inquiry, officials informed Ranganath that the encroachment on Dharmamoji Kunta was being carried out by relatives of a Congress MLA. Consequently, Ranganath instructed officials to remove the newly constructed wall and soil filling within two days, emphasizing that failure to comply would result in further action.



SC Grants Relief to Actor Mohan Babu in Journalist Assault Case



TPN Correspondent, Hyderabad | Jan 10 : The Supreme Court granted relief to actor Mohan Babu in the journalist assault case, directing the police not to take coercive action against him. The case stems from an incident in December 2024, when Mohan Babu allegedly attacked TV 9 journalist during a confrontation over a property dispute with his son, Manchu Manoj. The journalist sustained severe injuries and required surgery.

The Supreme Court's decision came after Mohan Babu filed a special leave petition challenging the Telangana High Court's refusal to grant him anticipatory bail. The division bench of Justices Sudhanshu Dhulia and Prasanth Kumar Mishra issued a notice in the case and provided a four-week timeline for a response.

The Telangana High Court had earlier rejected Mohan Babu's anticipatory bail plea, which he had sought on the grounds of his health issues. The Rachakonda police had given him a notice to appear for questioning by December 24.

The assault occurred at the actor's residence in Jalpally, where he was seen snatching the journalist's microphone and hitting him repeatedly. Following widespread condemnation, Mohan Babu personally apologized to the injured journalist.

Contractors Protest Unpaid Bills at GHMC Office

Contractors Demand Immediate Release of Dues

GHMC Assures Rs 200 Crore Allocation to Clear Pending Bills

Protest Highlights Financial Strain, with Contractors Taking Drastic Measures

TPN Correspondent, Hyderabad | Jan 10 : In a tense protest at the Greater Hyderabad Municipal Corporation (GHMC) headquarters, two contractors attempted suicide by dousing themselves in petrol over unpaid bills. The contractors, who were quickly rescued by fellow workers, were later taken to a hospital for medical evaluation.

The protest, marked by the chant "No payment, No work," was organized by contractors who have been facing delayed payments for various civic maintenance projects. Some contractors claimed their bills had been pending for over a year. In response to the protest, GHMC Commissioner



Ilambarthi assured that Rs 200 crore would be allocated next month to clear the pending dues.

Reports suggest that over 3,000 contractors have halted their work due to unpaid bills, with GHMC owing them approximately Rs 2 crore for tasks like desilting, road repairs, and drain work. The financial strain has reportedly led contractors to take loans against personal assets to continue their work, with some even unable to pay employees' salaries. The GHMC contractors' association stated that at least four employees have died from heart attacks in the past year due to the financial pressures. This protest follows a similar demonstration in May, where contractors again demanded payment clearance.

Nalgonda X Road to Santoshnagar Flyover Likely to Open in May

TPN Correspondent, Hyderabad | Jan 10 : The Municipal Administration and Urban Development (MAUD) department on Wednesday, January 8, approved an increased budget of Rs 97 crore for the construction of the Nalgonda X road flyover to Santoshnagar.

This crucial 3.38 km four-lane flyover, part of the Strategic Road Development Program (SRDP), is aimed at easing traffic congestion at key junctions such as IS Sadan, Saidabad, and Chanchalguda. The flyover will connect significant areas of Hyderabad's Old City, linking the Government Printing Press in Chanchalguda to Santoshnagar via Yadagiri

Theatre and Champapet.

The project, initially estimated at Rs 523 crore, has seen a cost increase to Rs 620 crore after the GHMC revised proposals for land acquisition, underground pipelines, and utility relocations. Additional cost factors included the rise in steel and cement prices. Construction work, which began in 2021, was initially set for completion by June 2023 but faced delays due to unforeseen issues. The flyover is now expected to be opened to the public by the end of May, providing better connectivity and improved access to residential and commercial areas in the region.



GHSPCA Teams to Rescue Birds from Chinese Manja

TPN Correspondent, Hyderabad | Jan 10 : The Greater Hyderabad Society for Prevention of Cruelty to Animals (GHSPCA) has formed 16 special rescue teams across the city to help injured birds caught in Chinese manja during Sankranti celebrations. These volunteers will be stationed in areas including Ameerpet, Bowenpally, Charminar, and Kukatpally to rescue birds and prevent further harm.

Last year, GHSPCA, in collaboration with the forest department, rescued 1,775 birds, although 400 of them did not survive due to their injuries. The organization urges citizens to contact the nearest volunteer or reach out

to GHSPCA through their hotline numbers—9394578568, 7416705697, or 8886743881.

Meanwhile, Cyberabad police have issued an advisory against using dangerous kite strings like nylon "Chinese" manja and glass-coated "desi" strings, highlighting the severe risks they pose to humans, animals, and the environment. The police warned that these materials can cause fatal accidents, especially to motorcyclists and pedestrians. Additionally, AIMIM president Asaduddin Owaisi has called for stricter penalties, including a Rs 1 lakh fine and five years of jail time for those selling Chinese manja in Hyderabad.



Maoist Encounter Ongoing in Chhattisgarh

Joint Security Forces Launch Anti-Naxalite Operation
Ongoing Clash in Sukma and Bijapur Forests
"Maoists Blow Up Vehicle, Killing 9 Jawans in Retaliation"



This encounter is part of a broader, ongoing anti-Naxalite operation aimed at neutralizing Maoist influence in the region. The operation is intensifying, with continued resistance from the Naxals despite facing heavy setbacks in recent months.

In retaliation for the increasing pressure from security forces, Maoists recently targeted a vehicle carrying security personnel using an improvised explosive device (IED). The attack resulted in the tragic loss of 9 jawans' lives. These recent incidents highlight the ongoing chal-

lenges in the fight against Naxalism in the region.

The central government has made it a priority to eliminate Naxalism by 2026, with increased anti-Naxalite operations being carried out across affected areas. Security forces are focused on breaking the Naxal strongholds in Chhattisgarh and other states, with the aim of bringing long-term peace to these conflict-ridden regions.

Further details on the ongoing encounter and the outcome of the operation are awaited.

TPN Correspondent, Chhattisgarh | Jan 10 : An ongoing encounter between Maoists and security forces is taking place in the forest area bordering Sukma and Bijapur districts, Chhattisgarh. The encounter began on Thurs-

day morning and is still ongoing, according to senior police officials. A joint team comprising personnel from the District Reserve Guard (DRG), Special Task Force (STF), and Cobra forces is engaged in the operation.

Minister Seethakka to Attend Chintan Shivir in Rajasthan

TPN Correspondent, Telangana | Jan 10 : Telangana Minister Seethakka will travel to Rajasthan on thursday to participate in the Chintan Shivir organized by the Central Women and Child Welfare Department in Udaipur. The event, set to begin on thursday, will focus on discussions around Mission Vatsalya, Mission Shakti, and Anganwadi Posh-

an 2.0. Minister Seethakka will attend the program on behalf of the Telangana government and is scheduled to arrive in Udaipur on Friday night. On Saturday, Seethakka will address the Chintan Shivir, highlighting Telangana's women and child welfare schemes and emphasizing the need for cooperation from the Center.



BRS Leaders Under House Arrest Ahead of KTR's ACB Questioning



TPN Correspondent, Hyderabad | Jan 10 : Several Bharat Rashtra Samithi (BRS) leaders, including MLA T Harish Rao, were placed under house arrest on Thursday, January 9, in anticipation of protests ahead of BRS working president KT Rama Rao's (KTR) questioning by the Anti Corruption Bureau (ACB) in connection with the alleged Formula E scam worth Rs 54.88 crore.

KTR had been summoned by the ACB on Monday, but when he arrived at the office, he insisted on being accompanied by his lawyers for questioning, leading to a confrontation with the officials. The ACB refused his request, prompting KTR to appeal to the Telangana High Court.

The High Court partially dismissed his plea but allowed KTR's lawyers to witness the questioning from a library at the ACB office, seated behind a glass door.

Ahead of the questioning, police were heavily deployed at T Harish Rao's residence in the Financial District, as the Telangana government expected protests. The situation remained tense as the leaders were kept under house arrest in the wake of the ongoing investigation.

Principal and Attendant Arrested for Taking Bribe in Illendu

TPN Correspondent, Illendu | Jan 10 : A principal and an attendant were caught by the Anti-Corruption Bureau (ACB) for accepting a bribe at the Illendu Minority Gurukul School in Bhadradi Kothagudem district. The incident occurred on Thursday, with Principal Bheemanapalli Krishna and Attendant Ramakrishna arrested for demanding a bribe from a contract teacher.



Sandhya Rani, a contract Telugu teacher at the school, had been working there since August. Krishna demanded

Rs. 10,000 to clear her pending salary for four months. Initially, Sandhya Rani agreed to pay Rs. 2,000 and then

approached ACB officials for assistance. Following a pre-arranged plan, the teacher handed over the bribe to Krishna, who directed her to give it to Attendant Ramakrishna. ACB officials, who were monitoring the situation, caught the two red-handed. ACB DSP Ramesh confirmed that a case has been registered against Principal Krishna and Attendant Ramakrishna. The authorities have taken swift action, underlining their commitment to tackling corruption in educational institutions.

Illegal Sand Mining in Tungaturthi Sparks Controversy



TPN Correspondent, Tungaturthi | Jan 10 : In Tungaturthi, a town in the joint Nalgonda district, illegal sand mining activities have been causing environmental damage. Sand miners are extracting sand without permits from the Jajireddygudem-Vangamarthi stream, transporting it via lorries, and selling it for profit. Despite the rampant illegal activities, authorities appear to be turning a blind eye. Recently, locals intervened to stop the illegal transport of sand, leading to a confrontation with the lorry drivers. Police were called to the scene to resolve the dispute. The situation has sparked concern over the destruction of natural resources and the lack of enforcement.

Three IAS Officers Transferred in Telangana

TPN Correspondent, Hyderabad | Jan 10 : On January 8, the Telangana government transferred three Indian Administrative Service (IAS) officers to various departments.

Dr. Yogitha Rana (2003 batch) has been appointed as the Secretary to the Education Department, while K. Surendra Mohan (2006 batch) will now serve as the Commissioner of Transport. N. Sridhar (1997 batch) has been appointed as Secretary to the Industries and Commerce Department. This move follows a significant transfer of 13 IAS officers in November last year. Among the earlier transfers, Smita Sabharwal has been shifted to the Youth Advancement, Tourism, and Culture Department, and E. Sridhar has been transferred as Secretary to the Backward Classes Welfare Department. Additionally, Anita Ramachandran has been moved to the Women Development and Child Welfare Department, while Illambarithi K. has been appointed as the GHMC Commissioner.



The reshuffling reflects the government's ongoing efforts to streamline administration and improve departmental efficiency.

Farmers Protest Against Land Acquisition for Regional Ring Road in Choutuppal

TPN Correspondent, Choutuppal | Jan 10 : Farmers from Choutuppal and Valigonda mandals in Yadadri Bhuvanagiri district staged a protest on Thursday against the acquisition of their lands for the Regional Ring Road (RRR). They gathered in large numbers in front of the Choutuppal RDO office and later blocked National Highway 65, raising slogans demanding that the government not take away their land.

The farmers expressed their anger, saying, "We want our lands, not Triple R, even if it means losing our lives." They have been protesting for several days but feel that the government has ignored their concerns. Despite heavy police deployment, the farmers continued their dharna and vowed to continue their struggle until the alignment of the road is changed. They criticized the government's use of police force to suppress their protest and vowed to intensify their efforts.



Supreme Court Delays Hearing on KTR's Quash Petition



TPN Correspondent, Hyderabad | Jan 10 : The Supreme Court has delayed its hearing on the quash petition filed by BRS Working President KTR. After the Telangana High Court dismissed KTR's petition, he approached the Supreme Court on the same day. However, the Court refused to conduct an immediate investigation and announced it would hear the petition on Wednesday, the 15th of this month.

In the meantime, the Anti-Corruption Bureau (ACB) is proceeding with its investigation into KTR. This development has raised questions within BRS ranks about whether KTR will face interrogation or possible jail time, similar to the investigation into his sister, Kavitha. Reports suggest that the Enforcement Directorate (ED) may also be involved in the investigation.

Meanwhile, tensions erupted at the ACB office as police clashed with journalists. A police officer reportedly shoved journalists on duty, leading to an argument. The incident has drawn attention to the handling of media personnel at the scene, adding to the controversy surrounding the ongoing investigation.



'Game Changer' Theaters Alerted After Sandhya Stampede

TPN Correspondent, Hyderabad | Jan 10 : In the wake of the stampede at Sandhya theater during the release of Pushpa-2, the police have heightened vigilance ahead of the release of Ram Charan's Game Changer on thursday. The authorities have issued special instructions to theater owners to en-

sure smooth screenings of the film and prevent any incidents of commotion.

Police emphasized that only ticket-holding audiences should be allowed entry to maintain order. The authorities are focusing on prevent-

ing overcrowding and ensuring safety at theaters.

Additionally, the Telangana government has approved an extra 4 AM show for Game Changer on its release day to accommodate the expected demand.

Whitelisting Apps In India: A Step Towards A More Trustworthy Digital Economy

In the past decade, India's internet economy has experienced explosive growth, fueled by the JAM trinity—Jan Dhan, Aadhaar, and Mobile. This digital revolution, coupled with near-universal access to banking services, has created a massive market for digital services. With over 900 million smartphone internet connections, India's digital ecosystem has evolved from an exporter of software and skilled labor to the world's largest real-time payment market. Retail digital payments alone surged by 50.8% between 2017 and 2023, and the sector, which contributed 4.5% of India's GDP in 2014, is projected to account for 20% by 2026.

The internet economy has brought unprecedented convenience and access to sectors such as e-commerce, health, insurance, and investment, opening up countless opportunities for entrepreneurs. This digital transformation has also fostered the rise of unicorns, which are now an integral part of daily life. Among the biggest contributors to this growth is the gaming sector, which has 45 crore gamers, including 18 lakh e-sports players. Indian online gaming is expected to reach Rs 66,000 crore, growing at a CAGR of 14.5% between 2023 and 2028.

However, this rapid expansion has also brought a surge in cybercrimes. Unscrupulous entities are preying on consumers, leading to financial losses and other harms. For example, in August 2024, Indian investigation agencies uncovered a large fintech scam involving money laundering through Indian and Chinese nationals, instant messaging apps, companies, and crypto exchanges. Similarly, several Chinese loan apps have been exposed for predatory lending practices, and a fintech firm from



Ahmedabad was accused of laundering money through illegal betting. A major issue is that many consumers are unaware that the apps they use are illegal, and that their data is being exploited for unlawful activities. This calls for stronger safeguards.

One potential solution is a 'Whitelist' framework that could distinguish legitimate businesses from illegitimate ones. The government could create a mechanism to identify businesses that are registered in India, pay taxes (GST), and self-declare adherence to legal standards. These companies would then earn a 'symbol of trust,' helping consumers differentiate between genuine services

and fly-by-night operators.

A digital 'symbol of trust' would function similarly to the ISI mark, which has served as a standard for product quality and compliance since 1950. Just as consumers rely on the ISI mark for assurance, a digital counterpart would ensure that consumers can confidently engage with legal and compliant businesses in the growing digital economy. Building such trust is crucial to the future of India's trillion-dollar digital economy. Achieving this requires a collective effort from the government, businesses, and society to safeguard consumers and promote legitimate, transparent digital enterprises.

The Evolution of the Kumbh Mela: A Historical Perspective



The Kumbh Mela, a massive Hindu pilgrimage held at the confluence of the Ganga and Yamuna rivers in Prayagraj, attracts millions of devotees every year to celebrate the spiritual essence of Hinduism. However, the practices associated with this iconic event are relatively recent developments in Hindu tradition, shaped by political and social forces during the Mughal and British eras.

Prayagraj, strategically located at the meeting point of the Ganga and Yamuna rivers, has long been a significant historical center. The city was home to inscriptions from ancient rulers, including the Mauryan Emperor Ashoka in the 3rd century BCE and Kushan inscriptions from the early centuries CE. Though Prayagraj had a rich history of trade and population growth, the origins of its religious significance, particularly in relation to the Kumbh Mela, are not well-documented until much later.

The roots of Prayagraj as a holy site likely trace back to the Gupta Empire

(4th–6th centuries CE), which fostered a temple-focused Hinduism that encouraged pilgrimages to significant spiritual sites. This influence was further bolstered by Chinese traveler Xuanzang's accounts of religious debates between Hindu, Jain, and Buddhist monks in the city. By the late 11th century, Prayagraj began to see religious and cultural intersections, including the establishment of one of the region's earliest Ram temples.

However, it was under the Mughal Empire that the real transformation began. Emperor Akbar, fascinated by yogis and ascetics, expanded Prayagraj and lifted pilgrim taxes to encourage religious gatherings, boosting the popularity of the Magh Mela. Yet, it was not yet called the Kumbh Mela. Akbar's successors continued fostering relationships with yogis, even seeing them as spiritual advisors. Over time, warrior ascetics and yogi orders grew more influential, controlling key pilgrimage sites and engaging in fierce competitions for the right to bathe in sacred rivers.

The British colonial era, however, marked a turning point. As the East India Company rose to power, British authorities, fearing the power of warrior ascetics, imposed higher pilgrimage taxes and cracked down on military orders. After the 1857 uprising, the British rebranded Prayagraj's annual Magh Mela into the now-recognized Kumbh Mela, incorporating Sanskrit texts and religious narratives, such as the myth of the nectar from the churning of the ocean falling into the river at Prayagraj. This rebranding, combined with improved infrastructure and mobility through the railway system, made the Kumbh Mela the massive gathering it is today.

Thus, the Kumbh Mela's evolution reflects Hinduism's ability to adapt and innovate in response to historical and political changes. Far from being an unchanging tradition, the Kumbh Mela's development exemplifies Hinduism's capacity for transformation, helping to create one of the greatest spiritual gatherings in the world today.

Thanks to PM's inclusive governance, Christians in India do feel heard



December 2024 was a landmark month for Indian Christians, particularly the Catholic community, with George Jacob Koovakad, a priest from Changanassery, Kerala, being elevated to the rank of Cardinal in the Holy Pope's consistory. However, not everyone in the community seemed eager to celebrate this momentous occasion. Derek O'Brien, in his article "Questions after Christmas" (IE, January 3), expressed his discontent, advocating for a "reformist" path for Indian Christians rather than celebrating the elevation of Cardinal Koovakad.

O'Brien, who refrained from congratulating Cardinal Koovakad, used the opportunity to criticize the Indian Catholic clergy's practice of celebrating Christmas with political figures, particularly Prime Minister Narendra Modi. While it is common for political leaders, from Rahul Gandhi to Mamata Banerjee, to join the clergy in Christmas celebrations, it is Modi's participation that seems to have stirred discomfort among some, including O'Brien. For many, especially those aligned with Congress, the association between the clergy and the ruling BJP leadership raises concerns about the political leanings of the church.

O'Brien's criticism is rooted in his broader argument that the Indian Catholic clergy, in celebrating Christmas with political figures like PM Modi, may be seen as endorsing the political establishment, thereby compromising their religious and spiritual independence. His stance contrasts with the long-standing tradition of political leaders across the spectrum joining religious festivities with the clergy, which many see as an expression of unity and harmony between religion and politics. However, for O'Brien and others who view the church's relationship with politics through a reformist lens, the celebration with the current political leadership raises important questions about neutrality and impartiality.

The issue highlights an ongoing debate within the Indian Christian community regarding the role of religion in politics. While some view the church's engagement with political leaders as an opportunity for dialogue and strengthening social ties, others, like O'Brien, feel that it blurs the lines between faith and political affiliations, especially when the clergy aligns itself with a ruling party.

Trudeau's Resignation: A Bold Step Amidst Growing Discontent

Faced with mounting criticism over his leadership, Justin Trudeau has decided to step down as Canada's Prime Minister and leader of the Liberal Party. His decision to not seek a historic fourth term reflects his acknowledgment of the waning confidence among both party members and voters. This announcement is likely to be met with relief by Indian officials, especially given Trudeau's controversial remarks in recent months, most notably over the Hardeep Singh Nijjar murder case. While no diplomat would openly admit to it, Trudeau's departure is expected to be seen as an opportunity to reset the diplomatic relationship between Canada and India, which had been strained due to the Canadian leader's statements and actions.

Despite Trudeau's exit, it may not be enough to shift the political landscape in favor of the Liberals in the upcoming national elections, set for October. The Liberal Party, which has been in power for nearly a decade, is now facing significant anti-incumbency sentiment. Trudeau's early resignation, well ahead of the elections, stands in stark contrast to US President Joe Biden, who was forced to abandon his re-election bid midway through his campaign. Trudeau's proactive move has not only allowed him to manage the damage caused by his declining popularity but also spared him the embarrassment of a potential electoral defeat. Additionally, unlike Biden, Trudeau will not face the challenge of dealing with a rival like Donald Trump, who has publicly ridiculed him.



Trudeau's tenure as Prime Minister saw successes, particularly in the area of public health during the COVID-19 pandemic, where his government was praised for its response. However, as the pandemic receded, Trudeau's leadership faltered in the face of rising living costs and slowing economic growth. His stance on immigration, which initially won him support, faced backlash as the country struggled with housing shortages and social service issues. His subsequent reversal on certain immigration policies alienated some of his base, making it clear that his successor would inherit significant challenges in turning the country's fortunes around. Trudeau's decision to step down shows a rare moment of political clarity, prioritizing the future of his party over his own ambitions. However, with growing economic and social challenges ahead, his successor will have their work cut out to regain public confidence and navigate the complex political landscape that Trudeau leaves behind.

"Milestone In Biotechnology": PM Modi Unveils Genome Sequencing Data Of 10,000 Indians

TPN Correspondent
Delhi, Jan 10

Prime Minister Narendra Modi, along with Andhra Pradesh Chief Minister N Chandrababu Naidu and his deputy Pawan Kalyan, participated in a vibrant roadshow in Visakhapatnam on Wednesday, garnering enthusiastic support from the public. As the leaders traveled in an open vehicle, crowds gathered along the route, showering flowers and cheering them on.

The roadshow, which began at the Sampath Vinayak Temple, traversed through various parts of the port city, with the streets adorned with flags from the TDP, BJP, and Janasena. The procession culminated at the Andhra University engineering college grounds, where a public meeting was scheduled.

Upon arriving at the event venue, Prime Minister Modi was set to virtually lay the foundation for several significant development projects in the region. Among the key initiatives was the launch of NTPC's integrated green hydrogen hub at Pudimadaka in Anakapalli district, aimed at bolstering sustainable energy efforts. Additionally, a bulk drug park in Nakkapalli is also part of the development agenda, which is expected



to enhance the pharmaceutical sector. Itive economic impact on Andhra Pradesh.

In addition to these projects, several railway initiatives were also on the cards, signaling an effort to boost infrastructure and connectivity in the region. The public's enthusiasm reflected the importance of these projects, which are expected to have a positive

economic impact on Andhra Pradesh. The roadshow and the scheduled events underscored the collaborative efforts between the central government and local leadership to push forward with ambitious plans for the state's development, creating a buzz of excitement among the citizens.



Gangasagar Mela "Much Bigger Than Maha Kumbh": Mamata Banerjee

TPN Correspondent
Kolkata, Jan 10

West Bengal Chief Minister Mamata Banerjee has called for the Gangasagar Mela, held annually at the Kapil Muni temple on Sagar Island, to be granted national fair status, claiming it is "bigger than Kumbh Mela." Speaking on January 9, after inaugurating the fair at Outram Ghat transit point, Banerjee emphasized that the Gangasagar Mela draws pilgrims from all over the country, despite its logistical challenges. She pointed out that while the government allocates significant funds for the Kumbh Mela, the West Bengal government must bear the full cost for organizing the Gangasagar Mela each year.

The Chief Minister argued that the Gangasagar Mela is far more difficult to reach compared to the Kumbh Mela, given the need to cross the Muriganga river and travel an additional 30 kilometers by road. She noted that the West Bengal government has arranged 32 vessels and 100 motor launches to ferry pilgrims, operating for 20 hours a day to ensure safe transportation.

Banerjee further elaborated that approximately 4,000 to 5,000 buses bring pilgrims from various parts of the country, with many NGOs, police, and administrative bodies collaborating to maintain safety and order during the fair, which runs from January 9 to 17. In addition, the state government has provided an insurance cover of Rs 5 lakh for every pilgrim attending the event and established a 550-bed hospital with air and water ambulances to cater to medical needs.

To improve infrastructure, Banerjee revealed that the state government plans to build a bridge over the Muriganga River to better connect Sagar Island with Kolkata. She disclosed that Rs 1,500 crore has already been allocated for the five-kilometer bridge, which is expected to be completed in two to three years. Banerjee also highlighted the abolition of pilgrimage taxes for the Gangasagar Mela, making the pilgrimage more accessible for all, and assured pilgrims that the state government is committed to ensuring their safety and comfort throughout the event.



'Surpassed Japan, Now Aim To Become No. 1': Nitin Gadkari On Auto Sector

TPN Correspondent
Dhar, Jan 10

Union Minister for Road Transport and Highways, Nitin Gadkari, on Thursday emphasized the significant growth of India's automobile sector, which has risen to become the third-largest globally. Addressing a function at the National Automotive Test Tracks (NATRAX), Gadkari highlighted the sector's impressive journey from being ranked seventh in the world to now surpassing Japan.

The minister explained that the global automobile sector is dominated by the USA, with a market size of Rs 78 lakh crore, followed by China at Rs 47 lakh crore. India's automobile sector, when Gadkari assumed his ministry role, had a market size of Rs 7.5 lakh crore. Today, it has surged to Rs 22 lakh crore, showing remarkable progress in just a few years.

Gadkari also stressed the sector's role in job creation, noting that the automobile industry has generated 4.5 crore jobs, the highest in the country. Additionally, the industry contributes significantly to state and central revenue through GST, making it one of the largest contributors to the nation's economy. The minister also pointed out that India's automobile sector has become a leader in exports, further underscoring its growing global influence. With these achievements in mind, Gadkari expressed the government's ambition to propel India to the top position in the global automobile industry, aiming to make it the number one player in the world.

This vision reflects the government's broader strategy to boost domestic manufacturing, promote innovation, and position India as a leader in the global automotive market. The future growth of the industry is expected to not only strengthen India's economic standing but also create more opportunities for skilled employment and innovation in the sector.

If INDIA Bloc was Only For LS polls, wind It Up: J&K CM Omar Abdullah



TPN Correspondent
Srinagar, Jan 10

Jammu and Kashmir Chief Minister Omar Abdullah on Thursday, January 9, expressed concerns over the lack of clarity surrounding the leadership and agenda of the INDIA alliance. He emphasized that the alliance should be dissolved if it is meant solely for the parliamentary elections. Abdullah's remarks come amidst growing uncertainty over the future direction of the opposition coalition, particularly after a statement by an RJD leader that suggested the bloc's purpose was limited to the Lok Sabha elections.

"There is no time limit mentioned for this alliance. The issue at hand is that there has been no meeting of the INDIA bloc so far," said Abdullah, speaking to reporters. He added that the alliance's strategy and leadership remain unclear. "If this alliance is only meant for the parliamentary elections, then it should be disbanded. If it is meant to address Assembly elections as well, we need to come together and work collectively," Abdullah clarified.

The National Conference leader also suggested that after the Delhi Assembly elections, members of the alliance should convene to discuss its future. He stressed the importance of clarity on whether the INDIA bloc would continue beyond the national elections.

Regarding the upcoming Delhi elections, Abdullah refrained from commenting on AAP's increasing support, stating that the decision on how to challenge the Bharatiya Janata Party (BJP) in Delhi would be left to the AAP, Congress, and other local parties. "AAP has won twice in Delhi before. We will have to wait for the people of Delhi to decide this time," Abdullah remarked.

Additionally, Abdullah spoke about the ongoing orientation program for Jammu and Kashmir's newly-elected legislators. He noted the significant changes in the system since Jammu and Kashmir's reorganization and emphasized the need for lawmakers to understand their new roles and responsibilities.

Uniform Civil Code To Be Implemented In Uttarakhand This Month: Chief Minister

TPN Correspondent
Bareilly, Jan 10

Uttarakhand Chief Minister Pushkar Singh Dhama announced on Thursday that the state will implement the Uniform Civil Code (UCC) by the end of this month. Uttarakhand will be the first state in India to adopt a UCC law, aiming to establish a common set of rules for marriage, divorce, succession, and inheritance across all citizens, regardless of religion, except for Scheduled Tribes (STs). The law will also mandate the registration of all marriages and live-in relationships.



ing influx of tourists and devotees.

During the inauguration of the 29th Uttarayani Mela in Bareilly, CM Dhama emphasized the significance of the UCC, drawing comparisons to India's sacred rivers like the Ganga and Sharda, stating that just as these rivers sustain life, the UCC will bring unity and equality. The chief minister reiterated that the UCC law would be a milestone for the state and would be implemented in January.

In addition to the UCC announcement, Dhama highlighted the state's focus on tourism and infrastructure development, particularly the development of the Ganga Corridor in Haridwar and Rishikesh,

On the economic front, Dhama announced efforts to support the state's women, revealing that over one lakh women in Uttarakhand were earning substantial incomes through handicrafts. The state government will provide interest-free loans to further empower them.

Moreover, the chief minister discussed several governance reforms, including the implementation of an anti-conversion law, anti-riot legislation, and measures to prevent exam malpractice. He also mentioned the government's efforts to combat "land jihad" by freeing 5,000 acres of encroached land.

"UGC Draft Rules Assault On Federalism": Tamil Nadu Chief Minister MK Stalin

TPN Correspondent
Chennai, Jan 10

On Thursday, Tamil Nadu Chief Minister MK Stalin introduced a resolution in the State Assembly, opposing the University Grants Commission's (UGC) recent draft rules for the appointment of Vice Chancellors. Speaking during the Assembly session, Stalin strongly criticized the new guidelines, stating that they are a direct attack on the concept of federalism and would adversely impact the state's higher education system. He went on to express his concern over the imposition of the New Education Policy (NEP), calling it a disruptive force in the education system. "The New Education Policy is being forced upon us to ruin the education system," Stalin said. He also referenced the tragic

case of Anitha, who lost her life after being unable to clear the National Eligibility cum Entrance Test (NEET), which he described as riddled with malpractices.

The UGC's new draft guidelines, which were announced earlier this week by Union Education Minister Dharmendra Pradhan, propose significant changes. Among the new rules, candidates can now qualify for faculty positions by passing the UGC-NET in a subject of their choosing, even if their undergraduate and postgraduate degrees are in different fields. Additionally, the eligibility criteria for Vice Chancellors have been expanded, now allowing professionals from academia, research institutions, public policy, administration, and even industry to be considered for the role.

Lebanon Army Chief Joseph Aoun Elected As President By Parliament

Lebanon's parliament has elected Army Chief Joseph Aoun as the country's new president, ending a vacuum that has lasted since October 2022. The election of Aoun, a general with U.S. approval, signals a shift in Lebanon's political landscape and the broader Middle East. This outcome comes after Hezbollah, the powerful Iran-backed Shiite militant group, suffered significant setbacks following its war with Israel and the fall of its Syrian ally, President Bashar al-Assad, in December.

Aoun's election marks the weakening of Hezbollah's influence in Lebanon, a country where sectarian politics have long dictated the balance of power. The presidency, reserved for a Maronite Christian, had been vacant for over a year due to political gridlock. Aoun, who garnered 99 votes in the second round, was backed by Hezbollah and its ally, the Amal Movement. His victory came after Hezbollah's preferred candidate, Suleiman Frangieh, withdrew and supported Aoun, amidst intense diplomatic pressure from France, Saudi Arabia, and the U.S.

The election of Aoun also highlights a resurgence of Saudi influence in Lebanon, as Riyadh's role had been overshadowed by Iran and Hezbollah in recent years.



International powers, including Saudi Arabia, have made it clear that they are prepared to offer financial assistance to Lebanon, contingent on the election of a new president and the formation of a government. This is crucial for Lebanon, which is still reeling from its 2019 financial collapse and the devastating impacts of the Israel-Hezbollah conflict.

Joseph Aoun, 60, has been the commander of the Lebanese army since 2017, overseeing continued U.S. aid to strengthen Lebanon's military. His election marks the beginning of efforts to revive Lebanon's government institutions, offering hope for a return to stability and much-needed foreign support. The next steps involve nominating a prime minister and forming a new cabinet, a process that could be fraught with political negotiations.

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PTI to Engage in Talks with Government Amid Tensions Over Imran Khan's Detention

Pakistan's jailed former minister Imran Khan's party, the Pakistan Tehreek-e-Insaf (PTI), announced on Wednesday that it will participate in the third round of talks with the government aimed at easing the ongoing political tensions in the country. This development comes a day after PTI leaders demanded unrestricted access to Khan as a precondition for continuing the dialogue with the government.

The formal talks between the government and PTI leaders had begun last month, with the third round initially scheduled for this week. However, tensions arose when PTI leaders were not granted permission to meet with Khan on Tuesday, prompting the party to raise concerns over the restrictions on their access to the former Prime Minister.



The demand for unrestricted access to Khan, who has been imprisoned, highlights the significant strain in the political relationship between the government and PTI. The government's refusal to grant access to Khan has exacerbated the situation, causing delays in the scheduled talks. Despite these differences, PTI has now decided to engage in the third round of discussions, signaling a willingness to negotiate and resolve the political deadlock that has gripped the country since Khan's arrest.

The ongoing negotiations are viewed as a crucial step in defusing the political crisis in Pakistan, which has seen heightened tensions between Khan's supporters and the government. Both sides face immense pressure to reach a resolution, as the political landscape remains highly polarized, and there are growing concerns over the stability of the country's governance.

As the talks continue, all eyes will be on how the government and PTI handle the key issues at stake, including Khan's legal situation, the conditions of his detention, and the broader political environment in Pakistan. The outcome of these negotiations could play a pivotal role in shaping the future political trajectory of the country.

California Declares Wildfire Emergency, Retired Firefighters Called In



Tens of thousands of people, including A-list actors, musicians, and other celebrities, have been affected by the terrifying wildfires that ravaged Los Angeles this week, leaving at least five people dead. Over 70,000 residents were evacuated from Los Angeles and the Greater Los Angeles area as multiple fires remain uncontained. The high winds in the Palisades, Eaton, and Hurst areas have fueled the flames, complicating firefighting efforts.

Los Angeles is battling the largest blaze in its history, with severe shortages of water and firefighting resources. A state of emergency has been declared in the region, prompting the federal government to send aid to help bring the situation under control. Retired firefighters have been called in to assist in the massive effort. Over 1,000 buildings have been destroyed, and the fires have displaced tens of thousands of people. The skies above Los Angeles remain blanketed with thick smoke, and the situation

remains dire.

In the upscale Pacific Palisades area, hurricane-force winds created fireballs that spread from house to house, devastating parts of one of California's most desirable neighborhoods. The winds pushed the flames rapidly, sparking new fires as quickly as firefighters could extinguish them.

Firefighters have struggled to manage the scale and speed of the ongoing disaster. Los Angeles County Fire Chief Anthony Marrone admitted that his crews were overwhelmed, with insufficient personnel to tackle the fires effectively. The Pacific Palisades fire alone has scorched around 16,000 acres, destroying 1,000 homes and businesses. Another major fire in Altadena, north of the city, has consumed 10,600 acres, tearing through suburban streets.

The death toll has risen from two to five, with authorities fearing that more casualties will be discovered as the fires continue to spread. As the situation remains tense, firefighters and emergency services are working tirelessly to contain the flames, but the future remains uncertain.

Why Don't We Call US Mexican America: Mexican President To Trump



Mexico's President Claudia Sheinbaum took aim at former U.S. President Donald Trump on Wednesday, offering a witty response to Trump's controversial suggestion to rename the Gulf of Mexico the "Gulf of America." Sheinbaum, speaking at her regular morning press conference, unveiled a 17th-century world map that referred to North America as "Mexican America." She used the historical map to turn the tables on Trump, quipping, "Why don't we call it 'Mexican America'? It sounds nice, doesn't it?"

Trump, who is set to begin his second term as U.S. president on January 20, made headlines earlier this week when he proposed renaming the Gulf of Mexico to "Gulf of America," arguing the name "has a beautiful ring" and that Mexico should stop allowing people to cross into the United States. Trump also reiterated his claim that Mexico was controlled by drug cartels, an accusation that Sheinbaum dismissed, asserting that "in Mexico, the people rule."

While Sheinbaum's response reflected the tense diplomatic relations between the two countries, she emphasized that she still hoped for positive interactions with the incoming U.S. administration. Her remarks came as part of a broader critique of Trump's rhetoric on immigration and border security, which has often targeted Mexico. Trump's repeated threats to impose stiff tariffs on Mexico if it does not take stronger actions to curb illegal migration and drug trafficking have strained relations between the U.S. and its southern neighbor.

Despite the ongoing tensions, Sheinbaum remained focused on fostering a constructive relationship with the U.S., underscoring the importance of collaboration between the neighboring nations, particularly in trade and immigration policy. However, her sharp response highlighted the growing frustration in Mexico over Trump's comments and proposals, which many view as inflammatory and divisive.

China Discovers Cluster Of New Mpox Strain

Chinese health authorities announced on Thursday the discovery of a new mutated strain of mpox, identified as clade Ib, marking a significant development as the viral infection continues to spread globally. The Chinese Centre for Disease Control and Prevention (CDC) confirmed a cluster outbreak of this new variant, which originated with an individual who had traveled and resided in the Democratic Republic of the Congo (DRC).



Following the initial infection, four more cases were identified in individuals who had close contact with the foreign traveler. The affected patients are reported to have mild symptoms, including a skin rash and blisters, which are common signs of the infection. Mpox, which spreads through close contact, typically presents with flu-like symptoms along with pustules on the body. While the disease is usually mild, it can occasion-

ally be fatal. The World Health Organization (WHO) declared mpox a global public health emergency for the second time in two years in August 2023, following a rise in cases, particularly in the DRC. The outbreak, which began with an endemic strain known as clade I, has now seen the emergence of clade Ib, a variant that appears to spread more efficiently

through routine close contact, including sexual interactions. The new strain has spread from the DRC to neighboring countries like Burundi, Kenya, Rwanda, and Uganda, prompting the WHO's emergency declaration.

In response to the increasing threat, China's National Health Commission announced last year that it would closely monitor people and goods entering the country for signs of mpox. The country has classified mpox as a Category B infectious disease, which allows for the implementation of emergency measures such as restricting gatherings, suspending work and school, and sealing off affected areas in case of an outbreak.

As mpox continues to spread, health authorities worldwide are ramping up their surveillance and response efforts to contain the new strain and prevent further outbreaks.

Markets in Turmoil: Sensex Plunges 528 Points as Global Cues Weigh Heavy

Domestic stock markets have been volatile again. They ended Thursday with huge losses. From the beginning to the end, there was no chance of recovery anywhere. The selling continued due to negative signals from international markets, the strengthening of the US dollar, and the 10-year bond yields reaching the highest level since April 2024. The IT index was in turmoil due to TCS results. Except for FMCG, all sectoral indices rose. Overall, the Sensex rose by 528 points and the Nifty rose by 152 points. India Vicks rose again. The indices are likely to fluctuate further in the backdrop of the Budget.



The BSE Sensex, which closed at 78,148 in the previous session, opened at 78,206 today. It touched an intraday low of 77,542. It reached an intraday high of 77,206. It finally closed at 77,620, down 528 points. The NSE Nifty, which opened at 23,674 on Thursday, touched a low of 23,504 and a high of 23,689. It closed down 152 points in total at 23,526. The Bank Nifty fell 331 points to settle at 49,503.

In Nifty50, 16 companies gained while 34 lost. Bajaj Auto, Nestle India, Hindustan Unilever, M&M, Britannia were the top gainers. ONGC, Shriram Finance, BPCL, Coal India, and Tata Steel were the biggest losers. Today, all sectoral indices, except FMCG, are in the red. Realty, oil and gas, government banks, IT and finance sector indices lost the most.

The market on the NSE turned completely in favor of sellers. Of the 2893 stocks traded, only 766 gained. 2037 lost. Only 34 stocks reached a 52-week high. 95 shares reached a 52-week low.

The rupee settled flat at 85.86 against the dollar. Nomura expects cement demand to rebound in fiscal 2026. CLSA has selected Bharti Airtel as its top pick in the telecom sector. Morgan Stanley has given an overweight rating to Reliance Industries. India Ratings said that excess liquidity is needed to reduce pressure on bank lending rates. CSLA Outperforms Hindalco with a target price of Rs 800. Lenskart calls bankers to come to IPO at a billion dollar valuation. Swiggy Insta Mart to expand to 75 more cities. Embassy REIT leases 2.07 lakh sq ft in Bengaluru to Rubric. Nomura gives Buy rating to Zydus Life Sciences. PN Gadgil Jewellers registers 24% growth in Q3. 10 lakh shares change hands in Indus Tower. TCS net profit in Q3 rises 12% to Rs 12,380 crore.

1. Tata Consumer Products (TATACONSUM)
Tata Consumer Products is a leading FMCG

company with a diverse portfolio including beverages, packaged foods, and water. It owns iconic brands like Tata Tea, Tetley, Tata Salt, and Himalayan Water. The company operates in more than 40 countries. Strong brand equity with a well-diversified portfolio. Global presence with significant market share in the tea and coffee segments. Consistent revenue growth driven by innovation and premiumization. Expansion into new product categories and markets. Increasing health-conscious consumer trends. Tata Consumer Products is a long-term growth story with a strong balance sheet and expanding product portfolio. Analysts have a Buy rating with a target price of ₹925.



2. Marico Ltd.
Marico is a leading consumer goods company with a strong portfolio of haircare, skincare, edible oils, and health foods. Key brands include Parachute, Saffola, Livon, and Set Wet. Leadership in the hair oil and edible oil segments. Strong brand recall and wide distribution network. Consistent dividend payouts. Growth in the health and wellness segment. Expansion in international markets. Marico is a steady performer with consistent growth in earnings and dividends. Analysts have a Buy rating with a target price of ₹610.



3. Hindustan Unilever (HUL)
Hindustan Unilever is India's largest FMCG company with a vast portfolio spanning personal care, home care, food, and beverages. Key brands include Dove, Surf Excel, Lux, Lifebuoy, and



Kwality Walls. Strong brand portfolio across multiple categories. Extensive distribution network covering urban and rural markets. Robust financial performance and high dividend yield. into premium and health-focused products. Leveraging digital channels for growth. HUL is a blue-chip stock with a strong growth outlook. Analysts have a Buy rating with a target price of ₹2,950.

4. CarTrade Tech Ltd.

CarTrade is an online auto marketplace that provides a platform for buying and selling new and used vehicles. It operates several platforms, including CarWale, CarTrade Exchange, and BikeWale. Strong online presence with multiple platforms. Asset-light business model. Increasing digital adoption in the auto sector. Growth in the used car market. Expansion into financial services and auto loans. CarTrade is a high-risk, high-reward stock with potential for growth in the digital auto marketplace. Analysts have a Hold rating with a target price of ₹680.



5. Britannia Industries Ltd.

Britannia is one of India's leading food companies, best known for its biscuits, dairy products, and baked goods. Key brands include Good Day, Tiger, Milk Bikis, and NutriChoice. Strong brand portfolio with high market share in biscuits. Extensive distribution network across India. Consistent innovation in product offerings. Growth in health and wellness food products. Expansion into rural markets. Britannia is a solid long-term investment in the FMCG sector with strong brand equity and consistent growth. Analysts have a Buy rating with a target price of ₹5,250.



India's Economy Projected to Grow 6.8% in FY 2025-26



India's economy is expected to grow robustly at 6.8% in the financial year 2025-26, according to a forecast by Bank of Baroda. The growth is attributed to a combination of high-frequency economic indicators, including strong air passenger traffic, rising services PMI, and increasing GST collections. Additionally, the forecast predicts a nominal GDP growth of 10.5%, supported by favorable agricultural performance, particularly with higher rabi crop sowing.

The report highlights India's economic resilience, driven by robust festive demand and steady improvement in activity. This resilience is reflected in a significant uptick in key economic indicators during the third quarter of FY25. While the economy experienced a slowdown in 2024-25, private and government consumption are expected to see notable growth in FY25. Private consumption is projected to rise by 7.3%, compared to just 4% in FY24, while government consumption is forecast to grow by 4.1%, up from 2.5% in the previous year.

Exports are also expected to register strong growth, rising by 5.9% in FY25, a marked improvement over the 2.6% growth in FY24. Furthermore, government expenditure is expected to pick up in the latter half of FY24-25, serving as a key driver of economic growth. The agricultural sector is expected to experience higher growth as well, contributing to overall stability.

However, the report warns of potential downside risks, particularly from global economic challenges. A tariff war, especially with the incoming US administration under President Trump, poses a significant threat. Protectionist trade policies could disrupt global trade and lead to retaliatory actions, destabilizing the global economy.

Domestically, attention will turn to key events such as the Union Budget, corporate performance in the third and fourth quarters, and the Reserve Bank of India's monetary policy decisions. These factors will play a crucial role in shaping India's economic trajectory in the coming year.

India's Fintech Growth and Challenges: Paytm and SBI Cards Face Mixed Outlook

India's fintech ecosystem is experiencing significant growth, with key players like Paytm (One97 Communications Ltd) expanding operations while working toward achieving steady-state economics. A recent Bernstein analysis places a target price of Rs 1100 on Paytm, based on a 25x price-to-earnings (P/E) multiple for FY30 earnings per share (EPS). While fintech companies generally enjoy premium valuations during their growth phases, intensifying competition may compress these multiples in the long term.



However, the report flags several downside risks to Paytm's target price. These risks include a potential slowdown in loan disbursements due to operational or regulatory challenges, regulatory headwinds in the payments segment, and reduced consumer credit growth due to tighter regulatory actions.

For SBI Cards, Bernstein assigns a target price of Rs 620, using a P/E multiple of 21x based on FY26 EPS. The company faces challenges from the rapid growth of Unified Payments Interface (UPI) and the increasing adoption of digital credit, which could impact traditional payment and credit growth models. Despite these challenges, Bernstein identifies several upside risks, such as a revival in the revolver-to-spends ratio, increased growth in RuPay cards, and regulatory changes that limit alternative consumption credit growth.

UPI, which accounts for nearly 70% of cashless transactions in India, has had an impact on payment platforms due to its zero Merchant Dis-

count Rate (MDR) structure. This policy has limited direct revenue streams, with government subsidies being the primary revenue source. Despite the exponential rise in UPI transactions, profitability remains constrained due to intense competition and limited revenue streams in the payments sector.

Bernstein highlights the increasing share of credit-based payments as a significant driver for improving profitability. Credit transactions offer better margins compared to debit transactions, with RuPay credit card usage via UPI rising from 10% in FY24 to approximately 30% of all credit card transactions by March 2024.

Additionally, UPI payment volumes continue to grow rapidly at 40-50% annually. This surge, along with emerging revenue sources such as soundbox devices, is expected to drive better operating leverage and profitability in the payments ecosystem.

India's Steel Demand Set to Rise in 2025, But Supply Issues Persist

Despite a global steel demand slump, India is expected to see an 8-9% increase in steel demand in 2025, fueled by a shift towards steel-intensive construction in housing and infrastructure projects. Additional growth is anticipated from increased demand in engineering and packaging sectors.



However, concerns loom over domestic steel supply. According to Sehul Bhatt, Director-Research at CRISIL Market Intelligence, India's steel mills had a modest 5.2% growth in supply during 2024, largely impacted by extended maintenance shutdowns. The top seven steel producers in India only managed a marginal increase in crude steel production, rising by just 0.05%. Finished steel production saw a slightly higher rise of 0.5%. In contrast, medium and small steel players recorded a 14% increase in production, showing a contrast in performance between large and smaller mills.

The subdued domestic supply has led to a significant rise in steel imports, with imports in-

creasing by 41% to 4.7 million tonnes during the first half of the current financial year. Meanwhile, India's steel exports saw a sharp decline of 36%, dropping to 2.31 million tonnes during the same period.

Despite these challenges, steel demand in India rose by 11% in 2024, contrasting with a global decline of 1%. The country's growing appetite for steel, driven by its construction and infrastructure needs, has helped to offset the global downturn. However, the supply challenges, along with rising imports, suggest that India may need to address domestic production and capacity issues to meet the growing demand in the future.

The Creepy Truth About Starbucks Siren Logo Will Leave You Stunned

Starbucks' iconic siren logo, featuring a twin-tailed mermaid, has a mysterious and somewhat unsettling history that many may not know. While it is now one of the most recognizable logos worldwide, its origins trace back to ancient mythology and a somewhat eerie concept.

The original design, created in 1971 by corporate artist Terry Heckler, featured a bare-chested, twin-tailed siren. This design was inspired by ancient sea mythology, particularly the sirens who lured sailors to their doom with their enchanting voices. The siren was chosen as a symbol for Starbucks, embodying the irresistible allure of coffee that draws customers in, much like the mythical creatures drew sailors to peril.

While the logo has undergone several updates over the years, the siren remains a central feature, signifying mystery, seduction, and the company's connection to the sea. The original logo was far more explicit, with the siren's exposed



chest and captivating, somewhat ominous expression, which could easily be described as "creepy." Over time, the logo has

been modernized, with the siren becoming more subtle and stylized, but it still retains the air of intrigue that has made it a topic of fascination for many.

In a video by YouTuber Zack D Films, who delves into the history behind global events, he explores the darker and deeper reasoning behind the logo's design. While most might assume that the siren was chosen simply because it resembles a mermaid from the sea, there was a much more symbolic reason behind the choice, linked to the theme of temptation and allure.

The siren's role in mythology was to enchant and seduce, and Starbucks' use of this imagery aligns perfectly with the brand's philosophy of creating an enticing, almost irresistible experience with their coffee. Today, the logo has transformed into a less overtly creepy image, but its original design still holds a fascinating and slightly eerie charm.

"It's Raining Noodles": Skydiver Eats Noodles Mid-Free Fall in Viral Video

A skydiver has taken a food challenge to an extreme level, and the internet can't get enough of it. The viral video, which has already amassed over 5.5 million views, shows the daring individual attempting to eat a bowl of noodles while plummeting from the sky.

In the jaw-dropping footage, the skydiver holds a bowl of dry noodles before jumping out of a helicopter. As he rapidly descends through the air, he opens the bowl and starts eating the noodles mid-free fall. The noodles fly everywhere as he continues the challenge, seemingly unfazed by the high-speed wind and gravity-defying drop. The video, set to the Bollywood song Jo Tere Sang, adds to the adrenaline-pumping experience, making viewers even more captivated by this outrageous stunt.

The skydiver captioned the video with, "Are you interested to do this??" inviting others to consider taking on this wild challenge. As expected, the internet had plenty of reactions to this unique spectacle.



One user humorously referenced the 2009 animated movie Cloudy with a Chance of Meatballs, writing, "Cloudy with a Chance of Noodles." Another sarcastically asked, "Did you drop that bowl after eating noodles? It will be landing into someone's home." Comments about pollution followed, with one noting, "Air and land pollution in one video," while another questioned, "Imagine you started choking on those noodles."

Some found humor in the situation, with one person quipping, "Bro's doing a quest no one asked for," while others expressed concern over the noodles potentially causing discomfort: "It's all according to plan until the noodles go into his nose," one critic wrote.

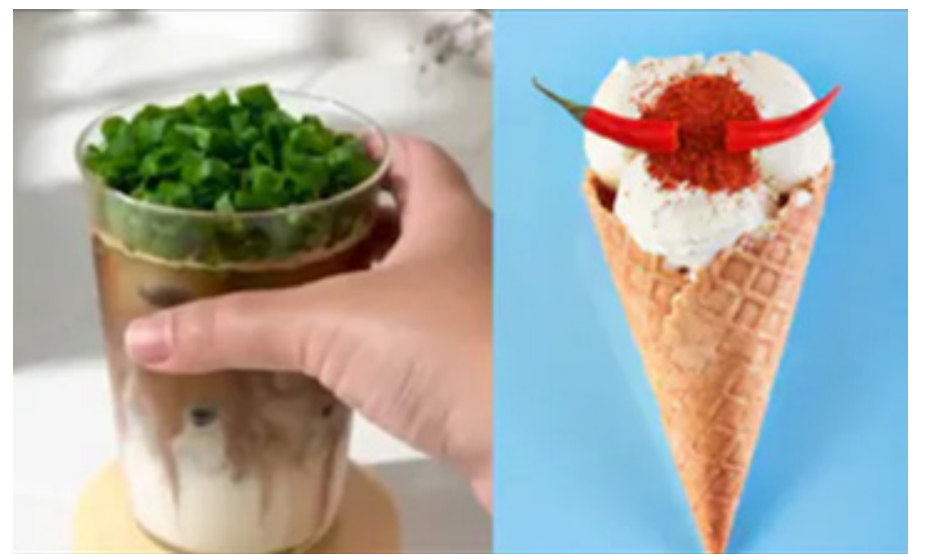
Despite the funny and sometimes alarming comments, many expressed admiration for the skydiver's audacity. As one user put it, "That is what you call freedom right there." The video has left viewers amazed and amused, with many joking that it is indeed "raining noodles" in the sky.

Exploring the Dark Cuisine Trend: Would You Try Onion Coffee or Chilli Ice Cream?

In the world of food, boundaries are constantly being pushed as chefs experiment with unconventional ingredients and methods. One such intriguing phenomenon is the rise of 'dark cuisine.' First introduced in the 1990 Japanese manga series Chuuu! Ichiban, dark cuisine challenges traditional culinary norms by offering dishes that are not only unusual but sometimes visually unappealing or even unpalatable to the untrained eye.

Dark cuisine is often defined by its ability to deliver adrenaline-fueled excitement and euphoria, much like the thrill of extreme sports. Food blogger Ravi Arora explains that the appeal of dark cuisine lies in the rush it provides—an experience that can be both thrilling and unsettling. These daring dishes are designed to push diners out of their comfort zones, allowing them to explore the unknown in the world of flavors and textures.

Among the many bizarre food creations, some of the most talked-about dark cuisine items include onion coffee and chili ice cream. Onion coffee, for instance, combines the savory and pungent taste of onions with the rich, robust flavor of coffee, offering a unique twist on a classic beverage. Similarly, chili ice cream merges the cold, creamy sweetness of ice cream with the intense heat of chili peppers, creating an unexpected fusion of



sensations. While these dishes may seem off-putting to some, they are gaining popularity among food adventurers who seek new experiences. The dark cuisine trend is not for the faint of heart, as it often involves combining flavors and textures that defy traditional pairings. Despite their odd combinations, these dishes contribute to the ever-evolving landscape of global cuisine, highlighting the creativity and boldness of chefs who aim to surprise and challenge their audiences.

For those brave enough to embrace the unknown, dark cuisine offers a thrilling culinary adventure—a chance to explore new tastes, textures, and sensations that go beyond the familiar. Would you be willing to try the unpredictable world of onion coffee or chili ice cream?

YouTube Remains India's Most Favoured Video Streaming Platform

In 2024, YouTube continues to lead the video streaming market in India, according to a report on emerging trends in the video industry. The platform earned a significant Rs 14,300 crore in revenue, securing its position as the largest video streaming service in the country. Following YouTube in the rankings are Meta, JioStar, and Netflix, reflecting the competitive landscape of India's growing streaming sector.



The Media Partners Asia (MPA) report on the Asia Pacific video and broadband market highlights key shifts in the industry, predicting that streaming services will surpass traditional TV by 2027, with China and India playing pivotal roles. The streaming share of the APAC video industry's revenues is expected to increase from 44% in 2024 to 54% by 2029, signaling a major transformation in how people consume video content.

In line with this growth, the subscription-driven video on demand (SVOD) market in India experienced a resurgence in 2024, adding an estimated 15 million new subscribers. This increase brings the total number of streaming video subscribers in India to 125 million, further solidifying the country's status as a global leader in online video consumption.

The online video market in India has been expe-

riencing rapid growth, driven by higher engagement and expanding monetization opportunities. India's video streaming industry is leading the charge with a robust 26% revenue growth, outpacing other significant markets in Asia, including China (23%), Japan (15%), and Australia (11%). Together, these countries account for about 90% of the global revenue growth in the video industry, as per the MPA report.

Looking ahead, India is expected to play a crucial role in the growth of the premium video sector, contributing nearly half of the US\$5.5 billion in incremental growth across the Asia Pacific region. The report also predicts that online video in India will experience a strong 16% compound annual growth rate (CAGR), signaling a potential decline in traditional television's dominance, although it remains significant in certain regions.

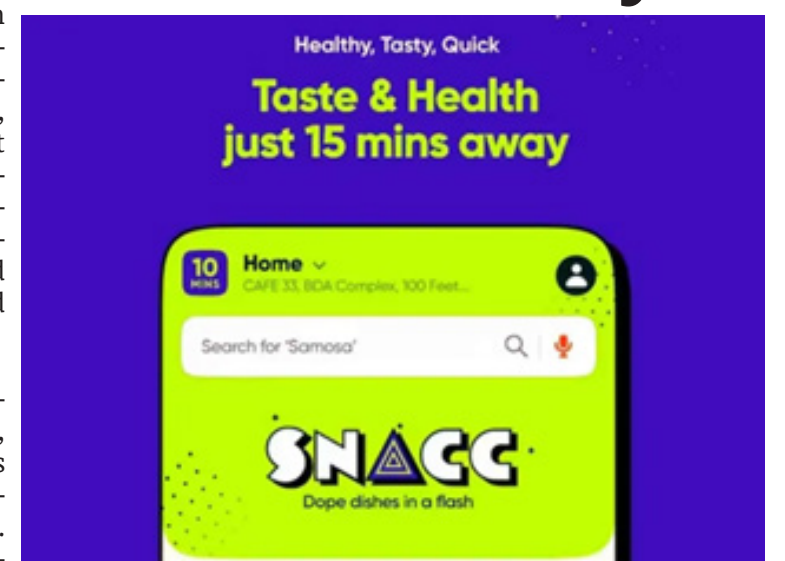
Swiggy Launches Snacc: A New App Promising 15-Minute Food Delivery

Amid fierce competition in the food and grocery delivery space, Swiggy has introduced a new app, Snacc, designed to deliver food in just 15 minutes. Launched on January 7, Snacc is currently available in select areas of Bengaluru and can be downloaded from both the iOS and Android app stores.

The app's landing page features a streamlined menu, offering categories such as Indian breakfast, coffee, beverages, and eggs and protein. The concept for Snacc, including its unique offerings, was developed in mid-December, signaling Swiggy's rapid response to the increasing demand for quick-service food delivery.

Swiggy's move with Snacc follows the trend of hyperlocal and lightning-fast delivery services, with an emphasis on delivering meals in under 15 minutes, aiming to outpace the competition. According to Moneycontrol, the platform has plans to expand Snacc's services to other parts of India in the future, although details regarding specific timelines and locations have not been revealed yet.

Swiggy's entry into the 15-minute delivery space comes at a time when rival Zomato has also joined the quick delivery trend. Zomato, another leading online food aggregator,



has introduced a similar service in its app, where a '15-minute delivery' tab appears in the Explore section. This feature showcases a list of food options available for quick delivery within a 1.5 km radius, although it is unclear whether the service has been rolled out nationwide or is still in select regions.

With Snacc, Swiggy is setting the stage for the next wave of food delivery innovation, challenging competitors like Zomato and making it clear that speed and convenience are the key differentiators in an increasingly competitive market. As the demand for faster delivery grows, both companies will be vying for a share of the quick delivery segment, pushing the boundaries of what consumers can expect from their food delivery apps.

India Eyes Continued Dominance Against Ireland in Historic Bilateral Series



India, fresh off a dominant 13-0 victory over the West Indies in the ODI series, will look to extend their winning streak as they face Ireland in their first-ever women's bilateral series. The opening ODI is scheduled for Friday, and India, led by Smriti Mandhana, is confident of carrying their momentum into the series.

Mandhana was the standout performer in the West Indies series, finishing as the top run-scorer across formats. She amassed 148 runs in the ODI series, including two half-centuries, and 193 runs in the T20 series, with three consecutive fifties. Mandhana will aim to maintain her form, especially in the absence of regular captain Harmanpreet Kaur, who has been rested, along with fast bowler Renuka Singh.

With Kaur and Renuka unavailable, the responsibility falls on batters like Harleen Deol, Pratika Rawal, and Jemimah Rodrigues. Deol was the highest run-scorer in the ODI series, with 160 runs, including a brilliant 115, while Rawal and Rodrigues also contributed with key innings.

In the bowling department, Renuka's absence leaves a gap in the pace attack, and newcomers Titas Sadhu and Saima Thakor will be expected to step up. Sadhu has impressed with her pace and swing, having taken three wickets in ODIs and 13 wickets in T20Is. Thakor, with seven wickets in eight ODIs, will also look to continue her good form.

Off-spinner Deepti Sharma,

coming off a career-best 6 for 31 in the third ODI against the West Indies, will be a key player in the Indian bowling attack, supported by Priya Mishra and Tanuja Kanwar. All-rounders Raghvi Bist and Sayali Satghare, who have been included for this series, will also be eager to make an impact.

Ireland, led by Gaby Lewis, will face a tough challenge against India. Despite having never beaten India in 12 previous ODIs, Ireland will be determined to start the series with a winning mindset. With key players like Orla Prendergast, who brings valuable experience from the WBBL, Ireland will be hoping to challenge the mighty Indian team in this historic series.

West Indies Women's Squad Announced for Historic Series Against Bangladesh

The West Indies Cricket Board (CWI) has announced a 15-member squad for the upcoming white-ball series against Bangladesh, which will mark the first-ever bilateral series between the two women's teams. The series is scheduled to take place from January 19 to 31, 2025, and will consist of three One-Day Internationals (ODIs) and three T20 Internationals (T20Is).

Among the notable inclusions are uncapped speedster Jannillea Glasgow and fast-bowling all-rounder Cherry-Ann Fraser, who have both earned call-ups to the national team. Their inclusion brings fresh energy to the squad, and their performances will be crucial as the West Indies aim to challenge Bangladesh in this landmark series.

West Indies currently sit at ninth position in the Women's Championship table with 14 points from 21 matches, leaving them with slim chances of qualifying directly for the ODI World Cup later this year. Even if they win all their remaining matches, they would still only reach 20 points, falling short of New Zealand's 21 points, which secures them a spot in the World Cup.



In contrast, Bangladesh finds themselves in a more promising position, ranked seventh with 19 points. A strong performance in this series could see them surpass New Zealand and secure a direct qualification to the upcoming World Cup.

As both teams prepare for the historic encounter, the series promises to be an exciting and crucial fixture in the race for World Cup qualification. The West Indies will be looking to capitalize on their home advantage and give the Bangladesh team a tough challenge as they push for a spot in the top six of the Women's Championship.

HS Prannoy and Malvika Bansod Advance to Pre-Quarterfinals at Malaysia Open

India's top badminton players HS Prannoy and rising star Malvika Bansod made their way into the pre-quarterfinals of the prestigious Malaysia Open on Wednesday after winning their respective opening round matches in the men's and women's singles events. The day also saw Indian mixed doubles pairs Tanisha Crasto/Dhruv Kapila and Sathish Kumar Karunakaran/Aadya Variyath progressing to the next stage.



Prannoy, who was delayed by a water leak from the roof during his match, kept his cool to overcome Canada's Brian Yang in a hard-fought battle. The match, which was interrupted the previous day with Yang leading 11-9 in the second game, resumed with Prannoy taking control. Despite losing the second game, Prannoy rallied to win the decider 21-15, sealing the match 21-12, 17-21, 21-15 in one

hour and 29 minutes. Prannoy will now face seventh-seeded Shi Feng Li of China, who defeated Priyanshu Rajawat 21-11, 21-16 in his opening round.

Malvika Bansod continued her impressive form by breezing past local favourite Goh Jin Wei with a 21-15, 21-16 victory in just 45 minutes. Malvika's next opponent will be the winner of the match between third-seeded Yue Han of China and Yu Po

Pai of South Korea.

In the mixed doubles event, Tanisha Crasto and Dhruv Kapila secured a solid 21-13, 21-14 win over South Korea's Sung Hyun Ko and Hye Won Eom, advancing to the pre-quarterfinals. They will face the seventh-seeded Chinese duo of Xing Cheng and Chi Zhang in the next round.

Sathish Kumar Karunakaran and Aadya Variyath also made it to the pre-quarters after defeating Ashith Surya and Amrutha Pramuthesh 21-13, 21-15. They will face the fourth-seeded Malaysian pair, Soon Huat Goh and Shevon Jemie Lai, in the next round.

With these strong performances, the Indian contingent looks set to make a significant impact at the Super 1000 tournament.

Theekshana's Hat-Trick Goes in Vain as New Zealand Win ODI Series

Maheesh Theekshana's impressive hat-trick for Sri Lanka proved to be in vain on Wednesday as New Zealand secured a 113-run victory in the rain-affected second one-day international (ODI) at Seddon Park, Hamilton. With the win, New Zealand clinched the three-match series with an unassailable 2-0 lead, taking it with a game to spare.



The match was shortened to 37 overs per side due to rain, and New Zealand made the most of their reduced overs. Rachin Ravindra played a crucial role, scoring a vital 79 runs, while Mark Chapman added 62 runs. Their brilliant partnership of 112 runs for the second wicket helped New Zealand reach a strong total of 255-9. Despite a brief rain delay, the hosts maintained control throughout their innings.

Sri Lanka, in their chase, faced early setbacks, crumbling to 22-4 within the first six overs. Despite Theekshana's remarkable hat-trick, which briefly sparked hope for the visitors, Sri Lanka could not recover. They were ultimately bowled out for just 142 runs in 30.2 overs, falling short by 113 runs.

to overcome. After losing early wickets, Sri Lanka struggled to gain momentum, and despite Theekshana's heroics, they were unable to mount a serious challenge.

The series victory gives New Zealand a well-deserved lead heading into the third ODI, with their all-round performance proving to be too much for Sri Lanka.

Sumit Nagal to Face Tomas Machac in Australian Open 2024 Round 1

India's highest-ranked singles tennis player, Sumit Nagal, is set to play Tomas Machac of the Czech Republic in the first round of the 2024 Australian Open. The 27-year-old, who is currently ranked 96th in the ATP rankings, earned his spot in the prestigious tournament by securing his place among the top 104 players globally.

Nagal, hailing from Haryana, had a memorable Australian Open performance last year, where, as the 137th-ranked player, he stunned 27th-seeded Alexander Bublik of Kazakhstan in a straight-sets victory in the first round. However, Nagal's campaign ended in the second round when he was defeated by China's Juncheng Shang.

In the lead-up to the Australian Open, Nagal competed

in the Auckland ASB Classic, where he made an early exit. He lost a tough battle to the USA's Alex Michelsen, with the match ending 7-6 (8), 4-6, 2-6 in a marathon that lasted two hours and 40 minutes. Despite the loss, Nagal's performance in the competitive match showed his resilience and commitment as he prepares for his upcoming challenge in Melbourne.

As the Australian Open 2024 begins, Nagal will be hoping to replicate his heroics from last year and advance further in the tournament. His first-round encounter with Tomas Machac is expected to be a closely contested match, with both players aiming for a strong start in the Grand Slam.

Recently, Nagal made headlines for his decision to decline playing for India in the Davis Cup, continuing his focus on his individual career. As he heads into the Australian Open, all eyes will be on him as he seeks to make a mark on the global stage once again.





Bellamkonda Sai Sreenivas' Haindava Teaser: A Blend of Divine and Action

Bellamkonda Sai Sreenivas is gearing up for a series of intriguing films, one of which is titled Haindava. This upcoming movie marks the directorial debut of Ludheer Byreddy, while Mahesh Chandu serves as the producer. Recently, the makers unveiled a video glimpse of the film, revealing the title and offering a sneak peek into its exciting narrative.

The teaser hints at a gripping storyline that revolves around a temple and blends divine, supernatural, and action-packed elements. The visuals showcase a gang of outlaws attempting to destroy the Dasavatara temple, setting the stage for a dramatic battle between good and evil. The film's teaser takes an intense turn as Bellamkonda Sreenivas, riding a bike, faces off against the assailants. As he speeds through the scene, an eagle swoops overhead, while a lion and a wild boar rush alongside him, cre-



ating a vivid portrayal of fierce forces at play.

The action sequence intensifies as Sreenivas confronts the gang and defeats them in a fiery showdown. The film, which has mass appeal, integrates stunning visual effects (VFX) to enhance its supernatural concept. While the teaser showcases breathtaking moments, some of the visual effects could have been further polished. Nonetheless, it succeeds in raising excitement among fans who are eager to see the hero in action.

The musical score by Leon James adds a powerful layer to the teaser, with chants of Lord Rama and Lord Krishna helping to elevate the spiritual theme of the movie. Samyuktha plays the female lead in Haindava, further boosting the film's appeal. The team has already completed 30% of the shoot, and the filmmakers have expressed their intention to release the movie on a pan-India scale. Fans can look forward to a thrilling cinematic experience with a blend of spirituality, high-octane action, and stunning visuals.

Anu Emmanuel Stuns in Boomerang First Look: A Gripping Thriller in the Making

Anu Emmanuel, who captured the hearts of Telugu audiences with her performance in Majnu, is all set to surprise viewers once again with her upcoming project Boomerang. Known for her roles opposite top stars like Gopichand, Allu Arjun, Pawan Kalyan, and Ravi Teja, Anu Emmanuel's new film, under the direction of popular cinematographer Andrew Babu, has generated significant buzz. The film, titled Boomerang, promises to be a unique thriller with intriguing twists.



The first look poster of Boomerang has already

stirred a great deal of interest. In the poster, a dark and eerie atmosphere sets the tone, with dead bodies lying in front of a house, and a mysterious figure holding a dog amidst the grim scene. Anu Emmanuel's expression in the poster is one of shock, hinting at a suspense-filled story. This sets expectations high for a gripping narrative that combines elements of suspense and mystery.

Andrew Babu, making his directorial debut with Boomerang, is also serving as the cinematographer for the film, marking a significant milestone in his

career. The movie is touted to be a thrilling experience that delves into two parallel storylines intertwined with the theme of Karma. Shiva Kandukuri takes on the lead role, while actors Vennela Kishore and Viva Harsha play key supporting roles.

Produced by London Ganesh and Dr. Praveen Reddy Ootla under the banners of Big Movie Makers Limited and My3 Arts, Boomerang will be shot in the scenic locations of London. Sitara Films Limited is handling the line production. Andrew Babu's prior experience as a cinematographer on films like Kandiriga and Tej I Love You, along with his work on Ravi Teja's Ravanaasura and Karthi's successful films in Japan, adds to the anticipation surrounding this project.

With its intriguing premise, talented cast, and experienced team, Boomerang is poised to be a thrilling cinematic experience that keeps audiences on the edge of their seats.



Suriya's Retro: Love, Laughter, War Unveils Release Date with Intense Poster

Kollywood star Suriya is all set to captivate audiences with his much-anticipated film Retro: Love, Laughter, War. Directed by the talented Karthik Subbaraj, the film has become one of the most eagerly awaited releases of 2025. The movie also stars the stunning Pooja Hegde as the female lead and has been generating significant buzz since its production began.

One of the key highlights of the project is the quick pace at which it was completed—wrapped up in just three months, setting a record in the industry. This, combined with the star power of Suriya and Pooja Hegde, has piqued the interest of fans across the globe.

In an exciting update, the makers of Retro recently took to social media to announce that the film will be hitting theaters worldwide on May 1, 2025, as a special May Day treat. The announcement poster features Suriya in a fierce, action-packed avatar, holding a weapon and ready for battle. The tagline, "The ONE from May ONE," promises a thrilling cinematic experience, building anticipation for its release.

Retro marks Suriya's 44th film, and it promises to be a significant addition to his illustrious career. The movie is a high-budget romantic action drama, and in addition to Suriya and Pooja Hegde, it also features Shriya Saran in a special song. Prominent actors like Prakash Raj and Mollywood star Joju George will play key roles, further adding to the movie's star-studded ensemble.

The music for Retro has been composed by Santhosh Narayanan, known for his powerful soundtracks. The film is being produced by Suriya and Jyothika's 2D Entertainment, in association with Kaarthikeyan Santhanam and Kalyan Subramanian's Stone Bench Creations banner. With a thrilling mix of love, action, and war, Retro is set to be a major summer blockbuster in 2025.

Game Changer Surprises Fans with Unpredictable Rap Song Featuring Japanese Lyrics

The highly anticipated film Game Changer, directed by Shankar, is set to make waves upon its release. Fans of Ram Charan are eagerly awaiting the political drama, which also stars Kiara Advani in the female lead role. With early shows just hours away, excitement is building, especially with the surprise release of a song that has caught everyone's attention.



The final track from the movie, titled Unpredictable, was unveiled ahead of the film's premiere. The song, a rap number, adds an extra layer of heroism to the film's protagonist, with energetic beats and dynamic lyrics. Sung by Thaman S and Blazze, Unpredictable amplifies the intensity of the film's

narrative, creating an electrifying atmosphere. The song's lyrics were written by Blazze, but it includes a unique twist—Japanese lines contributed by Adviteeya,

adding a global flair to the track.

Produced by Dil Raju under Sri Venkateswara Creations, Game Changer features an impressive

ensemble cast, including Anjali, Srikanth, SJ Suryah, Jayaram, Samuthirakani, Sunil, Brahmanandam, and Rajeev Kanakala. The film will be released in three languages—Telugu, Tamil, and Hindi—making it accessible to a wide audience across India.

Music director Thaman has proven to be a game-changer in his own right, delivering a song that blends rap with an unexpected cultural twist, setting the stage for the film's release. Fans can expect Unpredictable to be a chart-topping hit and add to the growing anticipation for Game Changer, which is expected to entertain audiences with its gripping storyline, powerful performances, and memorable music.

"Gandhi Tatha Chettu" Trailer: A Heartwarming Story of a Young Girl's Journey

Superstar Mahesh Babu recently launched the trailer of Gandhi Tatha Chettu, a heartwarming film that features Sukumar Bandreddy's daughter, Sukriti Veni Bandreddy, in a leading role. Directed by Padmavati Malladi, the film is jointly produced by Mythri Movie Makers, Sukumar Writings, and Gopi Talkies, with Tabitha Sukumar serving as the presenter. The movie has already received critical acclaim on the international stage, winning several awards at film festivals, and has been lauded for Sukriti Veni's outstanding performance, earning her the Best Child Artist award.



Sukriti and the entire team all the very best."

The trailer offers a glimpse into the emotional journey of a young girl named Gandhi, showcasing a touching and inspiring story that promises to captivate audiences. The film's narrative is expected to tug at the heartstrings of viewers, exploring themes of family, resilience, and the power of dreams. With an impressive international recognition and a strong lead performance, Gandhi Tatha Chettu is poised to be a memorable cinematic experience.

Set to be released globally on January 24, the film has generated excitement among fans

and industry professionals alike. Mahesh Babu, expressing his enthusiasm, shared on social media, "Delighted to launch the trailer of Gandhi Tatha Chettu. It promises to be a heartwarming and inspiring film. Wishing

Fans are eagerly awaiting its theatrical release, as the film's combination of a powerful story and a talented young lead promises to make a lasting impact.