



**Weather Forecast**

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

# CM Revanth Unveils Welfare Plans for Republic Day

- Republic Day Launch for Flagship Welfare Schemes
- Strict Guidelines for Rythu Bharosa Implementation
- Transparency Through Gram Sabhas and Ward Meetings
- Caste Census Achievement and Call for Field Visits
- Focus on Indiramma Atmiya Bharosa and Ration Card Reforms
- Accountability Through Surprise Inspections and Hostel Visits



**TPN correspondent, Hyderabad, Jan 11:** Telangana Chief Minister Revanth Reddy chaired a high-level meeting with district collectors at the Secretariat today, focusing on the implementation of key welfare schemes, including Rythu Bharosa, Indiramma Atmiya Bharosa, Ration Cards, and Indiramma Indla schemes. The CM, accompanied by Deputy CM Bhatti Vikramarka and prominent ministers, emphasized the preparation of comprehensive beneficiary lists and announced that the schemes will be launched ambitiously on Republic Day, January 26, 2025.

canals, mining areas, or lands with godowns. Collectors were tasked with compiling detailed revenue records, examining village maps, and conducting field verifications to identify and exclude ineligible lands.

The CM urged officials to publish lists of uncultivable lands in Gram Sabhas to eliminate doubts or misconceptions. "Whether the farmer plants crops or not, every acre of cultivable land should receive assurance," he asserted.

Addressing the district collectors, Revanth Reddy applauded their efforts in completing 96% of the caste census survey, a major government initiative. He emphasized that the performance of collectors reflects the government's success and urged them to conduct field visits and improve their work style. "Sitting in offices is not enough; problems must be dealt with effectively at the ground level," he said.

The Chief Minister directed collectors to initiate Gram Sabhas in villages and ward meetings in municipalities to ensure transparent and inclusive implementation of the schemes. He underscored that Rythu Bharosa must be provided exclusively for cultivable lands and not for lands unsuitable for agriculture, such as real estate plots, lands converted into

The CM highlighted the need to ensure Indiramma Atmiya Bharosa benefits landless agricultural laborer families and stressed the implementation of a "one ration, one state" policy to streamline ration card distribution. Preparatory work for these schemes is to be completed between January 11 and 15, with eligible lists finalized and approved by in-charge ministers.

Revanth Reddy also instructed IAS and IPS officers to visit hostels monthly, with women officers encouraged to visit girls' hostels to motivate students. He assured that surprise inspections post-launch will ensure accountability, warning of strict action against negligence.

"Welfare and development are the two eyes of this government. We aim to demonstrate that we are working tirelessly for the poor," the CM concluded.



# CM Presents Vision for 'Future City' at CII Meeting

- Hyderabad's Global Aspirations
- Focus on Sustainable Urban Development
- Boosting Infrastructure and Industrial Growth
- Collaboration for Economic Progress

**TPN correspondent, Hyderabad, Jan 11:** Telangana Chief Minister Revanth Reddy laid out his ambitious plans to transform Hyderabad into a global "Future City" during the Confederation of Indian Industry (CII) National Council meeting held at the Green Business Center in Hyderabad. The meeting was attended by industry leaders, policymakers, and government officials, including CII President Sanjeev Puri and Telangana Industries Secretary Jayesh Ranjan.

supporting rural communities through agriculture and organic farming initiatives.

As part of the broader strategy to enhance Hyderabad's appeal, the Chief Minister outlined plans for large-scale infrastructure projects, sustainable urbanization, and the creation of specialized industrial zones. He reaffirmed his government's dedication to building investor confidence through transparent policies and efficient governance.

Addressing the gathering, the Chief Minister stressed the importance of making Hyderabad a hub for global industries while adhering to sustainability goals. He emphasized the state government's commitment to creating a city that rivals international giants like New York, London, and Tokyo, blending innovation, green initiatives, and economic growth.

The meeting showcased Telangana's progress in emerging as a significant player on the global economic stage, drawing praise from CII representatives. Sanjeev Puri commended the state for its visionary policies and business-friendly environment, noting its leadership in sustainable urban and industrial development.

Reddy highlighted the Telangana government's strategic focus on urban planning, industrial clusters, and infrastructure development to boost economic opportunities. He shared his vision of a balanced approach that fosters industrial growth in urban areas while

The Chief Minister concluded by calling for greater collaboration between the government and industry leaders to turn Hyderabad into a beacon of innovation, inclusivity, and economic success. He expressed confidence in achieving Telangana's ambitious goals through collective efforts and forward-thinking policies.

# Funds Released to States, Telangana Discontent

**Telangana Displeased with Lower Fund Allocation**  
**Andhra Pradesh Receives Larger Share of Funds**  
**Center's Fund Release Aims at Boosting State Development**



**TPN correspondent, Telangana, Jan 11:** In a significant development, the Central Government has released a total of ₹1,73,030 crore to various states under the tax devolution scheme. Andhra Pradesh has been allocated ₹7,002 crore, while Telangana received ₹3,637 crore. The funds are aimed at supporting capital expenditure and welfare development initiatives, especially during the festive season.

The Union Finance Ministry emphasized that the funds are being distributed to boost capital expenditure in the states and assist in their developmental and welfare-related activities. The allocation has brought mixed reactions from the Telugu states.

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# BJP Announces Candidates for Telangana MLC Elections

**BJP Unveils Candidates for Teacher MLC Seats**  
**Graduate MLC Candidate Announced for Key Constituency**

**TPN correspondent, Telangana, Jan 11:** The Bharatiya Janata Party (BJP) has announced its candidates for the upcoming Member of Legislative Council (MLC) elections in Telangana. The announcement was made by Telangana BJP State President Kishan Reddy, who revealed candidates for two teacher constituencies and one graduate constituency.

gal has been chosen to contest the Nalgonda-Warangal-Khammam teacher MLC seat, while Malka Komuraiah from Peddapalli will represent the party in the Karimnagar-Nizamabad-Adilabad-Medak teacher MLC constituency. For the graduate MLC constituency of Karimnagar-Nizamabad-Adilabad-Medak, the BJP has selected C. Anji Reddy from Sangareddy as its candidate.

Puli Sarvottam Reddy from Waran-

The BJP has expressed confidence in its candidates, highlighting their strong academic and professional credentials, which align with the needs of teacher and graduate constituencies. Party leaders emphasized that the chosen candidates are well-equipped to address the concerns of educators and graduates across the state.

The MLC elections in Telangana are set to garner significant attention



as political parties gear up for a competitive contest. The BJP's candidate announcement marks the beginning of its efforts to strengthen its foothold in the state.

# Telangana's Benefit Show Controversy Escalates

**Chief Minister's Promise on Ticket Prices Broken**  
**Political Leaders Demand Answers for U-Turn**  
**High Court Condemns Midnight Benefit Shows**  
**FDC Chairman Faces Criticism for Ticket Price Comments**

**TPN Pardhu, Hyderabad, Jan 11:** A major political controversy has engulfed the Telangana government over the issue of benefit shows and ticket price hikes, particularly with the release of the big-budget film Game Chang-

er. The controversy began when Chief Minister Revanth Reddy assured the Telangana Legislative Assembly that he would put an end to benefit shows and regulate ticket prices to prevent exploitation.



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## Telangana Discontent

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The Telangana government expressed dissatisfaction over the allocation, claiming that the state received less than half of what Andhra Pradesh was granted. Reports suggest that Telangana Chief Minister and ministers are discontented, accusing the Center of favoring Andhra Pradesh while neglecting Telangana's needs. Critics from Telangana allege that the state has been consistently overlooked by the Central Government in financial matters. This development is expected to add fuel to the ongoing discourse about equitable treatment among states. The allocation comes at a crucial time as states gear up for capital-intensive projects and welfare programs, with an eye on public needs during the festive period.

## Controversy Escalates

continued from P-1

However, his promise was short-lived, as the government reversed its stance within days, granting permission for benefit shows and approving a significant ticket price hike for Game Changer. Initially, CM Revanth Reddy had announced that benefit shows and high ticket prices would be strictly controlled to protect the public from exploitation. This assurance was reiterated by the Chief Minister during a meeting with film industry leaders, where he stated that the government would not tolerate such practices. Despite these promises, just 10 days later, the state government approved the controversial hike in ticket prices and allowed benefit shows for the movie.

This reversal has sparked a political uproar, with leaders from various parties expressing their anger over the government's inconsistency. BRS leaders, including Minister Harish Rao, have sharply criticized the Chief Minister for breaking his promise. Harish Rao demanded transparency from Revanth Reddy regarding the reasons behind the sudden change of heart. He also announced that a privilege motion would be moved against both Revanth and Minister Komatireddy. Meanwhile, political figure KA Paul has also lashed out at the government, accusing Revanth Reddy of failing to honor his word made in the Assembly.

The issue has caught the attention of the Telangana High Court, which has condemned the practice of permitting benefit shows, especially for big-budget films, to collect money from the public at inflated prices. The High Court pointed out that these shows often take place during late-night or early-morning hours, violating basic human rights. In its ruling, the court suggested that measures be taken to limit the timing of screenings and recommended that children under the age of 16 be prevented from attending such shows during these hours.

The controversy also escalated with remarks from FDC Chairman Dil Raju, who downplayed the ticket price hike as a minor issue. His comment that the price increase was a "small matter" sparked outrage among cultural leaders and the public. Some accused Dil Raju of prioritizing profits over public welfare, dubbing him the "Deal King" in reference to his business dealings. The Telangana government's decision to allow benefit shows and approve higher ticket prices has sparked widespread criticism from the opposition and public. With the High Court now involved, the pressure is mounting on the government to address the concerns raised by the public, political leaders, and judicial authorities. As the situation develops, it remains to be seen whether the government will take corrective action to restore public trust.

## Revanth Reddy Pledges Support for Tribal Welfare

Official Festivals for Komuram Bheem  
Water and Housing Solutions for Tribals

Education and Job Focus for Tribals  
Improving Tribal Education Infrastructure

TPN correspondent, Telangana, Jan 11: Chief Minister A. Revanth Reddy has directed officials to take immediate steps to address the challenges faced by tribal communities in the state. During a special meeting with tribal associations and public representatives at the Dr. BR Ambedkar State Secretariat, the Chief Minister heard appeals on issues such as education, job opportunities, roads, transportation, agriculture, and drinking water.



Reddy instructed officials to take necessary actions to resolve the problems raised by the tribal representatives. He emphasized the need to celebrate the birth and death anniversaries of Komuram Bheem as official festivals and ordered steps to allocate Indiramma houses to tribal areas based on population.

The Chief Minister also called for measures to address drinking wa-

ter issues in tribal areas, including the free installation of boreholes and solar pump sets for agricultural purposes. He highlighted ongoing initiatives, such as converting the Indravelli Martyrs' Stupa into a memorial park and providing houses to the families of martyrs.

Additionally, Reddy focused on enhancing education opportunities for tribals, including a study on providing education in their mother tongue and the construction of tribal stone centers. He also announced plans to clear pending bills for overseas scholarships for

tribal students and fill teaching positions for the B.Ed college.

The meeting saw the participation of Minister Dhanasari Seethakka, CM Advisor Vem Narender Reddy, and other key officials, along with leaders from tribal associations.

## U-turn on Movie Privileges Sparks Outrage

Rao Accuses Revanth Reddy of Misleading the Assembly  
Minister's U-turn on Ticket Prices Sparks Outrage

Harish Rao Demands Explanation for Game Changer Controversy

TPN correspondent, Hyderabad, Jan 11: Former Minister Harish Rao has strongly criticized Telangana Chief Minister Revanth Reddy for his sudden change of stance regarding ticket prices and benefit shows for the movie Game Changer. Rao accused Reddy of behaving like a chameleon, altering his position just days after making firm statements in the Assembly.

Reddy had previously declared in the Assembly that special privileges for movies would no longer be granted following the tragic death of a woman, promising to curb benefit shows and ticket price hikes. However, within two weeks, the government approved increased

ticket prices and allowed special shows for Game Changer. Rao expressed outrage, calling the Chief Minister's actions an insult to the Assembly. He questioned the legitimacy of the announcements made in the House and warned that a privilege motion would be moved against Revanth Reddy and Minister Komatireddy Venkata Reddy for misleading the Assembly. Rao also highlighted the tragic consequences of the government's previous decisions, pointing out that a woman had died and a child was hospitalized due to the controversial ticket hikes and benefit shows. He demanded an



explanation for the government's sudden U-turn, calling for transparency in the decision-making process.

## 22,000 Crore Farmer Loan Waived: Bhatti Vikramarka



TPN correspondent, Telangana, Jan 11: Deputy Chief Minister Bhatti Vikramarka addressed a Collectors' meeting, highlighting the government's commitment to four major schemes set to launch on the 26th of this month. Despite the significant expenditure, Vikramarka emphasized that these initiatives aim to benefit the poor of the state. He called for the involvement of Indiramma Committees in each village for the effective implementation of these schemes, with beneficiary selection to be done after consultation with in-charge ministers in each district.

The four key schemes—Rythu Bharo-

sa, Indiramma Atmiya Bharosa, ration cards, and Indiramma houses—will be publicized through flex boards in villages, ensuring transparency. Vikramarka also reminded that the state had already waived 22,000 crore rupees in farmer loans, and this achievement will be communicated to the people in each village as well.

The Deputy Chief Minister directed officials to issue detailed guidelines for the schemes and urged district-level officials to ensure the broad dissemination of information, making sure all residents are aware of their benefits.

## TGRTC to Operate 6,432 Special Buses for Sankranti Festival

Sankranti Travel Boost: 6,432 Special Buses Announced  
Private Buses Warned Against Extra Charges During Festival

TPN correspondent, Telangana, Jan 11: To accommodate the rush of passengers during the Sankranti festival, Telangana State Road Transport Corporation (RTC) has announced the operation of 6,432 special buses. Transport Minister Ponnampalapati Prabhakar confirmed that the buses will begin running immediately, ensuring convenient travel for the public during the festive season.



in this regard.

Minister Prabhakar emphasized the importance of making adequate arrangements at major bus stations to avoid any inconvenience to passengers. He also highlighted the possibility of increased female passengers traveling under the Mahalaxmi scheme for free bus travel and instructed officials to take special care

The minister also issued a stern warning to private travel bus operators, cautioning that any attempts to charge passengers extra during

the festival will be met with strict action. He emphasized that private travel buses should not charge beyond the current rates, and those found violating the rules will face immediate seizure of their vehicles. Passengers are encouraged to report any complaints of extra charges to the transport department, with officials conducting regular field inspections.

Prabhakar reassured the public that the government prioritizes passenger safety and welfare, urging travelers to exercise caution while traveling during the festival. The transport department is on high alert to ensure smooth and affordable transportation for all passengers during Sankranti.

## Case Registered Against KTR for Unpermitted Rally



TPN correspondent, Hyderabad, Jan 11: A case has been registered against BRS Working President and MLA K.T. Rama Rao (KTR) at the Banjara Hills Police Station in Hyderabad. The complaint, filed by traffic police, alleges that KTR held a rally without permission, which extend-

ed to the BRS office.

The complaint was made in connection with an event KTR attended yesterday, during his participation in an Anti-Corruption Bureau (ACB) inquiry regarding the Formula E-racing case. The Banjara Hills Police have filed the case based on the traffic police's allegations.

In addition to KTR, other BRS leaders, including Gellu Srinivas, Balka Suman, Manne Govardhan, Krishank, and Jaisimha, have also been named in the case. KTR is already facing charges in the Formula E-racing case, adding to the ongoing legal challenges.

## Bandi Sanjay Criticizes Congress and BRS Over KTR's Formula E Case



**TPN correspondent, Hyderabad, Jan 11:** Union Minister of State Bandi Sanjay has criticized both the Congress and BRS parties, questioning the silence of Congress leaders, particularly Revanth Reddy, regarding recent developments involving BRS leader K.T. Rama Rao (KTR). Speaking to the media, Sanjay lashed out at the agitations that followed KTR's involvement in the Formula E car race case, questioning why there should be protests if KTR is arrested. He asked, "Is KTR a freedom fighter?"

Sanjay accused the Telangana government of illegally embezzling funds, alleging that BRS leaders were making misleading statements about the Formula E race. He claimed there was a rush to release crores of rupees to a foreign company without cabinet approval for the race and challenged KTR to show where the reported Rs. 700 crore profit from the event came from.

Sanjay further questioned Revanth Reddy's silence on KTR's comments about a "looting" chief minister and government, adding that the Congress leader should speak up. He also accused KCR of secretly working with Congress, alleging a hidden agreement between BRS and Congress, labeling the two parties as essentially one. Sanjay reaffirmed that the BJP would continue its uncompromising stance against the drama orchestrated by Congress and BRS.

## Kaushik Reddy Sensational Allegations Against Revanth Reddy



**TPN correspondent, Hyderabad, Jan 11:** BRS leader and Huzurabad MLA Padi Kaushik Reddy has made explosive allegations against Telangana Chief Minister Revanth Reddy, accusing him of blackmailing the film industry and collecting Rs. 500 crores to allow a benefit show for the movie Game Changer.

In a strong statement, Kaushik Reddy expressed that while his party does not oppose benefit shows, they were concerned about the manner in which permission was granted by Revanth Reddy. The MLA reminded that during the Assembly meetings in December, Revanth Reddy had firmly declared that no benefit shows would be permitted under any circumstances. However, the Game Changer show was allowed, raising questions about the Chief Minister's integrity and credibility.

Reddy lashed out, questioning whether Revanth Reddy had any shame or honor, pointing to his earlier statements in the Assembly and his recent actions. He criticized the Chief Minister for taking money from the film industry and permitting the benefit show, despite earlier claims to the contrary. Kaushik Reddy's allegations have sparked a political controversy, intensifying tensions between the BRS and Congress parties.

## MLC Jeevan Reddy Supports Bhu Bharati for Farmers

**TPN correspondent, Hyderabad, Jan 11:** MLC Jeevan Reddy expressed his satisfaction with the Governor's approval of the Bhu Bharati bill, emphasizing that it is a significant step toward solving the ongoing problems faced by farmers. He highlighted the bill's appeal provision as particularly beneficial, providing an alternative to the lengthy and costly process of going to court.

In his remarks, Reddy noted that previously, farmers had to rely solely on courts for resolution, but now, with the establishment of revenue tribunals, disputes can be resolved more efficiently. He also



addressed the abolition of the VRA and

VRO systems, stating that it had led to a gap in government presence in villages. He emphasized the need to revive the revenue system in rural areas to improve governance and support for farmers.

Reddy further stated that the Bhu Bharati Act should be seen as a gift to farmers, especially as the Sankranti festival approaches. He also stressed the importance of issuing new Pattadar passbooks to ensure transparency and proper land documentation. According to Reddy, this will modernize the land record system, helping farmers manage their land more effectively.

## Kavitha Criticizes Congress Government for Neglecting Tribal Welfare

**TPN correspondent, Hyderabad, Jan 11:** RS MLC Kalvakuntla Kavitha has strongly criticized the Congress government for its failure to address the ongoing issues faced by tribal communities, claiming that tribal welfare has come to a standstill during their one-year rule. She expressed concern over the many problems affecting the tribals and demanded immediate action from Chief Minister Revanth Reddy to resolve them, instead of making promises and announcements.

Kavitha noted that the recent meeting between CM Revanth Reddy and tribal organizations was a result of the BRS party's efforts for tribal rights. She highlighted that the struggles of the tribals were a victory for the BRS, but cautioned CM Reddy not to merely offer promises like a "mantra." During her visit to tribal welfare centers in Both, Asifabad, and Khanapur constituencies, Kavitha observed the nu-

merous hardships tribals were facing, accompanied by BRS MLAs Kova Lakshmi and Anil Jadhav.

She expressed her anger over the weakening of the drinking water supply system and the lack of attention from the Congress government. Kavitha criticized the government for failing to introduce modern agricultural methods for the tribals and urged the government to focus on improving education and healthcare in tribal areas. The MLC also emphasized the rise of seasonal diseases and the lack of timely treatment, with many deaths attributed to government negligence.

Kavitha further accused the government of destroying Gurukuls, causing fear among tribal children, and criticized the government for not taking action after the tragic deaths of students due to poisoned food. She demanded that the ITDA



system be strengthened, and quality education be provided to tribal children. Kavitha vowed that the BRS party would continue to fight for the rights of tribals and warned of intensifying the movement if the government failed to act on their promises.

## Tummala Lays Foundation for Sattupalli's Growth

**TPN correspondent, Hyderabad, Jan 11:** State Agriculture Minister Tummala Nageswara Rao participated in the foundation stone laying ceremonies of various development projects in Sattupalli Mandal and town, marking significant progress for the region. Addressing the gathering in Kakarlapalli village, the Minister expressed his deep connection with the area, stating that Sattupalli holds more importance than his own constituency.



Tummala highlighted a series of upcoming projects aimed at enhancing local infrastructure and agriculture. "I will move the stopped Sitarama project and divert Godavari waters to Bethupalli through Tamileru," he said. Additionally, he announced plans for a new palm oil factory and a nursing college in Sattupalli, which will contribute to the future of local children.

The Minister also emphasized the ongoing efforts to improve transportation, mentioning a proposal for a railway line from Sattupalli to Kovvur. He vowed to continue pushing for the region's development, particularly in terms of irrigation, education, and agricultural growth.

Tummala reiterated his commitment to farmers, stating that the government would insure crops and provide consistent support. "The government will not step back from addressing the problems of farmers," he assured, noting that 40,000 crores had already been deposited into farmers' accounts in the first year alone. He urged farmers to plant palm oil for further agricultural growth and promised that the government's focus on agriculture would continue without delay.

## Revanth will go to jail in Future..

**TPN correspondent, Hyderabad, Jan 11:** Former Minister Jagadish Reddy has claimed that Congress leader Revanth Reddy will be jailed in connection with the Formula E-race case. Reddy expressed his frustration with BJP leaders, particularly Bandi Sanjay, who he accused of aligning with Revanth. He questioned the relationship between Bandi Sanjay and Revanth, stating that if Bandi were truly a BJP member, he should oppose the Congress-led government's anti-people policies.



Jagadish Reddy also alleged that Bandi Sanjay's vocal support for Revanth suggests an internal connection between the two, even suggesting that Bandi Sanjay was "Revanth's real agent." He further criticized the BJP for not responding to the Congress-led state government while focusing on attacking BRS and Chief Minister KCR. He accused the BJP of spreading a toxic campaign against the ruling party while being silent on local issues.

Reddy also condemned the BJP's push for KTR's arrest, calling it a low blow and an attempt to create unnecessary controversy. Concluding his statements, he firmly stated, "Write it down, Revanth will go to jail in the Formula E-race case."

## Srinivas Goud Vows to Take BC Reservation Issue to Court

**TPN correspondent, Hyderabad, Jan 11:** Former Minister Srinivas Goud announced that they would approach the Supreme Court over the issue of increasing BC (Backward Classes) reservations. Speaking at a BC consultation meeting organized by the All India BC Federation and BC Welfare Association in Khairatabad, Hyderabad, Goud emphasized the importance of addressing the reservations issue according to the population ratio outlined in the comprehensive caste census. During the meeting, a Power-Point presentation was made regarding the proposed increase in BC reservations and

the draft law on the subject. Goud stated that a delegation from their associations would visit Tamil Nadu to study BC reservations there.

They also planned to present their case to the central government in Delhi regarding the matter. He highlighted that BC reservations are being violated in job recruitments, colleges, and medical colleges in Telangana, urging the government to decide on providing 42% reservation. He reiterated their commitment to fighting for BC reservations through every available channel.

## Mahesh Kumar Goud Extends Vaikuntha Ekadashi Greetings from Tirumala

**TPN correspondent, Telangana, Jan 11:** Telangana Congress PCC Chief Mahesh Kumar Goud visited Tirumala with his family to celebrate Vaikuntha Ekadashi. He had the darshan of Lord Venkateswara Swamy through the Uttara Dwara Darshan, which was organized as part of the Vaikuntha Ekadashi celebrations. After the darshan, Mahesh Goud offered special prayers to the Lord. He shared his experience on the 'X' platform, extending Vaikuntha Ekadashi greetings to the people of Telangana, as well as to Congress leaders and activists. Goud expressed that Dhanurmasa Ekadashi is a day most beloved to Lord Vishnu and wished that the Lord bless the people of Telangana with long life, good health, pros-

perity, and happiness. Mahesh Kumar Goud's visit to Tirumala and his heartfelt wishes for the occasion reflect his deep devotion and commitment to the well-being of the people of Telangana.



## Hyderabad Police Arrest Two for Rs 2.95 Crore Online Trading Fraud



**TPN correspondent, Hyderabad, Jan 11:** Hyderabad City Cyber Crime Police have arrested two individuals, Sameer Hundekar and Deepak Sampath, residents of Bengaluru, for defrauding a victim of Rs 2.95 crore in an online trading fraud. The accused lured the victim with promises of high returns

in a fake trading scheme.

The victim, a resident of Hyderabad, reported the crime in August 2024, stating he had lost Rs 2.95 crore between July 23 and August 23. He was initially added to a WhatsApp group called "Marval Capital," which advertised stock market trading tips and claimed to offer legitimate investment opportunities. Believing the scheme was genuine, the victim invested a significant amount.

The accused, along with a Dubai-based accomplice, Ritesh Soni, used mule accounts to siphon the victim's money. They also employed shell companies and provided banking credentials to facilitate the fraudulent transactions. The police have seized 21 debit and credit cards, 18 cheque books, 7 mobiles, and 15 SIM cards from the accused.

The police have issued a warning to the public to avoid falling for high-return investment schemes promoted by unknown individuals on social media platforms.

## HC Stops Harish Rao's Arrest Until 28<sup>th</sup>

**TPN correspondent, Hyderabad, Jan 11:** Telangana High Court has granted temporary relief to senior BRS MLA Harish Rao by issuing an interim order barring his arrest until January 28. Harish Rao filed a petition in the High Court seeking the quashing of an FIR registered against him by the Panjagutta police and requested non-arrest orders.



The petition was heard by the court today, which directed the complainant, Chakradhar Goud, to file a counter. The next hearing has been scheduled for January 28, and in the meantime, the court has issued orders preventing Harish Rao's arrest. The case stems from a complaint filed by Chakradhar Goud, who contested against Harish Rao in the last Siddipet assembly elections. Goud alleged that Harish Rao had him implicated in criminal cases and his phone was tapped. Based on this complaint, the police registered a case, prompting Harish Rao to file the quash petition in court. The High Court's interim order offers temporary relief as legal proceedings continue.

## ACB Interrogates Former HMDA Chief Engineer BLN Reddy in Corruption Case



**TPN correspondent, Hyderabad, Jan 11:** ACB officials interrogated BLN Reddy, the former chief engineer of the Hyderabad Metropolitan Development Authority (HMDA), for six hours regarding a corruption investigation. During the questioning, Reddy claimed that the cash transactions in question were carried out under the orders of IAS officer Arvind Kumar, and that he followed the instructions of his superiors without any personal gain.

Reddy stated, "I completed all the proceedings on the orders of my superiors. There was pressure from both the minister and the superior. I knew that going ahead with these proceedings would lead to trouble in the future, but under the circumstances at the time, I had to proceed despite the rules."

Reddy expressed his willingness to cooperate with the ACB's ongoing investigation and emphasized that the Enforcement Directorate (ED) had asked similar questions, to which he had already provided answers. The ACB's inquiry continues as part of the investigation into alleged corruption and improper financial dealings within HMDA.

## HYDRAA Demolishes Illegal Structure at Nekkampur Lake

**TPN correspondent, Hyderabad, Jan 11:** The Hyderabad Disaster Response and Assets Protection Agency (HYDRAA) demolished an illegal structure at Nekkampur Lake on January 10, following complaints about encroachments. The demolition was carried out under the directives of HYDRAA Commissioner AV Ranganath, addressing the ongoing issue of illegal constructions occupying the lake area.

The move comes after HYDRAA received 83 complaints on its first day of operation, January 6, via the Prajavani platform. The complaints primarily raised concerns about illegal constructions and encroachments on lakes and parks in the city. Residents expressed their dissatisfaction with the impact of such activities on the environment and local infrastructure.

In response, Commissioner AV Ranganath conducted field visits to various affected areas, including Turkayamjal and other lakes, to assess the situation and take necessary action. The agency has emphasized its commitment to preserving public assets and maintaining environmental integrity across Hyderabad.



## 49 Smuggled Liquor Bottles Seized in Hyderabad by Excise Task Force



**TPN correspondent, Hyderabad, Jan 11:** The task force of the prohibition and excise department seized 49 bottles of non-duty paid liquor smuggled

illegally from Goa into Hyderabad. The seizure was made after receiving credible information, prompting the excise team to conduct a search on the

Vascodigama Express. The team boarded the train at Shamshabad station and conducted searches in the coaches until reaching Secunderabad station, where the bottles were found in possession of some individuals.

Cases have been registered against the accused persons involved in the smuggling operation. This follows a similar operation on December 15, 2024, when the excise department, along with the special task force, seized 154 bottles of non-duty

paid liquor smuggled from Madhya Pradesh into the city. Four individuals were arrested, and two cars and a motorcycle were confiscated at Chengicherla village, on the outskirts of Hyderabad. According to Telangana excise law, the sale and transportation of non-duty paid liquor from other states is illegal. Authorities have reiterated their commitment to curbing such illegal activities in the region.

## 187 ASIs Promoted in Hyderabad Region



**TPN correspondent, Hyderabad, Jan 11:** In a significant move, 187 constables from the 1989 and 1990 batches were promoted to the rank of Assistant Sub-Inspector (ASI) in the Hyderabad region. The orders for these promotions were issued by Multi Zone 2 IG Sathanarayana on Friday.

The promoted officers are from various zones within the region. From Zone-V, 41 constables were promoted, including 22 from Rachakonda, 12 from Nalgonda, and 7 from Suryapet. In Zone-VI, 142 constables received promotions, with 20 from Hyderabad, 76 from Cyberabad, 30 from Sangareddy, 10 from Vikarabad, 4 from CID, and 2 from Intelligence. Additionally, 4 constables from Zone-VII were also promoted, with 2 from Nagar Kurnool, 1 from Wanaparthy, and 1 from Mahabubnagar.

The promotion process reflects the continuous development of the police force in the region, empowering officers with more responsibilities.

## Major Accident in Goshamahal as Chakwadi Drain Collapses Again

**TPN correspondent, Hyderabad, Jan 11:** A major incident occurred in Goshamahal when the Chakwadi drain, located in front of local plywood shops, collapsed once again. A crusher lorry, which was being used for ongoing drainage work, got stuck in the collapsed drain. Fortunately, the driver of the lorry managed to escape unscathed.

This is not the first time the Chakwadi drain has collapsed in the area. The drain had previously given way, and while repairs were underway, it collapsed again. The lorry, involved in the drain repair work, became trapped, but the driver's timely escape prevented any injuries. However, the collapse has led to drainage water freely flowing, causing inconvenience to local residents.

The locals expressed frustration, stating that despite repeated complaints to authorities about the deteriorating state of the drain, no significant action had been taken. They are now demanding immediate repairs to prevent further issues and ensure their safety.



## Hyderabadis Head to Hometowns for Sankranthi; Crowds at Toll Gates

**TPN correspondent, Hyderabad, Jan 11:** As Sankranthi festival approaches, city dwellers are leaving Hyderabad to celebrate with family in their hometowns. Many are traveling by buses, trains, planes, and their own vehicles, leading to a surge in traffic.

The Hyderabad-Vijayawada National Highway is witnessing long queues of vehicles, particularly at the Pantangi toll gate, as people head to their villages. In response to the increased traffic, two additional toll booths have been opened at the E-Toll Plaza, which typically has 8 booths. Police personnel are deployed to manage the flow of vehicles and ensure smooth traffic, especially at the Choutuppal stretch, where there is no flyover.

With schools and colleges closed for the festival, the rush is expected to continue as people make their way home for the festive celebrations.



# Khammam Dalits Protest Over Unfair Allocation of Houses



**TPN correspondent, Khammam, Jan 11:** In Khammam, local Dalit land victims are voicing their frustration over the alleged allocation of double bedroom houses to Congress party activists instead of those who lost land for the project under the previous BRS gov-

ernment. The victims claim that followers of Minister Ponguleti Srinivas Reddy have unfairly benefited from the scheme, while the Dalits, who were promised housing in return for the land they gave up, have been left out.

The protest has escalated, with some victims threatening to commit suicide by consuming insecticide if they are not provided with the houses they were promised. The land was taken from Dalit families in Acharlagudem village, Nelakondapalli mandal, Khammam district, for the construction of double bedroom houses under the KCR government. However, the current Congress government is accused of renegeing on the promise, allocating homes only to party activists. The situation has caused outrage among the affected Dalit families, who feel betrayed and abandoned by the government's failure to uphold its commitments. The protest highlights the ongoing struggles of marginalized communities in securing their rights and entitlements.

# Maoist Letter Stirs Controversy in Mahabubnagar's Rangareddy Guda

**TPN correspondent, Rangareddy, Jan 11:** A letter allegedly from Maoist groups has caused a stir in Rangareddy Guda, the hometown of Jadcharla MLA Anirudh Reddy, in Mahabubnagar district. The letter, purportedly written by unidentified individuals under the name of Maoist leader Lachanna Dal's secretary, accuses MLA Anirudh Reddy, his brother Dushyant Reddy, and their associates of being involved in illicit activities.



The allegations suggest that the MLA has been running a land-grabbing racket in Rangareddy Guda, coercing landowners into registering their properties. Additionally, the letter claims that the MLA's followers have been extorting money from various companies in the area. The letter warns that those responsible will face severe punishment in a public court if any further issues arise.

The police are conducting a covert investigation into the matter, considering the possibility that the letter could have been issued by the MLA's political opponents or local criminals.

# Three Students Missing in Hayat Nagar, Hyderabad

**TPN correspondent, Hyderabad, Jan 11:** Three students have gone missing in the Hayat Nagar area of Hyderabad. Sri Charit from Hayat Nagar, Appa Charan from Banjara Colony, and Karthik from Shanti Nagar were last seen going to school on Thursday. They did not return home in the evening, raising concerns among their families. The parents of the missing students have lodged a complaint at the local police station.



The police have registered a case and are actively working to locate the missing children. Investigators are relying on CCTV footage from the area around the school, which captured images of the three students walking together. Authorities have formed a special team to search for the missing students and determine their whereabouts. The community remains hopeful as the search efforts continue.

# Bus Hits Parked Lorry, Four Dead in Khammam Accident

**TPN correspondent, Khammam, Jan 11:** A tragic road accident occurred on the Hyderabad-Khammam National Highway, claiming the lives of four people. The incident took place on Friday morning near Ailapuram, Khammam, when a private travel bus collided with a parked lorry. The bus, operated by Gupta Private Travels from Orissa, was transporting migrant laborers from Chhattisgarh to Hyderabad.



At high speed, the bus struck the stationary lorry on the roadside, resulting in the immediate deaths of four individuals. Eight others sustained serious injuries. The bus had a total of 32 passengers at the time of the accident. A police team led by DSP Ravi responded to the scene and transferred the injured to the local hospital for medical treatment.

Initial reports suggest that the negligence of the bus driver may have contributed to the accident. Authorities are investigating the cause of the crash.

Initial reports suggest that the negligence of the bus driver may

# Controversy Erupts Over Special Parade for CM Revanths Brother

**TPN correspondent, Vikarabad, Jan 11:** A special parade organized for Tirupati Reddy, the brother of Telangana CM Revanath Reddy, in the Kodangal constituency has sparked criticism. The event, which involved students, saw the Vikarabad District Collector welcoming Tirupati Reddy at a local school. Critics have questioned the appropriateness of giving special treatment to Tirupati Reddy, who holds no official status, simply due to his relation to the Chief Minister.

Locals have voiced their displeasure, asking if this is a reflection of democracy or a move towards feudalism. They are questioning whether being the brother of the Chief Minister qualifies Tirupati Reddy for such privileges, while also pointing out the contradiction in the promises of people's rule versus the apparent dynastic rule prevailing in the region. Protests have erupted in Kodangal, with residents calling for a return to people's governance, as envisioned by leaders like Indira Gandhi, instead of what they perceive as family rule in Vikarabad.



# Two Killed in Major Road Accident in Janagam

**TPN correspondent, Kondakandla, Jan 11:** A tragic road accident occurred in Janagam district on Thursday night, resulting in the deaths of two individuals. The incident took place on the main road between Suryapet and Janagam, near Maitham Cheruvu Thanda in Kodakandla Mandal.

According to SIS Raju, the victims, Perala Venkanna (45) and Perala Jyoti (35), both villagers from Itur in Suryapet, were traveling to Kadavendi. The driver of the Tufan vehicle in which they were traveling failed to see the road clearly due to heavy fog. As a result, the vehicle collided with the rear of a DCM truck at high speed, killing Venkanna and Jyoti on the spot.

Four other passengers were injured in the accident and have been shifted to the Janagam main hospital for treatment. The injuries of the remaining passengers are reported to be serious. The police have registered a case and are investigating the circumstances surrounding the accident.

Four other passengers were injured in the accident and have been shifted to the Janagam main hospital for treatment. The injuries of the remaining passengers are reported to be serious. The police have registered a case and are investigating the circumstances surrounding the accident.

# Major Fire Destroys Home Appliance Shop in Nirmal

**TPN correspondent, Nirmal, Jan 11:** A major fire broke out in Anapurna Enterprises, a home appliance shop in Kubir Mandal, Nirmal district, in the early hours of Friday. The fire caused significant damage, destroying valuable items including freezers, televisions, coolers, and other appliances.

Locals and police believe the fire may have been triggered by a short circuit. Firefighters swiftly responded to the incident, containing the flames before they could spread further. The police are conducting an investigation to determine the exact cause of the fire, exploring possibilities of both an electrical malfunction or potential foul play. The authorities are looking into all angles to ascertain the cause of the accident.



# Tragedy at Singur Project: Couple Found Dead in Hotel Room

**TPN correspondent, Sangareddy, Jan 11:** A tragic incident occurred at the Singur Project area when a couple was found dead under suspicious circumstances. The incident took place at Haritha Restaurant in Busareddyapalli, Munipalli Mandal, where the couple had rented a room. When the room remained locked for an extended period, the restaurant staff grew concerned and alerted the authorities. Upon breaking open the door in the presence of the police, the bodies of Uday Kumar (21) and Mounika (19) were discovered, both having hanged themselves.



The couple, residents of Nizampet in the Narayankhed area, reportedly took this drastic step after facing opposition from their families regarding their love marriage. Police have initiated an investigation, and the bodies were taken to the government hospital for a post-mortem examination. Family members of the deceased are in deep mourning following the heartbreaking incident.

# Koppula Eshwar Calls for Immediate Irrigation Support

**TPN correspondent, Telangana, Jan 11:** Former Minister Koppula Eshwar has expressed grave concern over the lack of water in the Godavari River, describing the situation as a desert-like condition that threatens the irrigation of crops. Speaking to Minister Uttam Kumar Reddy, Eshwar requested immediate action to release sufficient water into the river, as farmers in the region are facing the risk of crop failure due to the water shortage. Minister Reddy assured Eshwar that he would soon hold a review with the District Collector and relevant department officials to address the issue.



Eshwar visited Dharmapuri Lakshmi Narasimha Swamy temple on Friday, where he met with farmers who raised concerns about the drying up of rice

crops due to the water crisis. He then inspected the Godavari river at Dhammanapeta, where water levels were critically low. Eshwar highlighted that 18 lifts are running from various points along the river to cover thousands of acres of farmland, but many fields remain dry.

With the Yasangi season underway and crops nearing their final stages, Eshwar called on the government to urgently release water through the SRSP to prevent further distress for the farmers.

# Why India's Softening Stance on the Taliban Provokes Pakistan

The recent meeting between Indian Foreign Secretary Vikram Misri and Taliban's Acting Foreign Minister Amir Khan Muttaqi in Dubai has raised significant concerns, particularly in Pakistan. The two officials were seen engaging in dialogue, signaling a possible shift in India's approach to Afghanistan's new rulers. This diplomatic move was followed by India's strong condemnation of Pakistan's bombing of Kabul on December 25, a statement that echoes the Taliban's own criticisms of Pakistan. For Pakistan, India's engagement with the Taliban is not only seen as a geopolitical shift but also a challenge to its influence in the region.

India's growing ties with the Taliban come after years of aid to Afghanistan, even as the Taliban assumed power in Kabul. In fact, India's humanitarian assistance to Afghanistan has never ceased, despite the Taliban's rule. Delhi allocated Rs 200 crore for aid and became one of the first countries to respond to a devastating earthquake in Afghanistan in 2021. The logistical challenges posed by Pakistan's restrictions on aid deliveries led India to use alternative routes, such as the Chabahar port, to ensure assistance reached the Afghan people.

India's consistent support for Afghanistan's welfare has been further emphasized by its long history of providing significant aid, from infrastructure projects like the Salma Dam to training Afghan military personnel. With these efforts, India has solidified its position as a reliable partner for Afghanistan, regardless of the Taliban's controversial takeover.

Pakistan, however, remains deeply insecure about India's growing role in Afghanistan. The situation is complicated by the rise of the Islamic State Khorasan (IS-K), an extremist group with a history



of ties to Pakistan. This group has carried out attacks on Indian nationals and interests, as well as inciting violence in Indian Kashmir. These developments underscore the complex and sensitive nature of Pakistan's own internal security situation, which is exacerbated by Afghanistan's instability.

Furthermore, the worsening relations between Pakistan and Afghanistan add another layer of tension. The Taliban has increasingly criticized Pakistan's involvement in Afghanistan, accusing it of using the country as a pawn in its regional power games. Meanwhile, Pakistan's increasing military offensives against domestic insurgent groups like the Tehrik-i-Taliban Pakistan (TTP) have also led to rising casualties and widespread protests in its tribal areas. These movements challenge Pakistan's authority, especially in areas where the TTP has found refuge, leading to a dan-

gerous cycle of instability. India's diplomatic engagement with the Taliban, while still cautious, marks a significant shift in the region's geopolitical dynamics. This move, combined with its continued commitment to Afghan development and humanitarian efforts, is seen as a stabilizing force in the region. However, for Pakistan, India's growing influence in Afghanistan is a strategic threat that could undermine its own ambitions in the region.

As India, Russia, and China move towards economic cooperation and regional stability, Pakistan seems increasingly isolated, focusing on blaming others instead of capitalizing on opportunities for peace and trade. The challenge for Pakistan lies in deciding whether to pursue peace and stability or to continue fighting a battle that could further destabilize the region. The time for decisive action is now.



## Alcohol Consumption and Cancer Risk: A Call for Stricter Health Regulations

As we begin a new year, a fresh health warning has surfaced, with the U.S. Surgeon General Vivek Murthy releasing an advisory that directly links alcohol consumption to an increased risk of cancer. According to the advisory, alcohol is the third leading preventable cause of cancer in the U.S. It increases the risk of at least seven types of cancer, including breast, colorectal, esophageal, liver, oral cavity, throat, and voice box cancers. Astonishingly, 16.4 percent of breast cancer cases in the U.S. are attributed to alcohol consumption, with the risk beginning to rise with just one or fewer drinks a day for certain cancers like breast, mouth, and throat.

The advisory follows the World Health Organization's (WHO) 2023 statement on the dangers of alcohol consumption, based on a comprehensive review of scientific evidence. The WHO categorically states that there is no safe amount of alcohol that does not affect health, as even small amounts can contribute to chronic conditions such as liver cirrhosis. The WHO's findings reinforce the claim that alcohol, classified as a 'Group 1 carcinogen' by the International Agency for Research on Cancer since the 1980s, causes cancer through biological mechanisms when it breaks down in the body. This includes all alcoholic beverages, be it beer, wine, or whiskey.

Furthermore, despite claims from the alcohol industry suggesting that moderate alcohol consumption, particularly red wine, could offer health benefits, these notions are debunked by research. For decades, the industry has promoted the idea that red wine in moderation is good for heart health, although no credible scientific study has supported such claims. On the contrary, data from WHO's European Region reveals that what is considered 'light' or 'moderate' drinking—such as consuming a bottle of wine or two bottles of beer per week—still contributes to a substantial number of alcohol-related cancers. WHO experts assert that no studies demonstrate that light drinking offers protective benefits for heart disease or diabetes that outweigh the cancer risk. The real solution lies in stricter health regulations and clear warning labels on alcohol products.

## Online lies: A Setback in the Fight Against Misinformation



Meta's recent announcement to end its fact-checking programme, starting with the United States, represents a significant setback in the global effort to combat misinformation and disinformation online. The decision marks the closure of the independent, third-party fact-checking initiative launched by the company in 2016 and signals a dramatic shift in its approach to content moderation. This policy change is all the more concerning given its timing, coinciding with the incoming administration of President-elect Donald Trump—who has been a vocal critic of Meta's efforts to censor right-wing voices.

Meta CEO Mark Zuckerberg's rationale for this shift, claiming that it is motivated by a desire to promote free speech, raises serious doubts. Zuckerberg has long been hesitant about content moderation, and his company's past missteps—particularly around the spread of fake news—have forced him and other social media leaders to take firmer actions. While his decision to move away from fact-checkers may make business sense by mending relations with Trump's administration, it is ultimately an irresponsible move that undermines the integrity of information online.

Instead of relying on professional, independent fact-checkers to moderate content, Meta now plans to adopt a model similar to X's, where volunteers write contextual notes beneath misleading posts. This shift raises significant concerns about the quality and effectiveness of content moderation, especially given the vast scope of misinformation across platforms like Facebook, Instagram, and Threads. Critics warn that loosening these controls could allow falsehoods to spread unchecked, with potentially harmful effects on public discourse.

In countries like India, where misinformation is rampant, especially in the form of hate speech, the consequences of reducing fact-checking are even more severe. The proliferation of false information not only erodes the public's access to reliable news but also hampers the ability to hold political leaders accountable. The rise of the so-called 'WhatsApp university,' where falsehoods and historical distortions are regularly spread, serves as a stark reminder of the dangers of leaving social media platforms unregulated.

Rather than pulling back on fact-checking efforts, more resources are needed to combat the spread of lies online. The absence of rigorous oversight invites further misinformation, creating an environment where accountability is virtually nonexistent.

## Is It Time For A Relook At Low Corporate Tax Rates?

As India gears up for the 2025 Union Budget, there has been growing speculation surrounding potential changes in tax rates, with particular focus on corporate tax rates. Recent reports suggest that trade unions have urged the government to consider raising corporate tax rates, while prominent voices such as veteran banker Uday Kotak have warned against any hikes.

The trade unions' stance comes amid a push for increased government spending on welfare programs, leading to their call for higher taxes on corporations. They argue that the country's fiscal needs and social commitments require a more equitable tax structure, which could include an increase in corporate tax rates.

On the other hand, Uday Kotak's remarks, made in a recent interview with Mint, highlight concerns that raising corporate taxes could hurt India's business climate, particularly when the country is striving to boost economic growth and attract foreign investment. Kotak's argument is rooted in the belief that a stable and competitive tax environment is crucial for encouraging private sector investment, which is essential for job creation and overall economic growth.

This debate raises an important question: should the government increase corporate tax rates to address fiscal challenges, or is maintaining the current rate necessary for sustaining economic momentum? Advocates for higher taxes believe that corporations should contribute more, especially when their profits are substantial. However, critics worry that increasing taxes could dampen corporate profitability and discourage business expansion.

The decision will likely hinge on the government's broader economic strategy and the challenges it faces, including funding public welfare programs, managing fiscal deficits, and promoting business investment. As the Budget 2025 approaches, all eyes will be on how the government strikes a balance between ensuring fiscal health and maintaining a conducive environment for businesses to thrive.



# My risk-taking capacity hasn't been fully utilised: PM Modi in podcast

TPN Correspondent  
Delhi, Jan 11

In a candid conversation with Zerodha co-founder Nikhil Kamath, Prime Minister Narendra Modi reflected on his approach to life, emphasizing that he has never lived in a comfort zone. He shared that his risk-taking capacity has not been fully utilized, and he believes that true success comes from stepping out of one's comfort zone.

During the podcast, PM Modi explained that people often struggle in life when they become accustomed to comfort. "It has been my luck that I have not spent life in a comfort zone, have never been there... Since I was out of comfort zone, I knew what I had to do. Probably I am unfit for comfort," he said.

The Prime Minister elaborated on his philosophy of embracing discomfort, which he believes has been instrumental in shaping his journey. "The kind of life I have lived, even small things give me satisfaction," Modi remarked, highlighting how simple experiences bring



him joy, despite the challenges he has faced.

This conversation with Nikhil Kamath, in the podcast series, provided a rare glimpse into Modi's mindset, focusing on his resilience and determination to constantly challenge himself. He suggested that being in a comfort zone can hinder progress, and that success is of-

ten the result of taking risks and pushing boundaries.

PM Modi's reflections on his life and leadership journey have resonated with many, as he continues to inspire others with his unyielding approach to challenges and his belief in the importance of personal growth and perseverance.

## Talk To Farmers, Shun Ego: Priyanka To PM Modi



TPN Correspondent  
New Delhi, Jan 11

Congress MP Priyanka Gandhi has called on Prime Minister Narendra Modi to engage in dialogue with protesting farmers and intervene to end the hunger strike of farmer leader Jagjit Singh Dallewal. Gandhi voiced her concerns on the social media platform X, expressing her dismay over the ongoing situation and urging the government to show empathy toward the farmers.

In her post, Priyanka Gandhi questioned the government's stance, stating, "This stubbornness took the lives of 750 farmers. Why so much cruelty towards farmers? Talk to them." Her remarks come amidst continuing protests by farmers who have been demanding fair treatment and seeking government intervention in addressing their grievances.

Jagjit Singh Dallewal, a prominent farmer leader, has been on a hunger strike to highlight the unresolved issues faced by the farming community. Gandhi's appeal to PM Modi emphasizes the need for a compassionate approach to resolve the ongoing crisis, which has already claimed several lives, as she pointed out in her statement.

The protests have been marked by widespread unrest, with farmers voicing concerns about policies that they believe harm their livelihood. Priyanka Gandhi's comments reflect the growing political pressure on the government to address the demands of farmers and find a solution to the prolonged standoff.

Her appeal comes at a critical juncture when the issue of farmer welfare continues to dominate political discourse in the country. Gandhi's call for a conversation between the government and farmers aims to bring about an amicable resolution and prevent further loss of life and suffering.

As the hunger strike of Jagjit Singh Dallewal continues, the Congress MP's intervention highlights the urgency of dialogue and the importance of addressing the concerns of the agricultural community in a timely and humane manner.



## Full Meal At Rs 9: Yogi Adityanath Launches 'Maa Ki Rasoi' Ahead Of 'Maha Kumbh'

TPN Correspondent  
Mahakumbh Nagar, Jan 11

Ahead of the Maha Kumbh in Prayagraj, Uttar Pradesh Chief Minister Yogi Adityanath inaugurated the 'Maa Ki Rasoi' community kitchen on Friday. This initiative, aimed at supporting the economically weaker sections of society, offers a full meal for just Rs 9. The meal, served by the Nandi Sewa Sansthan at the Swaroop Rani Nehru Hospital, includes dal, four rotis, vegetables, rice, salad, and dessert.

On his second day in Prayagraj, Chief Minister Adityanath visited the hospital, where he personally served food to the attendees and reviewed the arrangements. The government stated that the kitchen would be of significant help to people, especially those visiting the hospital for treatment and looking for affordable food options.

The Nandi Sewa Sansthan, which is operating this community kitchen, is focused on providing nutritious meals to people who are struggling financially. The initiative aims to address food insecurity by offering meals at a highly subsidized rate. The kitchen's modern facilities, spread over 2,000 square feet at the SRN Hospital campus, include hygienic and air-conditioned dining spaces where around 150 people can sit together and eat. Industrial Development Minister Nand Gopal Gupta accompanied Chief Minister Adityanath to the kitchen, where he was briefed about the food quality, hygiene standards, and overall arrangements. The Nandi Sewa Sansthan has expressed its commitment to ensuring that the kitchen operates with high standards of cleanliness and care. The launch of 'Maa Ki Rasoi' comes as part of the government's ongoing efforts to make essential services accessible and affordable to the people, especially in light of the large influx of visitors expected during the Maha Kumbh. The community kitchen is expected to be an essential service for those coming from various parts of the country to participate in the spiritual event.



## Pune Court Grants Bail To Rahul Gandhi In Savarkar Defamation Case

TPN Correspondent  
Pune, Jan 11

A special court in Pune granted bail to Congress leader Rahul Gandhi on Friday in connection with a defamation case regarding his alleged controversial remarks about Hindutva ideologue V D Savarkar. The court granted bail on a surety bond of Rs 25,000 after Gandhi appeared virtually. Senior Congress leader Mohan Joshi stood as the surety for Gandhi during the proceedings.

Advocate Milind Pawar, representing Rahul Gandhi, confirmed that the court granted a permanent exemption for Gandhi from appearing in person during future hearings. The case, which stemmed from a speech Gandhi delivered in London in March 2023, will now be heard on February 18, 2025.

The complaint was filed by the grandnephew of Vinayak Damodar Savarkar, who alleged defamation over the remarks made by Gandhi during his speech, in which he had referred to a book written by Savarkar. The remarks were considered objectionable by some sections, leading to the defamation suit.

Rahul Gandhi, who is the Leader of the Opposition in the Lok Sabha, has been facing multiple legal battles, and his remarks on historical figures have often led to controversy. This defamation case, however, is significant as it highlights the ongoing political tensions between Gandhi and certain right-wing groups.

Gandhi's legal team, however, maintains that the remarks were made in the context of a larger political discourse, and they are confident that the court will deliver a fair judgment.

The case has garnered significant political attention, with some opposing political parties accusing Gandhi of trying to discredit Savarkar's legacy, while others argue that it is part of the ongoing political fight against the Congress leader.

As the matter is set to return to court next month, it remains to be seen how the legal proceedings unfold in the coming weeks.



## CM Siddaramaiah Criticizes Legislators, Announces Key Development Plans for Mysore

TPN Correspondent  
Srinagar, Jan 11

Karnataka Chief Minister Siddaramaiah held a review meeting on Mysore district's development and criticized the district's legislators, including those from BJP, JDS, and Congress, for their role in the ongoing mismanagement within the Mysore Urban Development Authority (MUDA). The meeting, aimed at addressing issues such as poor management, inadequate infrastructure, and water and sewage problems in the city, saw the Chief Minister holding legislators accountable for their inaction over the past two decades.

Siddaramaiah asked the group of legislators, "You've all been members of MUDA for 20 years. Why did you let this chaos happen?" His remarks came in response to concerns raised by MLAs regarding the lack of basic amenities in private settlements and the general mismanagement in the area. The meeting revealed that nearly 950 newly developed layouts in Mysuru had not been handed over to urban local bodies, despite developers being responsible for providing essential infrastructure.

To address these issues, the Chief Minister instructed officials to convene a separate meeting focused on improving the management of the Mysore Municipal Corporation and MUDA. This signals a more focused effort to tackle long-standing problems in the region.

Siddaramaiah also expressed concerns about the delays in the expansion of Mysore's airport, which has hindered regional development. He announced plans to meet Union Aviation Minister Jyotiraditya Scindia on January 15 to push for the swift implementation of the airport expansion project.

## 10 Fishermen Arrested By Sri Lanka, MK Stalin Urges S Jaishankar To Intervene

TPN Correspondent  
Chennai, Jan 11

Tamil Nadu Chief Minister M.K. Stalin has urged External Affairs Minister S. Jaishankar to take immediate diplomatic steps for the release of 10 Indian fishermen apprehended by the Sri Lankan Navy. The fishermen, along with their Karaikal-based mechanised fishing boat, were detained on January 8, 2025, while fishing in the waters off Sri Lanka.

In a letter to the External Affairs Min-

ister, Stalin highlighted that six of the apprehended fishermen are from Tamil Nadu—five from Mayiladuthurai District and one from Nagapattinam District. The remaining fishermen are from the Union Territory of Puducherry. Stalin emphasized that these fishermen are solely reliant on their catch for their livelihoods, and their detention by Sri Lankan authorities has caused considerable distress to their families.

Stalin also pointed out that as of now, a total of 102 fishermen and 210 fish-

ing boats are still in the custody of Sri Lankan authorities. This ongoing situation has exacerbated tensions and has been a source of concern for the fishermen's communities in Tamil Nadu and Puducherry. In his letter, the Tamil Nadu Chief Minister urged Jaishankar to pursue diplomatic efforts through appropriate channels to facilitate the early release of the detained fishermen and their boats. Stalin underscored the importance of taking swift action to alleviate the hardship faced by the fishermen and their families.

# Vladimir Putin Wants To Meet, We're Setting It Up: Donald Trump

US President-elect Donald Trump announced on Thursday that Russian President Vladimir Putin had expressed a desire to meet and that efforts were underway to arrange a meeting between the two leaders. The statement came just days before Trump was set to assume office, following his campaign promises to bring peace to Ukraine, which has been embroiled in conflict since Russia's invasion in February 2022.

"President Putin wants to meet, he's said that even publicly, and we have to get that war over with, that's a bloody mess," Trump stated during a meeting with Republican governors at his Mar-a-Lago resort in Palm Beach, Florida.



Although Trump has voiced a desire to mediate peace, he has not proposed any specific ceasefire or peace agreement and has often criticized the substantial military aid the United States has sent to Ukraine. His stance on the conflict has raised questions, particularly given his history of praising Putin and his frequent criticisms of Ukrainian President Volodymyr Zelensky, whom he has derisively referred to as a "salesman."

Trump's approach to Ukraine contrasts sharply with that of current President Joe Biden, who has been a strong supporter of Ukraine, providing military aid totaling more than \$65 billion since the invasion began. Trump has repeatedly questioned the level of US involvement in the Western military alliance NATO, suggesting that he may reconsider the country's role in the alliance.

Trump's comments have drawn atten-

tion in Washington, with critics expressing concern over his reluctance to openly criticize Putin. His comments suggest a softer stance toward the Russian president, which has sparked debate on the future of US foreign policy, particularly in relation to the ongoing war in Ukraine. While Trump's meeting with Putin remains uncertain, the plans signal a shift in approach, potentially altering the US response to the ongoing crisis.



## Italian PM Meloni Criticizes George Soros, Defends Elon Musk's Political Views

Italian Prime Minister Giorgia Meloni on Thursday expressed concerns over foreign interference in domestic politics, criticizing billionaire George Soros for using his wealth to destabilize countries. Her comments came in the midst of rising controversy surrounding Elon Musk's alleged interference in European politics.

Meloni downplayed Musk's influence, claiming his comments on European politics via his social media platform X do not pose a threat to democracy. She compared him to Soros, stating that Musk's views, although right-wing, do not represent the political meddling that Soros engages in. "Elon Musk is exercising his right to free speech," Meloni said, questioning whether the issue with Musk stems from his wealth and political views. She also pointed out that Soros, a well-known proponent of left-wing causes, has historically used his resources to influence political decisions and destabilize democracies.

Musk quickly responded to Meloni's statement on X, writing, "And Soros is being defeated."

Meloni also rejected media claims that her government was on the verge of signing a controversial cybersecurity deal with Musk's SpaceX. She stated that unlike those who have accepted funding from Soros, she has never received any money from Musk.

Musk has faced backlash in Europe, particularly from liberal groups, for his attacks on European leaders like UK Prime Minister Keir Starmer and German Chancellor Olaf Scholz. Critics worry that his influence could exacerbate the growing right-wing sentiments across Europe. However, Meloni dismissed concerns, asserting that Musk's opinions shared on X cannot be considered dangerous interference.

Meloni emphasized the real danger lies when wealthy individuals, like Soros, use their resources to fund political parties and organizations across nations to sway political outcomes. "This is what George Soros does - and yes, I consider that dangerous interference," Meloni concluded.

Soros has been criticized for using his Open Society Foundations to support liberal policies and democratic causes globally, though he also faces accusations of political manipulation and funding political parties during elections.



## Fresh Fire Erupts, National Guard Called In: What's Happening In Los Angeles

Los Angeles County Sheriff Robert Luna has compared the devastation caused by the ongoing wildfires to the aftermath of an atomic bomb, saying, "It looks as though an atomic bomb dropped in these areas." The fires have wreaked havoc on Southern California, with multiple blazes tearing through the region, displacing tens of thousands of residents and leaving a trail of destruction in their wake.

**Fresh Blaze in West Hills:** On Thursday evening, a new fire broke out in the West Hills neighborhood, rapidly consuming over 900 acres. The fires have now claimed at least 10 lives, with the death toll expected to rise as the crisis continues.

**Massive Fires in Pacific Palisades and Altadena:** The Pacific Palisades fire has burned over 19,000 acres, while the Altadena fire has scorched 13,000 acres. Thousands of homes, including multi-million-dollar properties, have been destroyed.

**Tens of Thousands Evacuated:** Nearly 180,000 residents remain under evacuation orders, and many areas have been left in ruin. The fires have also forced the relocation of celebrities, including Paris Hilton, Anthony Hopkins, and Billy Crystal.

**State and Federal Support:** Governor Gavin Newsom has deployed the California National Guard to help manage the crisis, while President Joe Biden has pledged federal resources to assist in the state's response, calling the disaster the "most devastating wildfire" in California's history.

**Political Clash Over the Fires:** President-elect Donald Trump has criticized Governor Newsom's handling of the wildfires, accusing him of mismanagement, while Biden urged Americans to avoid politicizing the disaster.

**International Help:** Amid the crisis, Canadian Prime Minister Justin Trudeau offered assistance, with Canadian firefighters joining the efforts to combat the blazes.

**Shelters Overwhelmed:** Local shelters have been flooded with donations from generous residents, although officials have started redirecting supplies to other areas.

**Social Media Conspiracy Theories:** Some conspiracy theorists have spread false claims about firefighting equipment being sent to Ukraine or staffing issues due to diversity, further fueling misinformation.

**Severe Drought and Weather Conditions:** Experts point to two decades of drought followed by exceptionally wet years as factors that created the dry vegetation fueling the fires. Meteorologists warn that critical conditions, including strong winds and dry weather, are likely to persist. **Historic Wildfire Crisis:** Los Angeles Mayor Karen Bass described the fires as "unprecedented," as the state continues to battle one of the worst fire seasons on record.



## Liberal Party Of Canadian PM Justin Trudeau To Choose New Leader On March 9

The Liberal Party of Canada, under outgoing Prime Minister Justin Trudeau, announced on Thursday that it will hold a leadership election on March 9, 2025, as the party faces a tough challenge ahead of the upcoming general elections. Trudeau, who has led the party for nine years, revealed on Monday that he will step down after a series of disappointing polls for the Liberals, with many lawmakers expressing concern over their party's standing.

Trudeau confirmed that he would remain as both the prime minister and the leader of the Liberal Party until a new leader is chosen. "After a robust and secure nation-wide process, the Liberal Party of Canada will choose a new leader on March 9 and be ready to fight and win the 2025 election," the party said in a statement following a National Board of Directors meeting on Thursday.

The leadership race will conclude on March 9, and the new leader will be announced on the same day. To participate in the race, individuals must be registered as a Liberal member by January 27. The party has set a C\$350,000 (\$242,920) entrance fee for potential candidates. Speculation about the contenders for the leadership has already begun. Reports suggest that former finance minister Chrystia Freeland and former Bank of Canada governor Mark Carney are set to enter the race. Other potential candidates include Foreign Minister Mélanie Joly and Innovation Minister François-Philippe Champagne, although their involvement remains uncertain. While the Liberal Party gears up for its leadership contest, Prime Minister Trudeau also announced the prorogation of parliament until March 24. This decision effectively delays any immediate election until at least May 2025. Trudeau's leadership remains pivotal, particularly as Canada prepares for the looming threat of tariffs under U.S. President-elect Donald Trump.



## Japan Imposes New Sanctions on Russia Over Ukraine Conflict

On Friday, Japan announced additional sanctions against Russia in response to its ongoing invasion of Ukraine. The new measures include freezing the assets of dozens of individuals and organizations, as well as banning exports to various Russian entities and other organizations accused of helping Russia evade existing sanctions. The decision, made by Japan's Cabinet, signals the country's ongoing commitment to the Group of Seven (G7) efforts to intensify pressure on Russia over its actions in Ukraine. Chief Cabinet Secretary Yoshimasa Hayashi emphasized that the additional sanctions are part of Japan's dedication to upholding international law and supporting Ukraine in its fight for sovereignty.

The sanctions target individuals and groups believed to be involved in facilitating Russia's attempts to circumvent global sanctions, which have been imposed by several Western nations in response to Russia's invasion of Ukraine. These sanctions are seen as an attempt to further isolate Russia and limit its access to critical resources and financial support.

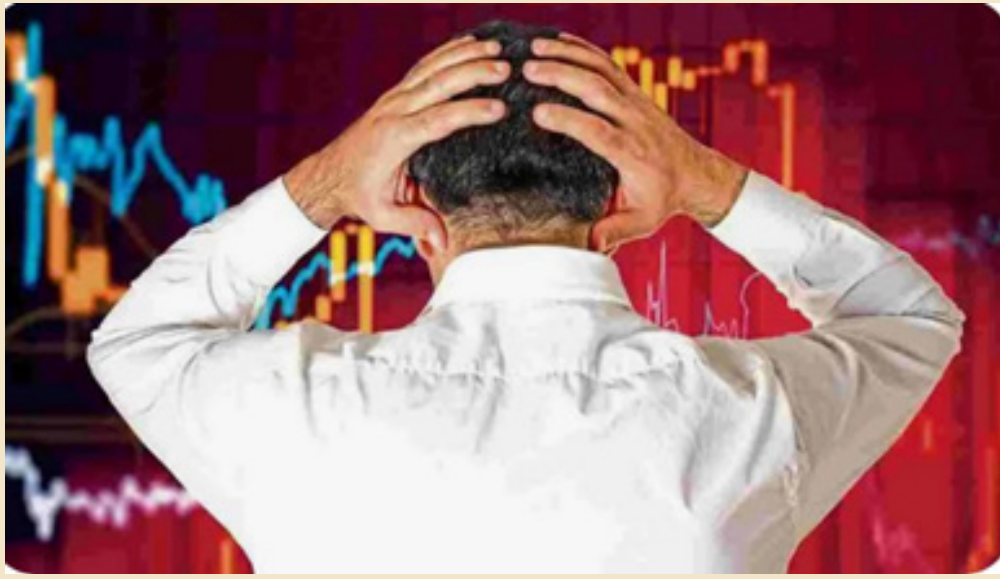
Japan has been a vocal critic of Russia's aggression, aligning with the G7 and other international partners to hold Russia accountable. By expanding the list of sanctioned individuals and entities, Japan hopes to contribute to the global effort to force Russia to cease its military operations in Ukraine.

The move follows Japan's previous sanctions, which have included restrictions on financial transactions and exports of high-tech goods to Russia.



## Tough Times for Markets: Falling Indices Raise Concerns

The stock markets are facing a challenging phase, with significant weakness in key indices. On Friday, the markets ended with heavy losses, as negative signals from international markets initially led to a decline. While there was a brief rebound, traders went short, further pushing the markets down. Although IT stocks showed some strength, the overall weakness in broader and sectoral indices prevented any significant recovery. Sectors like pharma, banking, and realty saw sharp declines, and there seems to be little hope for a market reversal in the near future.



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The BSE Sensex closed at 77,378, down by 241 points after an intraday low of 77,099 and a high of 77,919. Similarly, the NSE Nifty ended at 23,431, losing 95 points after dipping to 23,344 and reaching a high of 23,596. The Nifty Bank fell by 769 points, closing at 48,734. In the Nifty50, 14 companies gained while 36 lost. IT sector stocks such as TCS, Tech Mahindra, HCEL Tech, Infi, and Wipro were the top gainers, whereas Shriram Finance, IndusInd Bank, Adani Enterprises, NTPC, and BEL were the biggest losers. The IT index rose 3.44%, but weakness was seen across various sectors like Pharma, PSU Bank, Realty, Healthcare, Consumer Durables, Metal, Finance, and Banks. Market breadth turned unfavorable for buyers, with 2,287 stocks losing ground and only 552 stocks gaining among 2,910 traded. Notably, 15 stocks reached their 52-week highs, while 219 stocks touched 52-

week lows. Additionally, 181 stocks reached their lower circuit limits. On the stock front, SRF and Naveen Fluorine fell by 4% as investors booked profits. Meanwhile, the Indian rupee continued its downward slide, reaching a record low of 85.97 against the US dollar. In other news, BHEL and ONGC signed an MOU for joint projects in renewable energy. The Centre released Rs 1.73 lakh crore to state governments, and IREDA's Q3 net profit rose by 26.8% to Rs 425 crore. Additionally, Tata Steel saw 10 lakh shares change hands, while Adani Wilmar saw 15 lakh shares traded. DAM Capital issued a buy call for Lloyd Metals, setting a target price of Rs 1905. Vedanta secured a \$300 million loan and is working on raising another \$200 million. Bernstein gave TCS an outperform rating with a target price of Rs 4700, while Nomura suggested that FMCG stocks like Hindustan Unilever, ITC, and Marico are now reasonably valued and a good buy. As market volatility continues, investors are closely monitoring developments, hoping for stabilization.

## Industrial Output Surges to Six-Month High of 5.2% In India

India's industrial output, as measured by the Index of Industrial Production (IIP), recorded a robust growth of 5.2% in November 2024, marking the highest growth rate in six months. This performance represents an improvement from the 3.5% growth reported in October 2024, according to data released by the Ministry of Statistics and Programme Implementation (MoSPI) on Friday.



Economists had anticipated a slightly lower growth rate of 4.1%, making the actual figure a positive surprise. The factory output in November 2023 had seen a modest 2.5% growth, reflecting a notable year-on-year improvement.

The strong performance in November helped boost industrial output during the April-November period of the current fiscal year. The cumulative growth for the first eight months of FY 2024-25 stands at 4.1%, although this marks a slowdown compared to the revised growth of 6.5% during the same period in the previous year.

The data highlights that India's industrial sector is experiencing recovery, with key sectors likely contributing to the overall growth. However, the figures also suggest that the pace of industrial expansion may face challenges ahead, as evidenced by the slowdown in cumulative growth for the first eight months of the fiscal year.

This improvement in industrial output is seen as an encouraging sign for India's economic prospects as it continues to recover from the impacts of the pandemic. Going forward, the government is expected to continue its focus on policy measures aimed at supporting industrial growth, including infrastructure development and fostering domestic manufacturing.

## TCS Reports 11.95% Increase in Net Profit for December Quarter



India's largest IT services company, Tata Consultancy Services (TCS), announced an 11.95% year-on-year increase in its net profit for the December quarter, reaching Rs 12,380 crore. This marked a solid growth from Rs 11,058 crore in the same quarter last year and Rs 11,909 crore in the preceding September quarter.

The company's revenue also saw a 5.6% rise, standing at Rs 63,973 crore, compared to Rs 60,583 crore in the corresponding period of the previous year. However, revenue was slightly down from Rs 64,259 crore in the September quarter, reflecting a slight seasonal dip.

Despite the quarterly challenges, TCS reported a strong performance in new order bookings, which reached USD 10.2 billion, up from USD 7.9 billion in the year-ago period. This strong order intake is noteworthy, especially in what is typically a seasonally weaker quarter due to the holiday season.

CEO K Krithivasan noted that macroeconomic factors that have been weighing on the IT sector persisted in the reporting quarter. However, he highlighted that new orders were well-diversified across various industries, geographies, and service lines, providing TCS with good visibility for long-term growth.

Krithivasan also mentioned that there were early signs of a revival in discretionary spending, which had been weak for much of the fiscal year. This, he suggested, was contributing to the softer revenue growth of 4.6% in the first nine months of the year.

TCS remains focused on navigating the ongoing challenges in the IT industry while capitalizing on long-term growth opportunities across diverse sectors. The company's strong order bookings and improved visibility for the future are expected to provide a solid foundation for sustained growth moving forward.

## Crude Oil Market Shows Unprecedented Stability in 2024 Amid Global Turmoil

The global crude oil market has exhibited remarkable stability in 2024, a year marked by geopolitical tensions and changing demand dynamics. Despite several significant global events, Brent crude prices have remained within a tight range of \$74 to \$90 per barrel. According to a Deloitte report, 2024 is on track to be one of the most stable years for the oil market in the past 25 years.



This stability comes in the face of multiple challenges, including ongoing geopolitical conflicts, such as the war between Ukraine and Russia, and heightened instability in the Middle East, a key oil-producing region. Additionally, slower economic growth in China, combined with a gradual shift toward electric vehicles, has exerted downward pressure on oil demand. The strengthening of the US dollar also played a pivotal role in maintaining price stability by offsetting potential price fluctuations.

The oil and gas industry has taken full advantage of this market steadiness, with a surge in shareholder returns. From January to mid-November, the sector distributed nearly \$213 billion in dividends and \$136 billion in share buybacks. Oilfield services

have had their best year in 34 years, capitalizing on the sustained market conditions.

This unprecedented stability, despite global uncertainties, highlights how the oil market has weathered various external factors with minimal disruption. The combination of consistent production levels, strategic investments, and the ability to adapt to shifting economic and geopolitical landscapes

has allowed the oil market to remain resilient.

Investors will need to continue monitoring key developments, such as geopolitical risks, global demand trends, and regulatory shifts in energy policy, as these factors will ultimately determine whether this stability can be sustained into 2025.

## Equity Mutual Fund Inflows Rise 14.5% in December, SIP Contributions Grow

Equity mutual funds saw a significant rise in inflows in December, with a 14.5% month-on-month increase, totaling Rs 41,155.91 crore, up from Rs 35,943.49 crore in November 2024, according to the latest data released by the Association of Mutual Funds in India (AMFI).



The data highlights the strong investor confidence in equity markets, as the continued surge in mutual fund inflows reflects growing optimism despite market volatility. In December, systematic investment plan (SIP) contributions also saw an increase, reaching Rs 26,459 crore compared to Rs 25,320 crore in November 2024.

The rise in SIP contributions suggests that investors remain committed to disciplined, long-term investing, with many preferring to invest smaller amounts regularly rather

than opting for lump sum investments. SIPs have gained popularity among investors for their ability to mitigate market fluctuations and build wealth steadily over time.

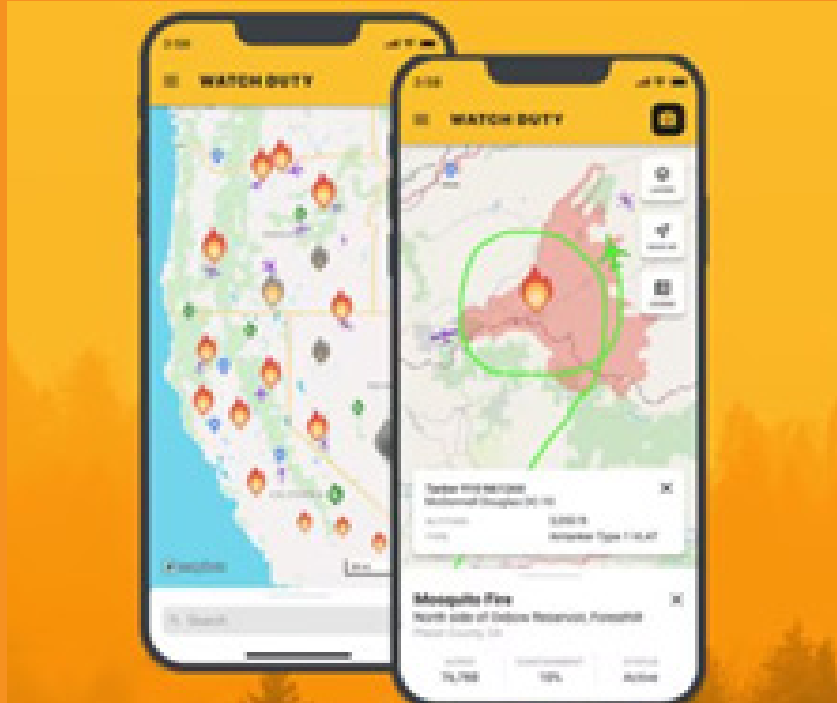
The growth in both overall inflows and SIP investments in equity mutual funds comes amidst a favorable market outlook, with strong corporate earnings and optimism

about the Indian economy driving investor interest. Additionally, the overall trend of increasing equity investments indicates a shift toward riskier assets as investors seek higher returns in an environment of lower interest rates.

This growth in inflows into equity mutual funds, particularly through SIPs, highlights the evolving preferences of Indian investors as they look for better avenues to generate returns. It also reflects the growing maturity of India's mutual fund industry, with more investors recognizing the potential of equities to deliver long-term wealth creation.

As equity markets continue to show resilience and performance, it is expected that inflows into equity mutual funds may continue to rise, further strengthening investor participation in the capital markets.

## What Is Watch Duty, The Free App Helping Users Track The Wildfires In Los Angeles



Amid the devastating wildfires sweeping across Los Angeles, California, a free app called Watch Duty has seen a massive spike in downloads, offering critical real-time information to those affected. Developed by a non-profit organization, the app provides users with timely alerts about active fires in their areas, along with updates on evacuation zones and other vital safety information.

In the wake of the ongoing wildfires, Watch Duty has gained over 1.6 million new users in just a few days, with the majority of these sign-ups coming from Los Angeles County. The app has now surged to the top of the charts, becoming Apple's most downloaded free iOS app. It has quickly earned a reputation as one of the most trusted and reliable sources of wildfire information, not just for residents, but also for emergency responders.

What sets Watch Duty apart is its ability to provide real-time alerts, keeping users informed

about the ever-changing wildfire situation in their vicinity. In addition to this, the app offers a map feature that highlights critical information such as danger zones, active fire perimeters, evacuation orders, and even power outages. These features are invaluable for those looking to make informed decisions during an emergency.

As wildfires continue to impact communities across the state, Watch Duty has become a lifeline for individuals seeking to stay safe. Its seamless integration of real-time data and user-friendly interface has helped it gain a loyal user base during one of California's most perilous wildfire seasons.

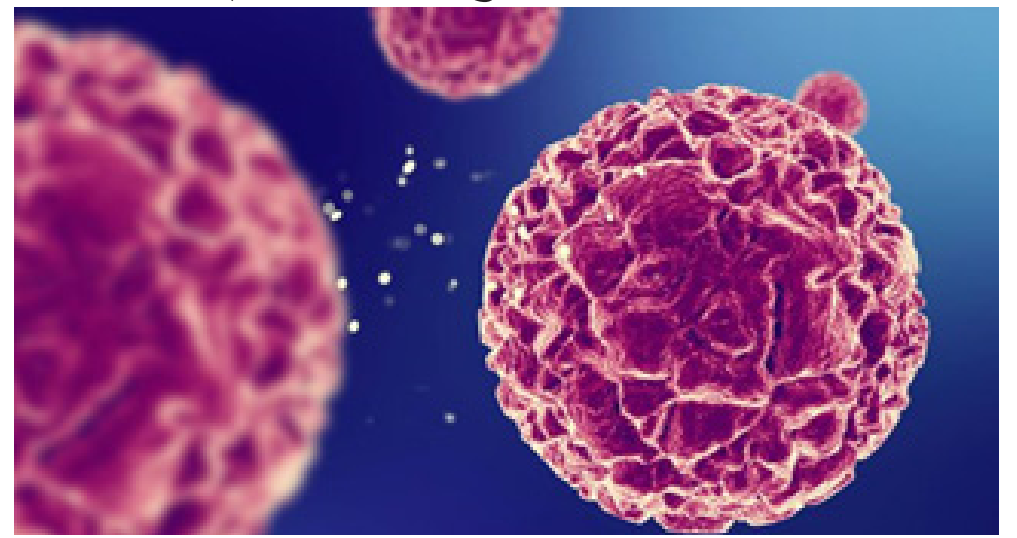
With the increasing demand for reliable information in the face of natural disasters, Watch Duty has proven to be an essential tool, empowering users to take action and stay updated as the crisis unfolds. As the wildfires continue, the app is likely to remain a crucial resource for Los Angeles residents and beyond.

## AI Boosts Breast Cancer Detection by Over 17%, Study Finds

In a groundbreaking development, researchers from the University of Lubeck in Germany have revealed that artificial intelligence (AI) can enhance breast cancer detection rates by more than 17%. This major breakthrough comes from the world's largest-ever study involving the integration of AI in breast cancer screenings.

The research, which involved 119 radiologists, included screenings for over 460,000 women. The radiologists were given the option to voluntarily use AI technology in their evaluations. The study found that AI-assisted radiologists achieved a cancer detection rate of 6.7 per 1,000 screenings, which represents a significant 17.6% improvement compared to traditional manual readings.

AI's role in improving diagnostic accuracy has been a growing area of interest in medical research, and this study provides compelling evidence of its potential in the fight against cancer. The results suggest that incorporating AI into routine breast cancer screenings could lead to earlier and more accu-



rate detection, ultimately saving more lives.

While AI has already shown promise in various medical fields, this study is particularly noteworthy as it marks the first time such a large-scale, real-world implementation of AI has been used in breast cancer detection. The success of the study highlights the importance of integrating innovative technologies into healthcare, especially in areas like cancer screening,

where early detection is crucial for effective treatment.

As the study continues to gain attention, it could pave the way for wider adoption of AI in diagnostic procedures, not only for breast cancer but for other forms of cancer as well. With its proven ability to improve detection rates, AI is poised to become an invaluable tool for radiologists and healthcare providers in the future.

## Amazon and Flipkart Reveal Dates for Republic Day Sales

With Republic Day just around the corner, India's top e-commerce giants, Amazon and Flipkart, have announced the dates for their highly anticipated sales. Amazon's Great Republic Day sale 2025 is set to begin on January 13 at noon for non-Prime members, while Prime members will enjoy exclusive access to the deals 12 hours earlier. Flipkart, on the other hand, will kick off its Monumental Sale on January 14, with Flipkart Plus members getting early access on January 13.

Amazon is gearing up for its Great Republic Day sale, promising massive discounts across various categories. Shoppers can expect up to 40% off on mobile phones and accessories from leading brands such as Apple, iQOO, OnePlus, Samsung, and Xiaomi. The platform has already started teasing some of the exciting offers on its mi-



crosite, ensuring that shoppers are eagerly awaiting the deals.

Along with smartphones, the sale will offer significant discounts on a range of electronics, fashion items, home appliances, and more. There will also be special offers on Amazon's own products, including Alexa-enabled devices, Fire TV sticks, and Kindle e-readers.

Flipkart's Monumental Sale promises great bargains as well, starting on January 14 for the general public. However, Flipkart Plus members will be able to access the sale one day earlier, on January 13. Much like Amazon,

Flipkart will offer discounts on electronics, fashion, home essentials, and more, with a focus on smartphones, televisions, and other tech gadgets.

The sales from both Amazon and Flipkart are sure to attract millions of shoppers ahead of Republic Day, offering them the perfect opportunity to grab deals on electronics, gadgets, and other popular products. As the sale dates draw closer, expect more details and additional offers to be revealed on both platforms, making it the perfect time for online shopping enthusiasts to score unbeatable deals.

## US Woman Wins Over Rs 40 Lakh Lottery Prize Using Numbers From A Dream

A Maryland resident recently struck it rich by winning \$50,000 (approximately Rs 42.96 lakh) in the Pick 5 lottery, and what makes this win even more extraordinary is that the winning numbers appeared to her in a dream.

The woman, from Prince George's County, shared that in December, she woke up from a dream with a string of digits firmly etched in her mind. These numbers — 9-9-0-0-0 — felt significant, and she couldn't shake the feeling that they were meant to be played.

Despite the rush of her daily routine, the woman almost forgot to buy the ticket. However, she trusted her instincts and decided to purchase a Pick 5 ticket from the Oxon Hill Zip In Mart, using the numbers from her dream. Little did she know that her decision would lead to a life-changing win.

On December 20, during the evening drawing, the numbers matched perfectly, and the woman won the \$50,000 prize. Her husband, who was initially skeptical, said, "My wife showed me, but it didn't seem real. But when the Midas touch comes, hopefully, you're on it, and thankfully we were."

The couple is still contemplating what to do



with the prize money but have already made sure to spread some joy by gifting extra presents to their grandchildren for Christmas.

This isn't the only remarkable lottery win in recent times. In a similar turn of events, an Indian-origin man in Singapore, Balasubramanian Chithambaram, became an overnight millionaire after winning \$1 million (Rs 8.45 crore) in a lucky draw. His win came after he purchased a gold chain for his wife at Mustafa Jewellery, which conducted the contest.

Both stories highlight the element of surprise and luck that often accompanies major lottery wins.

## WhatsApp for Android Set to Introduce AI Character Creation Feature

WhatsApp for Android is reportedly working on a new artificial intelligence (AI) feature that will allow users to create personalized AI characters within the app. This feature is expected to be similar to the AI character creation tools available on other Meta-owned platforms such as Instagram and Messenger.

According to feature tracker WABetaInfo, the AI character creation feature was spotted in the WhatsApp beta for Android 2.25.1.26 update. However, since the feature is still in development, it is not yet available for beta testers. Along with the character creation tool, the tracker also discovered a new tab in the WhatsApp beta for Android 2.25.1.24 update, which is likely to showcase the AI characters, although this is also not yet visible.

The feature will enable users to describe the personality traits and focus areas of their AI chatbot through a text prompt. The AI will then generate a profile picture and bio based on the user's input. The feature appears to work similarly to the AI Studio available on Instagram and Messenger, which allows users to build AI characters either from scratch or using a pre-existing template.

In one of the screenshots shared by WABetaInfo, it was shown that users could input up to 1,000



characters to describe the chatbot's personality and role. WhatsApp is also providing description suggestions at the bottom of the screen to help users get started. The following steps in the process will likely involve generating an image and bio for the character, as well as setting the privacy preferences for the AI chatbot.

Additionally, the new feature may include a dedicated space or tab within WhatsApp to showcase all the AI characters created by the user, along with public AI characters. It remains unclear whether these AI bots will be exclusive to WhatsApp or shared across other Meta apps like Instagram and Messenger.

## Abraham Ancer, John Catlin Set To Star At International Series India Presented By DLF

Abraham Ancer, the 2024 LIV Golf Hong Kong champion, and John Catlin, the reigning Asian Tour Order of Merit winner, have confirmed their participation in the International Series India, presented by DLF. The US\$2 million tournament will be held at the DLF Golf and Country Club in Gurugram from January 30 to February 2, 2025. They will join a star-studded field that includes U.S. Open champion Bryson DeChambeau, local hero Anirban Lahiri, and International Series Rankings winner Joaquin Niemann.



Ancer, a key member of Sergio Garcia's Fireballs GC, had an exceptional 2024 season in the LIV Golf League, finishing 12th in the individual standings. His victory in Hong Kong and three additional top-10 finishes marked a strong year. Catlin, on the other hand, had a standout 2024, clinching back-to-back wins at the International Series Macau and the Saudi Open, with an impressive 59 in Macau. Catlin also had a series of near-wins, finishing as a runner-up in Morocco and Thailand, while also making a successful appearance as an alternate in the LIV Golf League.

The International Series India, presented by DLF, is set to be the first LIV Golf-backed event in India and is part of a global tour on the Asian Tour. The series features 10 elevated events this season, with stops in var-

ious countries, including Morocco, Indonesia, the Philippines, and Saudi Arabia. These tournaments offer a unique opportunity for players to qualify for the prestigious LIV Golf League, with the season-ending rankings champion earning a guaranteed spot in the next season.

This exciting addition to the golf calendar marks the growing influence of the LIV Golf series and its expanding global reach. Fans and players alike are eagerly anticipating the action-packed tournament as it showcases top-tier talent on the subcontinent.

## Satwik and Chirag Reach Quarterfinals at Malaysia Super 1000; Prannoy Falls Short

Star men's doubles pair Satwiksairaj Rankireddy and Chirag Shetty advanced to the quarterfinals, while HS Prannoy's determined effort ended in a narrow second-round loss at the Malaysia Super 1000 badminton tournament on Thursday. Satwik and Chirag delivered a dominant performance in the Round of 16, defeating the Malaysian duo of N Azriyn and Tan WK 21-15, 21-15 in just 43 minutes.



The seventh-seeded Indian pair will now face local favorites Yew Sin Ong and Ee Yi Teo in the quarterfinals. Chirag expressed his satisfaction with the result, saying, "It feels really good, happy to be back on tour. A good start to the year, and we're looking forward to going as far as possible in the tournament." He also mentioned their new coach, with whom they have worked previously. "He was the one who paired me and Satwik up when we were youngsters," he added.

Meanwhile, HS Prannoy fought valiantly but ultimately lost to China's Li Shi Feng in a thrilling match. Prannoy lost 8-21, 21-15, 21-23 in a match that lasted an hour and 22 minutes. The 32-year-old Indian player was returning to competitive action after the Paris Olympics and put up a strong challenge against the seventh seed, but came up short in a tight decider.

In other results, Malvika Bansod bowed out in the women's singles Round of 16, losing 18-21, 11-21 to world No. 5 and third seed Han Yue of China. The women's doubles pair of Treasa Jolly and Gayatri Gopichand also suffered a heartbreak, going down 21-15, 19-21, 19-21 to China's Jia Yi Fan and Zhang Shu Xian in their Round of 16 match. In mixed doubles, Dhruv Kapila and Tanisha Crasto lost 13-21, 20-22 to China's Cheng Xing and Zhang Chi. Sathish Karunakaran and Aadya Variyath, the other Indian mixed doubles pair, also faced defeat.

Despite the setbacks, Satwik and Chirag's continued success offers hope for India's progress in the tournament.

## India's Bronze Medal Win At Paris Olympics A "Farewell Gift" For PR Sreejesh

Indian midfielder Shamsher Singh, co-captain of the Delhi SG Pipers in the ongoing Hockey India League (HIL), recently spoke about the Indian men's hockey team's memorable bronze medal win at the Paris Olympics, which he described as a farewell gift to the legendary PR Sreejesh. The team's third-place finish in Paris cemented their status as a rising force in world hockey, proving that their historic bronze at the Tokyo Olympics was no fluke.



The Indian team had an almost flawless group stage but faced an unexpected loss to Germany in the semi-finals. However, they showed resilience and determination, bouncing back to secure a 3rd-place finish against Spain, clinching the bronze medal. This victory held special significance, as it marked the fitting farewell for PR Sreejesh, one of India's most iconic players, who decided to retire after the Games.

Shamsher revealed that the team had made a pact before the Paris campaign to dedicate their medal to Sreejesh. "Sreejesh

Bhai is a legend, and everyone saw what he did for India at the Paris Olympics. We decided that we would dedicate our medal to

him even before the campaign started. He gave so many years to Indian hockey, and thankfully, we were able to give him a memorable farewell gift," said Shamsher.

On Sreejesh's absence, Shamsher expressed confidence in the replacements, Krishan Pathak and Suraj Karkera, stating that both players had experience playing alongside Sreejesh and would carry forward his legacy.

In the ongoing HIL, Shamsher is leading the Delhi SG Pipers, a new challenge for him as a captain. "My role is different, but the game style remains the same. As a captain, I need to take extra responsibility and ensure a comfortable environment for all players, both foreign and domestic," he explained.

Delhi SG Pipers, after four matches, are currently placed at the bottom of the points table with three losses and one win, which came in their opening match against Team Gonatika. They will face UP Rudras on January 11.

## Real Madrid Defeat Mallorca 3-0 to Set Up Clasico Spanish Super Cup Final Against Barcelona

Real Madrid secured a dominant 3-0 victory over Real Mallorca on Thursday, booking their place in the Spanish Super Cup final, where they will face arch-rivals Barcelona. The win in Saudi Arabia sets up a highly anticipated Clasico clash, giving Madrid the opportunity for revenge following their heavy La Liga defeat to Barcelona in October.



Jude Bellingham and Rodrygo scored for Madrid, while a stoppage-time own goal from Mallorca's Martin Valjent sealed the win. Bellingham's clinical strike in the second half was the turning point, followed by a late goal from Rodrygo to round off the result. The win was further fueled by strong support from Madrid's fans in Jeddah.

"It's always difficult to play against Barcelona, but we are ready, we're doing well, and we want this trophy," Rodrygo said after the match. He also praised Bellingham, who has been in sensational form, scoring eight goals in his last 10 games. "At the start of the season, he was having trouble scoring, but he's always working hard, and his work is paying off," Rodrygo added.

Madrid dominated early on, with Lucas Vazquez and Rodrygo both coming close in the opening stages. Mallorca managed to limit Madrid's chances in the first half, with the Spanish giants struggling to break through. In

the second half, Madrid lost Aurelien Tchouameni due to a head injury, though he was unharmed after the game.

The breakthrough came in the 63rd minute when Bellingham slotted home a rebound after a shot from Rodrygo and a save by Mallorca's goalkeeper Dominik Greif. The second goal came in the 85th minute when Valjent accidentally scored an own goal, and Rodrygo added a third in stoppage time.

Madrid's win sets up a repeat of last year's Super Cup final, which they won, and coach Carlo Ancelotti praised his team's attacking depth, saying, "When those up front activate, anything can happen."

## Everton Secure FA Cup Win Over Peterborough After Sean Dyche's Dismissal

Everton avoided a potential FA Cup shock with a 2-0 victory over third-tier Peterborough on Thursday, just hours after Sean Dyche's sudden dismissal as manager. Dyche was sacked less than four hours before the match, with Everton's new owners, the Friedkin Group, reportedly in talks with former boss David Moyes about a return to Goodison Park. Moyes, who managed Everton from 2002 to 2013, is the bookmakers' favorite to take over and help the club avoid relegation.



The Toffees have struggled in the Premier League, winning just one of their last 11 games and sitting 16th in the league, only one point above the relegation zone. Despite these challenges, Everton's players stepped up to secure a comfortable victory over Peterborough.

With Dyche's departure, former Everton defender Leighton Baines and captain Seamus Coleman took charge for the match, using a lineup selected by Dyche. Peterborough had an early chance when Cian Hayes' low drive was cleared off the line by Jarrad Branthwaite. However, Everton took the lead in the 42nd minute when Beto finished off a pass from Harrison Armstrong, rounding Peterborough's goalkeeper Nicholas Bilokapic to slot into an empty net.

In a setback for Everton, on-loan Chelsea striker Armando Broja was stretchered off after a heavy

ankle injury, requiring oxygen before leaving the pitch. Despite the injury, Everton continued to press and extended their lead in stoppage time when Iliman Ndiaye converted a penalty after Branthwaite was fouled in the box by Jadel Kattongo.

In other FA Cup action, Fulham powered to a 4-1 win over Watford, while Cardiff stunned Sheffield United with a 1-0 victory at Bramall Lane, knocking them out of the competition.

Everton's win against Peterborough marked a fresh start for the club, albeit under difficult circumstances, as they advanced to the next round of the FA Cup without Dyche at the helm.



## Mammootty Unveils a New Detective Avatar in 'Dominic and the Ladies' Purse'

Mammootty, the iconic Malayalam megastar, is all set to captivate audiences with his latest film \*Dominic and the Ladies' Purse\*. Directed by the renowned Tamil filmmaker Gautham Vasudev Menon, this film marks an exciting collaboration between two giants of the industry. Produced by Mammootty's own production company, the movie is gearing up for its theatrical release on January 23, as a special Republic Day offering for fans.

The trailer of \*Dominic and the Ladies' Purse\* has already sparked much excitement, as it reveals Mammootty in the intriguing role of a detective named Dominic. The plot centers around the mysterious discovery of a lady's purse found in a hospital, which sets off a chain of events that are bound to keep the audience on the edge of their seats. As the story unfolds, Dominic's investigation into the purse's owner and its

contents takes a dark turn, uncovering connections to a series of murders. The question of who the purse belongs to, what secrets it holds, and how it ties into the killings adds layers of suspense and mystery to the narrative.

The movie is written by Dr. Neeraj Rajan, and features a talented ensemble cast including Gokul Suresh, Sushmita Bhatt, Viji Venkatesh, Vineeth, Vijay Babu, and others, who will play pivotal roles in the story. With its gripping storyline and Mammootty's commanding presence, \*Dominic and the Ladies' Purse\* promises to be a thrilling ride for moviegoers.

As the film's release date approaches, anticipation is building, and fans are eager to see how the mystery unravels. Will Dominic uncover the truth behind the purse and the murders? Only time will tell when the film hits screens this Republic Day.

## Vikram's 'Veera Dheera Sooran' Set for Grand Release

Kollywood superstar Vikram, known for his versatile roles, is all set to entertain his fans with an action-packed thriller, *Veera Dheera Sooran*. Directed by SU Arun Kumar, who previously gained fame with *Chitta (Chinna)*, the film is slated for a grand worldwide release on January 30. This much-awaited film, also referred to as *Chiyan 62*, has already garnered attention with its thrilling title teaser, which is making waves across the industry due to its high-octane commercial elements.



Jayan plays the female lead, while the film also features prominent actors like SJ Surya and Malayalam star Suraj Venjaramoodu in key roles, adding further star power to the project.

Vikram's fans are eagerly awaiting this movie, and the buzz is not just limited to *Veera Dheera Sooran*. The actor is also working on *Dhruva Nakshatra: Yudda Kandam* (also known as *Dhruva Natchathiram*), directed by Gautham Vasudev Menon, where Vikram will be seen alongside popular actress Ritu Varma, known for her role in *Pelli Chusalu*.

Though the official announcement of the film's release is still awaited, the makers have confirmed the distribution details for the Telugu states. *Veera Dheera Sooran* will be released in Andhra Pradesh by Srilakshmi Movies and in Telangana by NVR banners. This news has further increased excitement for the film's

release in the Telugu-speaking regions.

In this high-energy action drama, Vikram plays the titular role of a fierce warrior, and the film promises to be an intense cinematic experience with a gripping storyline. Alongside Vikram, Kollywood actress Bama Dushara Vi-

As the release date of *Veera Dheera Sooran* approaches, movie lovers are eagerly anticipating more updates from the makers, promising a thrilling cinematic adventure with Vikram at the forefront.

## Daaku Maharaaj Release Trailer: Balayya's Powerful Dialogues Take Center Stage



The much-awaited trailer for *Daaku Maharaaj*, starring Nandamuri Balakrishna, was released recently, generating immense buzz ahead of its release. Directed by Bobby, who delivered a blockbuster with *Waltheru Veeraya* in 2023, the film is set to hit the screens on January 12 as a special Sankranti treat for audiences. Produced by Suryadevara Nagavanshi and Sai Saunjanya under Sitara Entertainments and Fortune Four Cinema banners, *Daaku Maharaaj* promises to be a thrilling action-packed entertainer.

The trailer showcases the powerful persona of Balakrishna as he steps into the role of *Daaku Maharaj*. Along with Balakrishna, the film features Shraddha Srinath and Pagwa Jaishwal in pivotal roles, adding to the star power and drama of the narrative. Set against a grip-

ping backdrop of Rayalaseema, the trailer exudes high voltage action sequences and dramatic flair, hinting at the intensity of the storyline.

Although the film's trailer had already been shared earlier, the team planned to release the final version during the film's pre-release event. Unfortunately,

the event was postponed due to a tragic incident—the stampede that claimed several lives at Tirumala. In light of this, the team opted to release the trailer directly to the public, ensuring that excitement for the movie continued to build. With its compelling storyline, intense action sequences, and the presence of Nandamuri Balakrishna, *Daaku Maharaaj* is poised to capture the audience's attention. The film's release around Sankranti, a festival celebrated with much enthusiasm, adds to the anticipation, making it a highly anticipated entry in the Telugu film industry. Fans are eagerly awaiting the film's release, and the trailer has only fueled their excitement.

## Game Changer : Ram Charan Shines But The Film Doesn't

Global star Ram Charan's highly anticipated film *Game Changer* has finally hit theaters today, marking his first collaboration with renowned director Shankar Shanmugam. It also serves as Shankar's debut in Telugu cinema and is producer Dil Raju's 50th milestone project. The film, which has been in the making for nearly four years, has generated significant buzz, and the question on everyone's mind is whether it lives up to the high expectations. Here's a closer look at the film.



Ram Charan plays the role of Ram Nandan IAS, a newly appointed collector in Visakhapatnam, who is renowned for his unflinching integrity and dedication. His pursuit of justice clashes with the ambitions of Bobbili Mopidevi (SJ Suryah), the son of the Chief Minister, who is deeply involved in corrupt activities. When Mopidevi orchestrates Ram's suspen-

sion through false charges, an unexpected twist propels Ram into a power struggle, as the CM nominates him as his successor for the Chief Minister's post. This sparks a gripping battle of wits and political maneuvers as Ram faces off against Mopidevi, creating a thrilling narrative about ambition, power, and justice.

Ram Charan delivers an exceptional performance, portraying two distinct roles—an authoritative IAS officer and a man with a stutter, each character brimming with depth and conviction.

His confrontational scenes with antagonist SJ Suryah are a highlight, particularly in the intense second half of the film. SJ Suryah impresses as the ambitious and manipulative antagonist, adding significant gravitas to the story.

Anjali, though in a limited role, leaves a strong impact with her emotional performances, while Kiara Advani plays a decent romantic interest. Thaman's background score enhances the film's emotional depth, and Tirru's cinematography captures the essence of the po-

litical drama.

Despite the stellar performances, the film's second character arc lacks emotional depth, which somewhat weakens the latter half. Certain random romantic sequences disrupt the otherwise serious tone of the narrative, and some moments feel exaggerated for cinematic effect. The "Jara-gandi" song falls short of expectations, and the absence of the much-anticipated "Naanaa Hyraanaa" song is a letdown.

*Game Changer* is a gripping political drama with strong performances, especially from Ram Charan and SJ Suryah. While it may not be groundbreaking in terms of story, it is an engaging watch, particularly for fans of political thrillers. With its intense confrontations and powerful performances, the film is definitely worth watching

## Triptii Dimri Shines on Forbes India Cover in Fiery Gowns!

Triptii Dimri has truly established herself as one of Bollywood's brightest rising stars with a sensational 2024, featuring major hits such as *Bad Newz*, *Vicky Vidya Ka Woh Wala Video*, and *Bhool Bhulaiyaa 3*. The actress, known for her captivating performances, has now taken her place on the prestigious *Forbes India* cover, showcasing her fierce sense of style and elegance.

In a stunning photo shoot for the cover, Triptii flaunts several striking outfits that leave a lasting impression. From a ruched black bodycon dress that accentuates her curves to a bold purple gown with a daring thigh-high slit, each ensemble highlights her confidence, grace, and undeniable beauty. The carefully curated looks exude a perfect balance of strength and femininity, further cementing her status as a style icon.

The actress shared the cover on her social media, expressing her gratitude

with the caption, "Grateful for everything right here, right now," which resonated with fans and fellow celebrities alike. Her bold yet elegant appearance on the cover has been met with widespread admiration.

Looking ahead in her career, Triptii is gearing up for the much-anticipated romantic film *Dhadak 2*. The movie, directed by Sha-zia Iqbal and produced by Dharma Productions, stars Triptii alongside Siddhant Chaturvedi. As a spiritual sequel to *Dhadak*, expectations for the film are incredibly high. Fans are eagerly awaiting Triptii's return to the big screen and her portrayal of a character that promises to enchant audiences once again.

With her impressive string of successes and growing fan base, Triptii Dimri is poised to continue making waves in Bollywood, both in terms of her acting and her bold fashion choices.

