

Saif Ali Khan 'Stabbed 6 Times' by Intruder at His Home

The incident occurred around 2:30 am on Thursday, and the actor was rushed to Lilavati Hospital and is out of danger after surgery.

FULL STORY on PAGE 7

# IS LOKESH NOT HAPPY WITH DY CM'S OPENNESS???

TPN Correspondent  
Andhra Pradesh, Jan 17

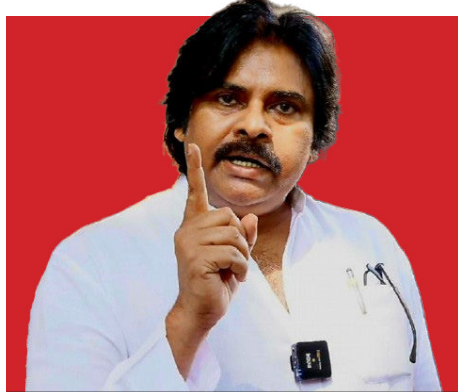
Everybody knows that the total administration is under the control of Mr. Lokesh Nara unofficially. Though he is only one of the Ministers in the AP Cabinet under the leadership of Chief Minister Mr. Nara Chandrababu Naidu, he is deciding the postings and appointments of officials, including police officers, as per the talk of Amravati. As he led the party when there was no power and drove the party against the then CM Mr. Jaganmohan Reddy, he is playing a major role after the party came to power. Even before the elections, he played a key role in deciding TDP's candidates. Naturally, he has a strong grip over both the party and the government, which is run by the Alliance. One retired official stated, "Only policy-wise decisions are made by Mr. Naidu, but all execution parts—where, when, and who—are decided by Mr. Lokesh." It is clear that Lokesh is the successor of Mr. Naidu in TDP, and there is no doubt about it.

However, problems arise for Mr. Lokesh with Mr. Pawan Kalyan's straight-forwardness. As Deputy CM, Mr. Pawan Kalyan continues to question officials' failures directly. This is causing trouble for Mr. Lokesh, as many of those officials were appointed by him.

Law & Order Issue The first issue came when Mr. Pawan Kalyan questioned the police department's failure to arrest culprits. His statement created a tremor within the alliance government. Many raised eyebrows, wondering how Mr. Pawan, part of the government, could make such a statement. However, Mr. Pawan clarified that he would question anyone if mistakes were made, which left no counterargument. As all police officials were appointed with Mr. Lokesh's approval, this criticism hit him directly.

Ration Mafia Allegations Next, when Mr. Pawan Kalyan visited Kakinada Port and ordered the seizure of a ship, he raised concerns about the ration mafia. This also caused trouble for Mr. Lokesh, as many MLAs from the Alliance government, including Janasena, are allegedly involved in the ration mafia. Critics targeted Mr. Lokesh, accusing him of supporting such illegal activities. Mr. Pawan Kalyan even warned his own party MLAs to stop illegal activities, further drawing attention to Lokesh's alleged involvement. Tirupati Stampede Incident Recently, the stampede at Tirupati revealed a lack of coordination between the EO, AEO, and Chairman of TTD. Mr. Pawan Kalyan openly questioned the lapse, countering TDP's attempts to blame a DSP. TTD officials, appointed under Mr. Lokesh's influence, were also criticized, leading to a clash between Pawan and Lokesh's administration.

As these incidents unfolded, a discus-



- QUESTIONED FAILURES OF POLICE OFFICIALS LED TO DISCUSSION IN CABINET

- QUESTIONED RATION MAFIA, WHICH INVOLVED MLAS, LED TO DISCUSSION IN CABINET

- WARNED JSP MLAS WHO ARE DOING CORRUPTION ALONG WITH TDP MLAS

- QUESTIONED TTD CHAIRMAN & OFFICIALS AND ASKED TO SAY SORRY FOR STAMPEDE

- PAWAN HITTING AT ADMINISTRATION, WHICH IS UNDER CONTROL OF LOKESH UNOFFICIALLY

sion within the alliance grew. Some felt that Pawan's openness could tarnish the government's image, while keeping his own image clean. Rumors began that the Alliance might break due to these issues. Mr. Lokesh, however, denied these claims, blaming Mr. Jaganmohan Reddy for the rumors. But a video by Mahasena Rajesh, a close associate of Mr. Lokesh, proposed that Lokesh should become Deputy CM, putting pressure on Mr. Pawan Kalyan.

The government advertisement is-



- ALL THE POSTINGS OF POLICE OFFICIALS DECIDED BY LOKESH?

- MLAS HAVE BACKING OF LOKESH IN RATION MAFIA?

- TDP MLAS HAVE ENCOURAGEMENT OF LOKESH IN SAND, LIQUOR AND OTHER ISSUES?

- TTD OFFICIALS AND CHAIRMAN WERE APPOINTED WITH BLESSINGS OF LOKESH ONLY?

- DEMAND OF MAKING LOKESH AS DEPUTY CM COME TO FOREFRONT TO COMBAT WITH PAWAN?

sued during Prime Minister Modi's Visakhapatnam tour raised further questions. Along with Modi, photos of Naidu and Pawan Kalyan were published, but Lokesh's photo also appeared. Netizens questioned why Lokesh's photo was included when figures like Purandeswari or Satya Kumar should have been featured. This fueled the demand for making Mr. Lokesh Deputy CM, but such a move could escalate tensions between TDP and Janasena, especially with BJP supporting Pawan Kalyan.

## RRR questions Govt's silence on IPS official's role in custodial torture case

TPN Correspondent  
Andhra Pradesh, Jan 17

Deputy Speaker Mr. Raghurama Krishna Raju has expressed strong discontent over the government's approach to IPS officer Sunil Kumar, who is allegedly involved in the custodial torture case of RRR. In a recent debate on a television channel, Raghurama Krishna Raju raised serious concerns, questioning why the Andhra Pradesh Government had not suspended Sunil Kumar despite his involvement in the controversial case.

Raghurama Krishna Raju pointed out the inconsistency in the government's actions, referring to the suspension of IPS officials in the Jatwani case, and questioning why similar measures had not been taken against Sunil Kumar. "If officials were suspended in the Jatwani case, why not here?" he asked during the debate, emphasizing the need for accountability. The Deputy Speaker also expressed anger towards TDP MLA Mr. Venigandla Ramu from Gudivada, who has reportedly supported Mr. Tulasi Babu, a key figure allegedly involved in beating RRR during his CID custody. The MLA's stance has raised eyebrows within political circles, with Raghurama Krishna Raju questioning how a TDP MLA could openly back Tulasi Babu, given the serious allegations against him.

There is speculation within the political sphere that the TDP leadership is adopting a softer stance towards Sunil Kumar and Tulasi Babu. The controversy around Venigandla Ramu's support for the accused further fuels this rumor, raising questions about the possible reasons behind the MLA's actions. Some political observers suggest that Mr. Sunil Kumar's alleged refusal to arrest former Chief Minister Mr. Nara Chandrababu Naidu during the regime of Mr. Y.S. Jaganmohan Reddy might have contributed to the current political scenario. According to this theory, Sunil Kumar's decision to remain neutral on the issue might have been a factor in his continued position, while Mr. Sanjay was brought in to replace him. This has allegedly led to the TDP Government turning a blind eye to RRR's grievances, adding another layer to the ongoing controversy.

As the case continues to unfold, questions remain about the consistency of the government's actions and the political influence surrounding the custodial torture allegations.



## CENTRAL GOVT APPROVES RS. 11,500 CRORE PACKAGE FOR VIZAG STEEL PLANT

TPN Correspondent  
Visakhapatnam, Jan 17

In a significant development for Andhra Pradesh, the Union Cabinet, chaired by Prime Minister Narendra Modi, has approved a major stimulus package of Rs. 11,500 crore to revive the loss-making Visakhapatnam Steel Plant. This decision, which is set to bring relief to the steel industry, effectively ends the ongoing concerns regarding its privatization. The official announcement regarding the package is expected to be made today, putting an end to speculations about the privatization of the steel plant. The package will be used to cover operational payments for the steel industry, ensuring its continued operations and addressing the financial challenges it faces.

- Rs. 11,500 Crore Package Approved to revive Visakhapatnam Steel Plant.
- Privatization concerns end with Centre's commitment to the plant's future.
- Official announcement expected today regarding the financial package.

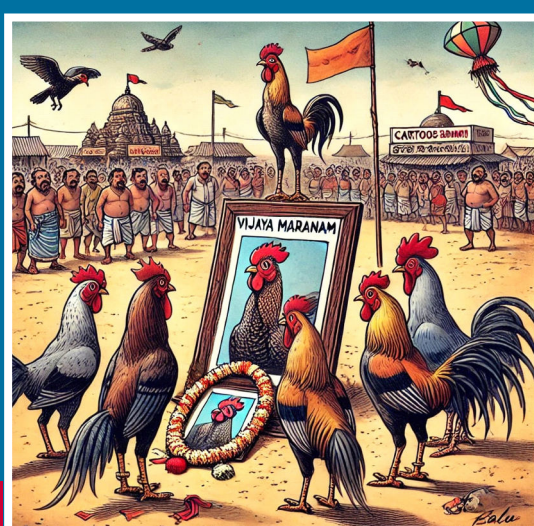
The decision comes as a major victory for Andhra Pradesh's political leadership, including Chief Minister Chandrababu Naidu and Deputy CM Pawan Kalyan, who have been consistently advocating for the revival of the steel plant. Both leaders have raised the issue multiple times, urging the Centre to take action to save the plant. Despite earlier speculations that the Centre might privatize the plant, the efforts of Naidu and Pawan Kalyan seem to have paid off, as the Centre has now offered this much-needed financial package. The announcement is expected to bring a sense of relief to the people of Visakhapatnam and the employees of the steel plant, who had been uncertain about the future of the plant in the wake of the privatization talks. The full details of the package will be officially revealed today, but the Centre's decision to invest in the revival of the Visakhapatnam Steel Plant signals a positive outlook for the future of the industry.

## THOUSANDS OF CRORES VANISHED

BIGGEST COCK FIGHT OF SEASON:  
1 CRORE ON 1 MATCH?

- Legislators and Police Have Remained Silent, Becoming Mute Spectators to the Event

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# CM Chandrababu Naidu Sets 15% GSDP Growth Target for Andhra Pradesh

TPN Correspondent  
Amaravati, Jan 17

Chief Minister Chandrababu Naidu held a crucial review meeting on the Gross State Domestic Product (GSDP) at the Secretariat, setting an ambitious target of 15 percent growth for the state. During the review, the Chief Minister urged officials to work collectively towards achieving this growth rate, emphasizing the need for targeted initiatives and strategic planning to boost the state's economy. Following the meeting, Chief Minister Naidu addressed the media through a detailed presentation on the GSDP, where he shared key insights into the state's economic performance. He discussed the various sectors contributing to the growth of Andhra Pradesh and outlined the roadmap for ensuring sustained economic progress. The Chief Minister's focus was on accelerating growth in important sectors, driving innovation, and ensuring that the state continues to maintain a competitive edge in the national economy.



The target of 15 percent GSDP growth underscores the government's commitment to propelling Andhra Pradesh towards higher economic standards. It also reflects a broader vision to enhance the state's infrastructure, industrial development, and employment opportunities. With the Chief Minister's emphasis on fo-

ocused strategies, the state is aiming to build a robust economic framework that will further improve the living standards of its citizens and create a conducive environment for both domestic and international investments. The government's efforts will be closely monitored to ensure that the ambitious target is met within the set timeframe.

## Minister Manohar Congratulates Eluru Dist Administration for Successful Paddy Procurement

### Paddy Procurement in Eluru District Achieves Remarkable Success



TPN Correspondent  
Eluru, Jan 17

Eluru district has achieved a significant milestone in Kharif paddy procurement, with a total of 3.59 lakh metric tons of paddy, worth ₹734 crores, successfully procured from local farmers. The procurement process has been hailed as excellent, with 96 percent of the farmers receiving their payments within 24 hours. State Civil Supplies Minister Nadendra Manohar visited Eluru on Thursday to congratulate the district administration for its efficient efforts in the procurement. He praised the district's performance, noting that the procurement exceeded the target of 3.40 lakh metric tons, with 49,022 farmers benefiting from the initiative. The total value of the procurement amounted to ₹733.91 crores, a commendable achievement. Minister Nadendra Manohar expressed his appreciation for the hard work of the District Collector K. Vetrisevi and

Joint Collector P. Dhatri Reddy, along with other officers and staff involved in the procurement process. He highlighted the collective effort that ensured the smooth execution of the program, noting that after four years, farmers in Eluru district were able to celebrate Sankranti with real joy, thanks to the timely and efficient procurement. The Minister also mentioned that while the procurement was largely successful, there is still a need to purchase about 10,000 more metric tons of paddy, which will be acquired from the farmers at the Minimum Support Price (MSP). On the same occasion, State Housing and Information and Public Relations Minister Kolu Parthasarathy also extended his congratulations to the district administration for their excellent work. The success of this year's paddy procurement has been recognized as a major achievement for the district, showcasing effective governance and support for the agricultural community.

## Minister Ramprasad Reddy Highlights Industrial Growth and Welfare Measures for AP

TPN Correspondent  
Naidupeta, Jan 17

State Transport Minister Ramprasad Reddy has outlined a strong vision for the economic and welfare growth of Andhra Pradesh under the coalition government. Speaking during a visit to Naidupeta on Thursday, Minister Reddy emphasized that the state is poised for rapid development, with both existing and new industries contributing significantly to its growth.

Minister Reddy shared that all industries which had previously left the state are now returning, and new industries are lining up to set up in Andhra Pradesh. These developments are expected to generate substantial employment opportunities for the youth. He stressed that the government's focus is on creating a conducive environment for industrial growth, which will drive both employment and economic progress. Additionally, Minister Reddy announced key welfare measures aimed at supporting the people of Andhra Pradesh. He confirmed that the free bus travel scheme for women would be rolled out in the next two months. He also highlighted that the government is distributing three gas cylinders to women and providing pensions to 64 lakh individuals on the 30th. Looking ahead, the Minister expressed his commitment to developing Sri City and ensuring that the region benefits from abundant job opportunities. He assured that the State Road Transport Department would provide full support to the Sullurpet constituency for its development. In his address, Minister Ramprasad Reddy reiterated that under the leadership of the coalition government, Andhra Pradesh would experience significant advancements in welfare and development, especially in the next eight months.



## Nara Lokesh Congratulates Workers on Achieving One Crore Memberships

### A Milestone in TDP's Growth

TPN Correspondent  
Amaravati, Jan 17

Nara Lokesh, the National General Secretary of the Telugu Desam Party (TDP), extended heartfelt congratulations to party workers in a letter celebrating the monumental achievement of crossing one crore memberships. Reflecting on the journey of the party, which began with the vision of the late Sri Nandamuri Taraka Rama Rao (NTR), Lokesh highlighted the incredible growth of the TDP, now a family of over one crore members, with contributions from people across Andhra Pradesh, Telangana, Andaman, and various countries.

Lokesh acknowledged the tireless efforts of TDP workers, calling them the "strength and power" of the party. He emphasized the party's deep respect for its workers, a sentiment that sets TDP apart from other political parties. He celebrated the party's tradition of valuing worker input in decision-making processes and reiterated that every worker is a leader in their own right. The TDP General Secretary also highlighted the party's welfare initiatives, which include providing financial assistance for education, medical care, and employment opportunities for workers and their families. He pointed to the Welfare Fund, which has supported over 2500 workers' children in their education and provided Rs. 2 lakh each to the families of 5164 deceased workers. He further shared that Rs. 103 crore has been distributed to support workers' families and help them in times of need. In addition to financial assistance, Lokesh emphasized the enhanced accident insurance provided to workers, now increased to Rs. 5 lakhs for each member. He expressed pride in the party's commitment to the welfare of its workers, ensuring that the TDP remains the "only party" offering such comprehensive support to its grassroots level. Finally, Lokesh extended special congratulations to those constituency leaders who took the membership registration program seriously, exceeding the target of one lakh memberships and increasing the number of lifetime memberships. The overwhelming participation in the program, which culminated in breaking records with one crore memberships, was described as a resounding success for TDP's future prospects. In his message, Lokesh also reaffirmed his dedication to standing by every TDP worker, ensuring their welfare and supporting them through various initiatives.

## Weather Update: Meteorological Department's Advice for Travelers in Telugu States

TPN Correspondent  
Amaravati, Jan 17

As the Sankranti celebrations wind down and people begin returning to their hometowns in the Telugu states of Andhra Pradesh and Telangana, many are wondering what the weather will be like for their travels. The Indian Meteorological Department (IMD) has provided an update on the weather conditions in both states. While the low pressure system that had formed in the Arabian Sea has dissipated, the region is still under the influence of a low-pressure trough. However, no weather warnings have been issued for Andhra Pradesh or Telangana at this time, making it suitable for travel in the Telugu states. In the coming days, January 18 and 19, Tamil Nadu and Puducherry are expected to receive heavy rains and light to moderate rains in several areas due to the low-pressure trough.

## Snapanam Thirumanjanam, Chakrasnanam for Srivaru in Maha Kumbh Mela

C Shekar | TPN  
Prayagraj, Jan 17

The Tirumala Tirupati Devasthanams (TTD) organized the Snapanam Thirumanjanam program at the Dashashwamedha Ghat during the ongoing Maha Kumbh Mela, the world's largest religious gathering. Led by the chief priest of the Tirumala Srivari Temple, Sri Venugopal Dikshitulu, a team of priests performed the sacred ceremony for Sridevi, Bhudevi, and Sri Srinivasa Swamyvaragi on the banks of the holy river Ganga. The ritual, conducted with sacred ingredients such as milk, curd, honey, coconut water, turmeric, and sandalwood, enthralled the local devotees with its devotional significance. The priests recited the five sacred Suktas—Sri Suktam, Bhusuktam, Nela Suktam, Purush Suktam, and Narayana

Suktam—during the abhishekam, adding to the divine aura. After the abhishekam, the idols were adorned with Tulsi garlands, following the prescribed scriptures and with the use of Sahasradharapatra. The sacred Sri Chakratwar was then taken into the Ganges river, accompanied by the sounds of auspicious instruments and Vedic chants. Special pujas and aartis were offered to Sri Chakratwar, culminating in the grand Chakrasnana Mahotsav. HDPP Secretary Sri Sriram Raghunath, Es-tate Officer Sri Gunabhushan Reddy, Superintendent Sri Guru Rajaswamy, and other officials participated in the spiritual event. The rituals added to the grandeur of the Maha Kumbh Mela, leaving the devotees in a state of deep devotion and spiritual fulfillment.





# TDP Creates History: Membership Crosses One Crore Mark

TPN Correspondent  
Andhra Pradesh, Jan 17

The Telugu Desam Party (TDP) has achieved a historic milestone by surpassing one crore memberships through its innovative and technology-driven registration program. As of now, a total of 1,00,52,598 people have joined the party, making TDP the largest political family in the region.

Launched by TDP National President Chandrababu Naidu on October 26 last year, the membership registration drive witnessed massive participation across Andhra Pradesh, Telangana, and Andaman. The use of digital platforms spearheaded by TDP National General Secretary Nara Lokesh played a pivotal role in the program's success. Lokesh's decision to simplify the registration process using popular platforms enabled people to enroll easily, contributing significantly to this achievement.

## Record-Breaking Memberships

- 11 constituencies surpassed the one lakh membership mark, with Nellore City leading at 1,49,270 memberships.
- 105 constituencies recorded over 50,000 memberships.
- Top-performing constituencies include Atmakur (1,48,802), Palakollu (1,48,559), and Rajampet (1,45,766).

The membership drive has also received an overwhelming response for permanent memberships, with Mangalagiri (145), Atmakur (137), and Vinukonda (79) topping the list.

## Activist Welfare Initiatives

Under the leadership of Nara Lokesh, the TDP Welfare Wing continues to prioritize the well-being of party ac-



tivists. Since being entrusted with this responsibility by Chandrababu Naidu during the 2014 Mahanadu, the wing has provided significant support:

- **Education Support:** Over 2,500 activists' children have received educational assistance.
- **Financial Assistance:** ₹103.28 crore has been distributed to families of 5,164 activists who lost their lives in accidents.
- **Medical Aid:** Activists suffering from illnesses have received financial and medical support.
- **Employment:** Nearly 2,000 activists have been offered job opportunities.
- **Accident Insurance:** Insurance coverage for members has been increased to ₹5 lakh, benefiting over one crore members.

Through initiatives such as free education via NTR Model Schools, skill training, and scholarships, the party has shown its commitment to empowering its members. The TDP's milestone is not only a testament to its popularity but also its dedication to supporting activists at the grassroots level.

# Potina Mahesh Slams Govt for Turning Sankranti Into Organized Crime

TPN Correspondent  
Vijayawada, Jan 17

YSR Congress Party (YSRCP) leader Potina Mahesh launched a scathing attack on the coalition government, alleging that the Sankranti festival celebrations were marred by organized crime and rampant corruption. He accused the ruling parties—TDP, Jana Sena, and BJP—of exploiting the festival to loot thousands of crores while tarnishing its cultural essence. Mahesh criticized the government for turning traditional Sankranti festivities into activities akin to a casino, complete with cockfighting arenas and gambling. He alleged that the coalition leaders established "IPL-style Cockfighting Premier Leagues" in every constituency, generating enormous profits at the expense of public morality. He further claimed that female bouncers were employed at cockfighting events, describing this as a shocking and unacceptable practice.

Deputy Speaker Raghuramakrishna Raju, accusing him of participating in cockfights, and demanded an explanation from Home Minister Vanagalapudi Anita regarding the official permissions allegedly granted for these events. He also questioned why Jana Sena chief Pawan Kalyan failed to suspend MLAs who organized cockfighting tournaments.



Highlighting the scale of the issue, Mahesh alleged that more than 320 cockfighting arenas were established in Krishna district alone, rivaling the infamous activities in the Godavari districts. He also pointed out that some fights were organized on school premises, which he condemned as a disgraceful misuse of public spaces. Mahesh further alleged that obscene recording dances were part of the festivities, accusing the government of promoting vulgarity instead of development. He questioned whether Pawan Kalyan's concept of "Sanatana Dharma" included cockfights, gambling, and other such practices. Mahesh concluded by stating that people are furious with Chief Minister Chandrababu Naidu and Deputy CM Pawan Kalyan, blaming them for the decline of Sankranti's cultural values and turning the festival into a platform for unethical activities.

# Drone Chaos at Minister's Residence Sparks Tension

TPN Correspondent  
Nandyala, Jan 17

A drone flying near the residence of Andhra Pradesh Minister BC Janardhan Reddy caused chaos in Banaganapalli last night, escalating tensions between TDP and YSRCP factions. Security personnel and TDP workers stationed at the minister's house spotted the drone circling the area, prompting immediate action.

Upon investigation, it was identified that the drone belonged to cameramen who had come to cover the wedding of YSRCP leader Abdul Faiz's son. Security personnel seized the drone and questioned its operators about why it was flown over the minister's residence. The cameramen reportedly failed to provide satisfactory answers, which angered the TDP workers, leading to a heated exchange. The incident escalated when TDP workers accused the drone operators of deliberately flying the device over the minister's premises. YSRCP workers, learning about the situation, condemned the TDP's actions and allegedly behaved aggressively towards them. The altercation led to both groups filing complaints with the local police.



Former MLA Katasani Ramreddy, representing the YSRCP, visited the police station and demanded a case be registered against the TDP ranks, alleging they had attacked YSRCP workers. Meanwhile, TDP leaders filed their complaint, questioning the necessity of flying the drone near the minister's house and alleging deliberate provocation. The police accepted complaints from both sides and launched an investigation. In light of the ongoing tensions between Minister BC Janardhan Reddy's group and former MLA Katasani Ramreddy's faction, the drone incident has become a major topic of discussion in Banaganapalli. The situation remains tense, with the authorities working to resolve the dispute and ensure no further escalation between the two political groups.

# Manchu Manoj Files Complaint Against MBU Staff

TPN Correspondent  
Tirupati, Jan 17

Actor Manchu Manoj has filed a complaint at the Chandragiri Police Station against MBU staff members Hemadri Naidu and Kiran. The complaint was lodged by Manoj's followers, Palani and Vinayaka, citing recent events related to tensions within the Manchu family.

Speaking to the media after the complaint, Manoj expressed his sadness over the ongoing incidents involving his family. He highlighted the support and love he receives from his fans, describing them as a "gift from God." Manoj thanked his fans for continuing to show affection even though he has been away from the "8Sam" movie space for a long time.

Manoj strongly criticized the actions taken against him and his supporters, stating, "If there is an issue with me, you should talk to me. I have not run away anywhere." He questioned the need to resort to measures such as pouring sugar into his supporters' vehicles and removing banners.

The actor further alleged that his people were called during the Sankranti festival and threatened not to associate with him. "I am not the



kind of person who gives money and bribes to hire people," Manoj said, emphasizing his straightforward approach.

Manoj called for a peaceful resolution of campus-related issues, suggesting that "it would be enough to sit down with four big men and discuss the problems with the brothers and sisters." He lamented the gates being erected to prevent him from entering his home during the festival and stopping him from paying homage to his grandparents' graves. Addressing speculation, Manoj clarified his recent visit to the CM's residence and his meeting with Nara

Lokesh. "It was just a visit," he stated, dismissing any political undertones.

Manoj also alleged that his people were attacked during the recent incidents and revealed that he had to jump the gates to gain access to his grandparents' graves. His statements shed light on the deepening disputes within the Manchu family and raised concerns about the ongoing tensions.

The incident continues to spark conversations in Tollywood and among fans, with many hoping for an amicable resolution to the family's issues.

# Political Tensions Rise in Guntur: Uncertainty Over Council Meeting

TPN Correspondent  
Guntur, Jan 17

The Guntur Municipal Corporation has become a political hotspot as uncertainty looms over the conduct of the council meeting. YSR Congress Party (YSRCP) leaders convened an emergency meeting to discuss the issue, with prominent leaders like Guntur Mayor Kavati Manohar Naidu, Deputy Mayor Diamond Babu, YSRCP district president and former minister Ambati Rambabu, and MLC Lella Appireddy in attendance.

Mayor Kavati Manohar Naidu criticized the actions of the Guntur Municipal Commissioner, calling his behavior towards public representatives "unfortunate." Speaking to the media, the mayor alleged that the commissioner had been evasive and failed to address the members' questions during previous meetings. He further accused the commissioner of



leaving the council meeting without prior notice, terming the behavior inappropriate for a senior public servant.

Mayor Manohar Naidu stated that he had formally notified the commissioner in writing, via WhatsApp, and by email on January 7 regarding the need to hold the postponed council meeting. However, he expressed disappointment over receiving no response to his communications. According to the mayor, under the law, he also holds the authority to

call for a council meeting. He emphasized that the meeting, initially postponed, must be held on January 17, following the mandated three-day gap.

Adding to the tensions, the mayor alleged that protocol was not followed during Sankranti celebrations, leading to public representatives feeling insulted. He warned that YSRCP corporators would gather at the municipal corporation office on Friday to monitor the commissioner's actions closely.

Mayor Kavati Manohar Naidu concluded by stating that he would observe the commissioner's conduct during the scheduled meeting on Friday and announce future steps accordingly. With the Guntur Municipal Corporation caught in the crossfire, the situation remains volatile, leaving citizens and political observers keenly watching developments.

# Ambati Rambabu Warns Guntur Municipal Commissioner Over Alleged Arrogance

TPN Correspondent  
Guntur, Jan 17

Former Minister Ambati Rambabu issued a stern warning to Guntur Municipal Commissioner Puli Srinivasulu, accusing him of arrogance and disrespect towards the Guntur Municipal Corporation leadership.

The remarks were made during an emergency meeting of YSR Congress Party (YSRCP) leaders in Guntur on Thursday, attended by Mayor Kavati Manohar Naidu, Deputy Mayor Diamond Babu, YSRCP District President Ambati Rambabu, and MLC Lella Appireddy. Addressing the media, Rambabu asserted that the mayor is the supreme authority in the Guntur Municipal Corporation and accused the commissioner of overstepping his limits. "The Guntur Mayor will remain in power for another 14 months, and only the ruling and opposition members have the right to walk out of the council," he stated.

Rambabu alleged that the commissioner's behavior was arrogant and

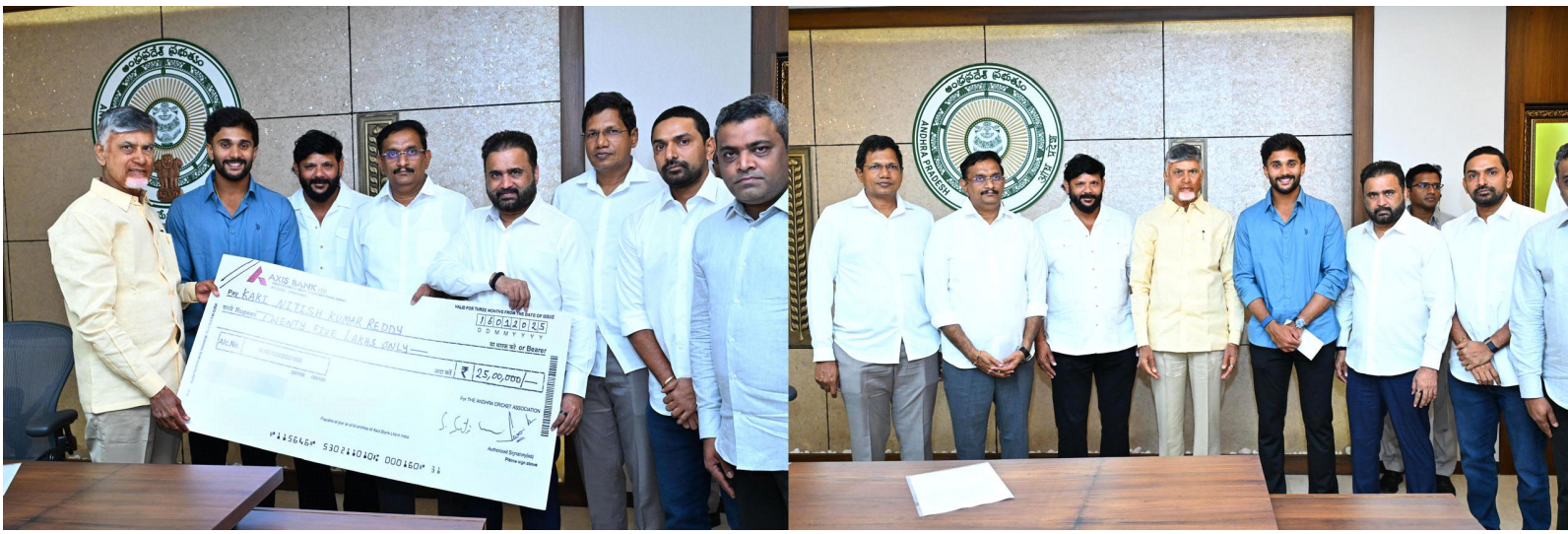
unlawful, emphasizing that the YSRCP has taken the issue seriously. He called for the commissioner to adhere to the law and respect public representatives. Rambabu hinted at broader consequences, warning that the YSRCP will launch a state-wide public struggle to condemn the commissioner's behavior.

In a direct warning, Rambabu claimed that Commissioner Puli Srinivasulu, who is set to retire in three years, will face challenges due to his alleged actions. "Wherever Puli Srinivasulu is, we will unearth his loot and expose it to the public," he declared, suggesting that the commissioner's track record would be scrutinized and made public.

The comments come amidst growing tensions between YSRCP leaders and the municipal administration over the conduct of council meetings and alleged breaches of protocol. With the YSRCP preparing to escalate the issue, the situation in the Guntur Municipal Corporation remains highly charged.







# Cricketer Nitish Kumar Reddy Met CM

## MP Keshineni Chinni and ACA Felicitated the Cricketer

TPN Correspondent  
Amaravati, Jan 17

ACA President and MP Keshineni Shivanath (Chinni), ACA Secretary and Rajya Sabha MP Sana Satish, along with Indian cricketer K. Nitish Kumar Reddy, met Chief Minister Nara Chandrababu Naidu at the Secretariat. The meeting marked a moment of recognition and encouragement for the young cricketer. During the event, CM Chandrababu Naidu presented a cheque for ₹25 lakhs, announced by ACA President Keshine-

ni Shivanath, to Nitish Kumar Reddy in acknowledgment of his remarkable performance in the Border-Gavaskar series against Australia. The Chief Minister assured Nitish Kumar Reddy that he would be allotted a house soon as part of the government's commitment to supporting international sportspersons in the state. CM Chandrababu Naidu reiterated his government's dedication to providing better facilities and unwavering support to international athletes to help them achieve greater success. He expressed his

pride in Nitish Kumar Reddy's achievements and wished him continued success in his cricketing career. Nitish Kumar Reddy thanked the Chief Minister, ACA President Keshineni Shivanath, and ACA Secretary Sana Satish for their support and encouragement. The young cricketer's performance on the international stage has brought pride to the state, and the government's recognition aims to inspire other aspiring sportspersons. This initiative highlights Andhra Pradesh's commitment to nurturing talent and promoting excellence in sports.



# NTR Dist Aims to Become Accident-Free Through Road Safety Month

TPN Correspondent  
NTR Dist, Jan 17

District Collector Dr. G. Lakshmi Sha and City Police Commissioner P. Rajasekhar Babu emphasized the importance of public participation in preventing road accidents and called for collective efforts to make NTR District accident-free. They urged everyone to actively take part in the Road Safety Month celebrations organized by the Transport Department from January 16 to February 15. The promotional materials, including posters, pamphlets, banners, and booklets for the month-long initiative, were released by Dr. G. Lakshmi Sha, Commissioner P. Rajasekhar Babu, and District Transport Commissioner (DTC) A. Mohan. Speaking on the occasion, Dr. Lakshmi Sha highlighted that Road Safety Month is a national initiative aimed at raising awareness about road safety. She stated that district-level measures, including regular road safety meetings and reviews of accident causes, have already helped in reducing accidents to some extent.

The Collector mentioned the use of the Integrated Road Accident Database (IARD) app to coordinate efforts between transport, police, health departments, hospitals, and other stakeholders. She also highlighted the introduction of incentives for Good Samaritans who save accident victims and encouraged youth and NGOs to organize innovative awareness programs. City Police Commissioner Rajasekhar Babu stressed the police department's efforts to strictly enforce traffic rules. He warned against violations such as drunk driving, rash driving, signal jumping, and driving without seat belts or helmets, adding that online cases are being registered for such offenses. He reiterated that public awareness and involvement are crucial for achieving long-term results in road safety. DTC A. Mohan elaborated on the planned activities, including rallies, seminars, essay writing, and drawing competitions, organized in collaboration with various departments, NGOs, and the public to make the initiative a success. Key officials, including Transport Department representatives and local leaders, participated in the event, showcasing their commitment to the cause.

# Guntur Police Launch Women Police Job Chart App for Efficient Duty Management

TPN Correspondent  
Guntur, Jan 17

SP Satish Kumar emphasized the importance of using the app to improve efficiency and accountability. He urged

In a move to enhance accountability and streamline daily duties, Guntur District SP Sri Satish Kumar IPS has launched the Women Police Job Chart App. This innovative app is specifically designed for Village/Ward Women Protection Secretaries (Women Police) to systematically manage their responsibilities and provide better services to the public. The app enables women police officers to report on various issues, including the protection of women and children, maintaining peace and security, and preventing illegal activities. The information entered in the app will be regularly reviewed by district police officers to address law and order concerns and resolve issues related to women and children.



A comprehensive job chart has been developed to outline the daily responsibilities of women police officers systematically. The app keeps this job chart updated, ensuring that officers can effectively fulfill their duties. Each officer is required to enter detailed information about their assigned tasks into the app daily. women police officers to actively engage with the platform, contributing to better coordination between the police and the public. The program launch was attended by DSP Subbarao, District Technical Department CI Nissar Bhasha, Head Constable Kishore, Constable Imam Saheb, Manasa, and Yasin. This initiative marks a significant step forward in utilizing technology to empower women police officers and ensure effective law enforcement at the grassroots level.

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# Janasena Leader Suspended for Violating Party Discipline at Cockfighting Ring

TPN Correspondent  
Kankipadu, Jan 17

The Jana Sena Party high command has suspended Penamaluru constituency leader Muppa Gopalakrishna (Raja) for violating party discipline by associating the party with illegal cockfighting activities. During the Sankranti festival, cockfighting was organized in Kankipadu, located in the Penamaluru constituency of the joint Krishna district.

Muppa Gopalakrishna reportedly installed Jana Sena Party flags and flexi banners at the cockfighting ring, which the party leadership considered a serious breach of its principles and policies. The party issued an official statement on Thursday announcing Gopalakrishna's suspension as a disciplinary action. The statement clarified that using the party's name, flags, and banners in connection with illegal activities like cockfighting tarnishes the Jana Sena Party's reputation. The party leadership emphasized its commitment to maintaining ethical standards and warned that similar actions by any member would face strict consequences.

As a result, Muppa Gopalakrishna, who had been serving as the party's point of contact for the Penamaluru constituency, has been officially removed from his role. The Jana Sena Party confirmed that Gopalakrishna no longer has any official association with the party or its activities. This decisive action highlights the Jana Sena Party's determination to uphold its values and take immediate corrective measures against any misconduct. The incident has drawn significant attention, with the party's swift response being seen as a strong statement of its adherence to principles.

# YSRCP Leaders Allege Political Murder in Nandigama Constituency

TPN Correspondent  
Nandigama, Jan 17

YSR Congress Party (YSRCP) District President Devineni Avinash and former MLA Jagan Mohan Rao visited the Nandigama morgue to examine the body of Mani Teja, who died under suspicious circumstances in Muppalla village, Chanderlapadu mandal. The incident, which occurred last night, has raised serious concerns among YSRCP leaders, who suspect foul play.

Speaking to the media, Devineni Avinash claimed that Mani Teja's death is a "political murder." He alleged that attacks on YSRCP leaders have increased since the formation of the coalition government led by the TDP. "The Red Book Constitution is being implemented, and political violence is on the rise. This is the first time we are witnessing such murder politics in the Nandigama constituency," he said.

# Vijayawada Municipal Corporation Sets Up Sub-Registrar Offices for House Registrations

TPN Correspondent  
Vijayawada, Jan 17

The Vijayawada Municipal Corporation (VMC) has established two sub-registrar offices on the ground floor of its new headquarters building to facilitate house registrations in Payakapuram Colony and Kotha Rajarajeshwari Peta. In-charge Commissioner Dr. D. Chandrasekhar announced that these offices will operate daily from 10 AM to 6 PM, starting January 16, with the last date for registrations set as January 28. Dr. Chandrasekhar stated that plot owners who have held ownership for at least 10 years can register their properties at a rate of ₹100 per yard. He urged eligible property owners to take advantage of this opportunity. Required Documents for Registration To complete the house registration process, applicants must bring:



- Owner's Aadhaar Card
- House Tax Receipt
- Two Witnesses with their Aadhaar Cards

The commissioner emphasized that the sub-registrar offices have been set up to streamline the registration process, making it convenient for residents to register their properties without delay. This initiative aims to address pending registrations and provide a seamless experience for property owners in the specified areas. Dr. Chandrasekhar encouraged residents to visit the corporation offices before the deadline to avoid last-minute rush and complete their registrations smoothly.

# Nishant Kumar Honored with PM's Award for Excellence in Public Administration

TPN Correspondent  
Vijayawada, Jan 17

Nishant Kumar, Director of Excise and Prohibition, Mangalagiri, and former District Collector of Parvathipuram, has been awarded the prestigious Prime Minister's Award for Excellence in Public Administration for 2023. This recognition honors his exceptional leadership in implementing the PRISM 10 (Project to Reduce Infant Mortality Rate Below 10) initiative during his tenure from 2022 to 2024. The PRISM 10 initiative was launched to tackle critical healthcare challenges in Parvathipuram, a newly formed tribal district grappling with high Infant Mortality Rates (IMR), Maternal Mortality Rates (MMR), and low immunization coverage. At the program's inception in July 2022, the district's IMR stood at 24, with over 310 infant deaths annually, while the MMR was 128. Immunization coverage was a mere 47.2%, ranking the district 26th in the state.



Under Nishant Kumar's leadership, PRISM 10 adopted an umbrella approach to maternal and child healthcare, focusing on early registrations, tracking last menstrual periods (LMP), promoting safe deliveries, and ensuring full immunization. Innovative, community-tailored solutions were introduced to address the specific challenges faced by the tribal population, with an emphasis on monitoring and grassroots involvement.

By February 2024, the initiative had transformed Parvathipuram's healthcare scenario. The IMR dropped to 8, preventing over 210 infant deaths annually. The MMR decreased to 74, marking a 42% reduction. Immunization coverage soared to 97.77%, propelling Parvathipuram to the top position in the state. Nishant Kumar's efforts were recognized in the "Innovation-District" category, underscoring his commitment to collaborative and result-oriented governance. The award includes an appreciation letter sent to the Secretary, DoPT, and Chief Secretary for inclusion in his performance appraisal dossier and ER Sheet, further highlighting his exemplary service. The Prime Minister's Award for Excellence in Public Administration honors civil servants who demonstrate innovation and efficiency in governance. Nishant Kumar's achievements in Parvathipuram set a benchmark for sustainable progress, reflecting the dedication of the administration, healthcare workers, and the tribal community. His work stands as a model for addressing public health challenges with impactful, innovative solutions.



## THOUSANDS OF CRORES VANISHED BIGGEST COCK FIGHT OF SEASON: 1 CRORE ON 1 MATCH?

Legislators and Police Have Remained Silent, Becoming Mute Spectators to the Event

G Avinash | TPN  
Andhra Pradesh, Jan 17:

The infamous cock fighting is a customary tradition in the Godavari region of Andhra Pradesh. As with every Sankranti season, the cock fighting phenomenon has gained extensive attention in the coastal pockets this year. However, it is significant that, during this time, legislators and police have remained silent, becoming mute spectators to the event.

Cock fighting is illegal in India, with the Supreme Court ruling it as a banned activity. Despite this, the practice continues to thrive with impunity in certain regions. The role of lawmakers and law enforcement has sparked controversy, as instead of taking action to crack down on the practice, many have turned a blind eye or, in some cases, enabled its continuation. This reluctance to act, despite clear legal violations, has ignited public debate on the hypocrisy of those in power, who either remain passive or complicit when it comes to such illegal activities. Thousands of crores vanished in these festive 4 days, with people betting on cock fighting matches across the region.

A significant development surrounding this issue has become the buzzing topic of social media in re-



cent days.

Over the past week, social media has been abuzz with news about a particular match involving a staggering Rs 1 crore stake from each of the two parties (total pool of Rs 2 crore). This has turned out to be the most high-profile match of the season, with two of the biggest names in the cock fighting world involved. According to the latest posts on social media, this ultra-high-stakes match concluded in just 10 minutes. The winner walked away with Rs 1 crore, which was the stake of the opponent.

This cock fighting match, involving such high stakes, was reportedly held in the Tadepalligudem area, a well-known hotspot for the tradition in the Godavari region.

## Sankranti Cockfighting and Gambling: A Festival Marred by Chaos and Corruption

TPN Correspondent  
Amaravati, Jan 17

Sankranti, a festival traditionally celebrated with bonfires, festive cakes, and cultural gatherings, has taken on a darker meaning with the rampant organization of cockfighting, gambling, and other illegal activities across Andhra Pradesh. Once limited to the Godavari districts as a traditional practice, cockfighting has now transformed into a large-scale, systematic event involving massive financial stakes and political backing.

Massive Financial Stakes and Widespread Participation



This year, over 700 cockfighting fairs were organized across the state, with an estimated ₹1,500 crores changing hands in the eastern districts and another ₹750 crores in the western districts. In addition to cockfighting, gambling games like Kota Mukka and Gundata contributed to the staggering financial transactions. The events were held under floodlights with corporate-level arrangements, including TV replays, bouncers for crowd control, and alcohol and meat feasts.

The events were reportedly organized with the support of politicians, including MLAs and MPs, as well as cricket betting bookies, soil mafia, and ration mafia. Specific allegations have been made against prominent leaders like Kesineni Chinni, Bonda Uma, Vasantha Krishna Prasad, and others for their involvement in organizing cockfights. Complaints filed in some areas were ignored, and reports suggest that local police stations were allegedly paid bribes of ₹15 lakhs each to turn a



blind eye to the activities.

**Law Enforcement's Role and Failure**  
Although police initially made efforts to curb the events by deploying drones, plowing cockfighting arenas, and issuing public warnings, their actions were ultimately ineffective. In some cases, police were accused of collaborating with organizers. For instance, in NTR district's Jakkampudi Pamula Canal, CI Kondala Rao allegedly ignored complaints of misbehavior and refused to register cases.

**Gambling and Tragedies**



Gambling games were rampant during the festival, even being held on school grounds and in mango orchards. Cheer girls were brought in to attract gamblers at night. Shocking incidents included a young man in Peravali mandal who set himself on fire after losing money in gambling.

Meanwhile, a software employee from Telangana reportedly lost ₹50 lakhs over three days of cockfighting in Degapuram, Bhimavaram mandal.

Several politicians and influential figures were seen attending cockfighting events. Mummdivaram MLA reportedly placed a ₹1.25 crore bet, while ministers and MPs, including Kollu Ravindra, Mahesh Yadav, and Sudhakar Yadav, were spotted at events in various districts.

In Jakkampudi village, clashes erupted when villagers protested against cockfighting and gambling. Some were attacked by intoxicated individuals, and even local police personnel were accused of assaulting villagers.

**A Festival in Crisis**  
What was once a cultural festival celebrating unity and tradition has now become synonymous with illegal activities and greed. The transformation of Sankranti into a hub for gambling and cockfighting highlights the deep-rooted political and criminal nexus, as well as the failure of law enforcement. Despite widespread public outrage, the events continue to thrive, leaving behind a trail of financial losses, violence, and broken traditions.

As the state grapples with these issues, the question remains: will Sankranti ever return to being the festival of joy and togetherness it once was?

## Cockfighting Race in Tadepalligudem Sees a Quick Victory Worth Rs. 1 Crore

TPN Correspondent  
Tadepalligudem, Jan 17

A high-stakes Cockfighting race held in Tadepalligudem has gone viral, capturing the attention of social media users. The race, with a prize of ₹1.25 crore, saw fierce competition between two racing Cockfightings—Nemali Punju and Rasagi Punju—raised by prominent participants in the local cockfighting community.

In a stunning turn of events, Nemali Punju, raised by Gudivada Prabhakar Rao, triumphed in just five minutes, winning a prize of ₹1 crore. On the other hand, Rattayya, who has been raising racing Cockfightings for over 20 years and was confident in his bird's high success rate, was left surprised as Rasagi Punju couldn't even compete with the winning Cockfighting.

The race, which featured a large crowd of spectators, has garnered widespread attention, with many viewers shocked at the quick turnaround and the intense competition. The video of the event, showing the Cockfighting race and its unexpected outcome, has now gone viral, making headlines across the region. This event adds to the growing controversy surrounding cockfighting and gambling, which have become increasingly prevalent during the Sankranti festival in Andhra Pradesh. Despite legal restrictions, such events continue to draw attention, and the Tadepalligudem Cockfighting race is just one example of the high-stakes nature of these gatherings.



**Who is Rattayya?**

Rattayya, known for his expertise in cockfighting, is a well-known figure in the Godavari districts, particularly in the backdrop of Sankranti celebrations. He has earned a reputation for raising and training racing chickens, with a high success rate in the competitions. This year, Rattayya participated in a major bet of ₹1.25 crore in Tadepalligudem, which has now drawn widespread attention due to his unexpected loss. Rattayya is from Rangapuram, located in the Lingapalem mandal, and his involvement in cockfighting has made him a prominent name in the community. His loss in the recent high-stakes race, where his chicken failed to compete with Gudivada Prabhakar Rao's chicken, has left many stunned. Despite his long history in the sport, this surprising defeat has become a topic of conversation among cockfighting enthusiasts and the public alike.



## Very Happy to Inaugurate the NTR Sports Development Center

C Shekar | TPN  
Tirupati, Jan 17:

Srikalahasti MLA Bojjala Sudheer Reddy, who inaugurated the NTR Sports Development Center set up under the auspices of SAP at Swami Vivekananda Government Degree College in Srikalahasti town along with SAP Chairman Ravi Naidu, expressed his happiness about the modernization of the center.

Bojjala Sudheer Reddy mentioned that he was delighted to see the center being revived, as it had been decommissioned by the previous government. However, the coalition government focused on its improvement and brought it back to life. SHAP Chairman Ravi Naidu praised Sudheer Reddy's efforts in renovating the center, securing funds, and procuring equipment for its enhancement. He also acknowledged the groundwork laid by Bojjala Gopalakrishna Reddy and his son's commitment to advancing the project.

Telugu Desam Party leaders, activists, officials, and sports enthusiasts attended the event in large numbers.



## Munjuluru High School 1999 Batch Reunites to Relive Cherished Memories



TPN Correspondent  
Bantumilli, Jan 17

The 1999 batch of Munjuluru Zilla Parishad High School (ZPHS) gathered together recently to relive their childhood memories and reconnect with old friends. The event saw the attendance of 35 former students from the batch, who met with much enthusiasm and nostalgia.

The gathering was organized by a dedicated group of alumni, including Pinninti Ravi Babu, Adala Murali, Katta Radhika, K Jhansi, and Janyavula Maruthi. Their effort ensured that old classmates could reunite and share stories of their personal journeys since graduation.

festive season, bringing warmth and joy to the attendees. The group took the opportunity to catch up on the whereabouts of each other, with many of them having settled in different parts of both Telugu states. The bond of friendship, which began in their school days, was evident as everyone spoke fondly of their time at Munjuluru ZPHS.

For the 1999 batch, the gathering was not just about reminiscing the good old days but also about celebrating the progress and success each individual has achieved in their personal and professional lives. It was a heartwarming reunion, filled with laughter, shared memories, and a renewed sense of camaraderie.

The event was held during the



## Tragic Accident in Tirumala: 3-Year-Old Boy Dies After Falling from First Floor

C Shekar | TPN  
Tirumala, Jan 17

A tragic accident occurred at around 3:30 pm on January 15, when 3-year-old S. Satvik Srinivasaraju, son of Srinivasulu, fell from the first-floor railing at Padmanabha Nilayam (PAC-5), Hall No. 03, while playing with his brother Sri

Nihanth. The child, who was visiting Tirumala with his family for the Srivari darshan, suffered fatal injuries after falling from the verandah.

The family had arrived from their hometown, Chinnachowk in Kadapa district, and had taken Locker No. 675 at PAC-5 while waiting for the darshan sched-

uled for the following day, January 16. The child's father works as a driver in a private company, and his mother works as a laborer.

A case has been registered at TML 2 Town Station, and an investigation is underway to determine the exact cause of the accident.



## US TikTok Ban: A Devastating Move with Far-Reaching Consequences



United States could face a cultural and economic upheaval with the potential ban of TikTok, the wildly popular video-sharing app that boasts 170 million American users. The fate of TikTok lies in the hands of the Supreme Court, which is set to rule on whether a law passed by Congress last April will go into effect. If upheld, the ban would remove TikTok from American smartphones, with profound consequences for both the tech industry and global relations.

TikTok's rise has been meteoric, revolutionizing social media by offering a unique blend of short-form video content and an algorithm that tailors content to individual users. Its success has reshaped the digital landscape, making it the go-to platform for creative expression, particularly among younger generations. However, the app's growing dominance has also sparked serious concerns, particularly regarding data privacy and national security. The US government claims that ByteDance, TikTok's Chinese parent company, could be forced by Chinese laws to hand over sensitive user data to the Chinese government. Though these claims lack solid evidence, the fears are nonetheless significant and have fueled bipartisan support for a ban.

TikTok's defenders argue that such a ban infringes on free speech, with 170 million Americans losing access to a platform that has become a vital outlet for self-expression and creativity. The controversy has taken an ironic twist, with former President Donald Trump, who tried to ban TikTok in 2020, now emerging as an unlikely ally. He has urged the Supreme Court to delay the ban, potentially positioning himself to broker a deal that could allow TikTok to continue operating in the US, despite the national

security concerns.

The economic implications of a TikTok ban are considerable. In 2023, TikTok generated \$16.1 billion in advertising revenue, with the US serving as one of its largest and most profitable markets. A ban would severely impact TikTok's bottom line and could have ripple effects throughout the global tech industry. Additionally, the ban could set a dangerous precedent, paving the way for further restrictions on other Chinese tech companies, particularly in the areas of social media and e-commerce. This would intensify the ongoing technological cold war between the US and China, with global markets caught in the crossfire.

Beyond the economic fallout, a TikTok ban in the US could prompt retaliatory actions from China, further escalating trade and diplomatic tensions. In 2020, India banned TikTok, and competitors like Instagram Reels and YouTube Shorts quickly moved to fill the void. The US could see a similar shift, with existing platforms poised to capture TikTok's user base. However, the broader geopolitical ramifications are more concerning, as the TikTok saga is not just about an app—it's part of a larger battle for technological and economic dominance in the 21st century.

The potential ban of TikTok is a high-stakes issue, one that will have lasting effects on free speech, the tech industry, and global geopolitics. As the Supreme Court prepares to make its decision, the world watches closely to see whether this move marks the beginning of a new chapter in the US-China tech rivalry.

## Science, Secrecy, and the Need for Accountability in Preventing Future Pandemics

The Covid-19 pandemic killed an estimated 7.1 million people worldwide and significantly impacted global life expectancy, yet no one has been held accountable for the crisis. As the world grapples with the consequences, the question remains: will the incoming US administration under Donald Trump take decisive steps to uncover the true origins of the virus?

Five years since the pandemic began, the origins of SARS-CoV-2, the virus responsible for Covid-19, remain unclear. Did it emerge naturally from Wuhan's wet markets, or did it leak from the Wuhan Institute of Virology (WIV), where research on bat coronaviruses was being conducted? What is evident is that China's government mishandled the early stages of the pandemic. The Chinese authorities censored early reports and suppressed information about human-to-human transmission, allowing the virus to spread globally. This mismanagement turned what could have been a local outbreak into an international health crisis.



presidency, may reignite efforts to hold China accountable for the pandemic. However, for an effective investigation, full transparency from the US government is crucial. The National Institutes of Health (NIH) had been funding research on bat coronaviruses at the WIV as early as 2014, despite warnings about the safety standards at the lab. Furthermore, the WIV has been involved in secretive research for China's military since at least 2017, raising concerns

about the diversion of US-funded research into military projects.

To uncover the truth, the Trump administration should disclose the extent of US funding for research at the WIV and make available the data from collaborative US-China scientific programs. In addition to investigating China's role in the pandemic, the Trump administration must address the broader issue of "gain-of-function" research, which involves genetically modifying pathogens to enhance their transmissibility or virulence. This dangerous research continues in some labs across China, Russia, and the West, and represents a major existential threat to humanity.

While international investigations into the origins of Covid-19 were initially blocked by China, some countries, including the United States, have continued to probe into the issue. The Biden administration, however, downplayed any association between the virus and China, focusing on anti-racism efforts and disregarding calls to investigate China's role. This politically driven silence has hindered any meaningful inquiry into the origins of the pandemic.

In contrast, the Trump administration could potentially revive the investigation into China's responsibility. Trump, who often pointed to China during his

## Improving India's Pension System: Key Measures for the Upcoming Budget

As India prepares for the upcoming Union Budget, there are several measures that can significantly enhance the country's pension system, ensuring better financial security for retirees. Here are some suggestions for the government to consider:

### Clarification Between NPS and UPS

In August 2024, the government introduced the option for central government employees to switch from the National Pension Scheme (NPS) to a Unified Pension Scheme (UPS). While specifics of the UPS remain unclear, it is expected to offer assured returns, which could strain public finances in the long term. However, if the UPS is perceived as similar to the NPS, it might mislead non-government employees into believing that the NPS also guarantees returns. It is crucial for the government to clearly distinguish between the two schemes to prevent confusion and ensure transparency.

### Enhancing Choice Between EPF and NPS

The Employees' Provident Fund (EPF), a mandatory retirement savings scheme for private-sector employees, offers assured returns, while NPS is market-linked and provides potentially higher returns with a higher risk. However, participation in the EPF is mandatory only for employees earning less than Rs 15,000 per month, and it is voluntary for those earning more. The government should clarify this provision to enable employees to choose between EPF and NPS based on their financial needs and risk appetite. By encouraging competition between these schemes, employees could make more informed choices to secure their financial future.



### Introducing Partial Withdrawals at Retirement

Currently, the EPF only allows for lump-sum withdrawal at retirement, while the NPS mandates at least 40% of the corpus be used to purchase an annuity. However, annuities may not provide optimal value, especially in underdeveloped markets, and prevent wealth from being passed down to heirs. Introducing partial withdrawals could provide retirees with a middle ground, allowing them to withdraw funds gradually while preserving their capital. Offering flexible annuity options or systematic withdrawal plans could also be beneficial, but these changes would require amendments to existing laws.

### Leveraging NPS and APY for Gig Workers

Gig workers, a significant part of India's informal workforce, often lack retirement security. The government should focus on integrating gig workers into the existing NPS and Atal Pension Yojana (APY), both of which are scalable and flexible. The NPS is low-cost, allowing workers with irregular incomes to contribute when possible, while the APY offers guaranteed returns, ensuring financial stability for lower-income workers. The government should invest in digital tools, simplified enrolment processes, and awareness campaigns to improve access to these schemes, helping gig workers secure their retirement.

### Evaluating International Diversification of Pension Funds

Currently, India's retirement savings are invested domestically, which limits the growth potential for savers. To enhance returns and stability, the government could consider allowing pension funds to invest in international markets. While concerns about risk remain, conducting a study on the risk-return trade-offs of international diversification could provide valuable insights. A committee could evaluate global best practices and simulate the impact of international investments in India's retirement portfolios, potentially opening the door to phased diversification in the future.

By implementing these measures, the government can strengthen India's pension system, making it more inclusive, flexible, and resilient.

## Will the Israel-Hamas Ceasefire Truly Lead to Peace?

The recent Israel-Hamas ceasefire, set to begin just before Donald Trump's inauguration in January 2025, has brought both hope and skepticism regarding its potential to bring lasting peace. While the agreement aims to halt the violence in Gaza for 42 days, key questions remain about its long-term viability and the broader conflict it seeks to address.

Trump, who has taken credit for pressuring both Hamas and Israel into the ceasefire agreement, claimed it was a direct result of his historic victory in the 2024 elections. He expressed satisfaction with the outcome, declaring that his administration's approach to negotiations would lead to safety and peace for Americans and their allies. Special envoy Steven Witkoff was dispatched to Tel Aviv to secure the deal, emphasizing the urgency of achieving a ceasefire before Trump's inauguration.

While the ceasefire plan was initially proposed by Joe Biden and endorsed by the UN Security Council, both Hamas and Israel stalled negotiations, with Israeli Prime Minister Netanyahu refusing to make concessions. However, the pressure from Trump and regional players, such as Turkey, Egypt, and Qatar, eventually forced both sides to come to terms. The ceasefire is set to exchange hostages, provide food and supplies to Gaza, and allow displaced residents to return to their homes. Yet, the real challenge lies in the second stage of the agreement, where permanent negotiations must address the underlying causes of the conflict. Will Israel be willing to end the war for good, and will the bitterness between Palestinians and Israel allow for a lasting peace?

The third phase, which involves Gaza's reconstruction, poses even greater challenges. The destruction caused by Israel's military campaign has left much of Gaza in ruins, with the international community questioning whether it is feasible to rebuild without guarantees that Israel will not destroy it again. Moreover, the issue of who will govern Gaza remains unresolved, as Hamas, even in its weakened state, is unlikely to be accepted by Israel or the United States.



# Saif Ali Khan Stabbed in Spine, Sustains Wounds in Attack at Home

The incident occurred around 2:30 am, and the actor was rushed to Lilavati Hospital

TPN Correspondent  
Mumbai, Jan 17

Bollywood actor Saif Ali Khan was attacked early Thursday morning at his Mumbai residence in Bandra, suffering multiple stab wounds. The incident took place around 2:30 am, when an intruder armed with a knife broke into Khan's home. The actor sustained injuries to his spine, neck, and hand and was immediately rushed to Lilavati Hospital, where he underwent surgery.

In a statement released by his PR team, Saif Ali Khan's condition was confirmed to be stable, and the family requested privacy as the investigation unfolds. "Saif Ali Khan is currently in the hospital undergoing surgery," the statement said.

- **Saif Ali Khan was stabbed multiple times by an intruder in a burglary attempt.**
- **The actor was rushed to the hospital and is undergoing surgery.**
- **Questions raised over security as the thief managed to escape despite high-level protection.**
- **CCTV footage reveals the first image of the intruder; investigation underway.**

According to the police, the intruder, who allegedly intended to commit burglary, confronted the actor after a physical al-



tercation. Family members were present during the attack, though the details of their involvement remain unclear.

As investigators probe the case, questions have arisen regarding the security at the building. Khan resides on the 10th floor of a high-rise that houses several VVIPs, including celebrities and business figures, raising concerns about how the intruder managed to access the property. Reports suggest the thief had an argument with the maid, and Saif Ali Khan came to her aid, which led to the violent confrontation. Some sources indi-

cate that the actor was stabbed six times while descending the building's stairs with his family.

Despite the building's high security, the intruder managed to escape, raising further questions about why security guards were unable to prevent the attack or apprehend the thief. Bandra police have initiated an inquiry, and CCTV footage has been released, showing the first image of the assailant. The investigation is ongoing, and authorities are working to clarify the circumstances surrounding the break-in and attack.

# Cash, Cars, Savings: What Arvind Kejriwal, Parvesh Verma's Affidavits Show

TPN Correspondent  
New Delhi, Jan 17

As the February 5 Delhi Assembly elections approach, both AAP leader Arvind Kejriwal and BJP's Parvesh Verma have submitted their affidavits outlining their financial standings. These details shed light on their assets, liabilities, and incomes, adding an interesting layer to the electoral contest.

Arvind Kejriwal's Affidavit Kejriwal, who is vying for a third term as Chief Minister, reported no car ownership since 2015, following the alleged theft of his Maruti Wagon-R. His declared income over the last five years has varied, with the highest recorded at Rs 44.9 lakh in 2020/21. For FY2023/24, his income was Rs 7.2 lakh, mainly from his salary as a Delhi MLA. He revealed holding Rs 40,000 in cash, Rs 2.81 lakh in a bank account, and land in Ghaziabad, now worth Rs 1.7 crore. However, Kejriwal acknowledged 14 pending criminal cases related to the liquor policy scam and defamation suits. His wife's assets include a Maruti Baleno, savings in mutual funds worth over Rs 26 lakh, and gold and silver valued at over Rs 25 lakh.

Parvesh Verma's Affidavit On the other hand, BJP's Parvesh Verma reported a



significantly higher income of Rs 19.68 crore for FY2023/24. His assets, including movable and immovable, total over Rs 85 crore, including shares, bank deposits, and agricultural land. Verma also owns three cars valued over Rs 56 lakh and has reported liabilities amounting to Rs 62.83 crore. His wife, Swati Singh, has assets worth over Rs 65 lakh and liabilities of Rs 11.45 crore, while their children's assets range between Rs 22 lakh and Rs 55 lakh. Verma faces a case for violating the Model Code of Conduct, which further adds to the intrigue around his financial disclosures.

With both candidates vying for the prestigious New Delhi seat, their financial declarations offer insight into the wealth and controversies surrounding the political heavyweights.

# Delhi Polls: Congress Promises Rs 500 LPG Cylinder, Free Ration, Electricity

TPN Correspondent  
New Delhi, Jan 17

In the lead-up to the Delhi Assembly elections, Congress has announced a series of welfare promises aimed at securing votes from city residents. On Thursday, Telangana Chief Minister Revanth Reddy, along with AICC Delhi in-charge Qazi Nizamuddin and Delhi Congress chief Devender Yadav, revealed key pledges, including a Rs 500 LPG cylinder, free ration kits, and free electricity up to 300 units for residents if the party wins the election.

Reddy emphasized that the Congress party was committed to fulfilling its guarantees if elected to power in Delhi. "Congress will fulfill its five guarantees if it is elected to power in Delhi," he stated at a press conference.

Earlier in January, Congress had announced two other initiatives, further adding to their promises for Delhi voters. On January 6, the party introduced the 'Pyaari Didi Yojana,' which includes a monthly monetary grant of Rs 2,500 to women in Delhi. Two days later, Congress rolled out the 'Jeevan Raksha Yojana,' offering free health insurance coverage of up to Rs 25 lakh.

Additionally, the party pledged to give Rs 8,500 every month to educated unemployed youths in Delhi for one year. Polling for the 70-member Delhi Assembly will take place on February 5, with votes being counted on February 8.



# Delhi Election Dates Announced

Voting On February 5, Result On February 8  
Over 2 lakh first-time voters will cast their ballots

TPN Correspondent  
New Delhi, Jan 17

The Election Commission of India has announced that Delhi Assembly elections will be held on February 5, with the results to be declared on February 8. The city, which has 70 constituencies including 12 reserved ones, will host the election at 13,033 polling stations.

The polling will be conducted in a single phase, and the last date for filing nominations is January 17, with the last date for withdrawals set for January 20. Following the announcement, the model code of conduct has been enforced in the city.

Chief Election Commissioner Rajiv Kumar revealed that over 1.55 crore voters are expected to cast their votes, with more than 2 lakh first-time voters making their debut at the polls. To ensure accessibility, special provisions will be made for the elderly and people with disabilities, including the option for those above 85 years of age to vote from home.

Both ruling AAP and opposition BJP have geared up for intense campaigning. AAP chief Arvind Kejriwal urged party workers to leave no stone unturned, emphasizing the election as one between "the politics of work and the politics of abuses." Meanwhile, BJP president lauded the poll announcement and urged voters to choose a government focused on the city's development.

The Election Commission also addressed concerns about the safety and integrity of Electronic Voting Machines (EVMs), reaffirming that the machines are tamper-proof and have consistently upheld free and fair elections. Additionally, both the AAP and BJP have accused each other of manipulating voter lists, but the Election Commission assured that it follows a thorough and transparent process in updating voter rolls.

With AAP aiming for a third consecutive term, BJP looking to regain control, and Congress seeking to challenge both parties, the upcoming Delhi Assembly election promises to be a closely watched contest.



# "Anti-National": Mamata Banerjee, Union Minister Trade Barbs Over Mohan Bhagwat

TPN Correspondent  
Kolkata, Jan 17

Bengal Chief Minister Mamata Banerjee on Thursday slammed RSS chief Mohan Bhagwat's controversial statement that the consecration of the Ram Temple in Ayodhya marked "the true independence of Bharat," calling it an attempt to distort history.

Banerjee, a vocal critic of the BJP and Prime Minister Narendra Modi, strongly condemned Bhagwat's remark, calling it "anti-national." She asserted, "We are dedicated to keeping our independence intact, and we are ready to sacrifice our lives for India, but we will not tolerate this."

In response, Junior Education Minister Sukunta Majumdar of the Union government quickly fired back, labeling Banerjee as "anti-national" and referencing her refusal to provide land for the Border Security Force to build a fence along the Bangladesh border.

Banerjee's criticism of Bhagwat's statement about India's independence drew immediate support from opposition leaders, with Congress leader Rahul Gandhi also condemning the remark. Speaking at the inauguration of the Congress' new Delhi office on Wednesday, Gandhi claimed that had Bhagwat made such a comment in any other country, he would have been arrested. "To say India did not get independence in 1947 is an insult to every single Indian," he stated. The confrontation between Banerjee and the BJP is not just over Bhagwat's remarks but also points to a larger ideological divide. Gandhi accused the RSS and BJP of having "captured every single institution of our country," while asserting that the Congress party was now fighting "the Indian State itself."

BJP President JP Nadda responded to Gandhi's comments by accusing the Congress of having links with "urban Naxals" and a "Deep State" that seeks to undermine India's integrity. Nadda further attacked the Congress, saying its pursuit of power had compromised the nation's unity. "But the people of India have rejected this rotten ideology," Nadda added.

# Centre Approves 8th Pay Commission to Revise Salaries, Pensions

TPN Correspondent  
New Delhi, Jan 17

In a significant move, the central government has approved the formation of the 8th Pay Commission to revise the salaries of central government employees and pension allowances for retirees. The decision was announced by I&B Minister Ashwini Vaishnaw on Thursday, stating that Prime Minister Narendra Modi has given the green signal for the initiative.

The current 7th Pay Commission is set to complete its term in 2026. The establishment of the new commission in 2025 is aimed at ensuring timely recommendations before the term of the existing pay panel concludes.



"Prime Minister Modi has approved the formation of the 8th Central Pay Commission for central government employees. The chairman and two members will be appointed shortly," Vaishnaw confirmed.

- **The revision will impact 49 lakh**

central government employees and 65 lakh pensioners.

- **The 8th Pay Commission will commence work in 2025 to ensure recommendations are ready before 2026.**
- **Inputs from central and state governments and other stakeholders will shape the panel's recommendations.**

Since independence, seven pay commissions have been constituted to revise salary structures, benefits, and allowances for government employees. State-owned organizations typically adopt these recommendations as well. The 7th Pay Commission, established in 2014, implemented its recommendations starting January 1, 2016.



# Is Hindenburg Trying to Avoid Probe?

## Questions Arise Amid Shutdown Announcement

TPN Correspondent  
New Delhi, Jan 17

The decision by US-based short seller Hindenburg Research to shut down has sparked widespread speculation and raised questions about its motives, particularly in light of its high-profile targeting of the Adani Group. The announcement by Hindenburg founder Nate Anderson comes just days before the inauguration of President-elect Donald Trump, adding a layer of intrigue.

- **Founder Nate Anderson claims the firm has completed its projects.**
- **Announcement follows Supreme Court orders for a probe into Adani allegations.**
- **Experts and political figures cite potential motives linked to destabilizing Indian markets.**

Senior lawyer Sidharth Luthra questioned the timing of Hindenburg's disbanding, especially as Indian and US authorities consider



a joint investigation into its allegations against the Adani Group. "If he [Anderson] is so certain of his findings, he should cooperate with the probe rather than shutting down," Luthra said.

Political analyst Rajat Sethi criticized Hindenburg for its alleged influence on India's financial markets, suggesting that the firm's actions spooked investors and

caused significant losses. "This is a sad day for investors and a misstep for those who relied on external agencies rather than India's own judicial and investigative systems," Sethi said.

Rajya Sabha MP and senior lawyer Mahesh Jethmalani described the shutdown as a sign of deeper implications, potentially involving scrutiny by US authorities or fears

of investigations related to targeting Adani Group shares. Jethmalani went further, alleging that Hindenburg's actions were part of a larger plot by what he termed the "democratic deep state" led by billionaire George Soros, calling it "economic terrorism" against India. Foreign Affairs Expert Abhijit Iyer-Mitra highlighted Hindenburg's lack of transparency regarding its operations, including undisclosed funders and employees. "For a company that claims to bring transparency, their own lack of it is alarming. The timing of this shutdown raises serious questions about external pressures or potential illegality," he remarked. Hindenburg's abrupt disbanding has led to mounting speculation over its motives and the larger implications for India's financial markets. As the fallout continues, questions about accountability, transparency, and the potential for deeper geopolitical influences remain at the forefront of the debate.

## "Conflicts, Wars to Become More Violent, Unpredictable": Rajnath Singh



TPN Correspondent  
Pune, Jan 17

Defence Minister Rajnath Singh has underscored the rising unpredictability and intensity of modern conflicts and wars, highlighting the growing role of non-state actors and terrorism as critical challenges. Speaking at the 'Gaurav Gatha' event in Pune as part of the 77th Army Day celebrations, Singh emphasized the need for the Armed Forces to transform into a modern warfare machine to address these evolving threats.

- **Increasingly violent and unpredictable, with emerging cyber, space, and narrative warfare.**
- **Robust defence systems and a strong military critical for achieving India's vision of Viksit Bharat by 2047.**
- **Record domestic defence production of ₹1.27 lakh crore and exports surpassing ₹21,000 crore.**

Addressing senior Army officials and personnel, Singh stated, "The rapid technological advancements and emergence of cyber and space domains as new war zones demand holistic capacity building and reforms within the military. Alongside, a war of narrative and perception is also being fought globally."

Singh emphasized the necessity of a strong security apparatus for India's transition from a developing to a developed nation. "A secure nation with strong borders is essential for meaningful societal contributions. No nation can progress without a powerful military," he said.

Highlighting progress towards achieving 'Aatmanirbharta,' Singh shared that domestic defence production reached a record ₹1.27 lakh crore in the last financial year, while defence exports exceeded ₹21,000 crore, a sharp rise from ₹2,000 crore a decade ago.

"A nation like India cannot rely on others for its security. Today, we manufacture military equipment domestically and export them, making significant strides in self-reliance," he added. The government has introduced over 5,500 items in its indigenisation lists and is advancing reforms to strengthen the defence sector.

### 2025: Year of Defence Reforms

Singh announced that 2025 will mark the "Year of Reforms" for the Ministry of Defence, focusing on modernizing the Armed Forces and enhancing their capabilities. "With these efforts, India is on course to become Viksit Bharat and establish one of the strongest militaries in the world," he asserted. During the event, the Defence Minister virtually laid the foundation stone for the Army Paralympic Node at Dighi, Pune. He expressed confidence that the facility would inspire specially-abled soldiers to excel and contribute significantly to the nation.

## US Removes Restrictions on Three Indian Nuclear Entities

TPN Correspondent  
Washington/New Delhi, Jan 17

In a landmark decision, the United States has lifted restrictions on three key Indian nuclear entities—Bhabha Atomic Research Centre (BARC), Indira Gandhi Atomic Research Centre (IGCAR), and Indian Rare Earths (IRE). The announcement was made by the US Bureau of Industry and Security (BIS), marking a significant step in strengthening India-US civil nuclear cooperation.

This move comes over a week after National Security Advisor Jake Sullivan revealed plans to remove regulatory barriers to facilitate a civil nuclear partnership between Indian and American firms.

Principal Deputy Assistant Secretary of Commerce for Export Administration, Matthew Borman, stated that the decision aligns with the broader strategic goals of the India-US partnership. "The removal of these entities enables closer collaboration to secure resilient critical mineral and clean energy supply chains," he said. The India-US civil nuclear agreement, initiated in July 2005 during the tenure of Prime Minister Manmohan Singh and US President George W. Bush, was envisioned to allow the sharing of civilian nuclear technology between the two nations. However, its full implementation has been delayed due to regulatory hurdles.

Jake Sullivan, speaking at IIT-Delhi last week, acknowledged this gap, stating, "Though former President Bush and Prime Minister Singh laid out a vision for civil nuclear cooperation nearly two decades ago, we have yet to fully realise it."

## TikTok Ban in the US??



TPN Correspondent  
Washington, DC, Jan 17

The US will officially ban TikTok, owned by China's ByteDance, on Sunday unless a last-minute deal to sell the app to a US investor or intervention from the Supreme Court occurs. This marks the first attempt to block an app with a massive user base of 170 million domestic users.

The ban stems from a law signed by President Joe Biden in April, targeting US-based services crucial for TikTok's operation. This approach limits workarounds like VPNs or altering device settings. App stores like Apple and Google will remove TikTok, ceasing updates and bug fixes, while Oracle, which hosts TikTok's US data, is expected to halt operations.

Though users won't be forced to delete TikTok, its functionality will diminish, with uploading videos likely to be the first feature impacted. The app may display messages about the ban and allow users to download their data. Experts suggest that switching phone settings or using web versions won't fully restore the app's capabilities.

The move mirrors India's decision in 2020 to ban TikTok and other Chinese apps, citing security concerns. Experts believe this US action could encourage other countries to adopt similar restrictions on Chinese apps, amplifying global scrutiny of their data practices and influence on national security.

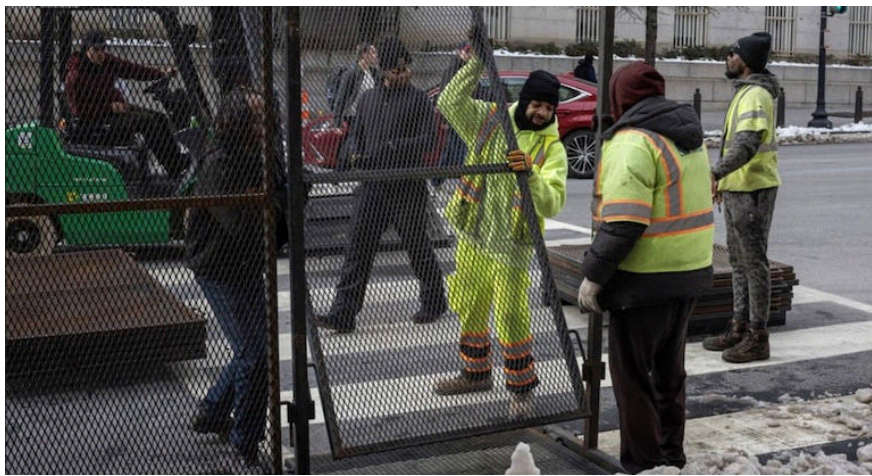
## Washington Turns Fortress for Trump's Inauguration

TPN Correspondent  
Washington, DC, Jan 17

In an unprecedented security operation, Washington, DC, has been fortified ahead of President-elect Donald Trump's inauguration on January 20. Authorities have deployed 7,800 National Guard troops and 25,000 police officers, while 48 kilometers of fencing and concrete barriers span the capital to prevent potential attacks.

The oath-taking ceremony will occur on the Capitol steps, the same site of the January 6, 2021, riot. "We are in a higher-threat environment," noted Secret Service Agent Matt McCool, emphasizing vigilance despite no confirmed threats.

Officials remain alert to lone-wolf attackers following recent



incidents, including a machete seizure at the Capitol. Protestors, including anti-Trump groups and his supporters, are expected to gather in large numbers over the weekend, with 25,000 participants projected for demonstrations.

Security expert Juliette Kayyem remarked, "It's better to overprepare and ratchet down than the reverse." With global leaders attending, the inauguration is set to be among the most militarized in US history.

## Singapore President Tharman Shanmugaratnam in Delhi



TPN Correspondent  
New Delhi, Jan 17

Singapore President Tharman Shanmugaratnam received a ceremonial welcome at Rashtrapati Bhawan this morning as he commenced his state visit to India.

"India was one of the first countries to recognize our independence," said Singapore President Tharman Shanmugaratnam during his state visit to India. He emphasized the deep ties between the two nations, terming India and Singapore as "natural part-

ners." Highlighting areas of collaboration, he announced, "A data corridor between GIFT City and Singapore is being planned, with a strong focus on MRO (Maintenance, Repair, and Overhaul), skilling, and semiconductor development."

The visit is set to bolster cooperation in key sectors, with plans for a data corridor between Gujarat's GIFT City and Singapore, along with enhanced focus on Maintenance, Repair, and Overhaul (MRO) services, skilling initiatives, and semiconductor development.

The visit underscores the strategic partnership between the two nations, emphasizing shared goals in technology and innovation.

## India Achieves Historic Feat with Successful Spacecraft Docking

TPN Correspondent  
Andhra Pradesh, Jan 17

India has officially joined the elite league of spacefaring nations capable of spacecraft docking, becoming the fourth country after the US, Russia, and China to achieve this milestone. The Indian Space Research Organization (ISRO) announced the success of its Space Docking Experiment (SpaDex) on Thursday, stating, "Spacecraft docking successfully completed! A historic moment."

The mission involved two 220-kg spacecraft, Target and Chaser, launched on December 30

aboard a PSLV rocket from the Satish Dhawan Space Center. After entering low-earth orbit, the spacecraft performed a rendezvous and docked together, marking a pivotal achievement for India's future space missions.

Prime Minister Narendra Modi lauded the accomplishment, calling it a "significant stepping stone" for India's ambitious space ambitions. "Congratulations to our scientists at ISRO and the entire space fraternity for the successful demonstration of space docking of satellites," he posted on X.

This milestone underscores India's growing stature as a global space power.





## Markets Rally for Third Straight Session on Strong Global Signals and Investor Optimism

Domestic stock markets gained for the third consecutive session. They ended with good gains on Thursday. Positive signals were received from international markets. The US inflation data was better, the US Fed was in favor of cutting interest rates, and the dollar index, US bond and treasury yields cooled off a bit. The Hamas-Israel ceasefire agreement also worked in favor. Shares of Adani Group companies rose as short sellers announced that Hindenburg would shut down. Investors bought on the overall positive sentiment. Overall, the Sensex rose by 300 points and the Nifty by 90 points. Demand for shares of railways and public sector banks increased.



The BSE Sensex, which closed at 76,724 in the previous session, opened at 77,319 today. It reached an intraday low of 76,895.

It reached an intraday high of 77,319. It eventually gained 318 points to close at 77,042. The NSE Nifty, which opened at 23,377 on Thursday, touched a low of 23,273 and a high of 23,391. It closed at 23,311 with a total gain of 98 points. The Nifty Bank rose 572 points to settle at 49,278.

In the Nifty50, 33 shares gained while 17 lost. HDFC Life, BEL, SBI Life, Shriram Finance, Adani Ports were the top gainers. Trent, Dr. Reddy's, HCL Tech, Tata Consumer, and Infi lost the most. Today, FMCG, IT, Pharma, Consumer Durables indices rose. Bank, Finance, Media, Auto, Metal, PSU Bank, Private Bank, Realty indices rose.

Today, the market breadth in NSE is completely in favor of buyers. 2856 stocks gained while 699 lost. Shares of 24 companies reached 52-week highs. Shares of 35 companies touched 52-week lows. Investors can buy shares of AU Bank, SBI Card, Polycab, Policy Bazaar, SBI Life in the short term.

Infosys Q3 results are out. Net profit is Rs. 6806 crore. Revenue is Rs. 41,764 crore. Axis Bank's net profit rose 3.8% to Rs. 6304 crore. The rupee weakened by 19 paise to settle at 86.55 against the dollar. 55 lakh shares changed hands in a block deal at GMR Airports. Jefferies has given



a buy rating to HDFC Life with a target price of Rs 750. Analysts expect Reliance's net profit to rise by 6% and margins to expand. HSBC has given a buy rating to LT Tech with a target price of Rs 6000. Mastech's net profit rose 26% to Rs 95 crore from Rs 75 crore. Sugar stocks may underperform in 2025 as global prices fall. Chinese soda ash prices hit a one-month high. Shares of Adani group companies rose up to 7% as US short seller Hindenburg closed shop. IRFSH, RVNL, IRCON and other railway stocks rose on expectations that the central government will increase the railway budget by up to 20%. Bernstein has given an Outperform rating to Zomato with a target price of Rs 315. IDBI stocks rose by up to 12% as the divestment process entered the next phase.

### 1. AU Small Finance Bank (AU Bank)

AU Small Finance Bank is a fast-growing small finance bank with a focus on retail and MSME lending. It has a strong presence in semi-urban and rural areas, which provides significant growth opportunities. Focus on expanding its digital banking capabilities. Tailwinds from growing penetration in underserved markets. Potential risks include economic slowdowns affecting loan repayments.



### 2. SBI Cards and Payment Services (SBI Card)

SBI Card is a leading credit card issuer in India, leveraging its parent company SBI's extensive network for customer acquisition. Rising consumption and digital payment adoption are key driv-

ers. Risks include increasing competition and higher NPAs due to unsecured lending.



### 3. Polycab India Limited (Polycab)

Polycab is India's largest manufacturer of wires and cables, with a growing presence in FMEG (Fast Moving Electrical Goods) like fans, lights, and switches. Benefiting from government infrastructure initiatives and housing demand. Risks include commodity price fluctuations affecting raw material costs.



### 4. PB Fintech (PolicyBazaar)

PolicyBazaar is a leading digital platform for insurance and financial products. It has a strong market share and is benefiting from rising insurance penetration in India. Focus on scaling operations and improving profitability. Risks include competition from other fintech platforms and regulatory changes.



### 5. SBI Life Insurance (SBI Life)

SBI Life is one of the largest private life insurers in India, with a diversified product portfolio and a strong distribution network through SBI's branches. Rising awareness of insurance and favorable demographics are key growth drivers. Risks include regulatory changes and volatility in investment income.



## Reliance Industries Q3 FY25 Results: Net Profit Up 7.4%, Revenue Grows 6.7%

Reliance Industries Ltd (RIL), led by billionaire Mukesh Ambani, announced its earnings for the third quarter of FY25 on January 16, reporting strong performance across its key business segments, including oil-to-chemical (O2C), digital services, and retail.

The company's consolidated (O2C) business generated ₹149,595 crore in revenue for Q3FY25, reflecting a 6% increase from ₹141,096 crore in the same period last year. The O2C business saw a slight decline of 3.84% in revenue sequentially, but the domestic fuel retailing segment saw significant growth, with a 43.7% rise in Motor Spirit (MS) and 22.8% growth in High-



net profit for the third quarter stood at ₹18,540 crore, marking a 7.4% growth from ₹17,265 crore in the same period last year. Consolidated revenue for the quarter increased by 6.7% year-on-year (YoY), rising to ₹2.40 lakh crore from ₹2.25 lakh crore.

At the operational level, the company's Earnings Before Interest, Taxes, Depreciation and Amortisation (EBITDA) grew by 8% to ₹43,789 crore, compared to ₹40,656 crore YoY. The EBITDA margin improved by 20 basis points, reaching 18.3% from 18.1% in Q3FY24, driven by better refining margins and strong growth in digital services.

### Reliance O2C Business

Reliance's Oil-to-Chemicals

Speed Diesel (HSD).

EBITDA for the O2C segment increased by 2.4% YoY to ₹14,402 crore, supported by higher polymer deltas and volume-led growth. Mukesh Ambani highlighted the resilience of the O2C business amidst global energy market volatility, with refining margins recovering sequentially and petrochemical deltas showing a mixed trend.

### Jio Platforms Performance

Reliance Jio Platforms, the digital services arm of RIL, recorded a 19.4% YoY revenue growth, reaching ₹33,074 crore. The growth was driven by tariff revisions for mobility services and healthy expansion in the homes and digital services segments.

## Adani Group Stocks Rally As Hindenburg Shuts Shop, NDTV Surges Over 9%

Shares of Adani Group companies surged on Thursday, following the announcement of Hindenburg Research shutting down. The move by founder Nate Anderson, who had previously targeted billionaire Gautam Adani's businesses, triggered a rally in the market.



Shares of NDTV surged by 9.15%, while Ambuja Cements saw a rise of 3.88%. Other stocks like Adani Green Energy, Sanghi Industries, and Adani Power saw increases of 3.35%, 3.34%, and 2.45%, respectively. Other notable gains included Adani Ports (+2.03%), Adani Total Gas (+1.78%), Adani Enterprises (+1.74%), and Adani Energy Solutions (+1.54%). In intra-day trading, NDTV zoomed by 15.59%, while Adani Power surged by 9.21%, Adani Green Energy soared 8.86%, and other stocks continued to rise as well.

The combined market value of all 11 Adani Group firms now stands at Rs 12.92 lakh crore. This market surge follows

Hindenburg's shutdown announcement, which came a year after their January 2023 report accused the Adani Group of fraud and manipulation, causing a massive drop in market value. The group has vehemently denied the allegations. Anderson's decision to shut down Hindenburg was attributed to the intense nature of the work, although some critics linked it to external pressures, including alleged connections to George Soros and the incoming Trump administration.

The intense scrutiny on the Adani Group, sparked by Hindenburg's controversial report, now seems to be subsiding with this unexpected boost in stock values.

## Moody's: India's Fiscal Constraints to Limit Credit Strength in 2025

India's fiscal challenges will continue to hinder its credit strength in 2025, although the ongoing tensions in US-China relations may offer some economic benefits to the country, according to Moody's Ratings. In its latest report on Asia Pacific Sovereigns, Moody's highlighted that while India's growth and inflation are stabilizing, its fiscal conditions remain a significant concern.



Moody's projected only a gradual fiscal consolidation for India, with the country's debt remaining well above the median of around 57% for similarly rated Baa peers. Despite increases in government revenue over recent years, India's debt affordability is expected to remain much weaker than that of other countries with similar ratings.

While strong domestic demand is providing support to India's economy, global and regional financial conditions are only showing modest easing. The report also warned that proposed trade restrictions by the US could reduce economic output across the Asia-Pacific region.

Another key concern flagged by Moody's is

the persistent risk of political and social unrest in India. Geopolitical tensions in the region, particularly in the context of the ongoing US-China standoff, are expected to continue posing economic and fiscal risks throughout 2025. However, Moody's assessed the likelihood of military conflict in the Taiwan Strait or Korean Peninsula as low.

The shifting dynamics from the US-China trade and investment tensions may have a positive impact on India and other Southeast Asian economies as businesses and investments move away from China. Moody's suggested that this shift could provide India with an opportunity to attract more investment, thereby supporting its economic growth.

## India's Merchandise Exports Decline Slightly, Imports Rise in December 2024

India's merchandise exports experienced a minor dip of about 1% in December 2024, totaling \$38.01 billion compared to \$38.39 billion in the same month the previous year. This slight decrease reflects ongoing challenges in global trade, which continues to influence India's export performance.

In contrast, India's imports saw an increase of 4.8% in December 2024, rising to \$59.95 billion from \$57.15 billion in December 2023. The rise in imports is attributed to factors such as increased demand for essential goods and higher prices for certain commodities, particularly crude oil, which has a significant impact on India's overall import bill.

The widening gap between exports and imports led to an increase in the country's trade deficit. In December 2024, India's trade deficit stood at \$21.94 billion, up from \$18.76 billion in the same period last year. This represents a concerning trend as it reflects an imbalance between the country's imports and exports.

Government officials are closely monitoring the situation, particularly the drop in exports, as global demand remains uncertain due to factors such as ongoing geopolitical tensions and fluctuating commodity prices. Despite the decline in exports, sectors such as engineering goods, gems, and jewelry, as well as textiles, continued to show resilience, providing a silver lining in an other-



wise challenging landscape.

The government has been focusing on various initiatives to boost exports, including improving trade facilitation, negotiating new free trade agreements, and addressing logistics issues. As the global economic outlook remains unpredictable, India is working to mitigate the impacts of slowing exports while ensuring that its domestic industries remain competitive.



## Meet Junjun the Bear Cub: The Internet's Adorable New Superstar

Junjun, a one-year-old brown bear cub from Shanghai Zoo, has become an internet sensation thanks to his playful antics and undeniable resemblance to a mischievous puppy. The bear, standing 1 meter tall and weighing over 35 kilograms, is winning hearts online and at the zoo with his adorable and energetic behavior. Visitors and social media users alike can't get enough of his charm, sharing countless videos and pictures of him on various platforms.



winter, cementing his place as the zoo's little superstar.

Junjun's keeper, Yang Junjie, shared that the bear was hand-reared after being born at the zoo as the first offspring of his parents. Junjun was given toys, apples with honey, and plenty of attention, ensuring that he grew up to be as lively and playful as he is today. Initially, Yang was surprised by the influx of visitors, unaware that Junjun had become an online celebrity.

Junjun's favorite activities include playing with a well-worn tire and splashing around in water. His fluffy coat and puppy-like face have made him an instant favorite, with many visitors admiring his endearing movements and playful nature. His infectious energy and cuteness have made him the highlight of the Shanghai Zoo, drawing crowds of visitors who cheer him on with every move.

Even on quieter, colder weekdays, when the zoo sees fewer visitors, Junjun continues to attract a devoted following. Every two days, he greets his fans with a lively display of energy, proving that his appeal isn't limited to weekends or holidays. His playful spirit is bringing a sense of warmth and joy to Shanghai this

On social media, Junjun is often compared to Duffy, the teddy bear and Disney character, thanks to his cuddly appearance and playful demeanor. His favorite game is racing with his keepers, where he chases them before switching roles and letting them catch up. With his irresistible charm and boundless energy, Junjun is undoubtedly the internet's latest heart-throb.

## Mars Satellite Images Reveal Giant 'Kidney Beans,' Sparking Hints of Water and Life

Frozen dunes observed on the surface of Mars offer a unique opportunity for scientists to explore the planet's climate history and assess the possibility of past life. Carbon dioxide frost covering these dunes halts their usual movement, providing valuable insights into how seasonal changes shape the Martian landscape. Researchers are investigating whether Mars once had conditions suitable for liquid water, which could suggest the potential for microbial life.



NASA's Mars Reconnaissance Orbiter captured images of frozen sand dunes in Mars' northern hemisphere in 2022. Unlike Earth's deserts, where wind moves sand grains, these Martian dunes remain stationary during the winter due to a thick layer of carbon dioxide frost. This frost inhibits wind movement, causing the dunes to stay immobile until the warming spring temperatures allow the frost to sublimate, releasing the sand.

The presence of carbon dioxide frost, though not water, is an important clue in understanding Mars' past climate. Scientists believe that Mars' axial tilt is more extreme than Earth's, which leads to significant seasonal shifts over millions of years. During periods of higher tilt, Mars may

have experienced a thicker atmosphere, possibly creating conditions that supported liquid water on its surface for extended periods.

Studying the cycles of carbon dioxide frost and the patterns it forms could provide valuable information about Mars' environmental history. If evidence of stable liquid water surfaces is uncovered, it could support the theory that Mars was once habitable or may still harbor microbial life beneath its surface. This ongoing research into Mars' frozen dunes aims to uncover how its climate evolved over time and whether it ever provided conditions suitable for life.

As scientists continue to study these fascinating frozen features, they hope to piece together a more complete picture of the Red Planet's climatic past, deepening our understanding of its potential to support life and expanding the field of astrobiology.

## Man Asks ChatGPT For Its Hottest Take, AI's Response Is Trending



A casual request for ChatGPT's "hottest take" has gone viral, sparking a fascinating conversation about modern work culture and capitalism. What started as a lighthearted interaction on Reddit soon turned into a thought-provoking critique of the popular workplace mantra, "Work smarter, not harder."

A Reddit user, curious about the AI's perspective, asked ChatGPT to share its "hottest take." The AI's response was anything but what the user expected. Rather than offering a humorous or controversial opinion, ChatGPT delivered a sharp analysis: "The phrase 'work smarter, not harder' is just capitalism trying to convince you to squeeze more out of yourself for the same paycheck."

Surprised by this response, the user sought clarification, assuming that "working smarter" was all about reducing effort and workload. To this, ChatGPT explained, "On the surface, 'work smarter, not harder' sounds great—efficiency, less effort, more time for yourself, right? But in practice, it often translates into 'figure out how to be more productive with fewer resources,' which ultimately benefits your employer far more than it benefits you."

In its analysis, ChatGPT revealed how the popular phrase, often meant to encourage efficiency, can be twisted by companies as a way to push workers to do more with less. While individuals may indeed save time by optimizing their workflows, this often results in being given even more tasks to complete within the same time frame, without any corresponding increase in pay or recognition. The AI suggested that workers might be better off channeling their energy into finding ways to work smarter for themselves rather than simply conforming to the expectations of employers.

This unanticipated take on a common workplace saying has garnered attention online, with many people resonating with the AI's critique of modern capitalism. The exchange has sparked further discussions about the true meaning of "working smarter" and how it often serves to benefit organizations at the expense of employees' well-being and compensation.

## Australian Woman Slams Chinese Restaurant For Charging Rs 32,000 For Live Lobster

What was supposed to be an enjoyable Friday night out quickly turned into a jaw-dropping experience for Reanna Ho, an Australian woman, when she received an eye-popping bill of approximately Rs 50,605 at a Chinese restaurant in Perth. Ho, dining with a group of eight, had ordered a total of eight dishes at Canton Lane Chinese Restaurant. However, it was the "live lobster" that significantly inflated the final cost, with one lobster alone priced at a staggering \$615 (about Rs 32,968).



Ho was informed by the staff that the price of the lobster would depend on its weight and market price, but she claims that no specific details were provided about the cost when the dish was brought to the table. After paying the hefty bill, she decided to call the restaurant the following

day to inquire about the charges. It was then that she learned the lobster weighed 4.5 pounds (2.04 kg) and was priced at \$120 (Rs 9,916) per pound.

In a Facebook post detailing her experience, Ho shared her frustrations, stating that while she had paid the bill, something felt

off. She also pointed out that the restaurant did not inform her about the additional \$15 (Rs 803) charge for extra servings of noodles, further adding to the surprise cost.

Ho's post quickly gained attention on social media, with many expressing their disbelief at the high price of the lobster and the lack of transparency about the costs. The incident has sparked a wider discussion about dining transparency and the importance of clear communication between restaurants and customers, especially regarding pricing and additional charges.

While Ho's experience may have left her with a bitter taste, it serves as a reminder for consumers to always ask for clarification on prices and potential hidden costs when dining out.

## Japan's Sea Women The Guardians Of Japan's Underwater Heritage

Off the coast of Japan's Ise-Shima National Park, a unique tradition has endured for centuries, with women diving into the ocean to gather fresh seafood. These women, known as ama divers or "sea women," have relied on the sea for their livelihood, using only basic tools and their diving skills to harvest sea creatures such as urchins and turban shells from the seabed.

One such diver is Aiko Ohno, who moved to Ise-Shima from Tokyo nine years ago. "I just love the sea and being in the water," she shared with CNN. Equipped with goggles, fins, a weight belt, and a sukari (a mesh net attached to a floating ring), Ohno dives to depths of up to three meters, all without the aid of an oxygen tank.

The ama divers follow a long-standing tradition of living in harmony with nature, deeply



respecting the ocean's resources. Ohno, 46, explains, "We coexist with nature — not catching too much, and being conscious of protecting it. It's a tradition that's

been passed down for thousands of years."

Despite the occasional rough waters, Ohno and her crew of free-

divers are quick in their work, with their nets filling with seafood in under 10 minutes. Age is no barrier for the ama divers — while Ohno is one of the younger members, at 46, the oldest diver in the group is a sprightly 74.

However, the ama tradition is slowly disappearing, with fewer young women pursuing the craft. Currently, only around 2,000 ama divers remain in Japan, mostly based in the Ise-Shima region. Ohno noted, "Nowadays, very few of the amas' daughters become divers themselves, so I will likely be the only one in my generation to take over. But it's something I love."

Ise-Shima, a picturesque region known for its rich traditions and natural beauty, is home to these extraordinary women, preserving a deeply rooted way of life and their unique relationship with the ocean.



## Sindhu and Kiran George Power Through to Quarterfinals at India Open Super 750

Two-time Olympic medallist PV Sindhu and rising star Kiran George both delivered strong performances to secure spots in the quarterfinals at the India Open Super 750 badminton tournament in New Delhi on Thursday.

Sindhu, the former world champion, made quick work of Japan's world No. 46 Manami Suizu, winning 21-15, 21-13. Sindhu, who is known for her powerful smashes, dominated the match from the outset. She built a solid lead in the first game, going up 11-6 at the break. Suizu briefly closed the gap to 13-14, but Sindhu's sharp smashes and deep returns kept her opponent at bay. With a 20-14 lead, Sindhu sealed the first game when Suizu hit a shot into the net. In the second game, Sindhu surged to an early 5-0 lead, further establishing her dominance. She led 11-2 at the interval and never looked back, closing the game with a comprehensive win.

Meanwhile, Kiran George produced an impressive comeback in the men's singles to keep the home flag flying. Facing French shuttler Alex Lanier, who initially took a 6-1 lead, Kiran fought back with resilience. Despite being down 14-20 in the first game,



Kiran saved six game points and went on an eight-point streak to take the game 22-20. The second game saw Kiran maintain his momentum, leading 14-11 before securing a comfortable 21-13 win. His mental toughness and patience were key in his victory.

"I was focused on taking it one point at a time, and I think that helped me win the

first game," Kiran said after the match. "This win is a huge confidence booster, and I'm looking forward to the next match."

Sindhu will face Paris Olympics bronze medallist Gregoria Mariska Tunjung in the quarterfinals, while Kiran will take on China's Hong Yang Weng.

## Lakshya, Priyanshu, and Prannoy Exit in Round One as Men's Singles Struggles Continue

It wasn't too long ago that Priyanshu Rajawat stood at the center of the podium in Bangkok, lifting the coveted Thomas Cup trophy alongside the stalwarts of Indian badminton—Srikanth Kidambi, HS Prannoy, and Lakshya Sen. Together, these players helped India claim the World Champions title in the prestigious team event, a remarkable achievement that was, perhaps, underappreciated at the time but nonetheless a massive high for Indian badminton.

Fast forward just under 1000 days, and the landscape of men's singles badminton in India appears to have taken a stark downturn. At the India Open Super 750 this week, none of those prominent singles players managed to make it past the first round. Priyanshu Rajawat and HS Prannoy both fought hard but lost in three games, while Lakshya Sen seemed far from his best, succumbing to a straight-games defeat. Srikanth Kidambi, once the pride of Indian badminton, didn't even compete—his world ranking no longer high enough to secure a spot in the main draw. Despite getting a late call-up, Srikanth pulled out of the event entirely.



On a cold, foggy day in Delhi, it was hard to ignore the overwhelming sense of gloom surrounding India's men's singles. The team that once stood victorious on the world stage is now struggling to find its footing in international tournaments. The once promising stars are now facing challenges they didn't anticipate, and the optimism that surrounded their earlier achievements seems to be fading.

This shift in fortunes has left many questioning what went wrong. The Indian men's singles players, once full of promise, now find themselves grappling with inconsistency and the pressures of international competition. The India Open was meant to be a chance for redemption, but instead, it showcased just how far these players have fallen since their high point at the Thomas Cup.

## Kiran George Stuns Alex Lanier with Remarkable Comeback at India Open

Kiran George delivered an inspiring performance to become the last Indian men's singles player standing at the India Open Super 750, as he stunned France's Alex Lanier to reach the quarterfinals. The Indian shuttler, ranked world No. 38, pulled off a thrilling victory over the French No. 1 and world No. 17 in a match that lasted just 46 minutes, winning 22-20, 21-13.

The match turned dramatically in the first game when Kiran was trailing 14-20 and faced a daunting 8 game points. However, the 22-year-old showed remarkable resilience and composure under pressure, turning the tide with an extraordinary run of 8 consecutive points. His patience and focus, combined with some uncharacteristic errors from Lanier, helped him stage a stunning comeback to win the first game 22-20.



Having gained momentum from the remarkable recovery, Kiran dominated the second game. His confidence grew as he played with more precision and aggression, sealing the game 21-13. With the win, Kiran George secured his spot in the quarterfinals, continuing his impressive campaign at the prestigious tournament.

This victory is a testament to Kiran's growing stature in international badminton. His mental toughness and ability to turn the game around under pressure have earned him widespread admiration. After overcoming such a tough challenge, Kiran will now look to continue his impressive run in the India Open as he eyes a place in the semifinals.

## New Zealand's Historic Test Series Win Against India Nominated for Halberg Awards

In a remarkable achievement, New Zealand created history in November 2024 by whitewashing India 3-0 in a three-match Test series on Indian soil. This stunning victory has now earned a nomination for the prestigious Halberg Awards, which celebrate the best sporting moments from New Zealand each year.



The Halberg Awards recognize excellence across a variety of categories, including sportsmen, sportswomen, para-athletes, teams, coaches, and emerging talent. Additionally, the awards honor leadership in sport and the favorite moments that captured the public's imagination.

New Zealand's historic win in India has captured the attention of the sports world, especially considering India's dominant position in world cricket. The comprehensive 3-0 series sweep is a testament to the skill, determination, and resilience of the New Zealand team, who defied the odds to achieve a feat no other team has managed before.

This series win has undoubtedly earned New Zealand a prominent spot in the Halberg Awards' sporting moments category,

with the victory being hailed as one of the most significant accomplishments in the country's cricketing history. The team's exceptional performance, including their tactical brilliance and consistency, was a key factor in overcoming a strong Indian side on home turf.

The Halberg Awards will not only celebrate the collective achievements of the New Zealand cricket team but will also highlight individual performances that stood out during this historic series. As the awards ceremony draws near, fans and experts alike will be eagerly awaiting to see if New Zealand's historic triumph will take center stage at the event.

## Taylor Fritz and Alex de Minaur Advance to Third Round of Australian Open

Top-seeded players Taylor Fritz and Alex de Minaur secured their places in the third round of the Australian Open on Thursday with impressive victories over qualifiers Cristian Garin and Tristan Boyer. Both players completed their matches within a minute of each other, with Fritz defeating Garin in just 82 minutes, 6-2, 6-1, 6-0, while de Minaur, the eighth seed and local favorite, took down Boyer in just under two hours, 6-2, 6-4, 6-3.

Fritz, who is competing at his highest-ever Grand Slam seeding, continued his strong form after a dominant first-round performance. The world number four overwhelmed Garin with 24 winners, winning 80 percent of his first serve points and 60 percent on second serves. His clinical display highlighted his confidence and form heading into the third round.

After the match, Fritz shared his excitement, saying, "It always feels great to come out and play a match like that. I played well in the first round too, so I am high in confidence going into the third round. This is awesome."

In addition to his on-court success, Fritz made headlines for his generous contribution. He announced that he would donate the 132,000 Australian dollars he earned from his first-round prize money to relief efforts for the recent fires in Los Angeles, showcasing his commitment to supporting those in need.

Meanwhile, de Minaur, the local favorite, also delivered a solid performance against Boyer. The Australian showcased his speed and skill to clinch a straight-sets win, advancing to the next round with relative ease.

With both Fritz and de Minaur continuing their strong runs, tennis fans are eagerly looking forward to seeing how the top seeds will fare in the next stages of the Australian Open.



## Brahma Anandam Teaser: A Wholesome Family Entertainer with Comedy at its Core

The much-anticipated teaser for Brahma Anandam was unveiled today in a grand launch event, and it promises to be a delightful family entertainer. Featuring the legend-



ary Brahmanandam and his son Raja Goutham, the film brings together the real-life father-son duo in fictional roles as a grandfather and grandson. This heartwarming film is set to offer a perfect blend of humor, emotions, and fun.

In the teaser, Raja Goutham plays a young man full of hopelessness but attempts to project himself as a helpful and good-natured person through his voiceover. His friend, portrayed by Venela Kishore, adds to the humor with witty dialogues that reveal his true nature. Raja's character is depicted as a person desperate to earn money but constantly facing setbacks, which sets the stage for the comedic elements to unfold.

The real twist arrives when Brahmanandam enters Raja's life, where Raja initially perceives him as a burden. Their relationship evolves, and the dynamic between the grandfather and grandson becomes the highlight of the teaser, offering viewers plenty of funny

and light-hearted moments.

The teaser also introduces the love track between Raja Goutham and Priya Vadlamani, which adds a sweet romantic touch to the narrative. Their chemistry looks promising, and it promises to be a major subplot in the film. Key roles are played by Sampath Raj, Rajeev Kanakala, and Aishwarya Holakkal, all of whom contribute to the film's vibrant energy.

Music director Sandilya Pisapati has provided an impressive score that complements the film's light-hearted tone. Brahma Anandam marks the directorial debut of RVS Nikhil, and the film is being produced by Rahul Yadav Nakka under the banner of Swadharm Entertainments, with Smt. Savithry and Sri Umesh Yadav presenting it.

With a blend of comedy, family values, and engaging performances, Brahma Anandam is sure to be a wholesome cinematic experience. Keep an eye out for more updates on this exciting project.

Victory Venkatesh's \*Sankranthiki Vasthunnam\* is creating a massive buzz at the box office, raking in impressive numbers during the festive Sankranti season. The film has achieved a remarkable feat, grossing over 77 crore worldwide within just two days of its release. With strong performances in Andhra Pradesh, Telangana, and overseas markets, the movie is well on its way to crossing the 100 crore mark in only three days.

The film has been received positively by both critics and audiences, with many praising its family-friendly content and entertainment value. The festive season has certainly worked in its favor, as the movie appeals to a wide range of viewers, especially families looking for a wholesome cinematic experience. It has stood out amidst a competitive Sankranti release lineup, further boosting its box-office numbers.

\*Sankranthiki Vasthunnam\* is nearing the significant milestone of earning one million dollars in North America, which adds to its growing success on the international front. Trade experts predict that the film will quickly enter the profit zone and continue its successful run in theaters for weeks to come.

This collaboration between Venkatesh and director Anil Ravipudi is proving to be a golden one, as they are on track to complete a hat-trick of blockbusters with this film. Both the actor and director have previously delivered massive hits, and \*Sankranthiki Vasthunnam\* looks set to become their biggest success yet.

With such high demand, more screens have been added starting from the third day of its release. Bookings for the film remain strong, signaling that its box-office journey is far from over. If it continues at this pace, \*Sankranthiki Vasthunnam\* could soon become the highest-grossing film of Venkatesh's career, further cementing his place in the industry.

## Sankranthiki Vasthunnam Surpasses 77 Cr Heading for a 100 Cr Milestone



## Jagapathi Babu Shares Excitement Over His Transformation for RC 16

Jagapathi Babu, who once ruled the silver screen as a leading hero, has successfully reinvented himself in recent years, embracing roles as villains and pivotal characters in several major films. His shift to these roles has added depth and intrigue to the films he's been part of, with his strong presence enhancing the overall appeal of many high-profile projects. One of his most anticipated roles is in the upcoming film, tentatively titled RC 16, directed by Buchi Babu Sana and starring Ram Charan.

Recently, Jagapathi Babu took to social media to share an exclusive behind-the-scenes video, offering fans a glimpse into his character's transformation for the film. The actor expressed his excitement, revealing how pleased he was with his new look. "After a long time, Buchi Babu Sana gave me good work for RC 16. I'm very happy with my look in the movie," said Jagapathi Babu. This has sparked intense curi-

osity among fans, who are eager to see the actor in this fresh role.

RC 16 also features Janhvi Kapoor as the female lead, with renowned actor Shiva Rajkumar and talented actor Divyendu Sharma rounding out the cast. The movie is further elevated by the musical genius of Oscar-winning composer AR Rahman, ensuring a memorable soundtrack. Cinematographer Ratnavelu and editor Avinash Kolla are also part of the project, bringing their expertise to the table.

This pan-Indian project is presented by Mythri Movie Makers, with Vriddhi Cinemas and Sukumar Writings backing the film as producers. With a big-budget scale and a stellar team behind it, RC 16 is already one of the most eagerly awaited films of the year. As production continues, more details about the film and its storyline will be unveiled, and fans are eagerly awaiting the next chapter in Jagapathi Babu's career.

## Title Announced for Tamil Dubbing Film: Ajith's Vidaamuyarchi Becomes Pattudala

Recently, Telugu audiences have voiced their dissatisfaction with Tamil films being released in Telugu without much effort to adapt them to local preferences. A decade ago, filmmakers paid great attention to dubbing films for the Telugu market, not only changing the title but also re-writing dialogues to suit the cultural nuances. However, this practice has seen a decline in recent years, with many films retaining their original Tamil titles. In a refreshing change, the team behind Ajith's upcoming film Vidaamuyarchi has announced a dedicated Telugu title, Pattudala.

Ajith, a hugely popular Tamil actor, also has a large fanbase in Telugu-speaking states. However, his previous films, such as Valimai and Thunivu, were released with their original Tamil titles, which sparked frustration among many Telugu fans. The lack of changes in the titles and dialogues in these films led to dissatisfaction, especially with Thunivu, which was released as Tegimpu in Telugu, further aggravating fans.



The controversy surrounding the Telugu releases of Tamil films reached a peak with the launch of Rajinikanth's Vettaiyaan, which was released with its Tamil title intact. The film's team had to hold a press conference to explain their decision to retain the same title across the pan-India release. Titles like Raayan, Thanagan, and Kanguva also faced backlash from Telugu audiences who felt the language and cultural integrity of the film was not being respected.

The announcement of the Telugu title Pattudala for Vidaamuyarchi marks a turning point in how Tamil filmmakers approach Telugu audiences. It seems that the filmmakers have taken the feedback seriously, acknowledging the importance of respecting the Telugu language and culture in the dubbing process. The film's theatrical trailer will be launched later today, and Pattudala is scheduled for release next month, offering Telugu fans a much-anticipated film with a localized touch.

After the massive success of Hanu-Man, Teja Sajja is back with another thrilling project, Mirai. This upcoming action-adventure film promises to captivate audiences with its exciting storyline, which revolves around a secret that could rewrite history. Directed by Karthik Ghatamaneni, Mirai is produced by TG Vishwa Prasad under the banner of People Media Factory. The film's first glimpse has already generated an overwhelming response, raising expectations for what's to come.

In celebration of Sankranti, the makers unveiled a new poster that offers a sneak peek into the world of Mirai. The poster features Teja Sajja in his superhero avatar as Super Yodha, showcasing his remarkable powers. The image, captured with expert precision by Karthik Ghatamaneni—who is also the film's director and cinematographer—shows Teja standing boldly in the midst of a crumbling temple, wielding a stick

as chaos surrounds him. This powerful visual underscores the bravery and strength of his character, setting the tone for the intense action sequences that will unfold in the film.

Mirai is shaping up to be a global phenomenon, with a release planned in 8 languages worldwide. The film is set to hit theaters on April 18, 2025, in both 2D and 3D formats, allowing fans around the globe to experience the superhero action in full cinematic glory.

Teja Sajja's portrayal of Super Yodha is expected to further solidify his place in the action genre, following the success of Hanu-Man. With a compelling storyline, stunning visuals, and high-octane action sequences, Mirai promises to be a cinematic adventure that will leave audiences on the edge of their seats. As the summer release date approaches, fans eagerly await the unfolding of this gripping tale.

## Mirai: Teja Sajja Unleashes Superhero Powers in Action-Packed Adventure

