



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

KTR Faces 7-Hour ED Interrogation

ED Investigates Fund Transfers to Foreign Company Without RBI Approval

BRS Leaders Confirm Completion of KTR's Interrogation

KTR Offers to Undergo Lie Detector Test, Challenges Revanth Reddy

KTR Reaffirms Full Cooperation with ED, Slams Political Motivations

TPN Correspondent | Hyderabad | Jan 17: BRS Working President K.T. Rama Rao (KTR) underwent a lengthy seven-hour questioning at the Enforcement Directorate (ED) office today, in connection with the Formula-E car race case. KTR arrived at the ED office at 10:30 AM, where he was grilled by the investigation team on multiple aspects of the case, particularly regarding the transfer of funds to a foreign company without permission from the Reserve Bank of India (RBI).



The ED has filed another case related to the payment of funds to a foreign company, citing violations of the Foreign Exchange Management Act (FEMA). During the investigation, KTR was questioned extensively about the movement of funds from the Hyderabad Metropolitan Development Authority (HMDA) account to a foreign entity, as well as the alleged breach of financial regulations.

After the seven-hour interrogation, several BRS leaders, including Balka Suman and R.S. Praveen Kumar, gathered outside the ED office, confirming that KTR's investigation had concluded for the day. They asserted that the questioning had ended without any significant revelations.

In the wake of the investigation, KTR issued a public challenge to Telangana Chief Minister Revanth Reddy.

He claimed that the cases against him were politically motivated and biased. KTR emphasized his commitment to the truth, asserting, "I have done nothing wrong. I am ready for any investigation, whether at CM Revanth Reddy's house or even at a judge's house. I am also willing to take a lie detector test."

KTR further accused CM Revanth Reddy of facing his own legal issues and stressed that he would fully cooperate with any investigation.

"I have fully cooperated with the ED and will continue to do so, no matter how many summonses are issued," KTR stated. "I respect the Indian legal system and will attend any investigation to clear my name."

KTR concluded by urging CM Revanth Reddy to select the time and place for further investigation, claiming he was ready at any time. He also called for an end to what he described as "bogus cases" that waste the time of investigating officials.



CM Revanth Accuses KCR, Modi, and Kejriwal of Corruption

CM Revanth Reddy Accuses KCR, Modi, and Kejriwal of Corruption

Revanth Reddy Unveils Congress Party's Guarantee Posters for Delhi Elections

Revanth Reddy Criticizes KCR's Mismanagement and Promises Transparency

CM Reddy Slams Kejriwal's Alliance with BRS, Vows to Defeat Him in Delhi



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Bandi Sanjay Criticizes Revanth's Campaign Poster for Delhi Elections

Sanjay Slams Revanth's Delhi Promises

Bandi Sanjay Predicts Congress Defeat

Sanjay Criticizes Congress' Failed Promises



Sanjay highlighted that Congress had made similar false promises during the Haryana and Maharashtra elections, only to face setbacks as those promises were never implemented. He pointed out that the Congress' inability to deliver on its promises in Telangana was another example of their failure to fulfill electoral commitments.

Sanjay warned that the grandiose promises made by Revanth Reddy for Delhi would meet the same fate as those made in Telangana, stressing that they would ultimately fail. He criticized the Congress' approach as misleading and deceitful, declaring that another defeat awaited the party in Delhi, just as it had in previous elections.

Sanjay's remarks serve as a pointed attack on the Congress leadership, underscoring his belief that the party's strategy of making unfulfilled promises would not resonate with the electorate in Delhi.

TPN Correspondent | Hyderabad | Jan 17: Union Minister of State Bandi Sanjay has criticized Telangana Chief Minister Revanth Reddy for releasing a campaign poster highlighting Congress' promises ahead of the Delhi Assembly elections. Sanjay expressed strong disapproval, claiming that the promises made by Congress were fraudulent and bound to lead to another defeat for the party, similar to past electoral losses in other states.

BRS Moves Supreme Court Against 10 MLAs

BRS Seeks Disqualification of 10 MLAs

Petition Highlights Speaker's Inaction

Potential Political Impact in Telangana

TPN Correspondent | Hyderabad | Jan 17: The Bharat Rashtra Samithi (BRS) has approached the Supreme Court seeking the disqualification of 10 MLAs who were elected on a BRS ticket in the last Assembly elections but later joined the Congress. The party has stated in its petition that despite filing a complaint nine months ago, the Speaker has not taken any action against the defecting MLAs.

BRS has filed a Special Leave Petition (SLP) against Kadiyam Srihari, Tellam Venkat Rao, and Danam Nagender, while a writ petition has been submitted against the remaining seven MLAs. The party has also informed the Supreme Court that even though the High Court issued its verdict on the matter six months ago, the Speaker has failed to act, nor have the defecting MLAs received any notices.

The party has cited the Supreme Court's judgment in the *Kesham Meghchandra case*, which mandated



that the Speaker must decide on disqualification petitions within three months. BRS has urged the Supreme Court to direct the Speaker to take a decision within four weeks.

This legal move comes amid growing political tensions in Telangana, with

the BRS accusing the Congress of engineering defections to strengthen its legislative majority.

The case is expected to have significant political implications, as a ruling in favor of BRS could lead to by-elections in multiple constituencies.

Bijapur Encounter: 12 Naxals Dead

TPN Correspondent | Telangana | Jan 17: In a major security operation in Bijapur district, Chhattisgarh, 12 Naxalites were killed in an encounter with police forces in the Pujari Kankeru-Maredu Baka forest area. The incident took place along the Chhattisgarh-Telangana border, with the ongoing encounter still unfolding. Police officials recovered a Self Load-

ing Rifle (SLR) and several other weapons from the scene, confirming significant firefights between the forces and Naxalite groups. Security forces have estimated that a large number of Naxalites may have been killed in the operation, though further details are still awaited as the encounter continues. The police operation is part of ongoing

efforts to combat Naxalite insurgency in the region. Authorities have not disclosed the exact identities of the Naxalites killed but are continuing with their mission to neutralize extremist groups in the area. The clash marks another critical moment in Chhattisgarh's efforts to combat Naxal violence along the border regions with Telangana.





Kejriwal of Corruption

TPN Correspondent, Delhi, Jan 17 : Telangana Chief Minister A. Revanth Reddy has launched a scathing attack on former Telangana Chief Minister K. Chandrashekar Rao (KCR), Prime Minister Narendra Modi, and former Delhi Chief Minister Arvind Kejriwal, accusing them of corruption and misgovernance. Speaking at a press conference in Delhi, CM Revanth Reddy alleged that KCR looted Telangana's resources, while Modi and Kejriwal failed to ensure meaningful progress in Delhi.

During his visit to Delhi on Thursday, CM Revanth Reddy released the Congress party's guarantee posters for the upcoming Delhi Assembly elections. The event was attended by Delhi PCC President Devendra Yadav, Telangana Minister Ponguleti Srinivas Reddy, and Congress MPs Mallu Ravi, Raghuvver Reddy, Suresh Shetkar, Shabbir Ali, and Sampath, along with several Delhi Congress leaders.

Addressing the media, CM Revanth Reddy asserted that the Congress government in Telangana is successfully implementing its electoral guarantees. He emphasized that eliminating corruption allows funds to be redirected toward welfare initiatives, cit-

ing Telangana's governance model as an example. He also accused KCR of misappropriating state resources and promised to disclose details of investment deals secured at the Davos summit upon his return. Taking aim at the Aam Aadmi Party (AAP), CM Revanth Reddy claimed that Kejriwal's political alliance with the BRS (formerly TRS) was rejected by Telangana's electorate. He vowed to ensure a similar outcome for Kejriwal in Delhi. Additionally, he credited Sonia Gandhi for the creation of Telangana, highlighting her commitment despite political setbacks.

Criticizing governance failures in Delhi, CM Revanth Reddy stated that the capital flourished under former Congress CM Sheila Dikshit but has since deteriorated under Kejriwal and Modi. He accused them of making Delhi unsafe and unlivable due to administrative negligence, worsening air pollution, and increasing political instability. Urging Delhi voters to support Congress, CM Revanth Reddy assured them that, if elected, the party would implement its promises just as it has done in Telangana. He concluded by asserting that Congress remains the only viable alternative for real development in Delhi.

Seethakka Orders Welfare Reforms

TPN Correspondent, Hyderabad, Jan 17: Minister Seethakka has announced significant reforms in the Panchayat Raj and Welfare Departments, including the release of salary arrears for multi-purpose workers and the implementation of an online employment issue resolution system across all departments.



In a review meeting at the Telangana Secretariat on Thursday, she emphasized the importance of ensuring proper nutrition for pregnant women, lactating mothers, and children. She directed district welfare officers to undergo training to enhance service delivery in this regard.

Minister Seethakka urged officials to adhere to regulations, work without fear, and uphold public trust. She stressed the importance of accurate reporting, cautioning against concealing facts for political approval. She also highlighted the necessity of cooperation among officials, warning that errors could lead to legal consequences. She encouraged consultation with subordinates to resolve issues effectively.

Announcing financial measures, she stated that pending bills in the Panchayat Raj and Rural Development Department are being cleared, with NREGA payments amounting to ₹300 crore recently released.

As part of governance reforms, Minister Seethakka directed the introduc-

tion of an online system to address employment issues across all departments. She also introduced a feedback mechanism where parents can share their opinions on Anganwadi services through a monthly phone-in program. She warned that action would be taken against negligent staff based on public feedback.

To improve facilities at Anganwadi centers, she suggested installing benches for the convenience of pregnant women. Additionally, she announced an allocation of ₹50 crore for providing equipment to disabled individuals, marking a first in Telangana's history. A distribution drive will be conducted in every constituency to ensure accessibility.

Reaffirming her commitment to governance reforms and welfare initiatives, Minister Seethakka assured transparency and efficiency in administration.

Raghunandan Rao Alleges Land Scam Involving ₹1,500 Crore



TPN Correspondent, Hyderabad, Jan 17: BJP MP Raghunandan Rao has accused certain Congress leaders of attempting to seize valuable land by exploiting legal loopholes. He claimed that while Chief Minister Revanth Reddy and Congress leaders in Delhi promised to reclaim lands allegedly misused by the KCR family under the Dharani portal, some ministers are now trying to appropriate them for personal gains.

Raghunandan Rao pointed to 450 acres of surplus land located between Kondakal village in Shankarapalli mandal and Velimala village in Ramchandra-

puram mandal. He stated that in 1993, tribals were farming on this land and had appealed for land titles. The government later allocated 170 acres for industrial purposes, while the remaining surplus land was allotted to Velimala village, with the government directing that titles be issued to those in possession.

He alleged that former TRS leaders had attempted to take control of this land, and one such leader has now joined Congress. Ultimately, 85 acres remained in dispute. On the 8th of this month, the High Court ruled that police should not interfere in these lands. However, despite this order, Raghunandan Rao claimed that police officials are constructing walls on the disputed land.

He further alleged that lands worth ₹1,500 crore (₹15 billion) are being tied up with a particular individual, raising concerns about corruption and unlawful land dealings. His remarks have intensified the political debate over land allocations and government actions in Telangana.

Revanth Reddy Urges Delhi Voters to Give Congress a Chance



TPN Correspondent, Hyderabad, Jan 17: Telangana Chief Minister Revanth Reddy has urged the people of Delhi to support the Congress in the upcoming Assembly elections, promising to implement welfare schemes similar to those in Telangana. He stated that his government has successfully fulfilled key promises, including a loan

waiver of up to Rs. 2 lakh for farmers, the creation of 55,000 jobs, and free bus travel for women in RTC buses.

Speaking at a poster release event highlighting Congress' commitments, Revanth Reddy took a dig at Prime Minister Narendra Modi and Delhi Chief Minister Arvind Kejriw-

al, alleging that both leaders make false promises. He assured that if Congress wins in Delhi, it will introduce free electricity up to 300 units, gas cylinders at Rs. 500, and free ration kits. Additionally, the party has pledged financial assistance of Rs. 8,500 per month for unemployed youth, Rs. 2,500 per month for women, and free health insurance coverage up to Rs. 25 lakh.

Revanth Reddy emphasized that Telangana's Congress-led government is delivering on its commitments and vowed to replicate the same in Delhi if given a chance. His statements set the stage for an intense electoral battle as Congress seeks to expand its influence beyond Telangana.

KTR Defends Formula E Case, Targets CM Revanth Reddy

TPN Correspondent, Hyderabad, Jan 17: Former Minister and BRS Working President K.T. Rama Rao (KTR) has made key remarks ahead of his Enforcement Directorate (ED) inquiry today regarding the Formula E Car Race case. KTR is scheduled to appear before the ED at 10:30 AM for questioning. In a post on social media platform X, he defended his role in bringing the prestigious event to Hyderabad and criticized Chief Minister Revanth Reddy's handling of the issue. KTR stated that introducing Formula E to Telangana and placing Hyderabad on the global map was one of his significant achievements as a minister. He recalled that the event garnered international recognition, with racers and industry leaders from the e-mobility sector praising Hyderabad. He emphasized that no amount of political harassment, false cases, or mudslinging could diminish the success of this event. He reaffirmed his



commitment to the development of Brand Hyderabad, whether he holds a ministerial position or not.

Refuting Corruption Allegations

Addressing allegations of financial irregularities, KTR asserted that the Rs 46 crore allocated by the state government for the event was transferred transparently. He emphasized that all transactions were properly documented, leaving no room for corruption or money laundering. He questioned the basis of the accusa-

tions, insisting that every rupee spent was accounted for.

KTR also criticized the Congress-led state government for canceling the Formula E race, arguing that it led to financial losses for the state. He accused CM Revanth Reddy of using the issue for political vendetta through court cases and investigations despite the absence of any wrongdoing.

He expressed confidence that the truth would prevail and that both the public and the judiciary would soon recognize the reality of the situation. KTR vowed to continue his fight for justice, stating that he would not be intimidated by politically motivated actions. As the ED inquiry unfolds, KTR's statements set the stage for a heated political battle between the BRS and Congress in Telangana.

ACB Issues Notices to S Next Company in Formula E-Case

TPN Correspondent, Hyderabad, Jan 17: The Anti-Corruption Bureau (ACB) has intensified its investigation into the Formula E-case by issuing notices to S Next company. The company, which had an agreement to organize the race, later withdrew from the deal. The ACB has directed S Next representatives to appear for questioning on the 18th of this month.

As part of the probe, ACB officials have already questioned BRS Working President K.T. Rama Rao (KTR), former HMDA Commissioner Arvind Kumar, and HMDA Engineer-in-Chief

BLN Reddy. The investigation is gaining momentum, with many speculating that the ACB is accelerating its efforts in the case.

According to the initial agreement signed on October 25, 2022, Ace NextGen had committed to covering the operating expenses for the Season 9, 10, 11, and 12 races. The Season 9 Formula E race was successfully held in Hyderabad on February 10 and 11, 2023. However, for the Season 10 race scheduled for February 2024, Ace NextGen was supposed to pay 50% of the required ₹90 crore to For-



mula E Operations (FEO) by its commitment, leading to further scrutiny by the ACB. The company, however, failed to fulfill

Madhusudanachari Criticizes Arrests of BRS Leaders, Calls Police Actions "Unjust"

TPN Correspondent, Hyderabad, Jan 17: Madhusudanachari, the leader of the opposition in the Telangana Legislative Council, strongly criticized the recent arrests of BRS leaders, calling them a "bad move" by the authorities. He expressed his anger over the police's misbehavior toward BRS leaders who had gathered to show solidarity with KTR during his ED inquiry. Challenging the legality of the arrests, Madhusudanachari reaffirmed that no matter how many cases are filed, justice and right-

eousness will always side with BRS. He vowed that the party's struggle would continue, undeterred by what he termed as false cases. He stressed that BRS would keep fighting on behalf of the people and uphold the promises made by the Congress party.

In response to the arrests, BRS leaders Dasoju Shruvan Kumar and Palle Ravikumar also expressed their outrage. They condemned the police's actions, saying it was unjust to ar-

rest them when they were peacefully protesting in solidarity with KTR. They questioned the legality of the arrests and called for a change in police behavior.

Manne Krishank, another BRS leader, was arrested while speaking to the media at the ED office. Several other BRS leaders were taken into custody and brought to the Kanchan Bagh Police Station, including Pallaravi Kumar Goud, Sumitranand, Pavani Goud, and Kirtilatha Goud.

Case Filed Against Former MLA Guvvala Balaraju

TPN Correspondent, Nagarkurnool, Jan 17: A case has been registered against former BRS MLA Guvvala Balaraju for obstructing police duties at the Bhramaramba temple in Achampeta, Nagarkurnool district. SI Ramesh filed the complaint against Balaraju after an altercation took place on Thursday night. According to the complaint, the police were preventing Balaraju from entering the temple, which led to a confrontation between him, the police, and BRS leaders.



The situation escalated when a scuffle broke out between Balaraju's followers and the police. Balaraju and his supporters sat in protest in front of the temple. The former MLA alleged that Inspector Ravinder, in

collusion with Congress MLA Vamsi Krishna, intentionally blocked his entry to the temple.

The dispute arose when Balaraju was reportedly not allowed to enter the temple while Congress MLA Rikudu Vamsi Krishna was present. The police have registered the case and are investigating the matter. Meanwhile, the judicial system has accepted the case suo moto, and Balaraju has demanded justice. The incident has created tension in the area, and further developments are awaited.

BJP MLA Raja Singh Sends Checklist for KTR Ahead of Possible Jail Time

TPN Correspondent, Hyderabad, Jan 17: BJP MLA Raja Singh has sent a playful yet pointed checklist to Telangana Minister K.T. Rama Rao (KTR), suggesting items to pack ahead of a potential jail sentence. Raja Singh, known for his strong remarks, posted the checklist on Twitter, making reference to the idea that "karma does not spare anyone."



In his tweet, Raja Singh humorously listed items such as four sets of clothes ("fashion should be there even behind bars"), a cozy blanket

("prison is not exactly cozy"), a towel, handkerchief, soap ("to maintain that 'clean image'"), a packet of pickles ("because prison food is not five-

star"), and a warm sweater ("winter is always colder than ever").

Singh further commented on the nature of political power, stating that those who abuse it to target others will eventually face the consequences. He ended with a reminder that karma waits for the right moment and never forgets anyone. This comment comes after Singh's own experience with what he claims to be false cases filed by the Congress and BRS governments, which led to his brief imprisonment.

CM Reddy Seeks Approvals for Telangana Projects



TPN Correspondent, Telangana, Jan 17: Chief Minister Revanth Reddy has requested the Union Minister for Forests and Environment, Bhupender Yadav, to promptly grant permissions for several development projects in Telangana. The Chief Minister met with the Union Minister at Indira Kalikasan Bhavan in Delhi and outlined various issues hindering the state's growth.

Reddy explained that 161 projects across Telangana have been delayed due to the lack of permissions from the Central Forest Department. Specifically, 38 projects are awaiting clearance under the Wildlife Protection Acts. He requested immediate approval for these pending projects, emphasizing the critical importance of these developments for the state.

The Chief Minister highlighted that many of these projects are located in remote and Left Wing Extremism-affected areas. As a result, vital infrastructure projects, including the construction of towers on national high-



ways, roads connecting PMGSY and neighboring states, and other essential infrastructure in agency areas, have been stalled.

Reddy also urged the Union Minister to grant permissions for the Gauravelli project, which is crucial for the state's development. The Union Minister responded positively to the Chief Minister's requests and assured that the necessary steps would be taken.

In a separate engagement, Chief Minister Revanth Reddy paid a courtesy call to Union Minister of State for Heavy Industries and Steel, Bhupathiraju Srinivasa Varma, in Delhi. During this meeting, the Chief Minister and the Union Minister discussed various state-related issues. Reddy was accompanied by several senior ministers and officials, including Konda Surekha, Ponnamp Prabhakar, Ponguleti Srinivasa Reddy, MPs Porika Balaram Nayak, Raghuvver Reddy, and Chief Secretary Shanthikumari.

Prashanth Reddy Demands Disqualification of Jagityala MLA Sanjay

TPN Correspondent, Hyderabad, Jan 17: Former Minister Prashanth Reddy has called for the disqualification of Jagityala MLA Sanjay, accusing him of being involved in party defection. Speaking out against party-switching, Reddy stated, "We will fight in court against MLAs who change parties and against illegal cases." He emphasized that they would use all legal avenues, including the Supreme Court, to challenge defection. Reddy referred to Sanjay's comment in an official meeting where he claimed allegiance to the Congress party, arguing that the Speaker should take action against such remarks and disqualify him.



Reddy also responded to recent statements by Revanth Reddy, the PCC President, who had controversially remarked that MLAs who changed parties should be treated harshly. Reddy clarified that Kaushik Reddy did not physically harm Sanjay but questioned his party affiliation. He criticized the BJP and Congress for their close ties, suggesting that both parties were effectively the same. Reddy also commented on the Formula E race case, calling it an "illegal case" and accused BJP MPs of aligning with Congress on KTR's arrest.

CM Revanth Seeks Centre's Support for Electric Buses in Hyderabad



TPN Correspondent, Delhi, Jan 17: Telangana Chief Minister A. Revanth Reddy met Union Heavy Industries Minister H.D. Kumaraswamy on Thursday evening to request support for converting all buses in Hyderabad to an electric model. The Chief Minister informed Kumaraswamy that the state government had already submitted proposals to the central government, seeking allocation of buses under the PM E-Drive scheme using the GCC method.

CM Revanth Reddy emphasized the feasibility of converting existing diesel buses into electric buses by retrofitting them with an electric kit. He urged the Union Minister to allocate the 2,800 buses already designated by the central government for Hyderabad under the retro-fitment model,

in addition to the GCC method. The Chief Minister was accompanied by State Transport Minister Ponnamp Prabhakar, State Ministers Uttam Kumar Reddy and Ponguleti Srinivas Reddy, Nalgonda and Mahabubabad MPs Raghuvver Reddy and Balam Nayak, along with other key officials, including Principal Secretary V. Sesahadri, R&B Special Principal Secretary Vikas Raj, State Government Advisor (Infrastructure) Srinivasa Raju, and Telangana Bhavan Resident Commissioner Gaurav Uppal.

This initiative aims to make Hyderabad's public transportation more sustainable by transitioning to electric buses, contributing to the city's environmental goals and improving air quality.

Chamala Kiran Kumar Slams KTR Over Formula E Funds

TPN Correspondent, Telangana, Jan 17: Bhuvanagiri MP Chamala Kiran Kumar Reddy has sharply criticized Telangana Minister K.T. Rama Rao (KTR) over the Formula E car race event in Hyderabad, alleging that KTR misused public funds to benefit his personal associates. He claimed that KTR, known for his "acting" skills, may even deserve an Oscar for his performance in promoting the event.



Kiran Kumar Reddy remarked that KTR spent Rs. 55 crore from the Hyderabad Metropolitan Development Authority (HMDA) funds to support his

friends, particularly the management of Ace Next Generations Greenco, a company with close ties to KTR. He accused KTR of directing public funds to cover a financial shortfall of Rs. 60 crore owed for the Formula E event, after only Rs. 30 crore was paid for Season 1.

Reddy also suggested that KTR's actions were designed to protect his childhood friends and save the contract with the company, pointing out that Green Co-Promoters had issued notices to cancel the deal due to non-payment. He concluded by claiming that KTR's actions were a ploy to protect his personal interests while using Telangana's resources.

KTR: Congress Goons Behind Attack on Former MLA

TPN Correspondent, Hyderabad, Jan 17: Bharat Rashtra Samithi (BRS) Working President K.T. Rama Rao (KTR) strongly condemned the recent attack on the house of former MLA Sunke Ravi Shankar, allegedly by Congress supporters. KTR called the attack an unjustified act of aggression against a leader who is raising public issues. He accused Congress and its leadership, particularly Revanth Reddy, of conspiring to create chaos by targeting the homes of BRS leaders across the state. KTR further vowed to continue exposing the fraud and corruption within the Congress party, stressing that such actions would

not go unchallenged. He warned that if these attacks do not cease, the Congress goons responsible would be "taught a lesson."

The BRS leader also criticized the state's law enforcement, stating that the police, under current circumstances, have failed to take effective action against the attackers. KTR called out the police machinery for its inaction, describing it as "lemon-like" in its response. He urged the state DGP to take swift and strong action to curb such violence and restore law and order in the state.

Kaushik Reddy Slams Congress leadership of implementing "Tughlaq's rule."

TPN Correspondent, Hyderabad, Jan 17: BRS MLA Padi Kaushik Reddy has made sensational comments, accusing CM Revanth Reddy of harassing BRS leaders for political gains. Reddy criticized the Congress government, calling it an example of diversionary politics, and questioned the whereabouts of the promises made by the party. He expressed frustration over what he called illegal cases filed against KTR, the BRS working president, in connection with the Formula-E race.



Reddy defended KTR's efforts, stating that organizing the Formula-E race in Hyderabad was a major achievement that boosted the city's global image. He wondered whether such cases would have been filed if Hyderabad's brand reputation had been enhanced. Expressing his anger, Reddy labeled the case filed against KTR as a "lottery case" and accused the Congress leadership of implementing "Tughlaq's rule."

He also made sharp remarks about Karimnagar MLA Sanjay Kumar, accusing him of being sold for crores and questioning his allegiance. Reddy demanded that Sanjay Kumar, who allegedly admitted to being from the Congress party, be disqualified. He also questioned the intentions behind filing criminal charges against BRS members, urging that if action were to be taken, it should start with Revanth Reddy.

Water Dispute Escalates Over Nagarjuna Sagar

TPN Correspondent , Hyderabad, Jan 17: Tensions over water distribution between Telangana and Andhra Pradesh are expected to escalate with Andhra Pradesh's plans to convert the Nagarjuna Sagar Right Main Canal (RMC) head regulator into another Pothireddypadu. This move is feared to deprive Telangana of its rightful share of Krishna waters, as Andhra Pradesh has already been diverting a significant portion through the Pothireddypadu Head Regulator.

Andhra Pradesh's Godavari-Banakacharla project aims to increase the drawl capacity of the Nagarjuna Sagar Right Main Canal, which supplies water for irrigation and drinking purposes. The project plans to store surplus water in the Bollapalli Reservoir, but Telangana worries this will further affect its access to Krishna waters, as it already faces issues with canal breaches and limited water flow.

Telangana experts fear that the expansion of the Nagarjuna Sagar RMC** could mirror the Pothireddypadu expansion, where the initial capacity of 11,150 cusecs was increased to over 55,000 cusecs in 2006. Andhra Pradesh's growing demand for water from both the Krishna and Godavari basins has added fuel to the ongoing dispute, with both states claiming their rightful share of resources.

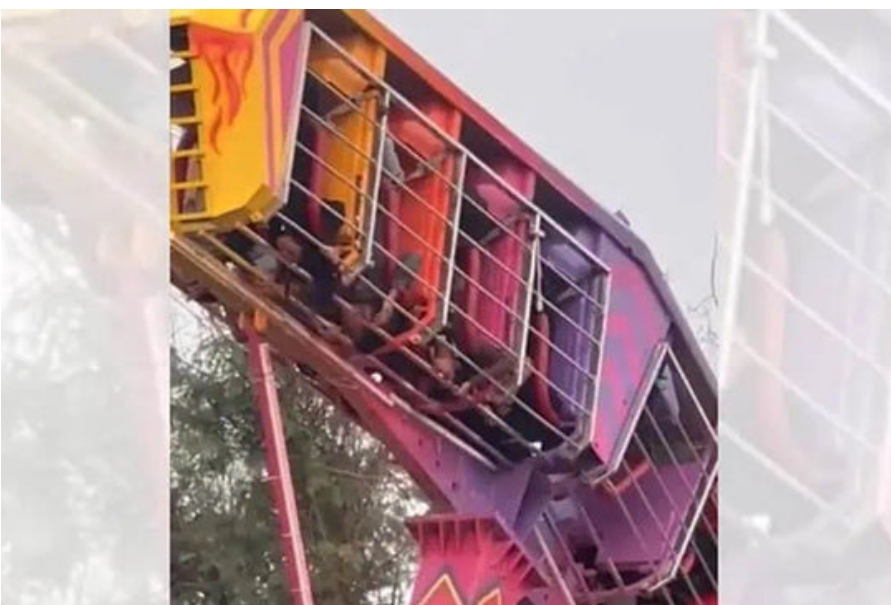


Passengers Stuck Upside Down in Amusement Ride at Numaish, Hyderabad

TPN Correspondent, Hyderabad, Jan 17: On January 16, a malfunction at an amusement ride at Hyderabad's Numaish exhibition caused a brief panic when passengers were left stuck upside down for over 20 minutes. The ride halted due to a battery failure during a trial run, but technicians quickly replaced the battery, and the ride resumed without any reported injuries.

Additionally, the ticket price for Numaish has increased by Rs 10, from Rs 40 to Rs 50, as announced by B. Surrender Reddy, secretary of the exhibition society. The exhibition will operate from 4:00 pm to 10:30 pm on weekdays and until 11:00 pm on weekends, with flexible timings. A mobile app, offering updates in four languages—Telugu, Hindi, Urdu, and English—has been introduced to assist visitors.

The exhibition, featuring around 2,200 stalls, will also host a 'Children Special' event on January 31, with enhanced security measures in place to ensure visitor safety.



15 Lakh Attend International Kite Festival in Hyderabad

TPN Correspondent, Hyderabad, Jan 17: The three-day International Kite Festival, held at Secunderabad Parade Ground, concluded on Wednesday, drawing a crowd of approximately 15 lakh visitors.

The event featured 47 international kite flyers from countries including Indonesia, Switzerland, Australia, Sri Lanka, Canada, Cambodia, Scotland, Thailand, Korea, the Philippines, Vietnam, Malaysia, Italy, Taiwan, South Africa, and the Netherlands. Additionally, 60 local participants from states such as Gujarat, Punjab, Tamil Nadu, Kerala, Haryana, Andhra Pradesh, and Telangana added to the festivities.

Alongside the colorful kites soaring in the sky, the festival hosted special stalls offering around 1,100 varieties of national and international sweets and flour-based dishes. This year, the event also welcomed 700 homemakers from Iran, Turkey,



Afghanistan, and nine other countries, further enriching the cultural diversity of the celebration. The festival has become a major attraction, drawing visitors from across the globe to witness the vibrant display and enjoy the culinary offerings.

Three Arrested in Hyd Double Murder Case

TPN Correspondent, Hyderabad, Jan 17: Three men were arrested on Thursday in connection with a double murder that took place in the Narsingi area of Hyderabad. The accused—Rahul Kumar Saket, 16, a driver, Raj Kumar Saket, 22, an office boy, and Sukhendra Kumar Saket, 30, a housekeeping staff—are all residents of Madhya Pradesh. The victims, Divya Bindu, a sex worker from Chhattisgarh, and Ankit, a native of Madhya Pradesh, were found murdered on January 12 at Puppalaguda hillocks. Initially, the police were unable to identify the victims but later gathered information about their activities.

According to Rajendranagar DCP Ch Srinivas, the primary accused, Rahul Kumar, had been a client of Bindu's. After paying Rs 4,000 for her services, Rahul began recording their intimate moments, which Bindu objected to. After a series of confrontations, Rahul, along with Raj and Sukhendra, decided to murder both Bindu and Ankit.

On the day of the crime, Rahul asked Bindu to provide services to Sukhendra. While Sukhendra and Bindu were occupied, Rahul and Raj took Ankit to a nearby spot, where they stabbed him multiple times and crushed his face with a boulder. They then killed Bindu the same way. The bodies were discovered later by locals. The police arrested the three suspects and recovered the victims' mobiles from them. They were presented before the court for transit warrants.



Sons Abandon Elderly Mother at Vikarabad Bus Stand; Sajjanar Condemns Act

TPN Correspondent, Hyderabad, Jan 17: In a heartbreaking incident in Hyderabad, an elderly woman was abandoned by her sons at the Vikarabad bus stand on Monday night. The Telangana State Road Transport Corporation (TSRTC) Managing Director, VC Sajjanar, condemned the cruel act, emphasizing the moral degradation when children abandon their parents. He urged society to reflect on the gravity of such actions, questioning, "What if your children leave you at a bus station tomorrow?" The TSRTC staff displayed remarkable kindness by offering the woman food and helping her reach the Kompally orphanage with police assistance. Sajjanar



praised their compassionate response, stressing the importance of loving and respecting elders. He also criticized the growing trend of children seeking material benefits from their parents but abandoning them when they need support, highlighting the harmful impact on societal values and family bonds.

Engineering Student Raped in Mangalapalli, Accused Arrested

TPN Correspondent, Hyderabad, Jan 17: An 18-year-old engineering student was raped in a hostel near Sri Sai Baba Temple in Mangalapalli, under Adibatla Municipality, Ibrahimpatnam constituency, Rangareddy district.

owner in the same building, allegedly committed the crime. The victim has been transferred to a city hospital for medical tests and is currently receiving treatment.

The accused, a 22-year-old driver employed by a real estate

The police have registered a case and are conducting an investigation. Authorities are working to ensure justice for the victim.

Bidar Gang of Thieves Opens Fire in Afzalganj, Hyderabad



TPN Correspondent, Hyderabad, Jan 17: A gang of thieves from Bidar, Karnataka, opened fire in the Afzalganj area of Hyderabad on Thursday while attempting to evade arrest. The Bidar police had come to Hyderabad in search of the gang, which was involved in a recent daylight ATM robbery in Bidar.

When the thieves realized the police were closing in, they fired at the Bidar police officers and fled into a nearby travel office, where they shot at the office manager. Despite the chaos, the Bidar police arrested one gang member, while the others escaped.

The East Zone DCP arrived at the scene to assess the situation, as gunfire caused a commotion in the busy locality. The gang was previously involved in a violent robbery at an ATM in Bidar, where they killed two security guards before fleeing with the money.

Hyderabad Restaurant Criticized for Reusing Leftover Food

TPN Correspondent, Hyderabad, Jan 17: A viral video shared on Instagram by a content creator has sparked outrage over food safety practices at the 'Amritsar Haveli' restaurant in Hyderabad. The footage claims that leftover onions and chutney were being reused across tables, raising serious concerns about hygiene standards.

The video begins by showing an unclean dishwashing area with a staff member washing dishes. The content creator confronts employees about the alleged food reuse, prompting conflicting statements from the staff. A waiter initially denies the practice but later, the restaurant manager admits that vinegar onions are indeed reused. The content creator, frustrated by the inconsistencies, points out the contradictions in their responses.

The video, posted on January 14, quickly went viral, garnering over 4.5 lakh views, with many netizens

expressing shock and anger. The video urges diners to demand safer and cleaner dining practices and calls for better food safety standards in Hyderabad's restaurants.



Road Safety Month: Awareness Drive to Prevent Accidents in Hyderabad

TPN Correspondent, Hyderabad, Jan 17: On January 16, Hyderabad City Traffic Additional Commissioner Vishwa Prasad emphasized road safety during an awareness program at the Abids GPO intersection, part of the ongoing Road Safety Month. The initiative aims to reduce road accidents in the city. Alongside Central Zone Traffic DCP Ashok Kumar, Vishwa Prasad urged the public to follow traffic rules, particularly stressing the importance of wearing helmets while riding bikes. He highlighted human errors, speeding, and drunk driving as leading causes of accidents.

The Additional Commissioner also discussed the emotional toll of accidents on families, noting that victims often lose vi-



tal support. During the event, he personally counseled motorists without helmets and rewarded those who wore them by giving them flowers. Members of the Agha Khan community participated as well, holding placards to promote traffic rule awareness. The program's goal is to educate the public on safe driving practices and minimize accidents in Hyderabad.

Kite-Flying Accidents Claim Four Lives During Sankranti in Telangana

Child Falls from Terrace While Flying Kite in Nirmal
Meerpet Resident Dies After Falling from Building
Schoolboy Electrocuted While Retrieving Kite in Mahabubnagar
Man Falls to Death from Dhaba Terrace in Yadadri Bhuvanagiri



TPN Correspondent, Hyderabad, Jan 17: The festive spirit of Sankranti turned tragic in Telangana as four people lost their lives in kite-flying accidents over the past two days. The incidents were reported in Mahabubnagar, Nirmal, Rangareddy, and Yadadri Bhuvanagiri districts on Tuesday and Wednesday.

A similar incident occurred in the Rangareddy district, where 39-year-old K. Mahesh Yadav fell from a building while flying a kite in the Meerpet municipal limits.

In Mahabubnagar district, a schoolboy, Manoj Kumar, died of electrocution while trying to retrieve a kite stuck in electric wires. He used an iron rod to free the kite, which led to a fatal electric shock.

In Nirmal town, an 11-year-old boy, Mohammed Huzef, fell from the terrace of his house while flying a kite. A sixth-grade student at Telangana Minority Residential School, Huzef lost balance while playing with his friends. He sustained severe injuries and was rushed to the hospital, where he later succumbed.

In Yadadri Bhuvanagiri district, Jupally Narendra, 48, fell from the terrace of a dhaba while flying a kite in Ammanabolu village, Mutakonduru mandal. The terrace reportedly lacked a parapet wall. He suffered critical injuries and was taken to the hospital, where doctors declared him dead on arrival.

Despite repeated warnings and bans on dangerous practices such as using Chinese manja, kite-related accidents continue to occur during Sankranti celebrations. Authorities have urged the public to exercise caution while flying kites, avoid rooftops without safety barriers, and refrain from retrieving kites from electric wires. Officials have reiterated the importance of following safety guidelines to prevent further tragedies and ensure a safe celebration for all.

Four Pilgrims Killed, 10 Injured in Tragic Road Accident in Aurangabad

TPN Correspondent, Aurangabad, Jan 17: A tragic road accident occurred in Aurangabad, Maharashtra, on Thursday evening when a Tufan vehicle carrying pilgrims lost control and crashed into a tractor. Four people died on the spot, while ten others sustained serious injuries.

Upon receiving information, the police rushed to the scene and initiated rescue operations. The bodies were recovered, and the injured were immediately shifted to a hospital for treatment.

According to officials, all the victims hail from Kondagadapa village in Yadadri Bhuvanagiri district. Investigations revealed that the pilgrims were traveling to Shirdi for darshan when the accident took place. The police confirmed that the four deceased belonged to the same family, casting a shadow of grief over their residences.

A case has been registered, and an investigation is underway to determine the exact cause of the accident. Authorities have urged drivers to exercise caution to prevent such tragedies.

KCR's Grandson Himanshu Rao Promotes Afforestation



TPN Correspondent, Hyderabad, Jan 17: BRS leader and Telangana's first Chief Minister, K. Chandrashekar Rao (KCR), has long been recognized for his dedication to agriculture and environmental conservation. Even during his tenure as CM, he remained committed to farming and spearheaded initiatives like Haritha Haram, a large-scale afforestation program aimed at greening the state. Under his leadership, Telangana witnessed the plantation of millions of trees, turning both rural and urban landscapes greener.

Now, his grandson, Kalvakuntla Himanshu Rao, is following in his footsteps. Spending his free time with KCR in the agricultural fields of Erravelli, Himanshu has actively engaged in farming, embracing hard work like a dedicated farmer. In a recent video posted on his X (formerly Twitter) account, Himanshu is seen planting a sapling, applying manure, and covering it with soil using a shovel.

Sharing the experience, he captioned the post: "Learn from the best." He emphasized the importance of afforestation in combating climate change and urged people to take responsibility for conserving natural resources.

His actions have drawn praise, reflecting the values instilled by KCR in promoting sustainability and environmental awareness.

Married Woman Brutally Murdered, Buried in House in Mahabubabad

TPN Correspondent, Mahabubabad, Jan 17: A horrific murder has come to light in Signal Colony, Mahabubabad, where a young married woman was brutally killed and buried inside her in-laws' house. The victim had entered the household with high hopes, trusting the promises made by her husband, who was also her grandfather's grandson. However, in a shocking turn of events, she was allegedly murdered along with her parents.

Following the crime, her husband, mother-in-law, and another female relative locked the house and fled. Alerted by locals, the police arrived at the scene, dug up the burial site, and recovered the woman's body.

Authorities have registered a case and launched an investigation into the gruesome incident. Further details are awaited as the probe continues.

KA Paul Vows to Challenge Modi and CM Revanth Reddy



TPN Correspondent, Warangal, Jan 17: Praja Shanti Party President KA Paul made bold statements in Warangal, claiming that only he has the power to challenge Prime Minister Narendra Modi and Telangana Chief Minister Revanth Reddy. He emphasized the need to dismantle the "Reddy kingdom" and replace it with a "BC kingdom."

Addressing the media, Paul accused Ponguleti Srinivasa Reddy of obstructing his efforts to hold a meet the press event in Warangal. Paul promised to develop the district, mirroring his achievements in Sadashivapet, and vowed to eradicate unemployment within a year. He also pledged to provide free education and healthcare within 100 days if his party won the Gram Panchayat elections.

Paul criticized the current leadership, stating that Revanth Reddy used public funds to purchase the Delhi Congress office and accused the Congress government of worsening financial burdens. He called on BCS, SCs, and STs in the state's political parties to reject Congress and join his movement.

Paul concluded by declaring his intention to run for Chief Minister in the upcoming elections, promising to bring change to Telangana.

Sunita Rao Warns of Dharna at Gandhi Bhavan if Denied Nominated Post



TPN Correspondent, Hyderabad, Jan 17: With the Telangana government set to fill nominated posts soon, intense competition has emerged within the Congress

party. Several leaders and activists have warned that they will protest if deserving candidates who worked hard for the party are overlooked.

Mahila Congress President Sunita Rao recently issued a strong warning, stating that if she is not given a nominated post, she will hold a dharna on the steps of Gandhi Bhavan. Emphasizing her eligibility, she said, "As a BC woman and a child of the Mudiraj community, I fully deserve a nominated post."

She also reminded that CM Revanth Reddy had previously promised her an MLC position. Expressing frustration, she warned of blocking the PCC chief if her demand is not met.

The Congress leadership is already dealing with tensions over cabinet expansion, and now the growing dissent over nominated posts is adding to their concerns. Previously, the Yadav community staged protests at Gandhi Bhavan over lack of cabinet representation. With more leaders voicing their dissatisfaction, Congress is facing internal turmoil, leaving its leadership struggling to manage the situation.

Serious Road Accident in Warangal: Woman and Child Killed



TPN Correspondent, Warangal, Jan 17: A tragic road accident occurred near Raigiri on the Warangal-Hyderabad National Highway, resulting in the instant death of two people.

According to police reports, a car crashed into a lorry at high speed, leading to the deaths of a woman and a child. The victims have been identified as residents of Samudra, Mahabubabad district.

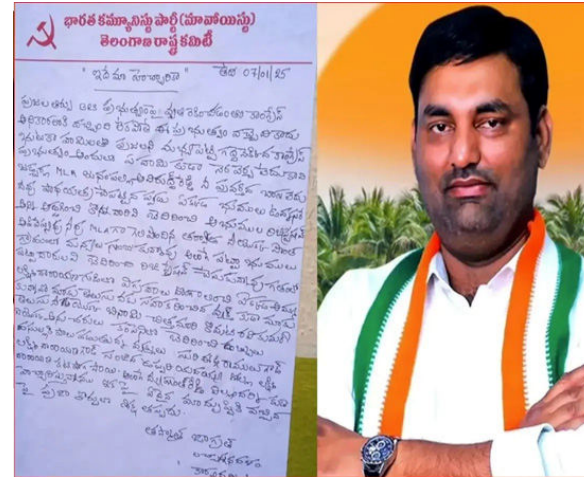
Upon receiving information, the police rushed to the scene and, with the help of locals, retrieved the bodies from the wreckage. The bodies have been sent for postmortem, and a case has been registered for further investigation.

Maoist Threat Letter to Jadcharla MLA: Three Arrested

TPN Correspondent, Hyderabad, Jan 17: The case of the Maoist threat letter sent to Jadcharla MLA Anirudh has taken a new twist, with police arresting three individuals in connection with the incident.

District SP Janaki revealed that the accused, Sheikh Rafi, Kumari Bhagwantu, and another individual, were taken into custody. Sheikh Rafi, a former associate of the MLA, reportedly developed a feud with him and conspired to defame him by fabricating a Maoist threat letter.

As part of the investigation, the police seized three mobile phones and a motorcycle from the accused. A case has been registered, and further investigations are underway.



MLA Rama Rao Patel Welcomes Pilgrims from Uttar Pradesh



TPN Correspondent, Nirmal, Jan 17: MLA Power Rama Rao Patel warmly welcomed a group of pilgrims who had traveled to Uttar Pradesh when they arrived at the residence of Bhainsa MLA. The pilgrims, overwhelmed with emotion, got off the bus, hugged MLA Patel, and burst into tears as they were greeted with affection and care.

In a gesture of hospitality, MLA Rama Rao Patel arranged meals at his residence for the entire group of pilgrims. The pilgrims expressed their heartfelt gratitude to Union Minister Kishan Reddy, Bandi Sanjay, and MLA Rama Rao Patel for their efforts in making arrangements for the pilgrims to return to their hometown.

The warm reception and kindness shown by MLA Patel have been widely appreciated, strengthening the sense of community and solidarity among the pilgrims and local leaders.

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.



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

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.

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.

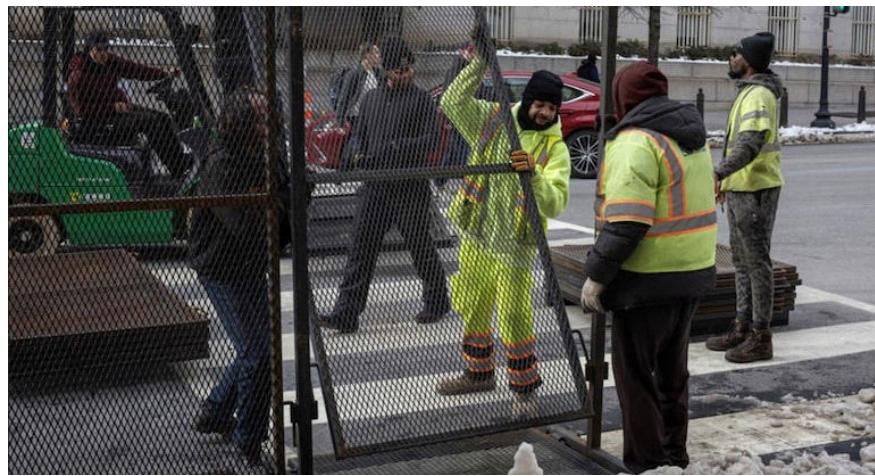
Washington Turns Fortress for Trump's Inauguration

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.

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.

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

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

