



Listen... if Veera Mallu speaks, you must listen..



First single from Hari Hara Veera Mallu, "Maata Vinali" is out now! Pawan Kalyan's voice in five languages, with music composed by M.M. Keeravani.

- Full report Screen



నందివెలుగు కో-ఆపరేటివ్ క్రెడిట్ సొసైటీ లిమిటెడ్

(Regd. No. AMC / GNT / DCO / 2020 / 4079)

2025 డైరీ మరియు క్యాలెండర్
ఆవిష్కరణ మహోత్సవ

ఆహ్వానము
స్వాగతం - సుస్వాగతం

ది. 18-01-2025 శనివారం, ఉదయం గం. 10:30 ని.లకు

వేదిక : బొద్దు వెంకటసుబ్బయ్య కళ్యాణ మండపం, దుర్గాదేవి బజార్
నందివెలుగు గ్రామము, తెనాలి మండలం, గుంటూరు జిల్లా.



ముఖ్య అతిథి

డా. పెమ్మసాని చంద్రశేఖర్ గారు

కీంద్ర గ్రామీణాభివృద్ధి, కమ్యూనికేషన్ శాఖ సహాయ మంత్రివర్గులు



విశిష్ట అతిథి

శ్రీ నాదెండ్ల మనోహర్ గారు

పౌర సరఫరాల శాఖామూర్తులు, ఆంధ్రప్రదేశ్

మా ఖాతాదారులకు, మిత్రులకు, శ్రేయోభిలాషులకు
నూతన సంవత్సర శుభాకాంక్షలు

మా బ్రాంచీలు

నందివెలుగు, గుంటూరు-1, గుంటూరు-2, విజయవాడ, మంగళగిరి



ఆహ్వానించువారు
డా. లక్ష్మీ కోటేశ్వరరావు, M.Sc.,
చైర్మన్ మరియు పాలక వర్గ సభ్యులు



Red Sandal Farm Land

GOLDEN PROPERTIES

చందన వనం



భూమి మీదే...
సపాదన మీదే...
సాగు మాత్రం మాది

వినుకొండ

వెంచర్ ప్రత్యేకతలు

- * మొక్క ద్వారా వచ్చే ఆదాయంతో 60% కస్టమర్ కు, 40% కంపెనీకి వచ్చేవిధంగా లీజ్ అగ్రిమెంట్
- * 12 సం.రాలు కంపెనీ మెయింటీనెన్స్
- * వెంచర్ చుట్టూ డైమండ్ ఫెన్సింగ్
- * 25 సెంట్లు కి 100 మొక్కలు
- * డ్రిప్ ఇరిగేషన్
- * ప్లాట్లపై నేమ్ ప్లేట్లు
- * సి.సి. కెమెరాలు
- * ప్లాట్ కి 30-20 అడుగుల రోడ్డు
- * 100% వాస్తు, క్లియర్ టైటిల్
- * 1బి అడంగల్ మరియు పట్టాదారు పాస్ బుక్
- * నాలుగువైపులా సరిహద్దు రాళ్ళు
- * 25 సెంట్లలో కోటి రూపాయలు పైగా ఆదాయం

EMI
సౌకర్యం
కలదు



మీరు పెట్టే
అతి చిన్న పెట్టుబడి మిమ్ములను
కోటిశ్వరులను చేస్తుంది



మీ చిన్నారుల భవిష్యత్తుకు బంగారు బాట మన చందన వనం తోట



GOLDEN PROPERTIES

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Weather Forecast

HYDERABAD

TEMPE RATURE

t°

H 28° C

L 22° C

VIJAYAWADA

TEMPE RATURE

t°

H 29° C

L 24° C

TIRUPATHI

TEMPE RATURE

t°

H 26° C

L 24° C

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Saturday, 18th January, 2025 | 12 Pages

Telangana, Singapore ITE Sign MoU

Boosting Skill Development in Telangana
Young India Skill University Partners with ITE
CM Revanth Reddy Strengthens Global Ties
MoU to Enhance Job-Oriented Training
Singapore Model for Telangana’s Skill Growth

TPN | Correspondent
Hyderabad| Jan 18 : The Telangana state delegation, led by Chief Minister Revanth Reddy, commenced its three-day visit to Singapore today. Accompanied by Industries Minister Sridhar Babu and senior officials, CM Reddy arrived early this morning from Delhi and was warmly welcomed by members of the Telugu community at Changi Airport.

Later, the delegation met with Singapore's Foreign Minister, Vivian Balakrishnan, to discuss strengthening bilateral ties in key sectors such as infrastructure development, power, green energy, water management, the Musi River revitalization project, education, skill development, and IT. The CM and his team also visited the Institute of Technical Education (ITE) in Changi City to explore its training programs and curriculum.

Young India Skill University Signs MoU with Singapore ITE

A major highlight of the visit was the signing of a Memorandum of Understanding (MoU) between Young India Skill University and Singapore ITE. The agreement was formalized in the presence of CM Revanth Reddy, Minister Sridhar Babu, and Special Chief Secretary Jayesh Ranjan.

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SC, ST Sub-Plan Funds Must Be Fully Utilized

Timely Utilization of SC, ST Funds Essential
Departments Must Disclose Monthly Expenditure
Focus on Employment and Agricultural Growth
Support for Displaced SC, ST Women

TPN | Correspondent
Hyderabad| Jan 18 : Deputy Chief Minister Bhatti Vikramarka Mallu has directed all departments to utilize funds allocated under the SC, ST Sub-Plan within the stipulated time. He chaired a review meeting with senior officials at the Secretariat on Friday to assess the implementation of the Sub-Plan.

Bhatti instructed officials to disclose department-wise expenditure details monthly, as mandated by the Sub-Plan Act. He emphasized that the funds should be spent effectively to improve the income levels of SC and ST communities and create long-term assets.

He directed officials to present a comprehensive report on Sub-Plan fund utilization and its impact at the upcoming review meeting on January 23. He also questioned departments that failed to meet their expenditure targets, asking for their plans to achieve full utilization within the next two months.

Officials presented a CESS report detailing the implementation of the SC, ST Sub-Plan over the past eight years. Bhatti inquired about the issues identified in the report and the corrective actions taken. He instructed CESS officers to submit their findings to the Finance and Planning departments and conduct regular follow-ups.

Emphasizing sustainable development, Bhatti proposed the use of solar-powered pump sets in forest areas and the cultivation of bamboo, avocado, and palm oil as intercropping projects. He suggested linking these initiatives with the Employment Guarantee Scheme to protect forests while enhancing Adivasi and tribal farmers' incomes.

Bhatti also directed officials to rehabilitate SC and ST women displaced by the Musi Rejuvenation Project by enrolling them in Self-Help Groups and providing interest-free loans. Additionally, he called for extensive self-employment schemes in urban areas, including the provision of transport vehicles and cleaning machines in municipalities and GHMC limits.

He urged financial support for SC, ST farmers and the restoration of lift irrigation schemes under the Indira Jala Prabha program. Bhatti instructed SC and ST department heads to collaborate with other departments to ensure optimal fund utilization before the financial year ends. Senior officials, including Special Chief Secretaries Ramakrishna Rao and Vikas Raj, Principal Secretaries Dana Kishore (Municipal Administration), Sridhar (SC Welfare), Sharat (ST Welfare), and Sundeep Sultania (Finance), attended the meeting.

KTR Vows Resignation if allegations of Loan Waiver is Proven

KTR demands accountability on loan waivers, challenges Congress
KTR takes on Revanth Reddy over unfulfilled promises to farmers
BRS Working President KTR vows to expose Congress' failures

TPN | Correspondent
Rangareddy | Jan 18 : BRS Working President K.T. Rama Rao (KTR) has challenged Congress leader Revanth Reddy, stating that if it is proven that 100% loan waivers were implemented in any village of the state, all BRS MLAs would resign. KTR made the remark while addressing the Rythu Sabha in Shabad, Rangareddy district.

KTR ridiculed Revanth Reddy's recent speeches and promises, particularly those made during his visit to Delhi. "Revanth Reddy claims that he will uplift both Telangana and Delhi. But what about the promises he made here? He said he would waive loans in 100 days, but we see no results," KTR remarked. He also criticized Revanth Reddy for making exaggerated claims, calling them "nonsense."

Referring to the unfulfilled loan waiver

er promise, KTR stated, "You said loan waivers for up to Rs. 2 lakhs would be completed by December 9, but nothing has been done. If any village in Telangana can show proof of the loan waiver, I will resign. You haven't even fulfilled the waiver in your own village, let alone the rest of the state," KTR said, targeting the Congress leader's credibility.

KTR also expressed concerns over the

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Yam Support Price Set at Rs 7,550: Ponnamp

Minister outlines Rythu Bharosa details for landless farmers.
New ration cards and financial aid to begin from January 26.
Foundation laid for Rs 25 crore Husnabad-Ramavaram road project.

TPN | Correspondent
Siddipet| Jan 18 : State Transport and BC Welfare Minister Ponnamp Prabhakar Goud inaugurated a Kandi Purchasing Center at the Agricultural Market Yard in Siddipet. During the event, he announced that the Rythu Bharosa scheme will be implemented across the state starting from January 26th.

Minister Prabhakar emphasized that the support price for yams has been set at Rs 7,550 per tonne, and farmers are encouraged to sell their yams at this fixed price. He assured that payments would be made to farmers

within 48 hours, along with a Rs 500 bonus for small farmers.

Regarding the Rythu Bharosa scheme, the minister explained that eligible beneficiaries, including those with agricultural land, would receive financial assistance.

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CPI(M) Demands CM Revanth to Cancel Adani Deals

CPI(M) Criticizes Deal with Adani, Seeks Government Transparency

Party Leader Calls for Action Against Alleged Corruption in Adani's Deal

CPI(M) Questions the Legitimacy of Adani's Cement Industry in Yadadri

TPN | Correspondent
Hyderabad| Jan 18 : CPI(M) State Secretary T. Veerabhadram has called on Telangana Chief Minister A. Revanth Reddy to cancel the agreements made with the Adani Group during the World Economic Forum in Davos. Veerabhadram made these remarks while inspecting the proposed site for a cement plant in Ramannapet, Yadadri Bhuvanagiri district, on Thursday, January 16.

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Singapore ITE Sign MoU

continued from P-1

Young India Skill University Vice-Chancellor Subba Rao and ITE Deputy Director Fabian Chiang signed the MoU. This collaboration will allow Young India Skill University to integrate Singapore ITE's curriculum and provide advanced training for trainers in Telangana.

CM Revanth Reddy on Skill Development Partnership

CM Revanth Reddy emphasized the importance of the partnership in a tweet, highlighting that Singapore ITE offers job-oriented training to students from class 10 onwards. The institution currently provides over 100 courses through online and on-campus training, benefiting around 28,000 students under its "Skills for Future, Skills for Life" initiative. He urged Singapore ITE to extend its expertise to Young India Skill University to enhance skill development programs in Telangana.

The Telangana delegation will remain in Singapore until the 19th of this month before traveling to Davos to attend the World Economic Forum summit starting on the 20th. CM Reddy noted that the visit had started on a positive note with productive discussions with Singapore's Foreign Minister and the successful signing of the MoU.

Loan Waiver is Proven

continued from P-1

But now, it's only being implemented during elections. The Modi government halted the funds, causing farmers unnecessary distress," KTR added. KTR vowed to intensify the protests, stating, "This is just the beginning. We will continue to hold dharnas across the state to demand Rs. 15,000 per farmer as part of Rythu Bharosa, as promised." He concluded by emphasizing that the Congress government must honor its promises or face the people's wrath.



Rs 7,550: Ponnam

continued from P-1

Ration cards will be issued to all beneficiaries, and Rs 12,000 will be provided to landless farmer laborers. For arable lands, Rs 12,000 will be deposited in farmers' accounts in two installments annually. However, the scheme will not apply to lands with mounds, rocks, ravines, roads, and canals.

On January 7th, the minister also laid the foundation stone for the Husnabad-Ramavaram double road project in Siddipet District, which is set to be developed at a cost of Rs 25 crore. Minister Prabhakar reiterated that the new ration cards would be distributed starting January 26th, further supporting the state's agricultural community.

Cancel Adani Deals

continued from P-1

Veerabhadram criticized the establishment of the cement industry, alleging that it was a direct result of the deals made with Adani in Davos. He accused the Adani Group of being involved in corruption, referencing a reported bribe of Rs 1,750 crores allegedly paid to former Andhra Pradesh Chief Minister Y.S. Jagan Mohan Reddy in relation to solar power and other sectors. He further claimed that simply returning Rs 100 crores donated by Adani to the Skills University would not resolve the issue.

The CPI(M) leader also demanded transparency regarding the agreements, stating that the establishment of the cement industry was not in line with public opinion. Veerabhadram emphasized the need for the state government to clarify the situation. Following his statements, a large bike rally was organized with party activists, including CPI(M) central committee member Cherupalli Sitaramulu and district secretary M.D. Jahangir, calling for action on the matter.



Krishna Water Ruling: A Win for KCR, Says Harish Rao

BRS Fights for Fair Share of Krishna River, Says Harish Rao Tribunal Orders Mark a Step Forward for Telangana's Krishna Water Rights BRS Clarifies Commitment to Krishna Water Justice for Telangana

TPN Correspondent |
Hyderabad| Jan 18 :

Former Minister Harish Rao hailed the orders given by the Brijesh Tribunal on the Krishna water distribution as a victory for the KCR government. In a press note released on Friday, Harish Rao emphasized that Chief Minister K. Chandrashekar Rao (KCR) had persistently insisted on the allocation of water based on Section 3 from the outset, marking a significant achievement for the state.

Rao expressed strong support for the interim orders passed by the tribunal, which are pivotal in re-



solving the ongoing dispute over Krishna water sharing between Telangana and Andhra Pradesh. He sharply criticized the Congress government for attempting to claim credit for this development, calling it shameful. He

pointed out that it was the Congress-led Centre that had introduced the AP Reorganisation Act, specifically Section 89, which he said had severely disadvantaged Telangana in the matter of Krishna waters.

Rao further stressed that it took the Bharat Rashtra Samithi (BRS) ten years to rectify the injustice done to Telangana regarding water distribution. He reaffirmed that the BRS government would continue to fight uncompromisingly to ensure a fair share of Krishna river water for the state.

The Brijesh Kumar Tribunal, in

its recent order, decided to prioritize discussions on the further terms of reference issued by the central government under Section 3 of the Inter-State Water Disputes Act, 2023. The tribunal will conduct these hearings from February 19th to 21st. It has also announced that the issue of project-wise water allocations will be taken up after determining the share of water allotted to the erstwhile united Andhra Pradesh state.

This development marks a crucial step in Telangana's ongoing struggle for equitable water distribution.

TGCHE Launches Internship Program

Curriculum Overhaul to Align with Global Industry Trends

TGCHE Seeks Feedback for Revised UG Syllabus

Internship Program to Bridge Gap Between Academics and Industry

TPN Correspondent |

Hyderabad| Jan 18 : The Telangana Council of Higher Education (TGCHE) has unveiled plans to revise the undergraduate curriculum to better match global trends and industry needs. Chairman Prof. V. Balakista Reddy emphasized that the updated syllabus will focus on equipping students with practical skills in addition to theoretical knowledge, ensuring they are job-ready upon graduation.

The main goals of the curriculum revision are:

- Incorporating industry-relevant



TGCHE

Telangana Council of Higher Education

A Statutory body of the Government of Telangana

knowledge and hands-on learning experiences.

- Developing essential job skills to improve students' employability.
- Aligning courses with global industry trends to enhance competitiveness.

Subject-specific committees are overseeing the revision process, with implementation expected soon.

TGCHE has invited feedback from academicians, industry experts, students, and policymakers. Suggestions can be submitted via a Google form on the TGCHE website: www.tgche.ac.in. Key areas for input include the use of technology in education, strengthening research and development, and enhancing internship programs for practical exposure.

Additionally, TGCHE is launching a new internship program to provide students, recent graduates, and young professionals with hands-on experience in higher education governance and policy-making. This initiative aims to bridge academic learning with real-world challenges and prepare students for future challenges like digital transformation and sustainability.

By aligning the curriculum with industry demands and fostering practical experience, TGCHE is ensuring that students are equipped for success in a rapidly changing world.

TGPSC Releases Preliminary Key for Group 2 Exam

TPN Correspondent |

Hyderabad| Jan 18 : The Telangana State Public Service Commission (TGPSC) has released the preliminary key for the Group 2 examination. The exams were conducted on December 15th and 16th, and the preliminary key is now available for review. TGPSC has provided an opportunity for candidates to raise objections to the key, should there be any discrepancies or concerns. Objections can be submitted via email, with the commission accepting them for a specific period. Candidates are encouraged to review the key thoroughly and submit their objections, if any, in a timely manner.

This release is a crucial step in the exam process, allowing candidates to clarify any doubts regarding the key and ensuring a fair evaluation of their performance. The final key will be issued after considering all objections. Candidates can visit the official TGPSC website for further details and instructions on submitting objections.

CM Revanth Reddy Kicks Off Two-Nation Tour

TPN Correspondent |

Hyderabad| Jan 18 : Chief Minister Revanth Reddy's two-nation tour, aimed at attracting investments to Telangana under the banner of "Telangana Rising," has commenced successfully. The Chief Minister, accompanied by senior officials including Industries and IT Minister Sridhar Babu, held in-depth discussions with Singaporean Foreign Minister Vivian Balakrishnan.

During the meeting, Revanth Reddy emphasized the need for strong cooperation and long-term partnerships in key sectors such as infrastructure development, energy, sustainable green energy, water management, river revitalization, tourism, education, skill development, IT parks, and more. This collaboration is expected to foster significant growth and innovation in Telangana.

After the visit to Singapore, Revanth Reddy will travel to Davos, Switzerland, to attend the World Economic Forum (WEF). His participation in the prestigious forum aims to promote Telangana as a global investment destination and further strengthen the state's economic ties with international businesses and investors.

KTR Alleges Corruption in Congress Leadership

BRS Leader Targets Congress on Farmer Guarantee and Corruption

KTR Critiques Congress on Unfulfilled Promises to Farmers

BRS to Continue Fight for Farmers' Rights and Reservations

KTR Calls for Legal Action on Congress Allegations

TPN Correspondent |

Hyderabad| Jan 18 : BRS Working President K.T. Rama Rao (KTR) has accused the Congress government of using the "Farmer Guarantee" scheme as an election gimmick and claimed it will be withdrawn after the local body elections. Speaking to the media, KTR asserted that Chief Minister Revanth Reddy is only highlighting the scheme for electoral gains.

KTR announced that the BRS had launched a statewide protest in support of farmers, starting with a "Farmer Dharna" on Friday, followed by another planned in Nalgonda on the 21st. He criticized the Congress for failing to implement its promises, particularly concerning tenant farmers. "Revanth Reddy assured benefits for 22 lakh tenant farmers, but now he is silent on the issue," he remarked.

He further stated that former CM K. Chandrashekar Rao (KCR) had done unparalleled work for farmers, introducing schemes like Rythu Bandhu, Rythu Bima, and irrigation projects. KTR warned that the BRS would continue pressuring the government until it fulfills its promises.

KTR also challenged CM Revanth Reddy to take a live lie detector test at Jubilee Hills Palace to prove his claims. He accused the Congress government of wasting ₹10 crore in public funds on legal battles instead of using it for farmers' welfare.

Corruption Allegations Against Congress

KTR further alleged that a six-member gang, led by CM Revanth Reddy and his



associates, is extorting money from companies in Telangana. He named Tirupati Reddy, Kondal Reddy, Vem Narendar Reddy, Ronin Reddy, Fahim Qureshi, and AV Reddy as part of this alleged extortion network.

He accused the Congress of engaging in land scams and blackmail tactics while attempting to divert public attention with controversies like Kaleshwaram and phone tapping. KTR also criticized the Congress government for failing to attract investments, despite promising ₹40,000 crore.

Furthermore, he demanded 42% reservation for BCs in local body elections and called out Congress for internal conflicts. He questioned why Rahul Gandhi withdrew a Supreme Court petition related to the National Herald case while criticizing BRS leaders for legal actions.

KTR concluded by reaffirming his commitment to exposing the Congress government's alleged misdeeds and fighting for farmers' rights.

Narender Reddy Slams CM Over Farmer Betrayal

TPN Correspondent | Hyderabad| Jan 18 : Former Kodangal MLA Patnam Narender Reddy strongly criticized Chief Minister A. Revanth Reddy during the farmers' strike in Shabad, accusing him of betraying the farming community.

Speaking at the protest, Narender Reddy alleged that the government had deceived farmers by failing to fulfill its promises, particularly regarding the loan waiver scheme. "The Chief Minister has not even implemented 30 percent of the promised loan waiver in his own constituency," he claimed.



He further accused Revanth Reddy of having a history of sending farmers to jail in his own constituency and filing illegal cases against political opponents. "Revanth Reddy is credited with cheating even the gods by making false

promises to waive farm loans," he remarked.

The farmers' strike in Shabad was organized to highlight the government's failure to support the agricultural sector. Narender Reddy emphasized that the protest was a warning to the government to fulfill its commitments and stop suppressing farmers' rights.

The event saw participation from several farmer leaders and opposition members, demanding immediate action on loan waivers and other pending promises.

Government Boosts Farmer Welfare with New Schemes

TPN Correspondent | Hyderabad| Jan 18 : Telangana MLC Jeevan Reddy highlighted the Congress government's commitment to farmer welfare, stating that it is implementing initiatives unparalleled in the country. Speaking at the CLP Media Point, he criticized the previous BRS administration and the BJP for neglecting farmers while outlining the Congress government's farmer-centric policies.



the support to ₹12,000, with a plan to raise it to ₹14,000 in the future.

In a first-of-its-kind move, the government will provide a ₹500 per acre bonus, a benefit that no other state offers. Additionally, the ration card issuance process will commence on September 26 to ensure food security for eligible families.

Jeevan Reddy also criticized the BRS for abandoning the housing scheme, stating that the Congress government will provide 3,500 houses per constituency. He accused the BJP of failing to fulfill its promises on farm loan waivers and urged Union Minister Kishan Reddy to raise the issue at NITI Aayog.

He concluded by asserting that free electricity for farmers is a Congress-led initiative and reaffirmed the government's commitment to rural development and agricultural support.

He announced that starting September 26, the government will provide ₹12,000 per acre under the Rythu Bharosa scheme to support farmers. Additionally, agricultural laborers will receive ₹12,000 under the Atmiya Bharosa scheme. Comparing this to the previous BRS administration, he noted that the Rythu Bandhu scheme provided ₹8,000 to ₹10,000 per acre, whereas Congress has increased

Dharmapuri Arvind Challenges Revanth Reddy, KTR to Lie Detector Test

TPN Correspondent | Telangana| Jan 18 : Nizamabad MP Dharmapuri Arvind has challenged Telangana Chief Minister Revanth Reddy and BRS Working President K.T. Rama Rao (KTR) to undergo a lie detector test over their alleged involvement in corruption cases.



Speaking to the media in Delhi, Arvind demanded that both leaders be subjected to lie detector tests to uncover the truth behind the vote-for-vote case and alleged FEMA violations in the e-racing case. He questioned who instructed Revanth Reddy to carry bundles of cash in the vote-for-vote scandal and who guided KTR in violating financial regulations.

Arvind also accused Delhi Chief Minister Arvind Kejriwal of massive corruption, alleging that Telangana leaders were taken to Delhi and involved in irregularities. He stated that he would expose the broken promises and fraudulent activities of Telangana's leadership to the public.

His remarks come after KTR, following an Enforcement Directorate (ED) inquiry, said he was willing to take a lie detector test. Arvind responded by challenging Revanth Reddy to do the same, suggesting that it would reveal the truth about both leaders.

The allegations have intensified political tensions in Telangana, with Arvind insisting that the people deserve transparency regarding the state's governance and financial dealings.

MP Chamala Kiran Slams KTR, Alleges Massive Scams and Misuse of Funds

TPN Correspondent | Bhuvanagiri | Jan 18 : Bhuvanagiri MP Chamala Kiran launched a scathing attack on BRS Working President K.T. Rama Rao (KTR), accusing him of misgovernance and corruption during his decade-long rule. He claimed that KTR's political career was marked by inefficiency and deception.



land occupations.

Speaking to the media, Chamala Kiran alleged that several scams involving KTR would soon be exposed. "KTR is sure to end up in a mental hospital," he remarked, ridiculing the former minister's recent statements. He criticized KTR for failing to fulfill promises made in the 2014 and 2018 election manifestos, stating that less than 20% of the commitments were implemented.

Comparing their governance, Kiran said, "If KTR's government spent only ₹84 crore on farmers in 10 years, we have spent ₹50,000 crore in a single year. Additionally, we have waived off ₹21,000 crore in loans for 24 lakh farmers." He justified the government's decision to provide farmer assistance only for cultivated lands, excluding roads, real estate ventures, and illegal

Chamala Kiran further accused KTR of misusing HMDA (Hyderabad Metropolitan Development Authority) funds for personal gains and benefiting his associates. He insisted that KTR's remarks post-election loss were baseless and an attempt to mislead the public.

His comments add to the ongoing political battle between the ruling and opposition parties in Telangana, as leaders continue to trade allegations over governance and financial transparency.

DK Aruna Criticizes Kejriwal and Revanth Reddy

TPN Correspondent | Hyderabad| Jan 18 : BJP MP DK Aruna has strongly criticized the Aam Aadmi Party (AAP) government in Delhi, stating that Chief Minister Arvind Kejriwal's rule has failed and that the people of Delhi are seeking change. She expressed confidence that the BJP would secure victory in the upcoming Delhi elections.

Speaking to the media, Aruna accused the Delhi government of being mired in corruption, reminding that CM Kejriwal had been jailed on corruption charges. She also targeted Telangana CM Revanth Reddy, claiming that he was misleading people by falsely claiming that welfare schemes were being effectively implemented in the state.

Aruna further asserted that people in Maharashtra and Haryana did not believe the Congress's false

promises, and the people of Delhi would not trust them either. She stated that the Congress lacked credibility and that the BJP would actively participate in the Delhi election campaign.

Referring to Telangana politics, she questioned the so-called alliance between the BRS and BJP, alleging that the Congress had only come to power in Telangana due to its opposition to KCR, not because people supported it. She claimed that Congress leaders were "sitting on the wrong chair" and that their mandate was not a genuine endorsement from the public.

Regarding BRS leader K.T. Rama Rao's (KTR) statements after the Enforcement Directorate (ED) investigation, Aruna remarked that only the ED knew whether KTR's public statements matched his responses during questioning.

Tummala Emphasizes Development of Khammam Urban Park

TPN Correspondent | Khammam| Jan 18 : As part of urban park development initiatives in Khammam city, Minister Tummala Nageswara Rao has emphasized the need for collective efforts to shape the new park. He urged officials and the public to work together to enhance green spaces in the district.

Commending the efforts of the District Forest Officer (DFO), the minister stated that a year of hard work by the district administration should bring the park to completion. He invited suggestions for naming the park and praised the DFO for implementing effective development programs.

Highlighting Khammam's rich natural landscape, he stressed the importance of conservation

while supporting infrastructure development. He also noted the ongoing efforts to develop parks in Kothagudem, Kinnerasani, and Palvancha.

Minister Tummala assured that infrastructure improvements, including road connectivity, would increase land value in the region. He emphasized the need for a "No Plastic Zone" within the park and suggested promoting traditional foods that reflect local heritage. Outside food will not be allowed, ensuring a unique culinary experience for visitors.

He also directed officials to prioritize fencing, internal roads, and water supply for the park. He assured full support, promising to allocate water from Sathupalli whenever needed.

Ponnam Announces New Ration Cards from January 26

TPN Correspondent | Karimnagar | Jan 18 : Telangana Minister for Transport and BC Welfare, Ponnam Prabhakar, announced that a survey will be conducted in villages from January 26 to issue new ration cards to eligible beneficiaries. Speaking at a media conference in Chiguru Mangodi mandal, Karimnagar district, he assured that the government is committed to addressing the needs of those who have been waiting for ration cards over the past decade.



Instead, the government is focusing on providing new ration cards to those who have not received them in the last 10 years, including newly married couples, new families, and eligible individuals. He clarified that old ration cards will not be removed and urged people not to believe false propaganda spread by opposition parties.

Currently, 2.81 crore people in Telangana hold 90 lakh ration cards, but the minister emphasized that the discussion is not about these existing cards.

Prabhakar also stated that those eligi-

ble but yet to receive a ration card can submit petitions to the concerned officers and public representatives. The new ration cards will be issued based on the caste survey data.

In Indurthi mandal, 71 new ration cards have been allocated. Additionally, the minister highlighted that the government has waived off farmer loans up to ₹2 lakh, is providing ₹12,000 as farmer assurance for each acre of cultivable land, and ₹12,000 for landless farm laborers. He also confirmed that proposals have been sent for Indurthi mandal's formation, which will be officially created when new mandals are established in Telangana.

BRS MLA Kaushik Reddy Accuses CM Revanth Reddy of Political Vendetta

TPN Correspondent | Hyderabad| Jan 18 : BRS MLA Padi Kaushik Reddy has lashed out at Chief Minister Revanth Reddy, stating that it is not he who should change his language, but the CM himself. He accused the Congress government of framing false cases against him for questioning its promises.

Kaushik Reddy appeared before the Mass Tank CI in a case related to obstructing police duties. Speaking to the media afterward, he revealed

that the police questioned him for an hour, asking 32 repeated questions, to which he provided detailed answers and recorded his statement. He asserted that no matter how many cases were filed against him, he would continue to challenge the Congress government over its "420 promises" and six guarantees.

He further alleged that on December 4, he visited the Banjara Hills police station to seek an appointment with the ACP and file a complaint against CM Revanth Reddy and Intelligence IG

Shivdhar Reddy for allegedly tapping his phone. However, instead of acting on his complaint, false cases were filed against him. He questioned why no FIR had been registered on his complaint yet. Kaushik Reddy also claimed that a case was registered against BRS leader Harish Rao based on a rowdy-sheeter's complaint, while his complaint as an elected MLA was ignored. He alleged that Congress-backed goons were attacking him with police support. He criticized his arrest on a festival day, calling it an act of political vendetta.



GHMC Commissioner Takes Bold Action Against Corrupt Officers

GHMC Commissioner Targets Corruption with Major Staff Overhaul
Ilambarithi's Bold Steps to Cleanse GHMC of Corruption
GHMC Shake-Up: Transfers of Corrupt Officers to Ensure Transparency



TPN Correspondent | Hyderabad | Jan 18 : In a significant move, GHMC Commissioner Ilambarithi has decided to take stern action against corrupt officials within the Greater Hyderabad Municipal Corporation (GHMC). Reports suggest that Commissioner Ilambarithi is initiating a complete cleansing process, which includes identifying and transferring corrupt officers.

As part of this effort, every computer operator and engineering department officer in GHMC is set to be transferred. The decision to transfer

employees is aimed at addressing corruption at multiple levels within the organization.

Commissioner Ilambarithi has reportedly held meetings with GHMC contractors to inquire about the commissions allegedly taken by officers. Sources indicate that the transfers will span from work inspectors to chief engineers, signaling a wide-ranging shake-up within the department.

In addition, there is a move to change sanitation supervisors who have been in the same positions for over five years. This is part of the Commissioner's broader strategy to ensure efficiency, transparency, and accountability within GHMC.

This decision comes as a part of GHMC's efforts to improve governance and curb corruption, aiming to deliver better public services and maintain the city's infrastructure in a transparent and efficient manner. The move has already garnered attention, and many hope it will lead to meaningful reforms within the municipal corporation.

GHMC Introduces Modern Machines for Enhanced City Cleanliness

TPN Correspondent | Hyderabad | Jan 18 : The Greater Hyderabad Municipal Corporation (GHMC) is taking a significant step towards modernizing its sanitation efforts by introducing advanced machines designed to improve the efficiency of road cleaning. These machines, already in use in cities like Chennai and Mumbai, are capable of sweeping and collecting garbage quickly. The vehicle uses a suction pipe to remove waste from roads and store it in a tank, enabling workers to clear even the smallest debris more efficiently.



key sanitation officials.

The machines, which cost approximately Rs. 50 lakhs each, were recently demonstrated to GHMC officials in areas like Mint Compound and Khairatabad. The demonstration was attended by GHMC Additional Commissioner of Sanitation Raghu Prasad, Khairatabad Deputy Commissioner Rajinikanth Reddy, and other

This new technology promises to enhance the speed and thoroughness of the city's cleaning process, offering potential relief to sanitation workers by reducing manual labor and improving overall cleanliness. The machine's performance will be further assessed before it is fully integrated into the city's sanitation system.

Government Hospital Worker Arrested for Demanding Rs 20,000 Bribe in Hyderabad

TPN Correspondent | Hyderabad | Jan 18 : A senior assistant at the Government ENT Hospital in Koti, Hyderabad, was arrested by the Telangana Anti-Corruption Bureau (ACB) for allegedly demanding a bribe of Rs 20,000 in exchange for processing a retirement benefits file. The accused, R. Santhosh Tiwari, reportedly accepted Rs 3,000 from the complainant, with the remaining Rs 17,000 already taken.

The ACB acted swiftly upon receiving the complaint and apprehended Tiwari during the transaction. This incident highlights ongoing efforts by the ACB to tackle corruption within government departments.

Citizens can lodge corruption-related complaints via the official hotline at 1064.

In a separate incident last year, the ACB also arrested Dr. Lavudya Lachu, the superintendent of the Government General Hospital in Nalgonda, for accepting a Rs 3 lakh bribe from a medical distributor in exchange for a favor.



Two Rajasthan Natives Arrested in Hyderabad with Heroin

TPN Correspondent | Hyderabad | Jan 18 : The Neredmet police arrested two Rajasthan natives for their involvement in drug trafficking on Thursday, January 16. The accused, Mahesh (28) and Mahipal (19), were apprehended with 190 grams of heroin and other incriminating materials valued at Rs 23 lakh.

According to police reports, Mahesh had traveled to Rajasthan, where he procured the heroin from a wholesale dealer in Phalodi district, paying Rs 1 lakh. He smuggled the drugs back to Hyderabad on January 10 and



joined forces with Mahipal to sell them in the city. The duo used ride-hailing apps, including Uber, Rapido, and Potter, to transport the drugs to various customers across Hyderabad.

The police seized heroin, ten one-gram packets, two mobile phones, a motorbike, a weighing machine, and other materials. Efforts are underway to arrest the main supplier in Rajasthan and the customers who purchased the drugs in Hyderabad.

In related news, the Rachakonda police have made significant strides in curbing drug smuggling, seizing drugs worth Rs 88.33 crore from January 2024 to January 2025, including large quantities of ganja, heroin, and other substances.

Protest at L&T Hyderabad Office Over Chairman's 90-Hour Workweek Remark



TPN Correspondent | Hyderabad | Jan 18 : On Friday, January 17, the Centre for Indian Trade Unions (CITU) and the All India Democratic Women's Association (AIDWA) held a protest at the L&T office in Basheerbagh, con-

Burglary at Former Minister Ponnala Lakshmaiah's Residence



TPN Correspondent | Hyderabad | Jan 18 : Former Telangana Minister and senior BRS leader Ponnala Lakshmaiah's residence was burglarized, resulting in the theft of Rs. 1.5 lakh in cash and jewelry. The incident occurred at his family home, with his wife,

Arunadevi, filing a complaint with the Film Nagar police.

Upon receiving the complaint, police immediately launched an investigation and registered a case. Authorities are currently searching for the culprits, but no arrests have been made as of yet. It is reported that Ponnala Lakshmaiah was not at home at the time of the burglary, as he is currently in Janagama.

Details of the incident are still unfolding, and the police are working to gather more information. The case has drawn significant attention given the prominence of the former minister.

Authorities are expected to increase efforts in identifying the perpetrators and bringing them to justice.

Amit Kumar Gang Behind Afzalganj Shooting

Police Identify Amit Kumar Gang as Perpetrators of Afzalganj Shooting
10 Special Teams Deployed in Search of Amit Kumar Gang Members
Gang's Robbery in Bidar Linked to Shooting Incident in Hyderabad

TPN Correspondent | Hyderabad | Jan 18 : The shooting incident in Afzalganj, which occurred on Thursday, has caused a stir in the city. The police have launched an intense search operation, deploying 10 special teams to track down the criminals behind the attack. Investigations have revealed that the Amit Kumar gang, based in Bihar, is responsible for the shooting.

The gang is believed to have been involved in a robbery in Bidar, Karnataka, where they opened fire on two security guards at an ATM before fleeing with the cash. After committing the crime, the gang members reportedly entered Hyderabad and tried to escape via Raipur.

Police are currently investigating how the gang made its way to Hyderabad. The primary suspect, Amit Kumar, has a history of robberies and thefts in Bihar, with several cases registered against him. In collaboration with Bihar police, Hyderabad officials are working to track his whereabouts.



The police are also focused on the sequence of events leading up to the Afzalganj shooting. After the gang members were questioned by travel management staff regarding suspicious bundles of money, they opened fire, injuring one person and fatally shooting another. The police are also investigating if the gang tried to flee to Bihar or hid elsewhere.

This series of crimes has prompted a joint investigation by the Karnataka and Telangana police, as they work to apprehend the perpetrators of these shocking incidents.

Shock to Telangana Panchayat Secretaries

- 99 Absent Secretaries Face Action

TPN Correspondent | Hyderabad | Jan 18 : In a significant move, the Telangana government under Chief Minister Revanth Reddy has dealt a severe blow to Panchayat Secretaries in the state. In a decision that has sent shockwaves through the administrative circle, the Nalgonda District Collector has taken strict action against 99 Panchayat Secretaries who were absent from their duties for several months without prior permission.

The action involves breaking the services of these 99 secretaries, meaning they will lose service benefits for the period of their absenteeism. This move has serious implications, as it will affect their service regularization, increments, and pension entitlements. The affected secretaries have now been either reinstated to duty or transferred.

This decision has prompted other Panchayat Secretaries to become



more cautious about their attendance. The move has sent a clear message to the government employees, emphasizing that absenteeism will not be tolerated. As a result, many secretaries are now making efforts to attend work regularly and avoid taking leave without proper authorization.

The action comes at a time when the state government is focused on improving administrative efficiency and accountability. The government aims to set a precedent for better discipline and punctuality in public service roles across the state.

Rattlesnake Found in Toddy Bottle Sparks Chaos in Nagarkurnool

TPN Correspondent | Nagarkurnool | Jan 18 : A shocking incident unfolded in Lattupalli, Bijinepally mandal, when a man discovered a baby rattlesnake in his toddy bottle. While drinking, he noticed the snake, which caused him to drop the bottle in alarm, narrowly avoiding an attack. The terrifying discovery quickly stirred the local community. Enraged by the incident, residents vandalized the toddy shop where the snake was found and lodged a complaint with the police. Authorities have registered a case and are investigating the matter.



The event has raised concerns about safety in toddy shops and the proper handling of beverages. Investigations are ongoing to determine how the rattlesnake ended up in the bottle and whether there was any negligence involved.

Tragedy Strikes Vasavi Colony in Vikarabad District



TPN Correspondent | Vikarabad | Jan 18 : A tragic incident unfolded in Vasavi Colony, Vikarabad District Headquarters, when a couple was found dead after committing suicide by hanging themselves from a fan. The

deceased, identified as Srikanth Reddy and Akhil, both residents of Kothagadi within Vikarabad municipal limits, were discovered in their home. Local authorities have shifted the bodies to the Vikarabad Government Hospital mortuary for post-mortem. Vikarabad DSP Srinivas Reddy is currently investigating the incident and gathering further details regarding the couple's circumstances. The cause behind their tragic decision remains under investigation.

Traffic Police and GHMC Remove Illegal Bins Disrupting Traffic in Musheerabad



TPN Correspondent | Musheerabad | Jan 18 : In a significant move to improve traffic flow and curb illegal encroachments, Traffic DCP Ashok Kumar announced that illegal bins set up by footpath vendors along major roads in Musheerabad are being removed. The operation to clear these bins is being carried out in coordination with the Greater Hyderabad Municipal Corporation (GHMC) and the traffic police.

Addressing concerns regarding small traders who had set up their

stalls illegally, DCP Ashok Kumar stated that no prior notice would be given to those violating regulations. He emphasized that vendors causing disruption to traffic or motorists will not be tolerated.

The removal of these illegal encroachments is part of a larger effort to ensure smoother traffic movement and maintain order on the roads. The authorities have made it clear that strict actions will continue against anyone hindering traffic or engaging in unlawful activities.

Telangana Wins 'Best Performing State' Award in Livestock Sector

TPN Correspondent | Hyderabad | Jan 18 : Telangana has been awarded the 'Best Performing State' accolade at the Entrepreneurship Development Conclave 2025 in recognition of its outstanding performance in the livestock sector. The event, organized by the Union Ministry of Fisheries, Animal Husbandry, and Dairying on January 17, acknowledged Telangana as a leading state in implementing the National Livestock Mission Entrepreneurship Development Programme (NLM-EDP).

A spokesperson from the



Chief Minister's office stated, "This recognition underscores the state's dedication to promoting livestock entrepreneurship, rural development, and sustainable practices, significantly contributing to

India's agricultural economy."

The Telangana government recently launched a 5-year action plan to provide free fodder seeds to livestock

farmers, with banks supporting loans for 67 sheep and goat projects and three poultry initiatives. The state is also reviewing applications for 412 projects under the NLM-EDP. Additionally, Telangana's Fisheries Department won the National Fisheries Award for Best Inland Fisheries for 2024, further cementing the state's commitment to innovation and sustainable development. The award was presented by Union Minister Rajiv Ranjan Singh on World Fisheries Day, November 22, 2024, and received by Chief Minister Revanth Reddy.

Fake Vehicle Insurance Scam Busted in Shamshabad



TPN Correspondent | Hyderabad | Jan 18 : A major scam involving the creation of fake vehicle insurance policies was busted by the Shamshabad Airport Police. The fraud came to light when agents from Reliance Insurance identified counterfeit insurance documents and reported them to the police. This

scam involved a gang that deceived motorists by providing fake insurance policies, which were later rejected by insurance companies when claims were made. The police conducted a surprise raid at Thondupalli in Shamshabad and arrested three individuals: Mohammed Aves from Bahadurpura, B. Shravan Kumar Goud from Shamshabad, and M.

Shiva Kumar from Sardarnagar village. The gang was found to be involved in making fake vehicle insurance policies, as well as other forged government documents such as Aadhaar cards, voter IDs, PAN cards, and gas bills.

The police seized 22 fake insurance policies, computer hardware (CPU, hard disk, keyboard, and mouse), three smartphones, and soft copies of additional forged documents. The gang, operating as private RTA agents, used WhatsApp to share fake documents and processed fraudulent insurance policies from several major companies, including Reliance, Bajaj, and ICICI.

The accused admitted to using computer software tools like MS Office and Microsoft Paint to create these fake documents. The investigation is ongoing, with efforts to apprehend other members of the gang.

Indiramma Housing Project Progress Reviewed

TPN Correspondent | Hyderabad | Jan 18 : Ponguleti Srinivasa Reddy, Minister for Revenue, Housing, Information, and Civil Relations, emphasized that the construction of Indiramma Houses is an ongoing process aimed at providing homes to all eligible individuals. Speaking after a review meeting with Chief Secretary Shanthikumari at the Ambedkar Secretariat, Minister Reddy assured that those with house plots in the first phase would receive Indiramma Houses along with the plots in the second phase.

During the meeting, the need for establishing an engineering department dedicated to the construction of Indiramma



houses, the appointment of a revenue officer for each revenue village, and the hiring of additional surveyors were discussed in detail. The Minister directed officials to create two lists of beneficiaries in Gram Sabhas—those with resi-

dential land and those without. Addressing concerns about the current workforce, the Minister noted that the Housing Corporation has only 274 engineers and requires 400 more for the successful completion of the project. He proposed that engineering personnel from other government departments be considered for the task.

The Minister also instructed officials to prepare an action plan for house construction within Greater Hyderabad Municipal Corporation limits and to ensure transparent selection processes for revenue officers and surveyors.

Six Quintals of Fish Die in Tank in Telangana's Sircilla

TPN Correspondent | Sircilla | Jan 18 : In a tragic incident, approximately six quintals of fish died in Bandam tank located in Ananthapalli of Boinpally mandal, Rajanna-Sircilla, on Friday. Fishermen discovered the mass fish mortality when they arrived at the tank for fishing in the morning.

Upon finding the large number of dead fish, the fishermen immediately alerted the fisheries department officials. The department arranged for a medical examination of the dead fish to determine the cause of the incident. While the exact cause of the fish deaths is yet to be confirmed, local fishermen suspect that the fish may have died due to the mixing of poisonous material in the water. The incident has raised concerns among the local fishing community, who are now awaiting the results of the investigation to understand the cause of this unexpected loss. The fisheries department is closely monitoring the situation and is expected to provide further updates once the medical examination results are available.



Man Sentenced to 10 Years RI, Rs 1 Lakh Fine for Growing Ganja in Asifabad



TPN Correspondent | Asifabad | Jan 18 : A man from Kishannayak Thanda in Jainoor, Rathod Pool Singh, has been sentenced to 10 years of rigorous imprisonment and a fine of Rs 1 lakh for cultivating a banned ganja crop in his agricultural field. The conviction came after Singh was found guilty by the district principal and sessions court on Friday.

The incident occurred in 2021 when Singh was caught raising the prohibited ganja crop in his field. The then Jainoor Sub-Inspector Ch Tirupathi registered a case and initiated an investigation into the matter. Following the investigation, the court convicted Singh for his involvement in the illegal cultivation.

In recognition of their efforts in securing the conviction, ASP Chittaranjan praised Jainoor Inspector Ramesh and Sub-Inspector Sagar for their diligent work on the case. This sentence serves as a reminder of the strict legal consequences for engaging in illegal drug cultivation in the region.

One Nation, One Election: A Path to Streamlining India's Electoral Process

The "One Nation, One Election" initiative is set to transform India's electoral framework by aligning the electoral cycles of the Lok Sabha and State Legislative Assemblies. This ambitious proposal aims to address the challenges posed by frequent, fragmented elections, which often disrupt governance and lead to significant financial burdens. Backed by Prime Minister Narendra Modi and the Bharatiya Janata Party (BJP), the proposal was endorsed by the Union Cabinet in December 2024, paving the way for a potential legislative overhaul.

Historically, India held simultaneous elections for the Lok Sabha and State Assemblies until 1967, when some state assemblies were prematurely dissolved, leading to staggered election cycles. Since then, India has faced a continuous cycle of elections, increasing administrative costs, disrupting governance, and diverting crucial resources. The "One Nation, One Election" initiative seeks to restore the practice of synchronized elections and reduce the negative impacts of fragmented electoral processes.

The benefits of this proposal are manifold:

Cost Savings: Holding separate elections results in significant financial expenditure, with the 2019 general elections alone costing over Rs 60,000 crore. By holding elections simultaneously, these costs could be drastically reduced, optimizing the use of public funds.

Improved Governance: Frequent elections often lead to the imposition of the Model Code of Conduct (MCC), which restricts the government's ability to announce new policies or welfare schemes. Conducting simultaneous elections would limit these interruptions, enabling governments to focus on long-term developmental goals rather than short-term electoral gains.



Efficient Use of Resources: Elections require substantial deployment of security personnel and administrative staff. By reducing the frequency of elections, resources can be better allocated to other pressing governance tasks, ensuring smoother operations across the country.

Policy Stability: A synchronized election cycle would foster greater policy continuity, reducing the tendency for short-term decision-making driven by imminent elections. Governments could focus on long-term strategies for national and state development.

Voter Engagement: With fewer elections, citizens would be called to vote less frequently, which could reduce voter fatigue and boost voter turnout, enhancing democratic participation.

The implementation of the "One Nation, One Election" proposal would require constitutional amendments, particularly in terms of the duration and dissolution of legislative bodies. A high-level committee, led by former President Ram Nath Kovind, has recommended a phased approach to synchronization, starting with the Lok Sabha and select state assemblies. The committee also called for a unified voter ID system and a streamlined election process.

Ultimately, the successful implementation of "One Nation, One Election" promises to bring greater political stability, reduce election-related disruptions, and help India achieve its long-term goal of becoming a developed nation by 2047.

Weakening Rupee: A Call for Candid Economic Conversations



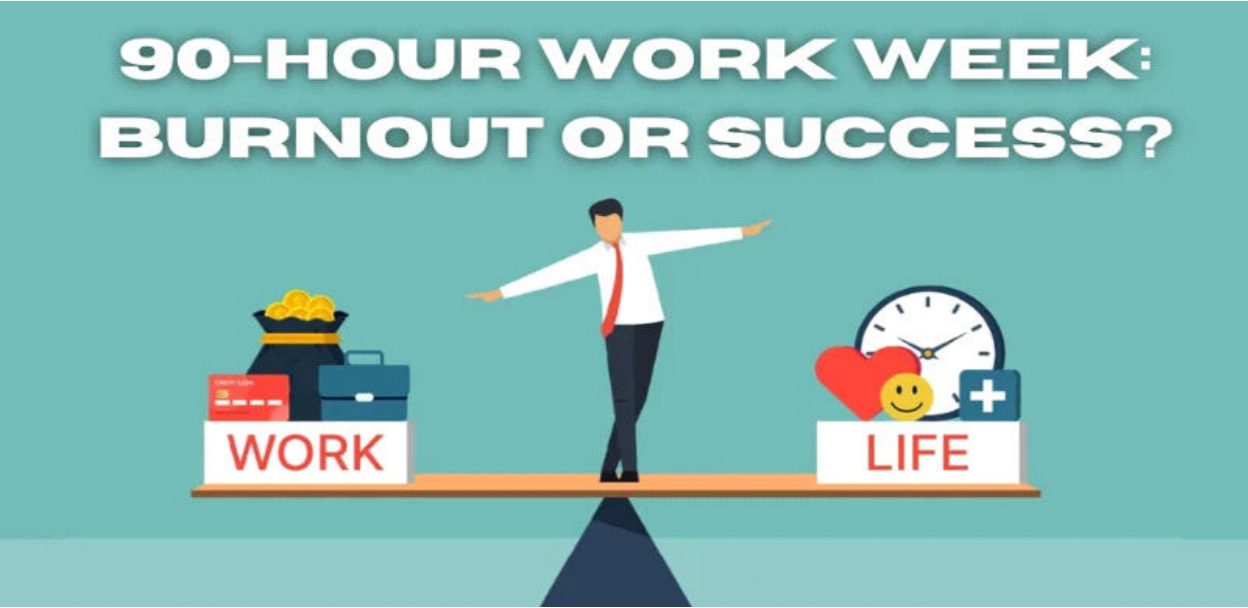
The Indian rupee's recent plunge, breaching the critical 86-per-dollar mark, has raised alarms about potential economic challenges, including an economic slowdown, an expanding trade deficit, and mounting pressure on external balances. Driven by a combination of a robust US dollar and rising crude oil prices, the rupee has seen its steepest decline since early 2023. This drop has led to heightened concerns in the financial markets, with stocks and bonds feeling the strain. While the rupee remains one of Asia's more stable currencies, this recent depreciation carries inflationary risks, particularly by increasing the cost of imports.

The rupee has weakened by more than 2% since December, exacerbating the challenges faced by importers who are now confronted with the task of managing rising inflation. On the other hand, exporters may find a silver lining, as the depreciating rupee makes their goods more competitively priced on global markets. As geopolitical uncertainty looms with the upcoming Trump presidency, global markets are bracing for further volatility, adding to the pressure on the Indian economy.

One of the more immediate consequences of the rupee's decline is the likely delay of expected rate cuts by the Reserve Bank of India (RBI). Despite a decrease in retail inflation to 5.22% in December, largely driven by lower food prices, the rupee's fall could prompt the RBI to hold off on rate reductions, further complicating the economic landscape.

At this juncture, it is crucial to focus on the national interest and avoid allowing politics to dictate economic decisions. A calm and measured approach is essential, with room for diverse perspectives on how to tackle the current economic challenges. A "wait-and-watch" strategy could be the most prudent course, accompanied by candid discussions about the state of the economy and the potential pitfalls that lie ahead.

90-hour work week isn't always bad: Holidays and vacations are colonial hangover



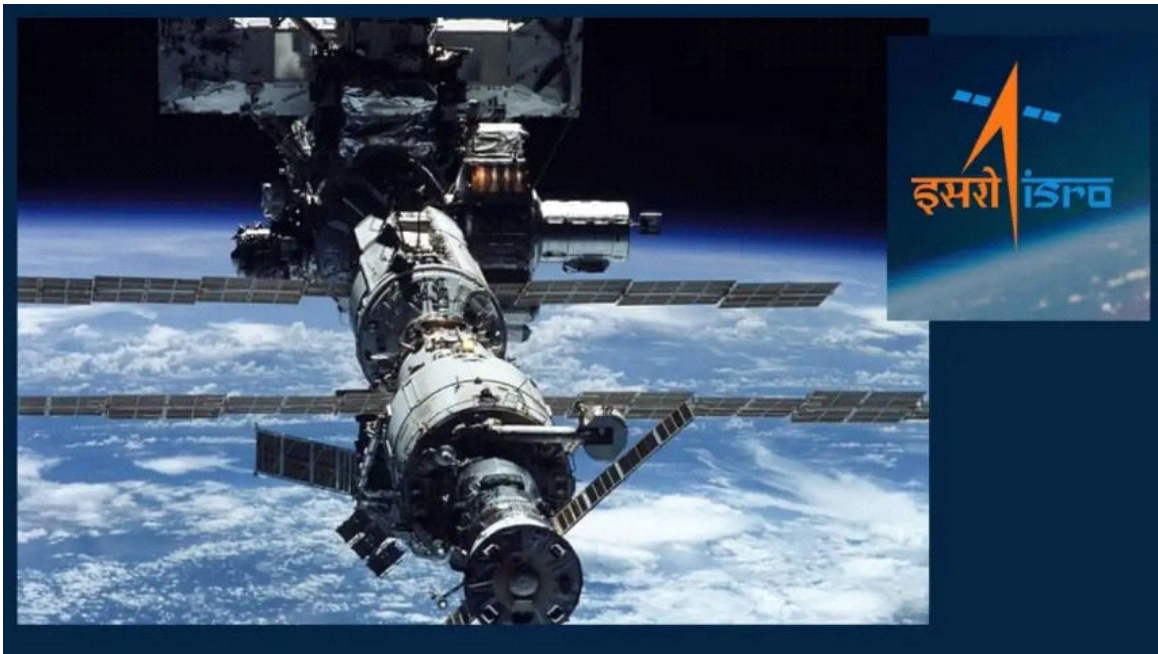
The debate over work hours and the concept of vacations has been a topic of heated discussions in India, particularly following comments by Larsen and Toubro Chairman S N Subrahmanyam, who suggested a 90-hour work week. While some have misinterpreted his comments as advocating for extreme work conditions, it's crucial to understand that the ideals surrounding work culture in India are distinct from those in the West and should not be blindly copied.

India's work culture has always been grounded in a strong tradition of hard work, perseverance, and dedication. The rapid growth of companies like L&T, which has accomplished monumental tasks, including the construction of the Ram temple, stands as a testament to the success of such an ethos. Subrahmanyam's organization has flourished not because of an overemphasis on holidays or leisure, but through a commitment to excellence and completion of ambitious goals. The warm, family-like atmosphere at L&T has been cultivated through this very ethos, proving that productivity and success are often born from a culture of hard work, not from taking frequent time off.

Historically, India's approach to work has been shaped by ancient philosophies and practices. The values of the Bhagavad Gita and the Indian

Constitution emphasize duty, responsibility, and selfless service, rather than personal leisure. The ideal of the "karmayogi"—someone who dedicates themselves to their work with devotion and without concern for worldly distractions—has been central to India's work culture. This focus on work over vacation is a reflection of deeper cultural values, which prioritize fulfilling one's responsibilities over seeking constant relaxation.

The idea of taking frequent vacations is often seen as a legacy of colonial rule. During British colonialism, the leisure time enjoyed by the British rulers was imposed upon Indians, not naturally part of the local work culture. This Western-centric concept of work and leisure has continued to influence the modern understanding of work-life balance, but it's important to remember that this may not suit India's unique socio-economic landscape. Rather than focusing on reducing work hours or incorporating more vacations, India should rethink its work culture based on its values, aspirations, and needs. The focus should be on fostering an environment that promotes hard work, personal growth, and fulfillment, while still maintaining a sense of balance. By doing so, India can create a work culture that aligns with its traditions while enabling progress in the modern world.



India's Space Milestone: ISRO's Successful Satellite Docking and Its Strategic Implications

In a remarkable achievement for India's space program, the Indian Space Research Organisation (ISRO) successfully performed the docking of satellites as part of the Space Docking Experiment (SpaDeX). This accomplishment, achieved early in the new year under ISRO's new leadership, positions India as the fourth nation—after the United States, Russia, and China—to achieve this advanced space technology. The successful docking signifies not only India's technological prowess but also its growing capabilities for more complex and ambitious missions, including the Bharatiya Antriksha Station, Chandrayaan-4, and Gaganyaan, India's human spaceflight mission.

This success is especially notable given ISRO's trajectory since the setbacks of Chandrayaan-2 in 2019. Despite the disappointment, the organization has made significant strides in the past couple of years, culminating in the success of Chandrayaan-3's soft landing in 2023. ISRO's ability to bounce back from setbacks and continue its momentum highlights the resilience and determination of India's space sector.

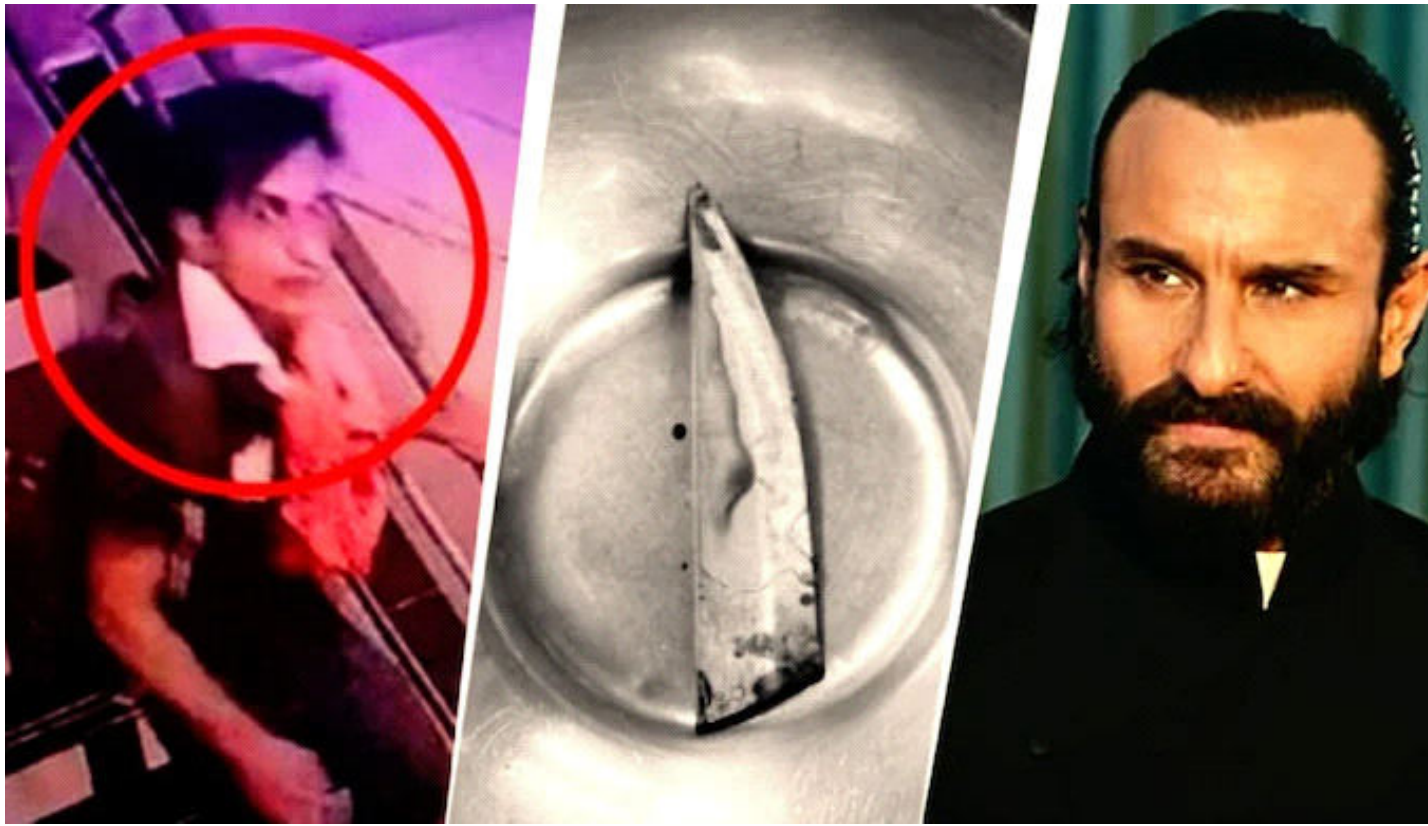
The achievement of SpaDeX also highlights the strategic importance of space capabilities in the contemporary geopolitical landscape. As the

United States and China engage in an intensifying space race, both nations are vying for supremacy in space exploration, with ambitious plans to send humans to the moon once again—decades after NASA's Apollo missions. In response to these developments, China has ramped up its space ambitions, with President Xi Jinping's vision of transforming China into a dominant space power posing potential challenges for the global balance of power. Just weeks ago, China accused the United States of destabilizing global security by stationing a unit of its Space Force in Japan, while Beijing itself has aggressively expanded its space and military capabilities.

For India, this increasing rivalry between the US and China underscores the need to enhance its own space capabilities. The nation must focus on safeguarding its space assets, including satellites and indigenous launch vehicles, while continuing to advance research and innovation. This would ensure that ISRO stays at the forefront of space exploration and remains prepared for missions such as human spaceflight and future moon landings. The SpaDeX success marks a significant step forward for India, reaffirming its position as a rising space power with a growing influence on the global stage.

SAIF ALI KHAN STABBING CASE

MAN DETAINED BUT NOT CONNECTED, SAY POLICE



**TPN Correspondent
Mumbai, Jan 18**

Bollywood actor Saif Ali Khan, who was stabbed six times at his Bandra West residence on Thursday, is out of the ICU and recovering well, according to doctors at Lilavati Hospital. The actor underwent a five-hour-long surgery to remove a 2.5-inch blade fragment from his spine. "Saif Ali Khan is doing excellent. He can walk well, and there is no problem or significant pain," said Dr. Nitin Narayan Dange in a press briefing. He also confirmed there is no risk of paralysis but emphasized that visitor movement would be restricted for a week to avoid infections. The hospital's Chief Operating Officer, Niraj Uttamani, described Saif's arrival at the hospital, stating, "He walked in soaked in blood like a lion, accompanied by his son Taimur. He didn't even use a stretcher. He is a 'real hero.' If the knife had gone 2 mm deeper, the injury could have been far more serious."

"My Husband Is Innocent," Says Detained Man's Wife

Mumbai Police have clarified that a man detained on Friday morning was not connected to the stabbing incident. Visuals showed the man being taken to the Bandra police station, and initial reports suggested he might be linked to the attack. However, a senior police officer later confirmed no one had been arrested or detained in the case. A new twist emerged as the police detained one Waris Ali, who was captured on CCTV exiting Saif's apartment building. His wife claimed he was a furniture worker called by Saif's manager to carry out repairs. "After finishing his work, he went home. Cameras also show him leaving the premises," she stated. Investigations into the attack are ongoing, with no confirmed suspects or motive yet. Meanwhile, Saif Ali Khan continues to recover, with doctors monitoring his condition closely.



Visa Operations In Bengaluru A Priority For US Visit: S Jaishankar

**TPN Correspondent
Bangalore, Jan 18**

External Affairs Minister S. Jaishankar called the opening of the "long-awaited" US consulate in Bengaluru a significant milestone in India-US relations. Speaking at the site dedication ceremony for the new consulate, he emphasized the importance of starting visa operations as soon as possible and identified it as a key topic for his upcoming discussions with Secretary of State Nominee Marco Rubio. Jaishankar noted that this consulate in Bengaluru would play a crucial role, particularly with the region's growing significance in the tech and business sectors. Referring to the high volume of passports issued by the Regional Passport Office in Bengaluru — 8,83,000 in

just one year — he highlighted the necessity of ensuring smooth travel and visa processing for citizens. "I was checking figures, and I was very glad to see the passport numbers from Bengaluru," Jaishankar said. "This demonstrates the need for efficient visa operations in the city." While the consulate will not immediately offer visa services, Jaishankar's address underscored Bengaluru's importance to both the tech industry and international relations. He emphasized that the city has long deserved a permanent US diplomatic presence, something the Prime Minister had raised during his US visit in June 2023. The Minister also pointed out that India had agreed to open a consulate in Los Angeles if the US facilitated the Bengaluru consulate's establishment. This

diplomatic move, Jaishankar believes, will enhance collaborations in defense, education, and other sectors, pushing India-US relations to new heights. US Ambassador to India, Eric Garcetti, who will soon conclude his tenure, shared his pride in seeing the consulate's foundation laid during his time in India. Reflecting on the US-India relationship, he noted that India's mission was now the second-largest for the US globally, handling record numbers in visas, students, and military engagements. Deputy Chief Minister D.K. Shivakumar, present at the ceremony, hailed the consulate's opening as a testament to Karnataka's growing global influence. He acknowledged Bengaluru's challenges but emphasized the city's status as the safest for global companies seeking to establish headquarters.



BJP RELEASES DELHI MANIFESTO: RS 21,000 AID FOR PREGNANT WOMEN

**TPN Correspondent
New Delhi, Jan 18**

The Bharatiya Janata Party (BJP) has unveiled its manifesto for the upcoming Delhi elections, placing women and senior citizens at the forefront of its welfare agenda. Union Minister JP Nadda announced a one-time financial assistance of Rs 21,000 and six nutritional kits for pregnant women. Additionally, Rs 5,000 will be provided for the first child and Rs 6,000 for the second child. The manifesto, titled Sankalp Patra, also includes the Mahila Smridhhi Yojana, aimed at empowering women through targeted benefits. Nadda assured voters that the BJP would implement the Ayushman Bharat health

scheme during its first cabinet meeting if elected, countering the ruling AAP's opposition to the central scheme. Senior citizens are promised an increased health cover of Rs 10 lakh and a pension scheme offering Rs 2,000-2,500 for those aged 60-70 years and Rs 3,000 for those above 70. The manifesto also introduces Atal Canteens in slums, providing full meals for just Rs 5. Nadda criticized AAP's governance, labeling its Mohalla Clinics as "dens of corruption and inefficiency" and accused the ruling party of mismanaging public welfare initiatives. The BJP's promises, particularly for women and senior citizens, signal its attempt to counter AAP's dominance in the capital while focusing on social welfare programs.



KANGANA RANAUT'S 'EMERGENCY' FACES PROTESTS IN PUNJAB

SGPC says 'govt will be responsible for disturbance...'

**TPN Correspondent
Punjab, Jan 18**

Kangana Ranaut's film Emergency is facing backlash in Punjab as the Shiromani Gurdwara Parbandhak Committee (SGPC) protests its release, accusing the film of misrepresenting Sikh history. The protests are particularly focused on the portrayal of Sikh characters, especially Jarnail Singh Bhindranwale, a prominent figure during the 1984 Indian emergency. The SGPC has expressed strong disapproval of the film, calling it "politically motivated" and alleging that it tarnishes the image of the Sikh community. A member of the SGPC stated, "The history of the Sikh religion and the 1984 events has been distorted. We protested when the teaser was released, but no action was taken." Amid heightened tensions, the SGPC has threatened to escalate protests if the film is screened in theaters. The committee has submitted letters to the Punjab Chief Minister Bhagwant Mann and the Chief Secretary, requesting a ban on the film. SGPC President Harjinder Singh Dhami stated, "We have urged the Deputy Commissioner of Amritsar to stop the release of the film. It misrepresents Sikh characters, and we will not allow this to be shown in Punjab." A heavy police presence was seen at the PVR Suraj Chanda Tara Cinema in Amritsar, where the film was scheduled for release, as authorities braced for potential unrest.

'RESOLVE THIS OR WE WILL' Top Court Warning To DMK & Governor

**TPN Correspondent
New Delhi, Jan 18**

The Supreme Court on Friday issued a stern directive to Tamil Nadu Governor RN Ravi and the ruling DMK government, urging them to resolve their prolonged dispute over the appointment of vice-chancellors for state-run universities. The top court cautioned that if the issue remains unresolved by the next hearing, it will intervene to settle the matter. The conflict revolves around the Governor's insistence on appointing vice-chancellors as the honorary chancellor of state universities, a move opposed by the DMK. The state government argues that the Governor is undermining the elected administration and delaying bills designed to limit his powers. Justice SB Pardiwala, leading the bench, stated, "By the next date, if this is resolved... well and good. Otherwise, we will resolve it." The court emphasized the Governor's constitutional duties under Article 200, noting he has three options regarding bills: grant assent, withhold assent, or forward them to the President. The DMK accuses Governor Ravi of deliberately delaying crucial bills, including those from the previous AIADMK-led government, and hindering state development. The DMK alleges that Mr. Ravi's actions reflect an attempt to "undermine the elected administration." In November 2023, the Supreme Court criticized Mr. Ravi for keeping bills pending since 2020 and questioned his lack of action over three years. The court also addressed similar disputes involving the Governors of Punjab and Kerala. Representing the Governor, Solicitor General Tushar Mehta argued that Governors are not mere "technical supervisors" and play a critical role in the legislative process.



8TH PAY COMMISSION ANNOUNCED

What Salary Hike Central Employees Can Expect?

**TPN Correspondent
New Delhi, Jan 18**

The Union Cabinet, led by Prime Minister Narendra Modi, has approved the formation of the 8th Pay Commission, a move set to enhance the salaries and benefits of central government employees. The decision, announced on January 16, 2025, comes ahead of the Delhi Assembly elections and aims to support the workforce while boosting overall consumption. On X (formerly Twitter), Prime Minister Modi lauded government employees, stat-

ing, "We are all proud of the efforts of all Government employees, who work to build a Viksit Bharat. The Cabinet's decision on the 8th Pay Commission will improve quality of life and give a boost to consumption." **Key Expectations** The 8th Pay Commission will revise the existing structure set by the 7th Pay Commission, effective since January 1, 2016. While the exact salary hike percentage is yet to be disclosed, reports suggest an increase in the fitment factor from 2.57 to 2.86, potentially raising the minimum basic salary from ₹18,000 to ₹51,480.

The fitment factor serves as the multiplier used to calculate revised salaries and pensions. Under the 7th Pay Commission, it increased the minimum basic pay from ₹7,000 to ₹18,000. A similar adjustment under the 8th Pay Commission could lead to significant salary increments when combined with allowances like DA, HRA, and TA. With the dearness allowance crossing 50% of basic salary and set to be revised in January 2025, the new pay structure is anticipated to bring substantial financial relief and enhanced benefits to central government employees and pensioners alike.

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PRESS FREEDOM,
US STYLE!!



During U.S. Secretary of State Antony Blinken’s final press conference, journalist Sam Hussein was forcibly removed after heckling Blinken over U.S. policy on Gaza. The incident highlighted the tension between the Biden administration’s global promotion of press freedom and its handling of dissent at home. Hussein’s removal raised concerns over the treatment of journalists questioning government actions, underscoring contradictions in the administration’s stance on free speech.

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“SUCCESS IS
UNCERTAIN”

Debris From Broken Starship Falls
From Space



Elon Musk’s SpaceX Starship test ended in dramatic failure as the upper stage disintegrated over the Atlantic Ocean. The launch, from Boca Chica, Texas, aimed to showcase improvements in the world’s largest and most powerful rocket, with the Super Heavy booster successfully decelerating from supersonic speeds. However, seven minutes after liftoff, the booster failed to maintain its integrity, causing debris to fall into the Gulf of Mexico. This marked the seventh test flight, following previous success in October, but a failure in November. Musk noted a significant oxygen/fuel leak that caused excessive pressure in the engine cavity, resulting in the mishap. He hinted at addressing the leak with fire suppression and increased venting. Despite the setback, Musk remained optimistic, suggesting that the next test could proceed by next month, pending further fixes and adjustments.

ISRAEL-GAZA WAR: HOW FAR IS THE CEASEFIRE?

NETANYAHU SAYS DEAL TO RELEASE HOSTAGES 'REACHED'

TPN Correspondent
Jerusalem, Jan 18

Israeli Prime Minister Benjamin Netanyahu announced on Friday that a deal had been reached to return hostages held in Gaza, as tensions within his government and ongoing airstrikes complicated the implementation of a ceasefire to pause the 15-month war. Netanyahu’s announcement followed earlier reports of last-minute issues in finalizing the ceasefire. The deal, which would pause fighting in Gaza and secure the release of dozens of hostages held by militants, has been a subject of intense negotiations. In exchange for the hostages, Palestinian prisoners held in Israel would be released, and displaced Palestinians would be allowed to return to their homes in Gaza. However, the ceasefire faces opposition within Netanyahu’s coalition government, particularly from hardline far-right factions. On Thursday, Israel’s national security minister, Itamar Ben-Gvir, threatened to resign if the ceasefire deal was approved, underscoring the political tensions surrounding the agreement. Israeli airstrikes continued to target Gaza, with at least 72 Palestinians killed on Thursday. The violence intensified even as



talks of a ceasefire progressed, with Gaza’s Health Ministry reporting numerous casualties. Despite this, Palestinian officials expressed their hopes for the ceasefire, with reports of celebration in some areas. Egypt has played a crucial role in mediating the ceasefire talks, urging both Israel and Hamas to implement the deal without delay. However, the agreement’s implementation remains uncertain, and the situation remains volatile. The 15-month

war, triggered by Hamas’ October 7, 2023, attack on Israel, has resulted in significant loss of life, with over 46,000 Palestinians reported killed and many more injured. Both sides have used military operations to project strength, complicating efforts to reach lasting peace. As the ceasefire discussions continue, the international community is closely watching whether this deal will bring a temporary pause or lead to a more lasting resolution.



CLOSER US-INDIA TIES CRUCIAL FOR SOLVING WORLD'S PROBLEMS

TPN Correspondent
Washington DC, Jan 18

The US-India partnership is vital for addressing global challenges, particularly in public health and pharmaceutical innovation, said Dr. Rahul Gupta, Director of the Office of National Drug Control Policy (ONDCP). As one of the highest-ranking Indian Americans in the Biden Administration, Dr. Gupta emphasized the importance of fostering stronger ties between the two nations to tackle pressing global issues. “Only when the United States and India work together can we truly solve the world’s problems. This partnership represents where East meets West,” Dr. Gupta told PTI, highlighting the transformative potential of the collaboration. Strengthening Public Health and Counter-Narcotics Dr. Gupta underlined three key pillars driving US-India cooperation: counter-narcotics, public health, and pharmaceutical supply chains. He praised India’s ability to distribute COVID-19 vaccines globally, adding that a similar model could be extended to medications addressing addiction, diabetes, and hypertension.

CHINA SEES POPULATION DROP IN 2024, DESPITE INCREASE IN BIRTHS

TPN Correspondent
Beijing, Jan 18

China’s population has continued to shrink for the third consecutive year in 2024, despite a slight increase in the number of births. According to data released by the National Statistics Bureau on Friday, the total population dropped by over 1.39 million, falling to 1.408 billion. This marks a continued demographic challenge for the country, underscoring long-term risks for its economy. In 2024, approximately 9.54 million babies were born, an increase of 520,000 from the previous year. This slight rise may have been influenced by the belief that the Year of the Dragon in the Chinese zodiac is auspicious for having children. However, it still represents the second-lowest number of births since the founding of the People’s Republic of China in 1949. Demographer He Yafu attributed the uptick to many couples who had delayed childbearing during the three years of the COVID-19 pandemic. He warned, however, that the number of newborns is expected to decline again in 2025. China’s birth rate has been on a steady decline for decades, exacerbated by restrictive family planning policies, rising childcare costs, and changing social norms. The only exception to this decline occurred in 2016 when the government relaxed its one-child policy. The shrinking population further widens the gap with India, which overtook China as the world’s most populous country in 2023. India’s population is nearing 1.45

billion, according to United Nations’ estimates. Bloomberg Intelligence forecasts that China’s population will shrink to 1.36 billion by 2035, a level not seen since 2012. However, this projection may be delayed if couples are encouraged to have more children. In response to the demographic challenges, Chinese authorities have pledged to provide more support for families with multiple children, including assistance with housing, healthcare, and employment. China’s demographic struggles may eventually affect its economic growth, as a shrinking workforce puts pressure on productivity, while an aging population strains the pension system. In an effort to address these concerns, China announced plans to gradually raise the retirement age for the first time since 1978, despite facing public opposition.



H1-B VISA REFORMS TO BENEFIT INDIAN TECH PROFESSIONALS

TPN Correspondent
Washington DC., Jan 18

Major changes to the H-1B visa programme take effect today, January 17, aiming to streamline the process and enhance benefits for foreign professionals. The reforms are expected to significantly impact Indian techies, who constitute a large portion of H-1B visa holders. The US Citizenship and Immigration Services (USCIS) announced that the updated rules will improve efficiency, clarify job eligibility criteria, and strengthen measures to prevent misuse. These changes align with the US government’s efforts to retain global

talent and promote innovation in critical fields. Indian professionals are set to benefit from key revisions, including simplified transitions for F-1 visa holders, expanded exemptions for nonprofit and research roles, and stricter compliance measures to ensure job authenticity.

Major Changes Benefiting Indian Techies

- F-1 visa students transitioning to H-1B will enjoy automatic extensions of their F-1 status until April 1 of the relevant year.
- This ensures lawful continuity in status and work authorisation



during the H-1B application process, easing challenges for Indian students pursuing jobs in the US.

- if not directly employed by them, Employers must prove the legit-

- Nonprofit and government research organisations with research as a core activity now qualify for H-1B cap exemptions, even if research isn't their primary focus.
- Beneficiaries spending at least 50% of their time working for these organisations, even if not directly employed by them, are also eligible.

- Imacy of “specialty occupation” roles.
- Supporting documents may be requested to verify job authenticity.
- Compliance with the Labor Condition Application (LCA) and legal presence in the US is now mandatory.

With over 755,000 individuals admitted on H-1B visas in FY2023, the programme continues to play a vital role in bridging global talent with US opportunities. The reforms signal a stronger commitment to fostering collaboration and addressing workforce needs, particularly in technology and research sectors.

Markets Tumble Amid Global Uncertainty and Weak Q3 Results

Domestic stock markets suffered heavy losses on Friday. They wiped out yesterday's gains. Investors were cautious due to negative signals from international markets. They made cautious purchases. They took profits as needed. The increase in the dollar index, US bond yields, and treasury yields hurt investor sentiment. It plunged them into uncertainty. On the other hand, various speculations on the US Fed rate cut hurt. In total, Nifty 100 and Sensex fell by more than 400 points. It is noteworthy that the third quarter results were also not promising.

The BSE Sensex, which closed at 77,042 in the previous session, opened at 77,069 today. It reached an intraday low at 76,263. It reached an intraday high at 77,069. It ended at 76,619, down 423 points. The NSE Nifty, which opened at 23,277 on Friday, touched a low of 23,100 and a high of 23,292. It closed at 23,203, down 108 points. The Nifty Bank fell 738 points to settle at 48,540.

In the Nifty50, 29 stocks gained while 21 lost. BPCL, Reliance, Coal India, Hindalco, Nestle India were the top gainers. Infosys, Axis Bank, Shriram Finance, Kotak Bank, and Wipro were the biggest losers. FMCG, Metal, Pharma, Realty, Healthcare, Consumer Durables, and Oil and Gas indices rose today. Bank, auto, finance, IT and private bank indices rose.

Market breadth on NSE today was equal for buyers and sellers. Out of 2904 stocks traded, 1472 gained and 1338 lost. Shares of 24 companies reached 52-



week highs while 46 lost 52-week lows.

Tech Mahindra's third quarter results were disappointing. Net profit fell 21.4% to Rs 938 crore from Rs 1250 crore. Wipro's rupee-based revenue was Rs 22,285 crore. The company declared a dividend of Rs 6 per share. The rupee weakened by 6 paise against the dollar to settle at 86.61. Stallion India Fluorochemicals IPO was subscribed 26.04 times by noon on the second day. Kotak Mahindra, RBL Bank and Can Fin Homes will release results on Saturday. Jefferies has maintained a buy rating on Infosys with a target price of Rs 2250. Sterlite Technologies' loss has been reduced to Rs 24 crore from Rs 57 crore. CLSA has maintained an outperform rating with a target price of Rs 1400 crore. KPI green energy shares have lost 10 times in the last 11 sessions. Zomato has provided Rs 500 crore in quick commerce unit Blinkit. SBI Life's net profit has increased by 71% to Rs 551 crore from Rs 322 crore. Shares of GHCL, RCF and FACT rose up to 9 percent on rising soda ash prices. Jefferies maintained a buy rating on Reliance with a target price of Rs 1660. 10 lakh shares changed hands in NMDC. RVNL shares rose 5% on the back of budget allocations.

Inda's Gems and Jewellery Exports Fall 10.29% in December

India's gems and jewellery exports witnessed a decline of 10.29% in December 2024 compared to the same month in the previous year, according to data released by the Gem & Jewellery Export Promotion Council (GJEPC). The total exports for December 2024 were recorded at USD 1.97 billion, down from USD 2.19 billion in December 2023. This significant dip can be attributed to ongoing economic uncertainties, which have led buyers to shift their focus from luxury items like jewellery to more stable investments such as gold.



Economic volatility, both globally and domestically, has dampened consumer spending on non-essential items, including high-end jewellery. In uncertain times, investors typically seek safe-haven assets, with gold being a preferred option. As a result, demand for diamond and gemstone jewellery, which often sees its peak during festive seasons and special events, has slowed down considerably.

This decline also reflects the broader trend seen in the global market, where the luxury sector, including fine jewellery, is facing challenges due to inflationary pressures and a cautious approach by consumers. As markets remain jittery, spending on lifestyle goods like jewellery is likely to remain

subdued, further contributing to the slump in exports.

However, despite this short-term setback, industry experts remain optimistic about the long-term outlook of the gems and jewellery sector. The demand for Indian jewellery, especially in markets like the US and the Middle East, is expected to stabilize once global economic conditions improve. Additionally, India's gem and jewellery industry continues to benefit from its robust supply chains, skilled craftsmanship, and strong ties with international buyers.

Moving forward, the GJEPC is hopeful that the sector will recover in the coming months as the global economy stabilizes and consumer confidence returns. For now, the jewellery industry faces the challenge of navigating through uncertain times while maintaining its status as one of India's leading export sectors.

World Bank Projects 6.7% Growth for India in 2025-26



The World Bank has projected India's economy to grow at 6.7% in the next fiscal year, beginning in April 2025, slightly higher than the 6.5% growth expected for the current fiscal year. Despite a slowdown from the previous year's 8.2% growth, India remains the world's fastest-growing major economy, outpacing both China and the US.

The World Bank's Global Economic Prospects report, released Thursday, highlighted the services sector's robust expansion, alongside the anticipated strengthening of manufacturing activity. This growth is expected to be supported by government initiatives aimed at improving the business environment, helping to maintain India's top position in global growth projections.

In contrast, the global economy is projected to grow at a modest rate of 2.7% annually from 2023 to 2026, with India continuing to lead the charge among large economies. China, which follows India in growth projections, is expected to grow by 4.5% in 2025,

before slowing to 4% in the following year. The United States is expected to experience slower growth, projected at 2.3% this year and 2% next year, down from 2.8% in 2024.

The report also pointed out the risks to global and Indian economic stability posed by potential adverse trade policy shifts. While the World Bank did not directly name US President-elect Donald Trump, it referenced trade tensions and tariff hikes as risks that could disrupt economic momentum. These changes in trade policies are noted as a significant threat to global growth, including for economies like India's, which are highly dependent on international trade.

India's projected growth rate aligns closely with the United Nations' forecast of 6.6% growth for 2025 and 6.8% in 2026. The World Bank attributed the current dip in India's growth to a slowdown in investment and weak manufacturing growth but expressed confidence in a rebound as structural reforms take effect.

Union Budget 2025: Nirmala Sitharaman to present Budget on February 1

Union Finance Minister Nirmala Sitharaman is set to present the Union Budget for the fiscal year 2025-26 on February 1, marking the first full Budget of Prime Minister Narendra Modi's third term in office. This highly anticipated announcement comes amid expectations for policies aimed at boosting economic growth, addressing inflation concerns, and stimulating investment.

The Budget session of Parliament will begin on January 31 with the presentation of the Economic Survey, which provides an overview of the country's economic performance and outlines key challenges and growth prospects. The session will run until February 13, during which discussions on the Budget and other critical legislative matters are expected to take place.

As India continues its post-pandemic recovery, the upcoming Budget will be scrutinized for measures to strengthen the economy, support job creation, and enhance infrastructure development. Key sectors such as agriculture, manufacturing, and



services are likely to receive attention, with a focus on policy reforms to further India's growth trajectory.

The presentation of the Economic Survey will set the stage for the Budget, offering insights into economic trends and highlighting government priorities. Following the Budget announcement on February 1, detailed discussions will be held in Parlia-

ment, with the opposition expected to raise pertinent concerns and propose alternative approaches to managing the economy.

With the Budget expected to address ongoing economic challenges and lay the foundation for future growth, all eyes will be on February 1 as Nirmala Sitharaman unveils the government's fiscal plans for the coming year.

Indian stock market opens lower amid weak global cues

The Indian stock market opened lower on Friday, with major declines in the IT and private banking sectors following weak global cues. At 9:30 AM, the BSE Sensex stood at 76,717.03, down by 325.79 points or 0.42%. Meanwhile, the NSE Nifty was at 23,225, down by 86.80 points or 0.37%.

On the National Stock Exchange (NSE), 1,118 stocks were in the green, while 1,039 stocks were in the red, reflecting a mixed market sentiment. Despite the overall decline, experts point to two positive factors that could support the market: the declining dollar index and US bond yields, as well as better-than-expected Q3 results from major companies like Reliance Industries and Infosys.

The Nifty Bank index was down by 470.55



points, or 0.95%, trading at 48,808.15, while the Nifty Midcap 100 and Nifty Smallcap 100 indices also saw declines of 0.38% and 0.10%, respectively.

Among the top losers in the Sensex pack were Infosys, Axis Bank, TCS, HCL Tech, and Kotak Mahindra Bank, while Re-

liance, Zomato, L&T, Sun Pharma, and Adani Ports were some of the top gainers.

Global markets provided little support, with the Dow Jones closing down 0.16%, the S&P 500 dropping 0.21%, and the Nasdaq slipping 0.89% in the previous session. In Asia, markets showed mixed performance, with Seoul, Bangkok, and Japan trading in the red, while China, Jakarta, and Hong Kong were in the green.

Market analysts suggest that the correction in the market has made large-cap valuations more attractive. Nifty is currently trading at around 19 times the estimated FY26 earnings, making it an opportune time for long-term investors to buy quality large-cap stocks, despite the short-term volatility driven by foreign institutional investors' (FIIs) selling.

Don’t share OTP: Woman Falls to Work-From-Home Banking Scam via Instagram

Sharvari (name changed) was on the lookout for a legitimate work-from-home opportunity when she stumbled upon an Instagram advertisement offering just that. The ad led her to a website where she was asked to fill in basic details to apply for the position. Eager to secure the job, Sharvari complied, not realizing the deceptive tactics that lay ahead.



The next step of the process requested her to provide sensitive information, including her bank account details. After entering this information, Sharvari received a one-time password (OTP) on her phone, which she promptly entered on the website, unknowingly advancing the scam further.

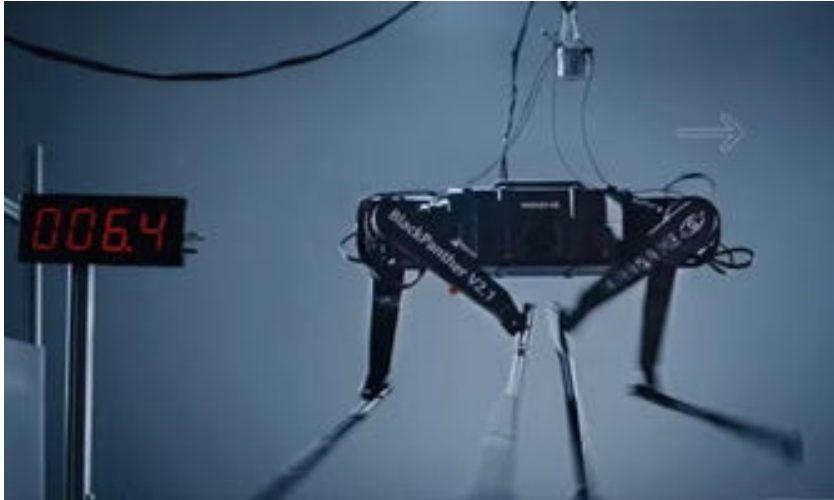
Soon after submitting her details, Sharvari received a payment request on her PhonePe application, asking for a “registration fee” to finalize her application. Trusting the process, she paid the amount, but little did she know, she was falling victim to a well-crafted banking scam. Shortly after completing the transaction, an unspecified sum was deducted from her account, and her PhonePe account was blocked.

This incident serves as a stark reminder of how banking frauds are increasingly taking place through deceptive online tactics. Scammers often use attractive ads and offers on social media platforms like Instagram to lure unsuspecting individuals into sharing their personal and banking information. Once the criminals have access to this data, they exploit it to steal money and cause other financial harm.

Sharvari’s case is a cautionary tale, as it highlights the importance of being cautious when sharing sensitive information online, especially when dealing with offers or job opportunities that seem too good to be true. It is crucial for individuals to verify the authenticity of such opportunities, avoid sharing banking details on suspicious websites, and report any such incidents to authorities immediately.

China Unveils Black Panther 2.0: A Robotic Dog That Runs 100 Meters in Under 10 Seconds

Chinese scientists have introduced an impressive technological breakthrough with the development of Black Panther 2.0, a quadruped robot dog capable of completing a 100-meter sprint in less than 10 seconds. This cutting-edge creation surpasses even the speed of many human athletes and showcases significant advancements in robotics.



Created by Zhejiang University, in collaboration with the Hangzhou-based startup Mirror Me, Black Panther 2.0 exemplifies the future of robotic mobility. The robot dog’s remarkable speed is a product of its biomimetic design, which draws inspiration from the natural movement of animals. The robot’s advanced AI-powered gait optimization system plays a crucial role in its agility, ensuring it moves efficiently and with precision.

The Black Panther 2.0’s performance is a milestone in the field of robotics, particularly in terms of speed and stability. The robot is not just fast but also exhibits high levels of balance and coordination, even while navigating complex terrain. This ability makes it a potential game-changer for applications ranging from search and rescue missions to security operations.

The development of such high-performance robots also highlights the use of cutting-edge materials that enhance the durability and mobility of robotic limbs. These materials ensure that the Black Panther 2.0 can withstand the rigorous demands of high-speed running while maintaining its structural integrity.

Black Panther 2.0 is an example of how robotics is evolving to match and even exceed natural capabilities. As innovations in AI, machine learning, and mechanical design continue to progress, robots like the Black Panther 2.0 could soon become integral components in a variety of industries, pushing the boundaries of what machines can achieve. This breakthrough sets a new standard for robotic mobility, and the future promises even more exciting developments in this area.

Advertisers with ‘hair on fire’ brace for US TikTok ban

As the deadline for a potential U.S. ban on TikTok approaches, advertisers who rely heavily on the platform for digital marketing are scrambling to devise contingency plans. The popular Chinese-owned social media app, which has become a central hub for advertisers, may face shutdown as early as Sunday, prompting a flurry of activity from marketing executives who are grappling with the looming uncertainty.

With TikTok’s future in the U.S. hanging in the balance, many in the advertising world had hoped that a solution would emerge before the ban came into effect. However, as the deadline nears, the realization has set in that the app’s status may not be resolved in time. One marketing executive described the situation as a “hair on fire” moment, illustrating the panic and urgency felt by those dependent on TikTok for reaching audiences.

The platform has seen explosive growth in re-



cent years, with its short-form videos becoming a staple for brands seeking to engage with younger, tech-savvy consumers. For many ad-

vertisers, TikTok is not just an optional marketing channel—it has become a cornerstone of their digital advertising strategies. As such,

the prospect of losing access to the platform has created significant disruption in the ad world.

While President Trump has suggested that a “political resolution” may be possible after his inauguration, the immediate concern for advertisers is how to navigate the next few days without a clear answer on TikTok’s future. Companies are now facing the challenge of pivoting their marketing efforts and reallocating budgets to other platforms, all while racing against the clock to adapt to the rapidly changing digital landscape.

As Sunday draws closer, the pressure on brands to react swiftly and effectively increases, with many hoping that the resolution comes sooner rather than later. The TikTok ban saga has now become a key issue for the advertising industry, leaving many to wonder how the landscape will shift in the absence of the platform.

Apple temporarily turns off feature amid hallucination concerns

Apple has confirmed that the AI-generated summaries of notifications from news apps will be temporarily unavailable for users of its latest beta software. The feature, which is part of the iOS 18.3, iPadOS 18.3, and macOS Sequoia 15.3 beta releases, has been disabled for the time being.

A company spokesperson confirmed the disruption, explaining that users will not be able to access notification summaries in the News & Entertainment category while using the affected beta versions. The move is seen as a temporary setback, and Apple is expected to address the issue in upcoming software updates.

This feature, designed to provide users with concise, AI-generated summaries of news app notifications, was introduced as part of Apple’s efforts to improve the overall user experience. It aimed to help users stay informed with streamlined notifications, summarizing important updates without overwhelming them with excessive information.

Apple has been working to enhance its AI infrastructure, splitting costs between its own data centers and third-party cloud providers with whom it contracts. This flexibil-



ity in managing AI infrastructure helps the company optimize performance and reduce overall costs while advancing its AI technology.

The company did not specify the exact reason behind the temporary removal of the feature, but users of the beta software can expect the functionality to return once Apple resolves the issue. Until then, users can rely on traditional notification methods to stay up-to-date with news and entertainment updates.

As Apple continues to refine its software offerings, this temporary disruption highlights the challenges of integrating AI features into its ecosystem. However, it is also a reminder that software development is a continuous process, and issues like this are often addressed with updates to improve the overall user experience.

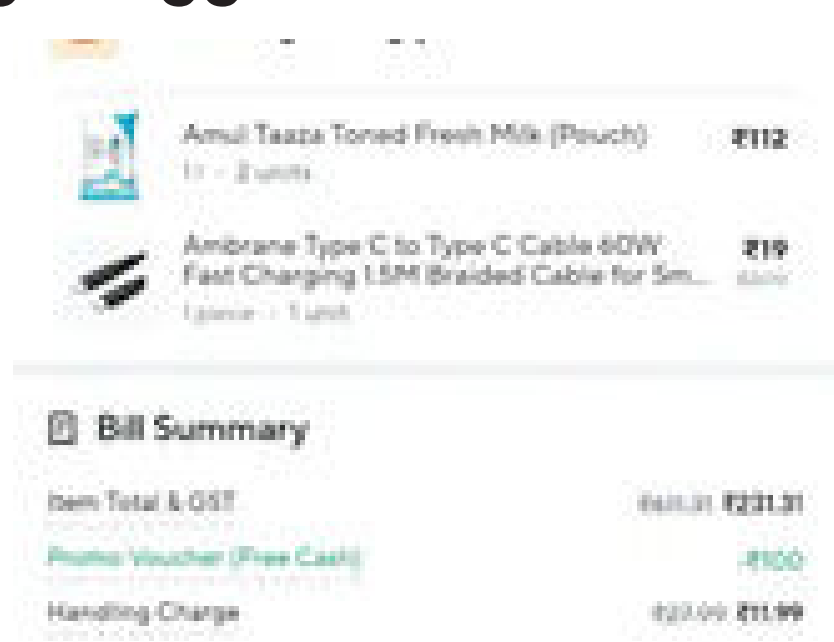
Zepto’s Discount Calculation On Checkout Page Triggers LOL Reactions

Zepto, the popular quick-commerce platform, has found itself at the center of an online debate after a Reddit user posted a screenshot of their baffling checkout page. The user, perplexed by the app’s billing calculations, humorously captioned the screenshot, “I am too stupid to understand Zepto’s maths, someone smart enough please help.” The post quickly went viral as users on Reddit attempted to decipher the platform’s puzzling calculations.

The order in question included two items: two 1-litre packs of Amul Taaza Toned Fresh Milk, each priced at Rs 112, and an Ambrane Type C to Type C Cable (60W) that had been heavily discounted from Rs 499 to Rs 19. Initially, the app showed the item total and GST as Rs 611.31. However, after applying discounts, the amount dropped dramatically to Rs 231.31.

Further deductions were made, including a Rs 100 reduction from a promo voucher, listed as “Free Cash,” and a handling charge that decreased from Rs 27.99 to Rs 11.99. Other fees, such as processing, rain, and delivery charges, were all displayed as Rs 0. Despite these substantial adjustments, the final bill amounted to Rs 145.29, with Zepto claiming the user saved a total of Rs 554.01.

While discounts are typically a welcomed feature in e-commerce, the perplexing nature of this cal-



culatio has led to confusion and plenty of LOL reactions online. Many users questioned how the original price of Rs 611.31 was reduced to such a low final price, with some even joking that they could use a calculator to make sense of the math.

This incident has drawn attention to potential flaws in Zepto’s billing system and raised concerns about transparency in pricing. While some Redditors enjoyed the humor in the situation, others expressed frustration, urging the company to clarify how discounts and adjustments are calculated to avoid further confusion for customers in the future.

Manu Bhaker, Gukesh receive’s Khel Ratna from President Murmu at Rashtrapati Bhavan



World Chess Champion Gukesh Dommaraju expressed his heartfelt gratitude after receiving the prestigious Major Dhyan Chand Khel Ratna Award from President Draupadi Murmu on Friday. The young chess prodigy shared his joy and appreciation on Instagram, highlighting how significant recognition is for athletes.

The prestigious ‘Major Dhyan Chand Khel Ratna Award 2024’ from our Honourable @presidentofindia mam! Feels great and encouraging when our hard work and achievements get proper recognition,” he wrote.

The Major Dhyan Chand Khel Ratna Award is In-

Alongside Gukesh, other prominent athletes, including double Olympic medalist Manu Bhaker, Indian men’s hockey team captain Harmanpreet Singh, and Para Athlete Praveen Kumar, were also honored with the Major Dhyan Chand Khel Ratna Award during a ceremony held at Rashtrapati Bhawan.

Gukesh, who has made remarkable strides in the world of chess, took to social media to express his emotions. “Grateful to receive

dia’s highest sporting honor, given to athletes for their exceptional performance and contributions to their respective sports. Gukesh’s achievement is especially significant, as it reflects not only his personal accomplishments but also the growing recognition of chess in India. His rise to prominence, culminating in his victory as World Chess Champion, has earned him admiration both nationally and internationally.

For Gukesh, receiving this honor is not just a personal achievement but also an acknowledgment of the dedication and hard work that goes into excelling at a global level. It serves as motivation to continue pursuing excellence and inspiring others to follow in his footsteps.

The award ceremony, attended by various dignitaries, was a moment of pride for all the athletes recognized for their contributions to sports. For Gukesh, it is a testament to his commitment and a reminder of how far hard work and perseverance can take an athlete in any sport.

Bopanna Advance to Second Round in Mixed Doubles at Australian Open 2025

Rohan Bopanna and Zhang Shuai powered into the second round of the Australian Open 2025 mixed doubles competition on Friday, securing a 6-4, 6-4 win over Kristina Mladenovic of France and Ivan Dodig from Croatia.

Competing on the hard courts of Melbourne Park, the Indo-Chinese duo came out strong from the start. They broke their opponents twice in the opening set, quickly racing to a 3-0 lead. Despite a brief resurgence from Mladenovic and Dodig, who managed a break of their own, Bopanna and Shuai maintained control, holding their serves to close out the set.

In the second set, both pairs struggled to hold serve initially, with no successful holds in the first four games. However, Bopanna and Shuai gained the upper hand when they broke Mladenovic in the seventh game. The pair continued their strong play, and Bopanna served out the match, securing their spot in the next round.



This victory marks another milestone for Bopanna, who previously reached the mixed doubles semi-finals at the Rio 2016 Olympics alongside Sania Mirza. He also made it to the Australian Open 2023 final in mixed doubles with Mirza. Although Bopanna and his Colombian partner Nicolas Barrientos were eliminated in the opening round of the men’s doubles event by Spain’s Pedro Martinez and Jaume Munar, he will now

look to build on this mixed doubles win.

Meanwhile, in men’s doubles, India’s N Sriram Balaji and his Mexican partner Miguel Angel Reyes-Varela will face the Portuguese pair of Nuno Borges and Francisco Cabral on Saturday after winning their first-round match against Robin Haase of the Netherlands and Aleksandr Nedovyesov of Kazakhstan.

Unfortunately, India’s singles campaign ended early as Sumit Nagal was defeated by Czechia’s Tomas Machac in the first round.

India Set to Defend U-19 Women’s T20 World Cup Title in Malaysia

India’s U-19 women’s cricket team is all set to defend their ICC U-19 Women’s T20 World Cup title as the tournament begins in Kuala Lumpur on Saturday. The GenNext cricketers, eager to maintain their dominance, are placed in Group A alongside the West Indies, Sri Lanka, and hosts Malaysia. India will kick off their campaign against the West Indies on Sunday at the Bayuemas Oval. The team had won the inaugural edition of the tournament in South Africa in 2023, defeating England by seven wickets in the final.

The opening day’s fixtures feature semi-finalists from the previous edition, with Australia taking on Scotland in Group D, and 2023 runners-up England facing Ireland in Group B. Other Saturday matchups include Samoa against Nigeria (Group C), Bangladesh versus Nepal (Group D), Pakistan against the United States (Group B), and New Zealand against South Africa (Group C).

The 2025 edition sees 16 teams divided into four groups. The top three teams from each group will advance to the Super Six stage, where the top two from each group will progress to the semi-finals. The tournament will conclude with the final on February 2.



India’s victory in 2023 was a historic moment for women’s age-group cricket, with captain Shafali Verma leading by example. The squad, coached by Nooshin Al Khadeer, included notable players such as Titas Sadhu, Shweta Sehrawat, and the spin trio of Mannat Kashyap, Parshavi Chopra, and Archana Devi. With an ODI World Cup on the horizon later this year, the current squad, led by Niki Prasad, is eager to showcase their talent and secure a spot in the senior team.

Among the key players is Hyderabad’s Trisha G, who has shown aggressive top-order batting, helping India win the U-19 Asia Cup last month. The team also boasts

a strong left-arm spin attack with Parunika Sisodia, Sonam Yadav, and Aayushi Shukla. India faces tough competition from England, Australia, and South Africa.

India’s squad includes captain Niki Prasad, vice-captain Sanika Chalke, and promising talents like Trisha G, Sonam Yadav, and Aayushi Shukla. The groups for the tournament are as follows:

- Group A:** India, Malaysia, Sri Lanka, West Indies
- Group B:** England, Ireland, Pakistan, United States
- Group C:** New Zealand, Nigeria, Samoa, South Africa
- Group D:** Australia, Bangladesh, Nepal, Scotland

Zverev Cruises Into Fourth Round at Australian Open with Straight-Sets Win

Second seed Alexander Zverev continued his impressive form at the 2025 Australian Open, breezing past British qualifier Jacob Fearnley in the third round with a dominant 6-3, 6-4, 6-4 victory. The 27-year-old German needed just 2 hours and 2 minutes to dismantle his 92nd-ranked opponent on Margaret Court Arena, advancing to the next stage of the tournament.

Zverev, who is aiming for his first Grand Slam title, will now face the winner of the all-French clash between Ugo Humbert and Arthur Fils for a spot in the quarter-finals. This victory marked Zverev’s 28th Australian Open win, bringing him just one behind Boris Becker for the most by a German player.

Following the win, Zverev praised Fearnley for his remarkable progress, highlighting the 23-year-old Briton’s journey from college tennis and the Challenger series to competing in the third round of a Grand Slam. “He’s an incredible player,” said Zverev. “Massive respect for him. He’s only getting better.”

Zverev, who made it to the semi-finals last year, has been consistent throughout this year’s tournament, winning every set so far. He broke Fearnley early in the first set following a double fault and a well-timed rally to seize control. Despite Fearnley’s resistance in the second set, another double fault handed



Zverev a break to edge closer to the victory.

In the third set, Zverev once again showed his resilience after dropping an early break. He quickly regained control, breaking Fearnley’s serve to lead 4-2 before closing out the match with a final flourish.

Zverev had an outstanding 2024 season, but with runner-up finishes at the 2020 US Open and last year’s French Open, the German is eager to capture his first Grand Slam title in Melbourne this year.

India to Announce Squads for Champions Trophy and England ODIs on January 18

India’s squads for the upcoming Champions Trophy and the ODI series against England will be unveiled on January 18. The announcement will be made by India’s ODI captain Rohit Sharma and chief selector Ajit Agarkar at a media briefing at Wankhede Stadium in Mumbai.

The much-anticipated squads will be finalized by the men’s selection committee, headed by Agarkar. The selection meeting comes ahead of the prestigious Champions Trophy, set to return after a six-year hiatus, with India drawn in Group B alongside Pakistan, New Zealand, and Bangladesh. The tournament will begin on February 19 in Karachi, with Pakistan facing New Zealand, while India will take on Bangladesh in Dubai the following day.

Rohit Sharma is expected to lead the squad, though concerns remain over the fitness of pacer Jasprit Bumrah. Bumrah, who had suffered from back spasms during the fifth and final Test of India’s tour of Australia earlier this month, has not received an official update from the Board of Control for Cricket in India (BCCI) on his injury. Bumrah himself dismissed reports suggesting he was advised to rest and take a break, calling them “fake news.”

There is also speculation surrounding the inclusion of Karun Nair, who has been



in outstanding form in the ongoing Vijay Hazare Trophy, scoring 752 runs in seven innings as Vidarbha’s captain. Despite playing only two ODIs, the 33-year-old’s domestic form has sparked calls for his inclusion in the Champions Trophy squad or the England ODIs.

In addition, there is speculation over the potential selection of Yashasvi Jaiswal as a backup opener for the squad. Jaiswal, who has represented India in Tests and T20Is but has yet to debut in ODIs, is a strong contender due to his recent performances in domestic cricket.

With these developments, the squad announcement on January 18 is eagerly awaited by fans and analysts alike.



Pawan Kalyan’s Maata Vinali: A Song Across Five Languages for ‘Hari Hara Veera Mallu’

The highly anticipated film Hari Hara Veera Mallu Part-1: Sword vs. Spirit has entered its promotional phase, with a new song release that has already caught the attention of fans. Titled Maata Vinali, this track was launched by the makers of the movie on social media, creating a buzz among fans of the lead actor, Pawan Kalyan.

Composed by Oscar-winning music director M.M. Keeravani, Maata Vinali carries a profound message of positivity and virtue. The lyrics, penned by Penchal Das, resonate with themes of justice and strength. Pawan Kalyan himself has lent his voice to the Telugu version of the song, performing it while surrounded by followers near a bonfire in a forest, adding to the track’s deep emotional connection.

In a unique move, the song has been localized in five languages—Telugu, Tamil, Malayalam, Kannada, and Hindi. While Pawan Kalyan sings the Telugu version, the other versions utilize artificial intelligence technology to replicate his vocals, with different singers performing the song in each language. This innovative approach allows the song to maintain its original essence across various linguistic audiences.

Hari Hara Veera Mallu is a grand period action drama produced under Mega Surya Productions by A. Dayakar Rao and A.M. Ratnam. The film is directed by Jyothi Krishna, with Krish Jagarlamudi contributing to the creative vision. The storyline revolves around Pawan Kalyan’s character, a warrior who fights for justice and stands up for the oppressed, embodying themes of resilience and righteousness.

The film’s release is set for March 28, 2025, and with its powerful music, strong performances, and compelling narrative, Hari Hara Veera Mallu promises to be a major cinematic event for audiences across India.

NETIZENS BUZZ OVER ‘EMERGENCY’: KANGANA IS “INDIRA”

Mumbai, Jan 18: Kangana Ranaut’s highly anticipated film Emergency released on Friday, sparking a wave of reactions online. While many lauded her performance as former Prime Minister Indira Gandhi, others critiqued the film’s box office turnout, painting a mixed picture of the ambitious political drama.

Social media users flooded platforms with praise for Ranaut, with some calling her portrayal of Gandhi “extraordinary” and the film “honest and full of integrity.” Fans hailed her dual role as director and lead actor, echoing sentiments like “Kangana is Indira,” referencing the iconic line, “India is Indira. Indira is India.”

One user wrote, “Kangana Ranaut has done it again! Both as director and actor, she delivered a masterpiece. This one deserves all the praise.” Another added, “One of the best films in a long time. Kangana is outstanding. Kangana is Indira!”

However, not all feedback was positive. Critics highlighted empty theaters and underwhelming audience turnout. A user quipped, “Kangana’s film is releasing today... but ‘emergency’ conditions continue at the theater.” Another noted, “Almost three people are here to watch. I don’t know why more aren’t coming.”



About the Film
Emergency explores the turbulent 21-month period of the 1975 Emergency, one of India’s most controversial chapters. The film focuses on Gandhi’s leadership during a time marked by political crackdowns and societal unrest.

Kangana Ranaut stars as Indira Gandhi, with Anupam Kher portraying Jayaprakash Narayan. The ensemble cast also includes Manisha Koirala, Milind Soman, Bhumika Chawla, and the late Satish Kaushik.

Despite the polarizing reactions, Emergency is stirring conversations about history, politics, and Kangana Ranaut’s bold cinematic choices.

Naga Chaitanya Cooks Fish Curry for Fishermen in Heartwarming Gesture

Naga Chaitanya, known for his down-to-earth nature, has shown his caring side once again, this time through a heartfelt gesture towards the fishermen of Vishakhapatnam. The actor, who is gearing up for his much-anticipated film Thandel, took time out from his busy schedule to fulfill a promise he had made during a previous visit. Chaitanya, who plays the role of Thandel Raju in the film, had promised the fishermen that he would cook them a fish curry, and he did just that.

In an intimate gathering, Chaitanya prepared Chepala Pulusu (fish curry) with his own hands, showcasing his cooking skills. The fishermen were full of praise for the dish, calling it delicious and expressing their gratitude. In return, they wished him and the film team the best of success with Thandel.

This personal connection with the locals is part of the actor’s deep involvement in his role and the film’s storyline, which is based on real-life events. Thandel marks one of Naga Chaitanya’s most ambitious projects, with the highest budget of his career to date. Directed by Chandoo Mondeti and



produced under the Geetha Arts banner, the film’s pre-production phase was meticulously crafted to stay true to the source material and its characters.

Sai Pallavi stars alongside Naga Chaitanya as the female lead in this gripping tale. The music for the film is composed by the renowned Devi Sri Prasad, and the first two songs from the soundtrack have already

struck a chord with audiences, becoming chartbusters.

Presented by Allu Aravind and produced by Bunny Vasu, Thandel promises to be a cinematic journey rooted in reality, with Naga Chaitanya’s personal touch adding to the film’s authenticity. Fans and filmgoers are eagerly awaiting its release as it builds momentum.

Shahid Kapoor’s ‘Deva’ Trailer Released: A Glimpse of His Ruthless Cop Role



Bollywood actor Shahid Kapoor’s much-anticipated film Deva has dropped its official trailer, generating excitement among fans and film enthusiasts alike. Directed by Malayalam filmmaker Roshan Andros, Deva promises to offer an intense and gripping narrative, with Shahid Kapoor taking on the role of a ruthless policeman.

The film draws inspiration from Amitabh Bachchan’s iconic Deva, with Shahid’s character set to embody a tough and no-nonsense law enforcement officer. The trailer gives a sneak peek into the gritty world of Shahid’s character, who is determined to clean up the streets with his unwavering approach. His powerful portrayal of the cop is a major highlight of the trailer, leaving audiences eager to see more of his commanding screen presence.

In addition to Shahid Kapoor, the movie features a talented ensemble cast, including Pooja Hegde and Pavel Gulati in pivotal roles.

Both actors add their charm and depth to the story, supporting Shahid’s intense performance. The film, which has already completed shooting, is set to hit the theaters on January 31, and the trailer has raised the bar for what promises to be an action-packed thriller.

The trailer showcases thrilling action sequences, emotional moments, and a gripping storyline, making it one of the most awaited films of the year. The film’s dynamic direction by Roshan Andros and the stellar performances from the cast are expected to captivate audiences.

With the trailer going viral, the excitement around Deva continues to grow. Fans are eagerly waiting for its release to witness Shahid Kapoor in a completely different avatar, as the ruthless cop in Deva. As the release date approaches, the buzz surrounding the film is expected to intensify, and it is poised to be a major contender at the box office.

Vishwaksen Shines in Dual Role in ‘Laila’ Teaser

Vishwaksen’s upcoming film Laila has generated significant buzz following the release of its official teaser. In this intriguing project, Vishwaksen showcases his acting versatility by portraying both male and female roles, a challenge he pulls off with remarkable ease. The teaser has already captivated audiences, thanks to the striking visual contrast of his characters, Sonu Model and Laila.

The teaser begins with the character of Sonu Model, played by Vishwaksen, being accused by locals of engaging in romantic escapades with the women in the area. However, a surprising twist occurs as Sonu undergoes a transformation into the beautiful and enigmatic Laila. This shift in identity piques the curiosity of the audience, creating a sense of suspense and intrigue



that promises an engaging narrative.

Vishwaksen impresses with his portrayal of this multifaceted character, effortlessly switching between the energetic, mischievous Sonu and the alluring, graceful Laila. His dynamic performance hints at the depth of the role and sets the stage for an exciting cinematic experience.

Director Ram Narayan deserves credit for conceptualizing such a unique storyline, where gender roles and identities blur in a way that is both entertaining and thought-provoking. Cinematographer Richard Prasad’s visual direction complements the narrative, enhancing the allure of the story with beautiful shots. Music director Leon

James also adds to the overall impact with a score that promises to heighten the emotional appeal of the film.

Produced by Sahu Garapati under the Shine Screens banner, Laila boasts impressive production values, ensuring a high-quality cinematic experience. The teaser has certainly stirred anticipation, and with the release date set for February 14th, the film is poised to offer a captivating blend of romance, drama, and intrigue.

With the growing buzz surrounding Laila, Vishwaksen’s dual performance and the intriguing concept are sure to make this film a highly anticipated release. Fans are eagerly awaiting what promises to be a standout performance on the big screen.