



**Weather Forecast**

HYDERABAD	VIJAYAWADA	TIRUPATHI
H 33° C L 25° C	H 35° C L 26° C	H 36° C L 26° C



# Telangana Cabinet Expansion

Pardhu - TPN | Telangana

A year has passed since the Congress government was formed in Telangana, but the full-fledged cabinet is yet to be constituted. Currently, six ministerial posts remain vacant, and while there has been constant speculation about the expansion, it has not materialized so far. Aspirants are growing increasingly dissatisfied with the delay and are reportedly making efforts to please party leaders. The opposition continues to question the reasons behind the delay in forming a complete cabinet. However, recent developments suggest that the time for expansion may have finally

been decided.

- Congress Leadership Clears the Path for Cabinet Reshuffle
- Cabinet Expansion After CM Revanth's Return
- Key Ministerial Posts to Be Filled After Republic Day Celebrations
- Social Equations to Play a Crucial Role in Cabinet Expansion

Chief Minister Revanth Reddy is currently on a foreign tour, and it is believed that the cabinet expansion will likely take place after his return. According to a senior Congress leader, two to three individuals may be inducted into the

cabinet, while the remaining vacancies could be filled after the local body elections. This statement indicates that the expansion might occur in phases, with the first set of appointments happening soon. It has come to light that the Congress high command has given Revanth Reddy the go-ahead for the cabinet expansion after his recent visit to Delhi. During this visit, Revanth reportedly submitted a list of potential candidates for the cabinet to the Delhi leadership. With approval from the top, the final decision on the timing of the expansion will likely be made after the Chief Minister returns to Hyderabad from his foreign tour. As of December 7, 2024, it will have been a year since Congress took power in Telangana, yet six ministerial positions remain vacant. This delay has drawn criticism from various quarters. There are claims that aspirants, who were promised positions before the assembly elections,

are now questioning the fulfillment of those promises. Revanth Reddy is expected to return to Hyderabad on January 25, 2025, and the government plans to launch several key welfare schemes on January 26, in celebration of Republic Day. These include the Indiramma Atmiya Bharosa, Rythu Bharosa, ration cards, and Indiramma Indlu schemes. After the launch of these initiatives, the Chief Minister is likely to tour the districts. It is speculated that the cabinet expansion may coincide with these events. Possible Removals and New Appointments Sources suggest that there are plans to remove three current ministers, which would create nine vacancies. These positions are expected to be filled by MLAs from key communities, such as SC, Mudiraj, and Munnur Kapu. This strategy is aimed at balancing the social representation within the cabinet and appeasing various community groups.

## Hyderabad to Become India's Data Hub

STT GDC Signs ₹3,500 Cr MoU with Telangana

CM Revanth Reddy Leads Investment Drive in Singapore

State-of-the-Art AI Data Center to Be Built in Mucharla

Net Zero Future City, Musi Project Discussed for Collaboration

Telangana Strengthens Global Investment Partnerships



TPN Correspondent

Hyderabad, Jan 19 : The Telangana Rising delegation, led by Chief Minister Revanth Reddy, has secured a significant investment during its visit to Singapore. ST Telemedia Global Data Centres (STT GDC) India has committed ₹3,500 crore to establish a state-of-the-art AI-based data center campus in Mucharla - Mirkhanpet under the Hyderabad Future City initiative.

A Memorandum of Understanding (MoU) was signed between the Telangana government and STT GDC India. This 100 MW AI-ready data center will be equipped with advanced technology and expandable infrastructure to accommodate future needs, making it one of the largest data centers in India.

### Hyderabad as India's Data Hub

Chief Minister Revanth Reddy expressed confidence that Hyderabad will soon become the capital of data centers in India. He congratulated STT Global representatives for their decision to invest in Telangana and emphasized the government's commitment to technological advancement.

IT and Industries Minister Duddilla Sridhar Babu highlighted that Hyderabad will play a crucial role in AI-driven data economy transformations worldwide. He personally visited STT GDC's Singapore facility and held discussions before the MoU was signed by Special Chief Secretary Jayesh Ranjan and STT Group CEO Bruno Lopez.

Bruno Lopez praised Telangana's progressive policies, stating that the collaboration will drive economic growth, create jobs, and promote digital sustainability.

STT GDC already operates a data center in Hi-Tech City, Hyderabad. With this new investment, the company aims to expand operations significantly and contribute to India's growing data infrastructure.



## Harish Rao Questions Congress' Ration Card Strategy

"Harish Rao Blasts Congress Over Ration Cards"

"Rao Demands Action on Welfare and Loans"

"Rao Urges Increase in Ration Card Income Limits"



TPN Correspondent

Hyderabad, Jan 19 : Former Minister Harish Rao strongly criticized the Congress government for its handling of ration cards and various welfare schemes in Telangana. Speaking to the media at Telangana Bhavan, Rao dismissed claims that the BRS government had failed to provide ration cards, calling them "blatant lies." He stated that the BRS government issued 6,47,000 ration cards and stressed that the Congress government had not increased the income limit for eligibility. He demanded that the limit be raised to Rs. 2 lakh for rural areas and Rs. 3.4 lakh for urban areas.

Rao also highlighted the failure to implement the Rs. 4,000 pension scheme for the elderly and widows, a promise made by the Congress. He expressed concern over

a recent case in Adilabad, where a tribal farmer committed suicide due to unfulfilled loan waivers. Rao demanded that the loan waiver be completed for all farmers and called for Rs. 10 lakh in financial assistance for the family of the farmer who died.

Rao criticized the Congress for making "pledges" after coming to power, alleging that promises such as the Mahalakshmi scheme and the Rs. 4,000 pension have not been delivered. He accused the Congress of cutting back on farmer insurance, ration cards, agricultural laborers' support, and Indiramma housing schemes.

He also questioned the linking of ration cards to caste enumeration and inquired about the



### Minister Uttam Clarifies Ration Card Eligibility Process

- Reddy Ensures Ration Cards for All, Starting January 26
- Gram Sabhas to Assist Those Not in Caste Census List
- Opportunity to Apply for Ration Cards from January 26



### Etala Joins BJP President Race, Says Kishan Reddy

- Kishan Reddy Talks BJP Leadership and Party Dynamics
- Chiranjeevi's Friendship with Kishan Reddy Discussed



### Farmer Dies by Suicide After Harassment by Bank Officials in Adilabad

BRS Leader Harish Rao Demands Rs. 10 Lakh Ex-Gratia for Deceased



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## Farmer Dies by Suicide After Harassment by Bank Officials in Adilabad

TPN Correspondent

**Adilabad, Jan 19:** A tragic incident unfolded in Adilabad district as a farmer, Jadhav Nago-rao, fell victim to the relentless harassment of bank officials. Unable to bear the pressure, he tragically took his own life by drinking pesticide in front of the bank.

- Farmer Commits Suicide After Bank Harassment Over Loan Installment
- BRS Leader Harish Rao Calls for Rs. 10 Lakh Ex-Gratia to Family
- Relatives Protest Outside Bank Demanding Justice

Jadhav, a farmer from Saidupur in Bela mandal, had taken a loan of Rs. 3.5 lakh from Adilabad ICICI Bank, mortgaging his five acres of agricultural land. With an installment of Rs. 25,000 due every six months, Jadhav had been unable to pay for the past two months. The

bank officials began pressuring him relentlessly for the overdue payments.

In a moment of desperation, Jadhav went to the bank on Saturday morning with a can of pesticide and drank it in front of the officials. Locals quickly rushed him to RIMS hospital, but he had already passed away by the time they arrived.

The incident sparked protests from the deceased's relatives, who gathered in front of the bank demanding justice and accountability.

BRS leader Harish Rao condemned the tragic incident, questioning the effectiveness of loan waiver schemes if such instances of farmer suicides continue. He accused the Congress government of driving the farmer to his death and demanded an ex-gratia payment of Rs. 10 lakhs for Jadhav's family.

## Minister Uttam Clarifies Ration Card Eligibility Process

TPN Correspondent

**Telangana, Jan 19:** Civil Supplies Minister Uttam Kumar Reddy has clarified that ration cards will be provided to every eligible family in Telangana. This comes after the announcement by Chief Minister Revanth Reddy that ration cards will be issued starting January 26. While some villagers have already received their ration cards, there have been reports of confusion regarding missing names on certain cards. It is understood that individuals who applied during the caste census have already received their cards.

Minister Uttam Kumar Reddy

explained that the initial distribution is focused on those who participated in the caste census. He assured that anyone eligible for a ration card but yet to receive one can apply starting January 26. Additionally, he emphasized that those not included in the caste census can register at the Gram Sabhas to apply for a ration card.

The Minister also highlighted that there will be an opportunity to remove names from old ration cards and ensure accurate records. This initiative aims to ensure all deserving families have access to essential supplies.

## Etala Joins BJP President Race, Says Kishan Reddy

TPN Correspondent

**Hyderabad, Jan 19:** Union Minister Kishan Reddy recently shared his thoughts on the race for the BJP President position during an interaction with the media at the BJP office in Nampally. He clarified that a background in the RSS is not essential for the role, stating that an individual needs to be an active BJP member for at least two terms. He further emphasized that even contesting elections on the BJP symbol twice would be sufficient to be considered for the position.

Meanwhile, Malkajgiri MP Etala Rajender has expressed his in-

tent to compete in the BJP President race, asserting that the final decision on the state president will rest with the party's high command.

In response to questions about Megastar Chiranjeevi's attendance at Sankranti celebrations hosted at his residence in Delhi, Kishan Reddy spoke warmly of their relationship. He remarked that if invited, Chiranjeevi would certainly attend, highlighting their close bond. "We both consider each other as family members," he said, underlining the strong friendship between them.

## Hyderabad to Become India's Data Hub

Over the next decade, STT GDC plans to invest \$3.2 billion in India, targeting a total capacity of one gigawatt.

### Telangana-Singapore Partnership in Urban Development

During the visit, CM Revanth Reddy and his delegation met with Singapore's Environment Minister Grace Fu Haiyin to explore investment and strategic partnerships.

Discussions focused on multiple sectors, including urban planning, infrastructure, water resource management, semi-conductors, manufacturing, sustainability, and technology. Singapore expressed interest in collaborating on Net Zero Future City, the Musi Revitalization Project, and water management initiatives.

With these developments, Telangana is strengthening its position as a global technology and innovation hub.

## Harish Rao Questions Congress' Ration Card Strategy

applications taken in public administration, asking where they had gone. Rao drew a stark contrast between the BRS and Congress approaches, saying that while KCR increased the income limit for ration cards with a humanitarian perspective, Revanth Reddy's administration appeared focused on imposing cuts on the poor.

Rao urged that gram sabhas be held in villages starting from January 21, and demanded that people hold Congress leaders accountable for the ration card issue. He reiterated that the BRS government has always ensured justice for beneficiaries, unlike the Congress administration.

# Dy CM Vikramarka Slams BRS for Misleading Public

TPN Correspondent

**Hyderabad, Jan 19:** Telangana Deputy Chief Minister Bhatti Vikramarka addressed a gathering during the distribution of appointment letters to 92 candidates as Junior Assistants and Computer Operators in the Telangana Northern Electricity Distribution Company, and 20 candidates in the Telangana Electricity Supply Company. Speaking at the event, he praised the Congress government's achievements and criticized the BRS for misleading the public over the past ten years.

Vikramarka emphasized that while the previous government plunged the state into debt and delayed salary payments, the Congress government had restored fiscal stability, paying salaries on the first day of the month. He also highlighted the issuance of 56,000 job appointment letters within a year, showcasing the government's commitment to addressing unemployment.



The Deputy CM criticized the BRS government for abandoning the Raju Arogyasri scheme, which the Congress revitalized, increasing the treatment limit for the poor from Rs. 5 lakh to Rs. 10 lakh. As part of the Congress' six guarantees, Vikramarka pointed out the introduction of free RTC bus travel for women in the state.

He also lauded the Congress for fulfilling promises made to farmers, including depositing Rs. 22,000 crore for loan waivers, implementing an insurance scheme with Rs. 8,400 crore, and providing a bonus of Rs. 500 per quintal for fine rice. Furthermore, the Congress

government has increased student diet charges and supplied free electricity to government educational institutions.

Vikramarka outlined plans for expanding Telangana's energy capacity, including the introduction of a New Energy Policy aimed at producing 40,000 MW of clean energy by 2035. He also mentioned pilot projects for solar villages and the provision of free electricity to agricultural pump sets.

In conclusion, the Deputy CM affirmed the Congress government's dedication to development and promised continued efforts for the state's progress.

## Minister Tummala's Key Instructions to Officials on Rythu Bharosa

TPN Correspondent

**Hyderabad, Jan 19:** Telangana Agriculture Minister Tummala Nagewara Rao has assured farmers of continued cultivation opportunities this Rabi season. Speaking to the media on Saturday, he emphasized that the Congress government is committed to supporting the farming community. He stressed the importance of managing the water shares from Srisailem and Nagarjuna Sagar and issued directives to officials to ensure smooth irrigation and quality electricity supply to farmers.

Highlighting the government's commitment, Tummala pointed out that the Rs. 2 lakh loan waiver provided within a year of coming to power is a testament to their dedication. Additionally, he announced the up-



coming implementation of the Rythu Bharosa scheme from January 26, under which farmers and tenant farmers will receive Rs. 12,000 per acre annually, regardless of the number of acres they cultivate.

This initiative aims to further strengthen support for Telangana's agricultural sector, ensuring a secure and prosperous future for the state's farmers.

## Manchu Mohan Babu and Manoj's Property Dispute Reaches Collector's Office

TPN Correspondent

**Hyderabad, Jan 19:** In a new development regarding the property dispute between veteran actor Manchu Mohan Babu and his son Manchu Manoj, Mohan Babu approached the Panchayat Collector, requesting the seizure of his Jalpally house and properties. He alleged that some individuals were residing in his home illegally and requested the Collector to vacate the property and take action under the Senior Citizen Act.

In response, the Collector issued notices to Manchu Manoj. The ongoing family dispute, which surfaced recently, has escalated with Mohan Babu now residing in Tirupati, while Manoj has been staying at the Jalpally residence.

### Manchu Manoj Denies Wrongdoing in Property Dispute

Manchu Manoj, after addressing the Additional Collector of



Rangareddy District, denied any wrongdoing. He clarified that he had not entered the Jalpally property illegally, but had only visited for discussions. He refuted the accusations and claimed he had been wrongfully targeted in the property dispute, adding that he was only standing up for university students during a previous altercation in Tirupati.

Manoj stressed that there were no property fights, labeling the accusations as a drama orchestrated by his brother, Vishnu. He asserted that he was acting in accordance with the Collector's orders and was seeking justice in the matter.

## CM A. Revanth Reddy Engages with Telangana Expatriates in Singapore

TPN Correspondent

**Hyderabad, Jan 19:** Chief Minister A. Revanth Reddy, currently visiting Singapore, participated in a meet-and-greet event organized by the Telangana Cultural Society. The event took place at the Singapore Global Indian International School Auditorium, where the CM interacted with the local Telangana community.

Minister Duddilla Sridhar Babu, Government Agriculture Advisor, MLA Poch-

ram Srinivas Reddy, MLA Kunduru Jayaveer, and Hyderabad Congress leader Dr. Rohin Reddy accompanied the Chief Minister during this visit. The event saw a significant presence of Telangana expatriates, with Telangana Cultural Society (Singapore) President Gadapa Ramesh Babu and the society's executive committee members also in attendance.

The gathering provided an opportunity



for the Telangana community in Singapore to connect with the Chief Minister and other prominent leaders, fostering stronger ties between Telangana and its diaspora.

## Telangana RTC Approves New Bus Stations and Depots

TPN Correspondent

**Telangana, Jan 19:** The Telangana RTC Board, in its meeting held at the Hyderabad Bus Bhavan, approved several significant infrastructure projects aimed at improving the state's transportation system. Key decisions include the construction of new depots and bus stations, along with the expansion of existing ones.

- A new bus depot in Peddapalli district, with an allocation of Rs. 11.70 crore.
- A new bus depot in Eturunagaram, Mulugu district, with an allocation of Rs. 6.28 crore.
- A new bus station in Mulugu, Mu-

lugu district, with Rs. 5.11 crore allocated.

- A new bus station in Huzurnagar, Suryapet district, with Rs. 3.75 crore allocated for development.
- A modern bus station in Madhira, Khammam district, with an allocation of Rs. 10 crore.
- Rs. 51 lakh allocated for a new bus station in Mangapet, Mulugu district.
- Rs. 95 lakh allocated for expanding the Manthani bus station in Peddapalli district.
- Rs. 17.95 crore allocated for a modern bus station at Kodad, Suryapet district.
- In preparation for the upcoming

"Saraswati Pushkarala", a modern bus station will also be built in Kaleshwaram, Jayashankar Bhupalpally district.

Transport Minister Ponnampallabharathi emphasized the government's commitment to enhancing infrastructure, with plans to improve the existing 97 depots and bus stations across the state. He also acknowledged that congestion in RTC buses had increased due to the Mahalaxmi scheme, and assured that these new and expanded facilities would address the growing demand for public transportation. The Minister instructed RTC officials to expedite the completion of these approved projects.



## Minister Tummala Questions BRS Leaders' Commitment to Farmers

**TPN Correspondent| Hyderabad| Jan 19 :** Telangana Minister Tummala Nageswara Rao criticized BRS leaders, questioning whether they truly care about farmers now after neglecting them during their ten years in power. He challenged their claims about Rythu Bandhu, stating that those who boast about providing it during the planting season should first understand when the scheme was initiated and how long it was implemented each crop season. Tummala further questioned who originally introduced the Rythu Bandhu scheme and who allocated funds for crop insurance and agricultural mechanization programs. He accused BRS leaders of misleading farmers and failing to support them when crops were damaged.

Taking a dig at the ongoing BRS-led farmer agitations, he remarked that Telangana's farmers are now laughing at their sudden concern. He criticized the opposition party's attempts to mobilize farmers while ignoring their real issues during their tenure. Tummala asserted that the Congress government is focused on genuine farmer welfare and reminded people of the progress made under its administration in just one year compared to what BRS claims to have achieved in ten years. He reaffirmed the Congress government's commitment to agricultural development and assured that they would continue working to uplift farmers through effective policies and support programs. His remarks have added fuel to the ongoing political debate over farmer welfare in Telangana, as both parties attempt to claim credit for initiatives aimed at supporting the agricultural sector.

## Gram Sabha Decision Final: Clarity on Indiramma Atmiya Bharosa

**TPN Correspondent| Hyderabad| Jan 19 :** Telangana Minister Seethakka made a significant announcement regarding the Indiramma Atmiya Bharosa scheme, stating that financial aid is being directly transferred into the bank accounts of laborers. He emphasized that the scheme prioritizes women, ensuring that employment guarantee women laborers in families receive the funds.



background, he expressed personal satisfaction in launching such a scheme.

Seethakka highlighted that the government is committed to women's welfare, which is why the financial assistance is being credited to their accounts. Coming from a humble

As the Panchayat Raj Minister, he stated that he is proud to facilitate financial support for laborers through

his department. Stressing transparency, he asserted that the identification of beneficiaries must be conducted at the Gram Sabha itself to prevent errors that could harm the poor. He urged officials to ensure that Gram Sabhas are held peacefully and that their decisions are upheld as final.

Seethakka instructed officials to act with a humane and socially conscious approach, ensuring that no deserving individual is excluded due to technical reasons. He reiterated that officials must work diligently to benefit the poor and fulfill the government's objectives.

## Goud Slams Congress Over Irrigation Policies

**TPN Correspondent| Hyderabad| Jan 19 :** Former minister Srinivas Goud has accused Congress leaders of digging up the past while physically digging canals, claiming that if the irrigation sector's past mistakes under Congress rule were exposed, it would be like unearthing a pit full of snakes.



He credited former Chief Minister K. Chandrashekar Rao (KCR) for the recent interim orders of the Brijesh Kumar Tribunal regarding Krishna water distribution. Goud questioned whether Section 89 of the Bifurcation Act, which was introduced by Congress, would have led to these orders if KCR had agreed to water distribution under it.

Goud pointed out that within a month of assuming office, KCR had written to the Centre demanding that water allocation be based on Section 3 of the Act. He criticized Congress leader Uttam Kumar Reddy, urging him to understand the facts before making statements.

Comparing Telangana's situation with Karnataka, he noted that while Karnataka's irrigation projects are

progressing at a rapid pace, the Congress-led government in Telangana is stuck in indecision. He accused the state government of failing to take effective steps to address the issue.

Challenging Congress MLAs from Mahabubnagar, he asserted that if they believe KCR did not contribute to the region's development, they should resign from their positions and prove their credibility by winning elections again.

Goud's remarks have intensified the political debate over irrigation policies in Telangana, with BRS leaders continuing to defend the previous government's initiatives while criticizing the Congress administration's handling of the issue.

## Kishan Reddy confident about the upcoming MLC elections



**TPN Correspondent| Hyderabad| Jan 19 :** In a recent conversation, Union Minister Kishan Reddy expressed confidence about the upcoming MLC elections, stating that the party has a good chance of

winning three seats, including those for teachers, graduates, and his wife. He emphasized that only active members with proven track records will be considered for state president positions.

Reddy also criticized Congress leader Rahul Gandhi, questioning the purpose of his ongoing "Samvidhan Bachao Yatra." He suggested that Gandhi is unfamiliar with the Constitution, claiming he doesn't know its contents or even the number of pages it contains. Reddy accused Congress of using the Constitution solely to safeguard their political positions rather than for the benefit of

the people.

On political reforms, Reddy advocated for the implementation of "One Nation, One Election," criticizing the current election system for its high costs and inefficiencies. He added that policies will not change unless there is a shift in the public mindset. Reddy further noted that anyone interested in joining his party should resign from their current positions. He also pointed out the contradictions within the Congress and BRS, referencing a recent BRS candidate who contested from Congress but still had BRS affiliations on their records.

## Celebrate Dasarathi in Grand Manner: Kavitha

**TPN Correspondent| Hyderabad| Jan 19 :** Telangana Jangruti President and MLC Kalvakuntla Kavitha has urged the government to organize the centenary celebrations of renowned poet Dasarathi Krishnamacharyulu, who played a vital role in the Telangana armed struggle. In a poetic letter to Culture and Tourism Minister Jupally Krishna Rao, she requested the installation of a statue of Dasarathi at a prominent location in Hyderabad to honor his contributions.



make them accessible to the public.

Kavitha also suggested establishing a memorial forest in Chinna Gudur, Mahabubabad district, Dasarathi's birthplace, and constructing a new building for the Dasarathi Library. She urged the government to publish his complete literary works and

Although the government had previously announced year-long centenary celebrations, no major events have been recorded so far. Kavitha emphasized the need for statewide programs from school to state levels, concluding with a grand closing ceremony. She also proposed ren-

ovating the Dasarathi memorial complex at the old jail in Nizamabad, where the poet was imprisoned, and developing it into a tourist destination.

She recalled that under former CM K. Chandrasekhara Rao's leadership, the Telangana government officially celebrated Dasarathi Jayanti since 2015, introduced the Dasarathi Literary Award, and named an auditorium after him. Kavitha stressed that Dasarathi's centenary is a historic opportunity to honor his legacy, urging the government to ensure his spirit and contributions are remembered by future generations.

## Eatala Warns Government Over Demolition of Houses in Kapra

**TPN Correspondent| Hyderabad| Jan 19 :** Malkajgiri MP Eatala Rajender issued a strong warning to the government following the demolition and marking of houses in Arundhati Nagar Colony, Kapra. On Saturday morning, affected residents approached him at his Shamirpet residence, seeking help after their homes were targeted. In response, Eatala immediately visited the colony to inspect the situation.



During his visit, Eatala stated that Jawaharnagar and Balajinagar are home to people from various parts of the country who have migrated in search of livelihood. He pointed out that these residents, mostly daily wage laborers, had purchased land under GVO numbers 58 and 59 by saving small amounts of money. However, he accused revenue and HUDA officials of harassing them, claiming that the land falls within their jurisdiction.

Residents alleged that officials were demanding bribes ranging from Rs. 50,000 to Rs. 2 lakh to allow construction or prevent demolition. They further claimed that nearly 100

houses were marked for demolition by Monday, with officials using force and intimidation tactics. Expressing outrage, they accused authorities of exploiting the poor for financial gain.

Eatala revealed that he had spoken to the collector multiple times but received no response. He emphasized that Balajinagar existed long before he was born, questioning the legitimacy of the government's actions. Assuring the victims of his support, he vowed to take up the issue with the Revenue Minister and warned the government against unjust actions that could displace poor families.

## Ponnam Prabhakar Boosts Development in Siddipet

**TPN Correspondent| Siddipet| Jan 19 :** Telangana Minister Ponnam Prabhakar laid the foundation stone for the construction of Anganwadi-2 building at Srirama Palli, Koheda Mandal, at a cost of Rs. 12 lakh. He also inaugurated an open gym at Koheda Mandal Center, where he actively participated by demonstrating various exercises.

As part of his visit, Minister Prabhakar distributed uniforms to Anganwadi and Pre-Primary School children at Anganwadi-2 in Koheda Mandal Center. He encouraged the children by

singing rhymes with them, boosting their enthusiasm for learning.

In a significant initiative for women's empowerment, Minister Prabhakar distributed sewing machines and training certificates in collaboration with the State Building & Other Construction Sector Workers Welfare Board and the National Academy of Construction. A total of 30 women who completed 90 days of training received sewing machines to support their livelihoods. The event was attended by Siddipet District Additional Collector Abdul Hameed, RDO, MRO, and other officials.



Addressing the gathering, Minister Prabhakar emphasized the im-

portance of skill development in achieving economic independence.

He announced the government's plan to establish a Skill University to equip individuals with the necessary expertise for employment. He assured continued government support through training programs, certification, and financial assistance.

He also urged trained women to utilize their skills for self-employment and revealed plans to provide tailoring work for school uniforms through women's groups. He encouraged financial independence among women, emphasizing that economic growth is only possible when women actively contribute to the workforce.

## HYDRAA Takes Action Against Encroachment on Jagathgirigutta Endowment Lands



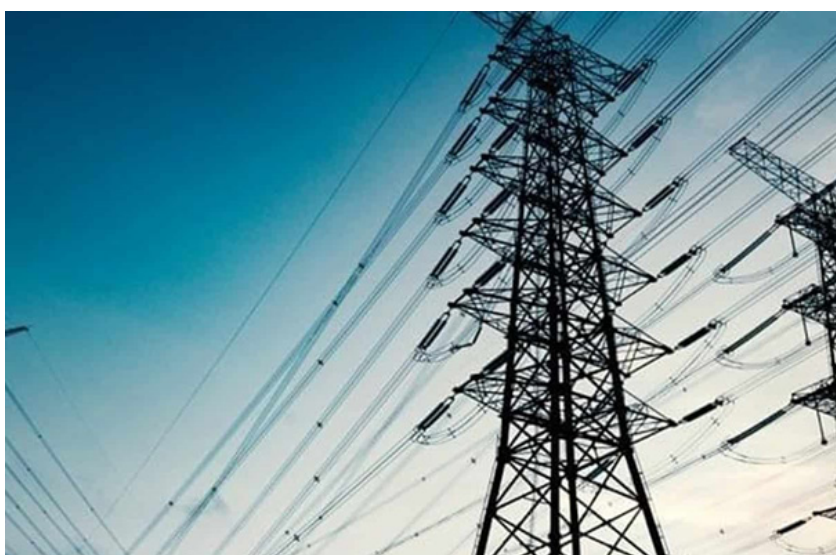
**TPN Correspondent| Hyderabad| Jan 19 :** The Hyderabad Disaster Response Assets Monitoring and Protection Agency (HYDRAA) has taken note of encroachments on the endowment lands of two temples in Jagathgirigutta, Quthbullapur constituency. HYDRAA Commissioner AV Ranganath, during his inspection on January 18, revealed that encroachers have attempted to illegally seize these lands. A meeting with stakeholders will be held on January 22 to discuss the situation and initiate action against illegal structures.

Ranganath inspected the Govindaraju Swamy temple after reports of encroachment on the temple's 'gundam' (open well). He also noted illegal constructions on Venkatadri temple land by caste associations, with potential political backing. The total area under encroachment includes 14.10 acres of temple land and 66 acres of Parki Cheruvu.

The commissioner assured that legal action, including notices, will be taken against those encroaching or building unauthorized structures. A new HYDRAA police station will soon be inaugurated in Secunderabad to handle such cases. Negligence from government officials aiding encroachers will lead to strict punishment.

## TGSPDCL Seeks Partners for Underground Cable Initiative

**TPN Correspondent| Telangana| Jan 19 :** The Telangana Southern Power Distribution Corporation Limited (TGSPDCL) has initiated the process of laying underground cables across the state, with a call for tenders from interested parties. This is part of the Telangana government's efforts to modernize and improve the state's power infrastructure. Companies with a proven track record of laying underground cables in major cities are encouraged to apply for the tenders, which are available on the TGSPDCL website. Currently, Telangana has 498 substations and extensive overhead and underground cable systems. The move to underground cables is part of a feasibility study ordered by Chief Minister K. Chandrashekar Rao, particularly focusing on the Outer Ring Road area of Hyderabad. The CM emphasized that underground cables can reduce power loss, curb electricity theft, and mitigate the effects of natural calamities. In addition, the CM highlighted plans to ensure uninterrupted power supply through alternative systems and to provide solar power and pump sets to households in tribal areas. He also called for progress updates on key substation projects, including the 400 KV substation in Parigi.



## Conman Arrested After Attempting to Dupe Gold Trader

**TPN Correspondent| Hyderabad| Jan 19 :** A conman who tried to cheat a gold trader in Filmnagar was arrested by the police on Thursday after his plan backfired. Inamul Hussain (30), a resident of Rajasthan, contacted Abdullah Ibrahim, a businessman from Filmnagar, claiming he had eight kilograms of gold to sell for Rs 6 crore due to personal issues. Suspecting foul play, Abdullah contacted the cybercrime police, who advised him to avoid further interactions.

However, Inamul traveled to Hyderabad and reached out again. Abdullah then devised a plan to trap him. When Inamul arrived with two gold biscuits and demanded Rs 30 lakh, Abdullah pretended to take him to a place for testing the gold's purity. Instead, he drove him straight to the Filmnagar police station, where Inamul was arrested. During interrogation, Inamul confessed to similar scams, and a case was registered against him.

# Gaddar Telangana Film Awards to Be Presented from Ugadi

Honoring Excellence in Telugu Cinema  
Hyderabad as a Global Film Hub  
Annual Recognition for the Film Industry

A Tribute to Cultural Icon Gaddar  
Encouraging Meaningful Filmmaking

**TPN Correspondent| Hyderabad| Jan 19 :** Deputy Chief Minister Bhatti Vikramarka Mallu announced that the Gaddar Telangana Film Awards will be distributed annually, beginning this Ugadi. Speaking at the Gaddar Cinema Awards Committee meeting held at the Dr. B.R. Ambedkar Secretariat on Saturday, he emphasized the need for swift arrangements to ensure the program's success. The awards aim to recognize excellence in Telugu cinema, celebrating films that exhibit technical expertise, human values, and cultural, educational, and social relevance. The Deputy CM highlighted that these awards would promote national integration and unity through cinema.



The meeting deliberated on the procedures, rules, and regulations for the awards and finalized the design of an official logo. The Deputy CM noted that the awards program would be organized with the same prestige as national-level events, ensuring a fitting tribute to the cultural icon Gaddar.

Efforts are underway to position Hyderabad as a global destination for film production. The Deputy CM criticized the previous administration for neglecting the film industry and failing to distribute awards for over a decade. He lauded the current government, under the lead-

ership of CM Revanth Reddy, for taking concrete steps to support and develop the industry. The awards will include categories such as feature films, children's films, and books on Telugu cinema. Winners will receive cash prizes and certificates of appreciation. The program is expected to become an annual highlight, encouraging filmmakers to contribute to Telugu cinema's growth.

Prominent attendees included TFDC Chairman Dil Raju, MD Dr. Harish, ED Kishore Babu, Committee Chairman B. Narsing Rao, and members Jayasudha, Tammareddy Bharadwaj, Harish Shankar, Vandemataram Srinivas, Gummadi Vennela, Allani Sridhar, and Venu. With these initiatives, the government aims to elevate the prestige of Telugu cinema and honor its rich legacy.

## Trio Arrested for Duping Motorists with Fake Insurance Documents

**TPN Correspondent| Hyderabad| Jan 19 :** The RGIA police have arrested a three-member gang of Regional Transport Authority (RTA) agents for defrauding people of several lakhs with fake automobile insurance documents. The accused were identified as Mohd Awyees Ali (43), B Shraavan Kumar Goud (42), and M Shiva Kumar (36), all RTA agents. According to the police, the trio offered instant insurance policies and

renewals at low rates with attractive offers, collecting money from several motorists. They then used photocopy machines to create fake insurance documents from reputed companies. The fraud was uncovered when a customer sought clarification from the insurance company. A case was filed, and police are investigating further, suspecting more victims and potential RTA accomplices.



## African Man Arrested for Supplying Fake Indian Currency Notes in Hyderabad



**TPN Correspondent| Hyderabad| Jan 19 :** The Hayathnagar police have arrested Jacques Devalois Kit (42), a native of Cameroon and resident of Bengaluru, for allegedly cheating people by supplying Fake Indian Currency Notes (FICN). According to the police, Jacques approached individuals with a promise to exchange high-value FICN for genuine currency. Initially, he would give a genuine note, claiming it was fake, and ask the person to use it in the market. After gaining the victim's trust, he would arrange to meet them under the pretext of handing over bundles of fake currency. At the meeting, Jacques would then collect original currency notes and flee the scene. The police have taken him into custody for further investigation.

## Two Electrocuted to Death While Removing Signboard at Habsiguda

**TPN Correspondent| Hyderabad| Jan 19 :** Two individuals, J Balu (36) and G Mallesh (25), were electrocuted to death while removing a signboard from a commercial building at Habsiguda on Friday night. The incident occurred at the Varalaxmi Arcade building, where the victims were working under the direction of Tati Ravi, who was setting up an office on the third floor. According to the police, Balu and

Mallesh had tied the signboard to wires, and while pulling it, the signboard slipped and fell onto power cables. Both were electrocuted and collapsed on the terrace. Emergency services, including the fire and electricity departments, responded quickly, but the victims were declared dead upon arrival at the hospital. A case has been registered, and investigations are ongoing.

## Five Arrested for Peddling Ganja, 3.6 kg Seized

**TPN Correspondent| Hyderabad| Jan 19 :** The Prohibition and Excise Department arrested five individuals in separate cases for peddling ganja and seized a total of 3.6 kg of the contraband. In the first case, officials apprehended Devadula Raju and Sanjana, a woman from Madhya Pradesh, who were staying in a lodge at Kondapur.

They were allegedly selling ganja to local customers in Hitec City and Kondapur, with 1.2 kg of ganja seized from them. In another case at Dhoolpet, Rakhi Bai was arrested with 1.2 kg of ganja; she reportedly sourced the drug from a person named Ramesh Singh. The third case involved Mohammed Shahabuddin and Syed Ghouse, who were caught selling ganja in Golconda, with another 1.2 kg of ganja recovered. Investigations are ongoing.

## Afzalgunj Firing: Hyderabad Police Trace Auto Driver, Hunt for Suspects Intensifies

**TPN Correspondent| Hyderabad| Jan 19 :** The Hyderabad police have traced the auto rickshaw driver who transported the duo involved in the shooting of a travel agency manager at Afzalgunj on Thursday. The manager, Jahangir, was injured after the suspects fired at him while trying to flee with stolen money. The auto driver is being questioned to gather descriptive details about the suspects and any potential conversations he may have overheard, which could aid in locating them.

The suspects, believed to have committed a heist in Bidar, Karnataka, earlier that day, had looted Rs. 93 lakhs and killed two people. After fleeing the scene, they traveled to Hyderabad, where they attempted to board a bus to Raipur. During the bus ride, the manager confronted them about the cash, leading to the shooting. The duo escaped in an auto rickshaw towards Secunderabad and later switched vehicles while evading capture. Police teams have expanded the search nationwide, with the suspects believed to be from Bihar.

## Chitharamma Devi Jathara: Traffic Advisory for Hyderabad Commuters

**TPN Correspondent| Hyderabad| Jan 19 :** In view of the Sri Chitharamma Devi Jathara Swarnothsavalu at Gajularamaram village, Jeedimetla, the Hyderabad traffic police issued an advisory to help commuters avoid congestion from Saturday to Monday. Traffic coming from Yellammabanda towards Shapur Nagar main road will be

diverted at Gajularamram village, via Balaji Layout, HAL Kaman Road, Aamestry Nagar, and Shapur Nagar. Similarly, traffic moving from Shapur Nagar (Gajularamram T junction) to Yellammabanda will be diverted at Agra Sweet House, Chandragirinagar Bus Stop, Dwarakanagar, Malla Reddy Nagar, and Mahadevapuram.

Additionally, heavy vehicles will be restricted from plying on Mahadevapuram to Gajularamram village road, Devendernagar to Gajularamram village road, and Gajularamram T junction to Mahadevapuram road. Commuters are advised to follow the alternative routes and plan their travel accordingly to avoid delays.

# Congress Balances Welfare and Politics

Pardhu TPN |  
Telangana | Jan 19 :

As the Congress government in Telangana celebrates its first year in power, it is focusing on both welfare schemes and political consolidation. With a strategic emphasis on securing a majority in the upcoming local body elections, the party is aiming to strengthen its presence at the grassroots level. In a notable move, the Congress has already inducted ten MLAs from BRS into its fold, signaling its intent to expand its influence.

- Leadership Delay Sparks Frustration Among Congress Leaders
- Mahesh Kumar Goud Focuses on Unity and Restructuring
- Pending Appointments Likely to be Finalized by Month-End
- Pressure Builds as Congress Leaders Lobby for Positions

Since coming to power, there has been significant anticipation for key appointments within the party. While some posts have been filled, many nominated positions at the district and constituency levels, including those in corporations, remain vacant. Party leaders



are growing increasingly vocal in urging the high command to recognize those who have worked for the party and to ensure their inclusion in these appointments. Mahesh Kumar Goud's Leadership Mahesh Kumar Goud, appointed as PCC president late last year, has been actively touring districts and working to solidify the party's base. He has emphasized the need for unity within the party, stressing that both old and new leaders must collaborate for success in the upcoming local body elections. Goud has also indicated that significant changes are underway within the party's executive committee, as the TPCC aims to restructure and make fresh appointments to better align with

the party's evolving strategies.

In a recent media interaction, Mahesh Kumar Goud announced that the vacant nominated posts would be filled by the end of the month, contingent on approval from the top leadership. However, there remains uncertainty regarding whether the Congress high command in Delhi will approve these changes immediately or opt for further delays. **Growing Frustration Among Party Leaders** The delay in filling both government and party positions has led to growing frustration among party leaders. Many believe that these appointments need to be finalized before the local body elections to maintain morale and unity within the party. With increasing pressure from within, it remains to be seen how the state leadership will address the situation and whether the Congress high command will approve these appointments soon. Despite the delays, aspiring leaders continue to lobby actively for positions, from the grassroots level to Delhi. Their determination to secure roles and boost their political standing is evident as they navigate the party's internal dynamics.

## Rs 12.83 Crore Development Projects Launched in Husnabad Constituency



**TPN Correspondent | Hyderabad | Jan 19 :** Minister for Transport and BC Welfare, Ponnambal Prabhakar, laid the foundation stone for various development projects worth Rs 12.83 crore in Koheda and Chiguru Mangodi mandals. The initiative includes infrastructure improvements such as roads, drainage, and Anganwadi buildings aimed at enhancing the region's development.



School children.

In Chiguru Mangodi mandal, the projects include the construction of CC roads, BT roads, and drainage canals with a total cost of Rs 8.48 crore. Notable projects include the construction of roads from Sundaragiri to Chiguru Mangodi X-road and from Chiguru Mangodi to Peachupalli.

In Koheda mandal, a road from Chanchal Cheruvu Palli to Venkateswarla Palli was approved with a cost of Rs 1.20 crore. Additionally, an Anganwadi building costing Rs 12 lakh will be constructed in Srirama Palli. The minister also inaugurated an open gym in Koheda, distributing uniforms to Anganwadi and Pre-Primary

Minister Prabhakar assured that the government would continue to focus on the constituency's development across all sectors, including education, healthcare, and infrastructure. He also emphasized increasing employment opportunities, particularly for women, through training programs and other initiatives.

## Excise Officials Seize 84 Bottles of Smuggled Liquor in Vikarabad

**TPN Correspondent | Vikarabad | Jan 19 :** Hyderabad: Telangana's excise department seized 84 bottles of illegally smuggled liquor worth Rs. 2.5 lakh at Vikarabad railway station. The operation was carried out by a 30-member task force team, who boarded a train from Vasco Da Gama and conducted searches at Vikarabad. The liquor, smuggled from Goa, was seized from various train coaches.

This seizure follows a similar raid on January 10, where the task force recovered 49 bottles of non-duty paid liquor smuggled into Hyderabad.

In a related development, Chief Minister A. Revanth Reddy reaffirmed that the Telangana government would not bow to pressures from liquor manufacturing companies. He addressed a meeting with excise officials, mentioning that United Beverages Company had requested a 33.1% price hike for beer. He emphasized that the price hike would be decided based on the final report by the price fixation committee.



# Former BRS MLA Chirumarthi Lingaiah Placed Under House Arrest



**TPN Correspondent | Nakirekal, | Jan 19 :** Former BRS MLA Chirumarthi Lingaiah was placed under house arrest by the police on Saturday morning. The police acted after the former MLA called for a public opinion survey regarding the proposed Adani Group Penna Cement Factory, which is planned between Suryapet, Palakeedu, and Damaracharla mandals.

Authorities were alerted to Lingaiah's plans to conduct the survey, and in anticipation

of the event, the Narketpally police detained him at his residence. The survey was to involve local leaders, including former Nakirekal leaders and Gulabi cadre, who were set to participate.

The proposed Adani Cement Factory has sparked protests among farmers in several parts of the joint Nalgonda district, who are concerned about its impact on the region. The situation remains tense as the community voices its opposition to the project.

## Squatters Evicted from Incomplete 2BHK Site

**TPN Correspondent | Kothagudem | Jan 19 :** On Saturday, January 18, revenue and police officials evicted several squatters from temporary sheds they had built on an incompletely constructed 2BHK housing site in Mallaram Colony, Dammamet Mandal. The squatters had illegally occupied government land and set up makeshift shelters in an area where only the foundation and pillars of the houses had been erected.

When the authorities arrived to evict them, the squatters doused themselves in what appeared to be diesel and threatened to set themselves on fire if forcibly removed. Despite their protests, the police evicted the residents from the site.

Revenue and Housing Minister Ponguleti Srinivas Reddy clarified that under the BRS government, 1.52 lakh 2BHK houses were

planned, with 63,000 houses completed and handed over to beneficiaries. However, 36,000 houses were constructed without identified beneficiaries, and work had not started on 12,000 other houses. While the completion of these 2BHK homes is still under discussion, Ponguleti emphasized the importance of involving beneficiaries in completing the construction and eliminating the contractor system.

## Rs 100 Crore Government Hospital to Be Built in Mahabubnagar

**TPN Correspondent |**

**Hyderabad | Jan 19 :** Telangana Health Minister C. Damodar Raja Narasimha announced on Friday, January 17, that a new government hospital worth Rs. 100 crore will be constructed in Mahabubnagar district. The hospital will provide advanced medical services, including cardiology, neurosurgery, urology, and nephrology. These super-speciality services, which have been lacking in the region, will help reduce the need for patients to travel to Hyderabad for treatment.

In addition to the hospital, an MRI machine worth Rs. 10 crore will be installed, with services expected to begin from Ugadi. The minister emphasized the importance of improving healthcare infrastructure in the district and instructed officials to prepare proposals for the development of five medical colleges, general hospitals, and district hospitals.

During a review meeting, local MLAs highlighted the need for these services in Mahabubnagar, noting that patients often have to travel long distances for specialized care. Narasimha assured that efforts would be made to set up super-speciality departments as soon as possible.

The health minister also outlined plans to establish new sub-centres, primary health centres (PHCs), and basti dawakhana to improve access to healthcare in the region. He instructed officials to prepare detailed proposals, considering the district's geography and population.

In addition, Narasimha emphasized the need for strict monitoring of medicine supplies at government hospitals and ensured that a committee would oversee regular inspections to maintain standards and accountability.



## Edulapuram Declared New Municipality in Khammam

**TPN Correspondent |**

**Khammam | Jan 19 :** Edulapuram, located in Khammam Rural Mandal of Paleru constituency, has officially become the headquarters of a new municipality. The Telangana state government released a gazette notification on Friday, marking the formal approval of the new municipality.

The newly formed municipality encompasses 12 gram panchayats: Peddathanda, Edulapuram, Gurram Padu, Venkatagiri, Gudimalla, Polepalli, Maddulapalli, Barugudem, Gollagudem, Muthagudem, Teltarupalli, and Reddypalli.

District Collector Muzammila Khan prepared a draft map of these 12 panchayats, which was later sent for final government approval. According to the 2011 census, the total population of these panchayats stands at 56,647. This new municipality is expected to foster development and improve local governance in the region.



# Prajavani Receives Over 3,000 Applications in Hyderabad



**TPN Correspondent | Hyderabad | Jan 19 :** The Prajavani program held at Mahatma Jyoti Rao Phule Praja Bhavan on Friday, January 17, saw a large turnout, with 3,053 applications submitted. Among these, 2,691 were related to the Indiramma housing scheme, highlighting the continued demand for housing assistance in the state.

In addition to housing concerns, the applications also addressed various

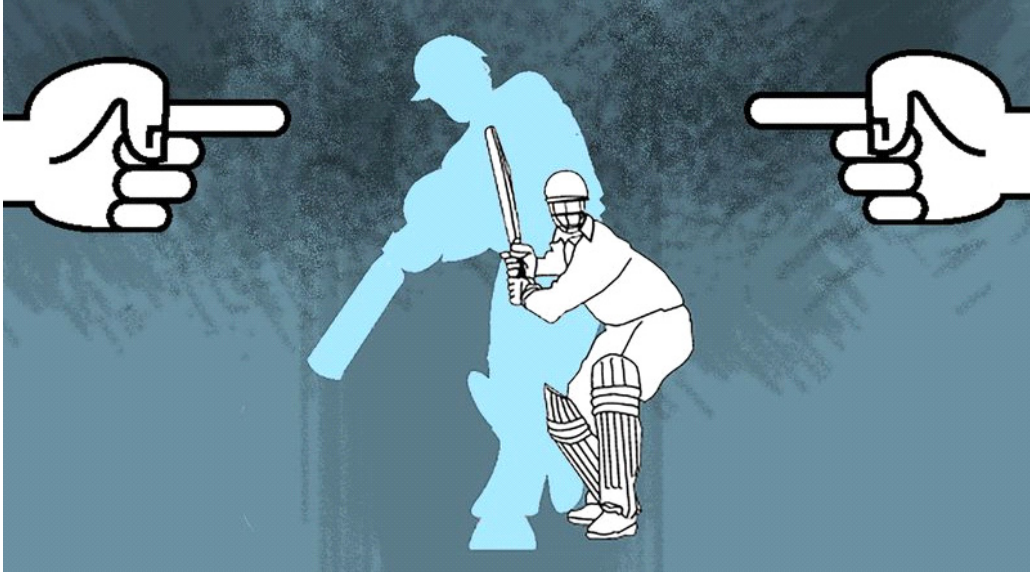
other issues. A total of 111 applications were submitted to the Panchayati Raj and Rural Development Department, 100 were related to the Electricity Department, 55 concerned revenue issues, and 96 pertained to other government departments.

Dr. Chinna Reddy, Vice President of the Telangana Planning Commission, participated in the event and personally received the appli-

cations. He also inquired about the concerns of the applicants.

In related news, a recent Right to Information (RTI) petition filed by BRS MLA T. Harish Rao revealed that 37.11% of the grievances received through the Prajavani program in 2024 remain unresolved. As of December 9, 2024, out of 82,955 petitions received, only 43,272 were addressed, with the remainder being rejected.

## BCCI Imposes Strict Guidelines to Reinforce Discipline and Unity in Indian Cricket Team



Indian cricketers, particularly the male players, have long enjoyed a lifestyle of luxury and adulation, with fame and fortune accompanying their performances both on and off the field. Their popularity rivals that of Bollywood stars, and in recent years, they have delivered strong performances in international cricket, including winning the T20 World Cup in 2024 and reaching the finals of both the ODI World Cup and the World Test Championship in 2023. However, recent back-to-back losses in Test series against New Zealand and Australia have led to growing criticism and calls for accountability.

In response to these disappointing results, the Board of Control for Cricket in India (BCCI) has issued a set of strict guidelines aimed at improving the discipline and cohesion of the senior men's cricket squad. These measures are designed to streamline the logistics of domestic and international tours while fostering a sense of unity among the players.

One of the most significant changes is the new travel policy, which mandates that players travel with the team for all matches and practice sessions. This move is intended to ensure that the squad remains focused and aligned, rather than allowing players to take independent trips. Along with travel rules, the BCCI has set up stringent baggage norms for players. Additionally, a new family travel policy has been introduced. While it is meant to support players' well-being by allowing family visits during tours, the policy is also designed to minimize distractions and encourage a more professional approach to the game, especially on foreign tours.

The changes are seen as part of a larger push by the team's head coach, Gautam Gambhir, who is known for his no-nonsense approach to cricket. As part of the new regulations, players will now be required to participate in domestic cricket matches in order to remain eligible for selection in the national team and retain their central contracts. Non-compliance with these new policies could result in players being excluded from lucrative opportunities such as the Indian Premier League (IPL).

While the BCCI's decision may be seen as a bold move, it reflects an increasing desire to push players out of their comfort zones and encourage greater professionalism. How the players adapt to these changes will be crucial to their continued success and performance in international cricket.

## Organizing the Maha Kumbh 2025: A Blueprint for Mega Event Management



Organizing a mega event like the Maha Kumbh 2025 in Prayagraj requires meticulous planning and an unwavering commitment to ensuring a smooth and safe experience for millions of devotees. With an expected footfall of over 42 crore (420 million) people over 45 days, the Uttar Pradesh government has demonstrated exceptional organization and leadership under Chief Minister Yogi Adityanath's guidance. The planning and execution of such a grand event set a benchmark in large-scale event management, one that will likely be studied in management circles worldwide.

The scale of the Maha Kumbh demands comprehensive coordination, a task that cannot rely on ad hoc measures. Infrastructure, logistics, and coordination across numerous departments are fundamental for success. The Uttar Pradesh government has declared the event area as a separate district, ensuring that the challenges of the Kumbh do not spill over into the daily life of Prayagraj city.

This district is divided into 25 sectors, each responsible for a range of essential services, including law enforcement, fire services, food supply, medical facilities, and transportation.

A key player in managing this operation is the Mela Authority, which oversees the cleanliness, safety, and maintenance of the venue. Accommodation for pilgrims, officials, and support staff is arranged through tentage contracts, with various options available based on comfort and budget. Hygiene is a priority, with food safety being closely monitored across all service areas.

Water, sanitation, and waste management are other critical aspects of the event. With a large number of people attending, maintaining access to clean drinking water and sanitation facilities is vital to prevent the spread of disease, especially in the post-COVID era. Crowd management is another challenge. Routes are designed for optimal movement, with clear signage and

separate pathways for pedestrians, logistics, and emergency services. Multiple access points, including nine railway stations, help manage the influx of devotees.

The National Disaster Management Authority (NDMA) and the State Disaster Management Authority (SDMA) collaborate closely to prepare for potential threats, conducting tabletop exercises and mock drills to ensure readiness. Key risks include stampedes, fires, and drowning, with strategies like AI-powered crowd monitoring and swift emergency response systems in place.

With robust security and communication systems, including an Integrated Command, Control, and Communication (I3C) facility, the event aims to provide a safe and fulfilling experience for all attendees. The Uttar Pradesh government's dedication to this monumental event highlights the complexities of organizing such large-scale gatherings and serves as a model for future mega events worldwide.

## The Banyan Tree Syndrome: Why Corporate India Struggles with Leadership Transitions



Indian corporate leadership often mirrors the world of cricket and Bollywood, where legendary figures find it challenging to step aside, even as the audience—or shareholders—begin to question their relevance. Recent discussions around Virat Kohli's captaincy serve as a reminder of how quickly public opinion shifts when performance declines, regardless of past achievements. Corporate India must learn this crucial lesson: no matter how distinguished your career, knowing when to step down is just as important as knowing how to lead.

In the world of sports, retirement is a stark reality that athletes must face far earlier than corporate leaders. Most star athletes retire between the ages of 30 and 40, leaving behind not just their fame and glory but also the structure and discipline that define their lives. Unlike CEOs, who often work well into their sixties or beyond, athletes' careers are typically short-lived, and their window for success is much more limited.

Despite the early retirement, athletes put in their all during their prime, aware that their best years are fleeting and that the future will soon demand a transition to life beyond the sport. Their time at the top provides them with skills like discipline, resilience, and teamwork, which are transferable

to other aspects of life. However, many athletes struggle with the difficult leap into "normal life" post-retirement, something that most CEOs can never truly relate to. Corporate CEOs, on the other hand, have the luxury of time. They can plan their exit and groom successors over a period of years, yet many seem reluctant to let go of the power and influence they have accumulated. The reluctance to step aside often leads to extended tenures, even when it's clear that their time at the helm is past. In family-owned businesses, which account for nearly 80% of India's companies—from large conglomerates to small and medium-sized enterprises (SMEs) and even kiranans—the "banyan tree syndrome" is prevalent. Patriarchs often hold onto power well beyond their prime, casting long shadows that stifle the growth of potential successors and, ultimately, the company itself.

This resistance to change can be detrimental to organizations in the long term. Just as athletes must recognize when it's time to retire, CEOs need to understand that stepping aside, with grace and foresight, can allow for new leadership and growth opportunities. Corporate India would benefit from embracing this mindset, ensuring that the next generation of leaders can flourish in an environment free from the weight of outdated legacies.<sup>4</sup>

## Saif Ali Khan's Reflections on India's Contradictions Revisited After the Attack

In 2017, Saif Ali Khan offered a profound reflection on the evolving social and political landscape of India during his appearance at The Indian Express adda. Drawing from the history of Hindi cinema, he explored the shifting dynamics of inequality and oppression in the country. "Earlier the villain was the feudal system, then money, followed by parents and later, yourself," he said, capturing the progression of societal conflicts. Khan also remarked on the dual nature of India's growth: "There are two Indias in schizophrenic growth at the moment. One has energy and intelligence while the other is the same old villains weighing us down." These words, delivered years ago, seem even more relevant today.



etal injustice.

The recent brutal attack on Saif Ali Khan at his residence in Bandra West, a locality symbolic of both aspiration and success, brings to light two of the "same old villains" that he spoke of. The attack, which occurred in a neighborhood known for its posh streets and affluent residents, has forced a reevaluation of the persistent threats that continue to plague both the privileged and the underprivileged in Indian society.

First, the issue of unchecked power and entitlement continues to haunt the Indian psyche. Whether through corruption or influence, this villain operates at both societal and governmental levels. It is not just the rich and powerful who suffer from its effects, but also the common man, as it breeds inequality and hinders progress. The attack on Khan, a figure of success and privilege, starkly highlights how even those who appear immune to hardship are vulnerable to the darker sides of soci-

Second, there is the villain of lawlessness and impunity. Despite advancements in technology and modernity, India's criminal justice system is often slow, inconsistent, and riddled with inefficiencies. The inability to deliver justice swiftly and fairly allows such acts of violence to continue unchecked. As Khan himself pointed out years ago, while some parts of India thrive on energy and intelligence, others remain trapped under the weight of systemic failures.

In the aftermath of this attack, Khan's earlier observations about the growing contradictions in India are underscored. The country's rapid advancements coexist with persistent, deeply rooted societal issues, proving that the battle against oppression and inequality is far from over. The attack serves as a grim reminder that, despite progress, the same old villains continue to plague India's growth.

# Court Convicts Sanjay Roy in RG Kar Rape-Murder Case

Accused claims innocence, alleges being framed



TPN Correspondent | Kolkata

The Sealdah court on Saturday convicted Sanjay Roy in the heinous rape and murder of an on-duty doctor at the state-run RG Kar Medical College and Hospital. The judgment, delivered nearly two months after the trial began, brought partial closure to a case that shook the nation on August 9, 2024.

While the victim's family welcomed the conviction, they insisted that others involved in the crime remain at large. "Sanjay's guilt was proven through biological evidence. However, he was not alone. Justice is incomplete until all the culprits are punished," the victim's mother said, citing DNA reports that confirmed the presence of four men and a woman at the crime scene.

Sanjay Roy was found guilty under Sections 64 of the Bharatiya Nyaya Sanhita for rape, and Sections 66 and 103 (I), which deal with murder and capital punishment. The maximum

penalty includes death or life imprisonment. The sentencing is scheduled for Monday, allowing Roy a chance to present his statement before the final judgment.

As he was escorted out of the courtroom, Roy claimed innocence and alleged he was being framed. "I haven't committed this crime. The real culprits are free, and an IPS officer knows everything," he said. Roy also questioned the evidence, adding, "I always wear a rudraksha chain. If I had committed the crime, it would have been broken at the scene."

The victim's parents vowed to continue their fight for justice, demanding accountability for all perpetrators. "Until everyone involved is punished, we cannot sleep peacefully. We will keep knocking on the court's doors and seeking public support," the father said. The case, which saw an in-camera trial beginning in November, has reignited debates over safety in public institutions and the need for systemic reforms to ensure timely justice.



# Suspect Detained in Saif Ali Khan Stabbing Case

Actor recovering after surgery; suspect apprehended in Chhattisgarh

TPN Correspondent | Mumbai

A suspect linked to the stabbing of Bollywood actor Saif Ali Khan has been detained at Durg railway station in Chhattisgarh. The incident occurred early Thursday when an intruder attacked the 54-year-old actor in his Bandra home, leaving him with multiple stab wounds, including on his neck and near the spine.

The suspect, identified as 31-year-old Aakash Kailash Kannoja, was apprehended by the Railway Protection Force (RPF) based on leads from Mumbai Police. He was reportedly caught aboard the Mumbai-Howrah Jnaneswari Express and detained upon disembarking at Durg. Authorities confirmed his identity through a video call with Mumbai Police, and a team is on its way to Chhattisgarh to verify his involvement. Saif Ali Khan underwent emergency surgery at Lilavati Hospital, where doctors removed a 2.5-inch blade fragment lodged near his spine. The actor,

stabbed six times, is said to be recovering well. His wife, actress Kareena Kapoor Khan, recounted the harrowing attack, stating that the assailant appeared aggressive and fled without stealing any valuables.

CCTV footage captured the intruder entering and fleeing the building. Wearing a red scarf and carrying a backpack, he was later spotted at Bandra and Dadar railway stations before fleeing the city by train.

In a significant effort to capture the attacker, over 30 police teams were formed. Earlier reports suggested the detention of a carpenter who had worked at Saif's residence days before the incident, but authorities confirmed he was not the culprit.

Maharashtra's Minister of State for Home (Urban), Yogesh Kadam, stated that the motive was robbery and ruled out underworld involvement. The investigation continues as Mumbai Police work to confirm the detained suspect's role in the attack.

# ISKCON partners with Adani Group Providing meals to nearly one lakh devotees at Maha Kumbh



TPN Correspondent | Prayagraj: ISKCON, in partnership with the Adani Group, is serving meals to nearly one lakh devotees daily at the Maha Kumbh. At their camp on Harshvardhan Marg, one kitchen prepares food for 30,000-35,000 people per session, with three sessions a day. The meals, which include dal, vegetables, rice, roti, and sweets like halwa or boondi laddu, are prepared using traditional clay stoves and a fire fueled by wood and cow dung cakes, enhancing the flavor. ISKCON's Director (CSR), Madhukant Das, shared that the food is balanced and prepared with care, catering to the spiritual community at the event.



# Rajath Singh Participates in Maha Kumbh, Takes Holy Dip at Triveni Sangam



TPN Correspondent | Prayagraj

Defence Minister Rajath Singh visited Prayagraj on Saturday to participate in the Maha Kumbh Mela, one of the largest religious gatherings in the world. He began his visit by taking a holy dip at the Triveni Sangam, the sacred confluence of the Ganga, Yamuna, and the mythical Saraswati rivers. During his visit, Rajath Singh is set to perform religious rituals at prominent sites, including Akshaya Vat, Patalpuri Temple, Saraswati Kund, and Hanuman Temple. The Maha Kumbh, which started on January 13, will continue until February 26, 2025, drawing millions of devotees. The event's sixth day saw a massive

turnout for the auspicious Amrit Snan, a sacred bathing ritual believed to offer spiritual cleansing. This year, the first Amrit Snan occurred on January 14 (Makar Sankranti), with the next two scheduled for January 29 (Mauni Amavasya) and February 3 (Basant Panchami). The Uttar Pradesh government, under Chief Minister Yogi Adityanath, is taking extensive measures to ensure the safety and comfort of pilgrims. Security arrangements include 220 expert divers from the National and State Disaster Response Forces (NDRF and SDRF) supported by 700 boats, alongside personnel from the PAC, water police, and health-care teams.

# 'Caste Survey Under Nitish Kumar Was To Fool People Of Bihar'

TPN Correspondent | Patna

Congress leader Rahul Gandhi on Saturday criticized the caste survey conducted by the Nitish Kumar-led government in Bihar, calling it an exercise aimed at deceiving the people. Addressing the 'Samvidhan Suraksha Sammelan' at Babu Sabhagar in Patna, Gandhi reaffirmed his party's demand for a nationwide caste census, describing it as essential for shaping development policies that are inclusive of marginalized communities. Gandhi, the leader of the opposition in the Lok Sabha, accused the BJP and the RSS of undermining the Constitution and neglecting Dalits, minorities, and other socially marginalized groups in India. He emphasized that these communities constitute 90 percent of the country's population but remain largely excluded from the system. The Congress leader reiterated that a caste census would help in understanding their participation in the nation's wealth and sectors like bureaucracy, making it vital for equitable development.

"The exercise the Bihar government undertook was just to fool people. We do not want such a caste survey," Gandhi stated. He also pointed out that the current 50 percent cap on reservations for Scheduled Castes (SC), Scheduled Tribes (ST), and Other Backward Classes (OBC) was insufficient and promised that Congress would work to raise this limit for the benefit of the majority population. Furthermore, Gandhi took issue with RSS chief Mohan Bhagwat's recent remark regarding the true independence of India post the Ram temple consecration, calling it a direct contradiction to the principles outlined in the Constitution. He accused the BJP and the RSS of spreading hatred and undermining constitutional values, framing the ongoing political struggle as a fight between those seeking to protect the Constitution and those fostering division.

# Wanted Alliance With AAP in Delhi, But...

Ajay Maken's personal view on alliance with AAP in Delhi

TPN Correspondent | New Delhi

Congress leader Ajay Maken on Saturday made significant remarks about the future of the party's relationship with the Aam Aadmi Party (AAP) in Delhi, stating that he personally opposes any alliance with AAP. "It is my personal view that there should be no alliance with AAP," Maken said during a press conference at the new Congress headquarters. He emphasized that this viewpoint extended to previous years as well, particularly criticizing the Congress's support to AAP in 2013 and its alignment with the party in 2024 for the Lok Sabha elections. Maken reiterated his earlier remark about Delhi Chief Minister Arvind Kejriwal, calling him "anti-national" and maintaining that the growth of AAP in

Delhi could aid the Bharatiya Janata Party (BJP). On the question of whether Congress would support AAP post-Delhi Assembly elections, Maken remained firm, clarifying that strengthening Congress at the national level was crucial to effectively challenging the BJP. He pointed out that a divided opposition, with AAP's increasing prominence in Delhi, inadvertently helped the BJP. Maken also revealed that Congress had initially wanted an alliance with AAP both in Delhi and Haryana, but the discussions were abruptly ended by Kejriwal's announcement that AAP would contest Haryana's Assembly elections alone. Similarly, after the 2019 Lok Sabha polls, Kejriwal confirmed AAP's intention to fight Delhi's elections independently.

## GAZA CEASEFIRE BEGINS AT NOON TODAY



TPN Correspondent | International Desk: A ceasefire in Gaza starts at 12 noon IST, marking a pause in hostilities after prolonged negotiations. As part of Stage 1, hundreds of Israelis kidnapped during the October 7 attack will be released from Gaza, some held for over 15 months, in exchange for Palestinian prisoners held by Israel. The truce aims to halt violence and address the region's humanitarian crisis.

## No Contradiction in Army Chief's Remarks on China Standoff: MEA

### Army, MEA Aligned on Eastern Ladakh Situation

TPN Correspondent | New Delhi

The Ministry of External Affairs (MEA) on Friday dismissed claims of conflicting positions regarding the Line of Actual Control (LAC) situation in eastern Ladakh. The response came after Army Chief Gen Upendra Dwivedi remarked on the ongoing "degree" of standoff between Indian and Chinese forces in the region.

- MEA assures alignment between Army Chief's statements and official position.
- Recent disengagement at Demchok and Depsang seen as progress.
- Talks on de-escalation remain a priority for both nations.

"We do not see any contradiction between what the Army Chief has said and the position we have taken," MEA spokesperson Randhir Jaiswal clarified. His statement followed Gen Dwivedi's comments that highlighted the need for broader mutual understanding to restore trust and calm along the border. Recent Developments in LAC Situation

On October 21, both nations completed troop disengagement at the remaining friction points of Demchok and Depsang, marking a milestone



in ongoing de-escalation efforts. The disengagement followed high-level discussions between Prime Minister Narendra Modi and Chinese President Xi Jinping during the BRICS Summit in Russia on October 23, where both leaders agreed to revive bilateral dialogue mechanisms.

Last month, NSA Ajit Doval traveled to Beijing and engaged in boundary talks with Chinese Foreign Minister Wang Yi, further emphasizing India's commitment to resolving disputes peacefully.

At a press conference earlier this week, Gen Dwivedi described the situation as "sensitive but stable," acknowledging the presence of a "degree" of standoff. He underscored the need for continued dialogue to address minor frictions, particularly those related to patrolling and

grazing rights, to prevent escalation. Addressing concerns over buffer zones, Gen Dwivedi clarified, "There is no such thing as buffer zones; these are temporary moratoriums on patrolling to avoid violence." Reiterating External Affairs Minister S. Jaishankar's statement in Parliament, Jaiswal noted, "Our objective remains ensuring patrolling to relevant points and resumption of civilian grazing as per longstanding practices. The disengagement terms reached in October 2024 continue to hold." Jaiswal also emphasized that the task of de-escalation remains unfulfilled but remains a shared goal. "There is absolutely no contradiction between the positions taken by the Army and the MEA," he affirmed. Both the Army and MEA are looking forward to the next round of Special Representatives talks on the boundary question, alongside consultations under the Working Mechanism for Consultation and Coordination (WMCC). Gen Dwivedi remarked that these meetings would provide essential guidance for future actions. With diplomatic and military channels active, India and China are focused on resolving the standoff while ensuring stability in the region.

## "Frankly Impressed": Bill Gates on Dinner with Donald Trump

The billionaire praised Trump's energy and focus on innovation.



TPN Correspondent | Washington

Bill Gates shared insights from a three-hour dinner with Donald Trump before his January 20 inauguration, describing the meeting as "intriguing" and praising Trump's energy and interest in innovation.

The discussion covered HIV, polio, and vaccine development, with Gates highlighting his foundation's HIV research and drawing parallels to the accelerated COVID-19 vaccine efforts during Trump's term. Gates noted Trump's enthusiasm for addressing these global health issues, particularly achieving milestones in the fight against polio.

Gates, impressed by Trump's engagement, said, "I felt like he was energized and looking forward to driving innovation."

The dinner, held at Mar-a-Lago, was also attended by incoming White House Chief of Staff Susie Wiles. Trump hinted at the meeting on Truth Social, calling Mar-a-Lago the "Center of the Universe." The interaction underscores Trump's outreach to prominent business leaders, including Mark Zuckerberg and Jeff Bezos, ahead of his presidency. Gates had previously met Trump during his 2016 term.

## Delhi ranked 8th best cultural destination globally by Tripadvisor

TPN Correspondent | New Delhi

New Delhi has been ranked 8th among the world's top cultural destinations for 2025, as per Tripadvisor's Travellers' Choice Awards. The city is the only Indian destination featured in the top 10 across all categories. The rankings celebrate destinations that showcase rich heritage and vibrant cultural experiences. The global top 10 cultural destinations list is led by Bali, Indonesia, followed by Hanoi, Vietnam, and London, UK. Delhi's inclusion highlights its iconic landmarks such as the Red Fort, Qutub Minar, and Humayun's Tomb, alongside its bustling markets and diverse traditions that attract millions of visitors each year.

Top 10 cultural destinations for 2025:

- Bali, Indonesia
- Hanoi, Vietnam
- London, UK
- Marrakech, Morocco
- Rome, Italy
- Cusco, Peru
- Kathmandu, Nepal
- New Delhi, India
- Crete, Greece
- Siem Reap, Cambodia



## 12 Indians fighting for Russian army in Ukraine killed, 16 missing

### India seeks repatriation of nationals misled into Russian combat roles.

TPN Correspondent | New Delhi

Twelve Indian nationals have died fighting for the Russian Army in Ukraine, while 16 others are missing, the Ministry of External Affairs (MEA) confirmed. Among 126 Indians misled into joining the Russian Army, 96 have been repatriated, and 18 remain in combat, with efforts ongoing to ensure their release.

Prime Minister Narendra Modi raised the issue with Russian President Vladimir Putin during meetings last year, receiving assurances of the early discharge of Indian nationals.

Investigations revealed a human trafficking network lured victims to Russia under false pretenses, confiscated their passports, and deployed them on the battlefield. Police have arrested four individuals linked to the racket, while the government continues to



address cases brought to its attention. Foreign Minister S. Jaishankar strongly condemned the exploitation, emphasizing India's commitment to protecting its citizens. "It is unacceptable that any Indian is coerced into conflict roles," he stated. Efforts are underway to bring back the remaining trapped individuals and take strict legal action against those responsible for this trafficking network.

## Chris Martin and Dakota Johnson at Babulnath temple

### The couple embraces Indian traditions as Coldplay gears up for their India tour.

TPN Correspondent | Mumbai

Coldplay's Chris Martin and actress Dakota Johnson sought blessings at Mumbai's Babulnath temple ahead of the band's highly anticipated concert. The couple, dating since 2017, were seen participating in traditional rituals, with Chris wearing a powder blue kurta and Dakota donning a printed kurti and dupatta.

The visit came as part of Coldplay's "Music of the Spheres" World Tour, with performances scheduled at Mumbai's DY Patil Stadium on January 18 and 19, and at Ahmedabad's Narendra Modi Stadium on January 25 and 26.

Adding excitement to the event, singer Jasleen Royal will become the first Indian artist to open for Coldplay, marking a significant milestone in her career.

Coldplay, known for iconic tracks like Yellow, Fix You, and Paradise, continues to captivate audiences worldwide, blending music with cultural appreciation.



## "Suffering, Everything Burned": Sheikh Hasina

TPN Correspondent | New Delhi/Dhaka

Former Bangladesh Prime Minister Sheikh Hasina, in an emotional audio note shared by the Awami League, described how she narrowly escaped death when fleeing her country last August. The 77-year-old leader, now residing in India, accused her political opponents of conspiring against her and thanked Allah for saving her life.

- Sheikh Hasina claims she fled Bangladesh minutes before her home was ransacked.
- Accuses political rivals of orchestrating multiple assassination attempts.
- India confirms receiving an extradition request from Bangladesh.

Sheikh Hasina fled Dhaka on August 5, 2024, with her sister Rehana, moments before a mob attacked her residence. "We escaped death by just 20-25 minutes. Allah must have a will for me, or I wouldn't have survived," she said in Bangla, referencing earlier assassination attempts, including the 2004 grenade attack and the 2000 Kotalipara bomb plot.

She tearfully added, "I am suffering, I am without my country, my home. Everything has been burned." Ms. Hasina accused her adversaries of a deliberate campaign to eliminate her. "The world has seen their conspiracy to kill me. I survived because Allah wants me to fulfill a purpose," she asserted. The political turmoil leading to her resignation stemmed from a violent student movement. Shortly after she stepped down, her bungalow was ransacked, looted, and vandalized by an angry mob. The crisis, which included attacks on Hindu minorities and clashes involving her allies, strained India-Bangladesh relations.



# Beneath the Surface

## The Hidden Cracks in India's Consumption Story

India's economic growth narrative has often been driven by its thriving consumer market. With a population exceeding 1.4 billion and a demographic advantage of a young workforce, the country has been a beacon of hope for global businesses and policymakers. However, the celebrated story of India's consumption-driven economy has underlying vulnerabilities that threaten its long-term sustainability. Beneath the surface of rapid urbanization, e-commerce growth, and increasing smartphone penetration lie deep-seated structural challenges that must be addressed for the narrative to hold true.

### Urban vs. Rural Divide: The Twin Realities

India's economy tells two distinct tales: one of thriving urban centers and another of struggling rural hinterlands. Urban India accounts for the bulk of discretionary spending, with high-income households fueling demand for electronics, automobiles, and luxury goods. On the other hand, rural India, home to more than 65% of the population, remains heavily reliant on agriculture.

Agricultural incomes have remained stagnant due to low productivity, unpredictable monsoons, and a lack of modern farming techniques. Rural households often prioritize basic needs like food and healthcare, leaving little room for discretionary

spending. The increasing penetration of e-commerce in rural areas has brought some relief, but the purchasing power gap between urban and rural India continues to widen.

### Stagnating Middle-Class Incomes

The middle class has traditionally been the engine of India's consumption story. This demographic not only aspires for upward mobility but also drives demand across sectors like real estate, education, healthcare, and consumer goods. Yet, wage stagnation over the last decade has hindered its growth.

Manufacturing, which was expected to generate millions of jobs under initiatives like "Make in India," has underperformed. Meanwhile, the service sector, though expanding, has seen a shift towards contractual and gig-based employment. These trends have dampened job security and suppressed salary growth, reducing disposable income for middle-class households.

### Rising Inflation and Its Impact on Households

Inflation has eroded the purchasing power of Indian households, particularly in the lower-income segments. Rising prices of essentials like food, fuel, and healthcare have forced families to prioritize their

spending.

### Youth Unemployment: A Ticking Time Bomb

India's demographic dividend is often touted as its biggest strength. However, the reality is that this advantage can quickly turn into a liability if young people remain unemployed or underemployed. While over 12 million individuals enter the workforce annually, the economy has struggled to generate enough quality jobs to absorb this influx.

The mismatch between aspirations and opportunities is glaring. Young graduates are often underemployed in roles that do not match their skills or education levels. This underemployment not only limits their disposable income but also restricts their ability to contribute to long-term economic growth through investments or spending on durable goods.

### E-Commerce: A Double-Edged Sword

The rise of e-commerce platforms has transformed India's retail landscape. Companies like Amazon and Flipkart have brought goods to the doorsteps of millions, even in remote areas. However, the rapid growth of online shopping has also



## India's Economic Growth Set to Rebound: RBI Bulletin

India's economy is on track to rebound, with domestic demand gaining strength, according to the latest bulletin from the Reserve Bank of India (RBI) released on Friday. The bulletin highlighted that rural demand continues to show growth, reflecting resilience in consumption patterns despite challenges.



Office (NSO).

The article, titled "State of the Economy," published in the January edition of the RBI Bulletin, notes that India's economic growth is expected to accelerate in the second half of 2024-25. The article supports the projected pick-up in real GDP growth based on the first advance estimates from the National Statistical

Office (NSO). However, the RBI also pointed to persistent concerns about food inflation, which remains sticky and requires close attention due to potential second-order effects. Although headline inflation eased for the second consecutive month in December, food prices continue to show significant volatility, which could affect overall economic stability.

The global economic outlook for 2025 shows mixed trends, with slower growth anticipated in major economies. While the US is expected to experience a loss of momentum, Europe and Japan are likely to see weak recoveries. Emerging markets and developing countries, including India, are projected to maintain more moderate growth profiles, while disinflation is expected to be more gradual compared to advanced economies.

Despite these global challenges, the RBI remains optimistic about India's growth prospects, largely driven by domestic demand. The bulletin emphasizes that high-frequency economic indicators show a strong upward trend in the second half of the financial year, confirming that India is on track for a stronger economic performance in the coming months.

The article was authored by a team led by Michael Patra, who recently demitted his role as RBI Deputy Governor.

## India's Forex Reserves Fall by \$8.7 Billion to \$625.87 Billion Amid Market Volatility

India's foreign exchange reserves have experienced a significant drop, declining by USD 8.74 billion to stand at USD 625.87 billion in the week ending January 10, according to the Reserve Bank of India (RBI). This comes after a previous dip of USD 5.693 billion in the week ending January 3, when the reserves were recorded at USD 634.585 billion. The decline in India's forex reserves has been attributed to a combination of factors, including revaluation and interventions by the RBI in the foreign exchange market. These interventions are aimed at reducing the volatility of the Indian rupee, which has been facing pressures in recent weeks. The RBI has been active in stabilizing the rupee, a move that often requires drawing from the country's forex reserves.



The drop in reserves marks a continuing downward trend, reflecting broader global financial dynamics. The nation's forex reserves had previously surged to a record high of USD 704.885 billion at the end of September 2021, driven by a combination of robust capital inflows, foreign investments, and remittances. Since then, the reserves have been gradually declining, with market interventions and the impact of global un-

certainties contributing to the fluctuations. Despite the recent fall, India's forex reserves remain at a comfortable level, providing a buffer against potential external shocks and enabling the country to meet its international payment obligations. Analysts remain watchful of further developments in the foreign exchange market, particularly given global economic factors and domestic challenges.

The decline in reserves underscores the importance of closely monitoring external factors such as global interest rates, oil prices, and geopolitical events that influence currency values and international trade dynamics. As India continues to navigate these challenges, its forex reserves remain a critical tool in ensuring economic stability.

## Budget 2025: Key Income Tax Changes Expected on February 1

As India prepares for the Union Budget 2025, taxpayers and industry stakeholders are eagerly awaiting announcements that could ease financial pressures and boost economic growth. With global uncertainties and domestic challenges shaping the current economic landscape, this year's budget is expected to find a delicate balance between fiscal prudence and growth-centric reforms.

Among the most anticipated areas of focus are income tax changes, which could significantly impact the financial flexibility of households across the country.

### Here are five key income tax changes expected to be announced in Budget 2025:

**Increase in Basic Exemption Limit**  
One of the most anticipated changes is a rise in the basic income tax exemption limit. It is widely expected that the government will increase the current threshold of Rs 3

lakh to Rs 5 lakh, providing much-needed relief to taxpayers, especially the middle class. This move would ease the financial burden on low-income earners and improve disposable income for a large section of the population.

### Reduction in Tax Slabs

There is a growing expectation that tax slabs could be revised to lower the effective tax rates for individuals. A reduction in tax rates would provide increased financial flexibility for households and encourage greater spending and investment, which could positively impact economic growth.

### Tax Benefits for Homebuyers

With the real estate sector being a significant contributor to India's economy, the government is likely to offer additional tax incentives for homebuyers. This could include higher deductions on home loan interest and principal repayment, helping middle-class families realize their dreams

of owning a home.

### Incentives for Savings and Investments

The budget could introduce further tax benefits for individuals who invest in retirement funds, health insurance, and other savings instruments. Such measures would encourage long-term financial planning and boost investments in key sectors.

### Enhanced Tax Rebates for the Middle Class

To support the middle-income group, the budget may introduce enhanced tax rebates, making it easier for households to manage day-to-day expenses while maintaining savings and investments.

As Budget 2025 approaches, the Indian government's focus on enhancing financial flexibility for taxpayers, boosting consumption, and stimulating job creation remains a priority for both policymakers and the general public.

## NITI Aayog's Virmani revises FY'25 GDP growth projection for India amidst global uncertainty

NITI Aayog member and renowned economist Arvind Virmani has revised his GDP growth projection for India for FY'25, adjusting it to a range of 6.4-7 percent. This revision comes in light of growing global uncertainties, particularly from political and economic challenges in the United States and China.

Earlier, Virmani had predicted India's GDP growth in the range of 6.5-7.5 percent, but now has lowered the projection to 6.5-7 percent, with a high likelihood that the growth rate may be sub-7 percent. The primary factors contributing to this revision are the rising political risks and uncertainties, especially surrounding the upcoming US elections, which

have the potential to disrupt global markets.

Virmani explained that his initial forecast had anticipated a growth rate of around 7 percent, with a margin of plus or minus 0.5 percent. However, he acknowledged that the uncertainty generated by the US elections has turned out to be more significant than previously expected. According to Virmani, the political instability in the US has a domino effect on other regions, including Europe, China, and indirectly India.

One of the major global concerns impacting India's growth prospects is the ongoing slowdown in China's economy. Virmani criticized

China's capacity-building approach, describing it as "irrational" given the country's reduced capacity utilization. The slowdown in China, which is India's key trade partner, has further contributed to a cautious outlook for India's economic performance in the coming year.

Virmani's revised projection comes as global economic challenges, such as geopolitical risks and slowing growth in major economies, weigh on market sentiments. Despite these uncertainties, India's economy is expected to continue its resilient growth, though at a more cautious pace than initially anticipated.



# How Junk Food Impacts Children's Dental Health

Junk food, while convenient and often appealing, can have a significant negative impact on children's overall health, including their dental well-being. These foods are typically high in sugar, unhealthy fats, and salt, yet low in essential nutrients like vitamins, minerals, and fiber. While regular consumption of junk food can contribute to obesity and various health problems, it also poses a serious threat to children's dental health, increasing the risk of tooth decay, gum disease, and other oral issues. Here's how junk food affects your child's teeth:

## Tooth Decay

Sugary snacks like candies and chocolates leave sugar behind on teeth, which bacteria break down to produce acids. These acids can erode tooth enamel, leading to cavities and decay.

## Weakened Tooth Enamel

Acidic junk foods, such as sodas and citrus-flavored snacks, wear down enamel, making teeth more vulnerable to decay and sensitivity.

## Plaque Build-up

Sticky treats like caramel and gummy candies stick to the teeth, providing a breeding ground for bacteria. This promotes plaque formation, which can lead to gum infections.

## Gum Disease

Consuming junk food regularly can irritate the gums, causing inflam-



mation and increasing the risk of gingivitis (gum disease), which can lead to redness, swelling, and bleeding.

## Bacterial Growth

Junk foods rich in refined carbohydrates, like chips and cookies, break down into sugars that fuel harmful bacteria in the mouth, exacerbating

oral health problems.

## Tooth Erosion

Acidic foods and drinks, such as soda, lower the pH in the mouth and erode tooth enamel over time, weakening teeth and making them more prone to damage.

## Dry Mouth

Many junk foods contain high salt levels, which can lead to dehydration and a dry mouth, reducing the production of saliva that helps cleanse the mouth and neutralize acids.

## Jaw Development Issues

Junk foods are often soft and lack the texture needed to promote proper jaw muscle development and alignment, which are important for healthy teeth and jawbones.

## Teeth Staining

Brightly colored junk foods, like candies and sodas, can stain teeth over time. These stains are often difficult to remove without professional cleaning.

## Delayed Oral Recovery

Lack of nutrients like calcium and vitamin D in junk food can slow down recovery from dental problems like cavities and gum disease.

To protect your child's teeth, it's crucial to limit junk food intake and encourage a balanced diet along with good oral hygiene practices.

# Little Pizza Boi: Internet Cannot Get Over Toddler Preparing Pizza Pie

Pizza lovers, prepare to have your hearts melted. A viral Instagram video featuring a 19-month-old toddler making pizza with his mother has captured the internet's attention for all the right reasons. While pizza is a beloved dish for many, watching a little one prepare it with such enthusiasm and cuteness adds an extra layer of joy to the experience.



The video begins in a cozy kitchen, where the toddler, dressed in an adorable chequered apron, is seen standing at the table surrounded by pizza-making ingredients: flour dough, grated cheese, fresh basil leaves, and tomato sauce. The toddler first plays with a rolling pin before getting down to business. He sprinkles flour on the board and carefully rolls out the dough with his tiny hands. His excitement is palpable as he helps his mother place the dough on a tray, then spreads butter across it.

As the video continues, the little one pours tomato sauce onto the dough and spreads it evenly, then adds the cheese and basil leaves to complete the toppings. The final step? Placing the pizza in the oven. After waiting eagerly, the toddler's face lights up as the freshly baked pizza is pulled out, and he eagerly takes a bite. His joyful expressions while enjoying the pizza

will surely make viewers smile. The video wraps up with the toddler waving at the camera, leaving viewers with a heartwarming end.

Instagram users have flooded the comments with sweet reactions. "Every time he finds the camera, he smiles," one person commented. Others shared their affection, with one user saying, "I could see him growing up in a little pizzeria in Italy in a past life." Another person wrote, "Made my day with his pizza." The adorable toddler has certainly made an impression, bringing smiles and joy to pizza lovers and parents alike.

# Engineer Develops AI-Powered Robot That Aims and Fires with Lightning Speed



An engineer has unveiled a groundbreaking innovation—a robot powered by ChatGPT that controls a nail gun, enabling it to aim and fire at targets with stunning speed and accuracy. A video of the robot, which is circulating widely on social media, shows it swiftly rotating and shooting at colorful balloons, responding to commands with near-perfect precision.

While the creator has not provided specific details on how ChatGPT interfaces with the nail gun, the project has already sparked significant interest and concern. The engineer claims that the AI-powered nail gun is primarily intended for use in the construction industry, where it could revolutionize processes that require rapid, high-precision tasks such as nailing in large-scale construction projects.

Despite the promising application in construction, the development has raised eyebrows online, with many social media users expressing unease about the potential implications of AI-controlled machinery, particularly if it were to fall into the wrong hands. Some have voiced concerns about the future of AI-powered weapons, fearing that such technology could be used to cause harm without human oversight.

The creator shared the video on Instagram, promoting it as a "fully automated AI-enabled pneumatic nailing tool" that is still in development. They described it as a "super transformational" addition to the construction industry, with expectations that it will significantly enhance efficiency and accuracy in the field.

However, the debate around AI's evolving capabilities continues to intensify. While tools like this could offer immense benefits to industries such as construction, there are growing concerns over the unchecked development of autonomous systems, especially when they have the potential to be adapted for more harmful uses.

The video and its subsequent discussions have sparked widespread curiosity and caution, leading many to speculate on what the future holds for AI-powered machines and their broader societal implications.

# Do aliens exist? what scientists really think

Recent news stories often present a hopeful outlook on the discovery of extraterrestrial life, with headlines suggesting that finding life beyond Earth could be imminent. The idea that discovering alien life is "only a matter of time" is widely circulated. But how accurate are these optimistic predictions? Are experts in the field, such as astrobiologists, equally hopeful?



In a new study published in Nature Astronomy, researchers conducted a series of surveys to gain insight into the perspectives of the scientific community regarding extraterrestrial life. The surveys, carried out between February and June 2024, focused on the likely existence of basic, complex, and intelligent extraterrestrial life. Emails were sent to astrobiologists and scientists from various related

fields, gathering a total of 521 responses from astrobiologists and 534 from non-astrobiologists.

The results of the survey reveal a strong sense of optimism within the astrobiology community. A staggering 86.6% of surveyed astrobiologists either "agreed"

or "strongly agreed" that it is likely that extraterrestrial life exists. This consensus supports the widely held belief that life beyond Earth is not only possible but probable, particularly in the context of basic life forms.

However, while optimism is high, the study also highlights

that there is no universal agreement on the specifics. Experts diverge when considering more complex or intelligent life forms, with opinions varying widely. Though the overwhelming majority of respondents believe that basic extraterrestrial life could exist elsewhere in the universe, the prospects for discovering intelligent life are still debated.

The study underscores the growing confidence among experts that we may indeed find extraterrestrial life in the future, but it also reveals a cautious approach when it comes to more advanced life forms. Despite this, the overall outlook remains positive, with many experts in the field feeling that humanity is getting closer to answering one of the biggest questions in science.

# Amusement Park Ride In Hyderabad Leaves Riders Hanging Upside Down For 30 Minutes

A thrilling roller coaster experience at Hyderabad's Numaish exhibition turned into a nightmare for passengers after a sudden malfunction left them suspended upside down for nearly 30 minutes. The incident occurred on January 16, leaving riders screaming in distress as the ride unexpectedly halted due to a battery issue.



According to reports from The Siasat Daily, the coaster, during a trial run, became stuck in mid-air, with passengers hanging upside down. Witnesses described the scene as chaotic, with riders in visible

panic, waiting for assistance. The ride remained inoperative for almost half an hour before technicians were able to resolve the

issue. more rigorous checks during trial runs to prevent such accidents in the future.

An official from the exhibition society later clarified that the malfunction was caused by battery problems. Once the battery was replaced, the ride resumed its normal function, and the riders were safely brought down.

Though no injuries were reported, the incident has raised concerns about the safety protocols and maintenance of amusement park rides. This event has also sparked discussions about the need for better safety measures and

## India Announces Squad for Champions Trophy: Rohit Sharma to lead India

India has announced its squad for the upcoming Champions Trophy, with a blend of experience and fresh talent in the lineup. Young left-handed opener Yashasvi Jaiswal, a rising star in Indian cricket, was rightfully included in the 15-man squad, marking his potential as a future asset for the team. Additionally, pacer Mohammed Shami makes his return to the national side after a prolonged injury layoff. However, one notable absentee from the squad is pacer Mohammed Siraj, whose recent performances were deemed insufficient for a place in the final selection.

Jasprit Bumrah, who has been recovering from a long-standing injury, will be a key player to watch ahead of the prestigious tournament. Chairman of selectors, Ajit Agarkar, clarified that Bumrah's participation will be determined by his fitness, as he had been advised to take a break of five weeks to manage his recovery. This means that Bumrah will not be available for the first two ODIs against England, and his fitness levels will be closely monitored in the coming weeks to assess his availability for the rest of the tournament.

As for the squad, the selectors have opted for a well-balanced team, with a mix of established stars and new blood. Rohit Sharma has been named the captain, with Shubman Gill as his vice-captain. The squad includes a strong middle-order featuring Virat Kohli, Shreyas Iyer, and Hardik Pandya, while the experienced duo of Ravindra Jadeja and Axar Patel will bolster the spin department. Kuldeep Yadav, Washington Sundar, and Ravindra Jadeja add further depth in the bowling attack.



In the absence of regular wicketkeeper Rishabh Pant, KL Rahul and Rishabh Pant have been entrusted with the crucial wicketkeeping duties. While the squad has ample experience, there were some tough calls during the selection process. Despite scoring 752 runs in domestic cricket, Karun Nair was overlooked for a spot in the squad, with Agarkar explaining that the team was selected based on performance averages, with all selected players boasting an average in the mid-40s.

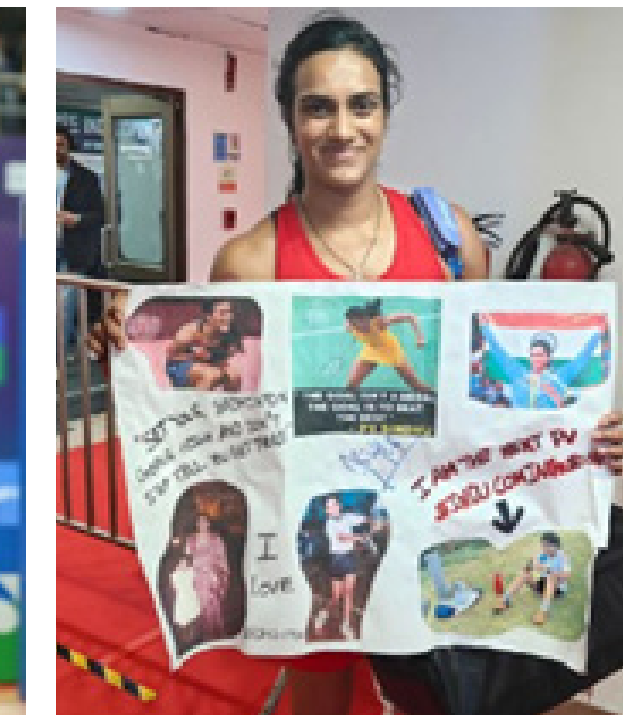
With the 2025 Champions Trophy fast approaching, the Indian team is shaping up to be a formidable force, with several key players eager to make an impact on the world stage.

## Sindhu Shows Promise Despite Quarterfinal Defeat to Tunjung at India Open

The atmosphere at the Indira Gandhi Indoor Stadium was electric as PV Sindhu mounted a thrilling comeback against Gregoria Mariska Tunjung in the quarterfinals of the India Open Super 750. With the score at 15-17, Sindhu rallied to bring it level at 17-17, sparking excitement among the crowd. The energy in the stadium was palpable as fans cheered every point, fully invested in the match.

Among the passionate spectators was a 12-year-old girl who was not only cheering for Sindhu but also showed her admiration in a very special way. Holding up a hand-made poster featuring photos of both Sindhu and herself, it read, "I am the next Sindhu, coming soon." The young fan, clearly inspired by Sindhu's prowess, jumped up and down in her front-row seat, radiating enthusiasm with every winner the Indian star landed. The scene was a testament to the impact Sindhu has had on the next generation of athletes, inspiring young girls to dream big and pursue badminton.

After a tough start, where Sindhu lost the first



game 9-21, the atmosphere began to shift as she fought her way back into the match. Her resilience and determination were on full display as she leveled the score and seemed to turn the momentum in her favor. With each powerful stroke, it felt as though Sindhu was not just playing for herself, but for her supporters in the stands, including her young admirer who believed in her every move.

The sense of hope in the stadium was undeniable, as fans clung to the belief that Sindhu could overcome the odds and secure a victory. The match highlighted not just Sindhu's skills on the court, but her influence off it as well, inspiring young fans and future champions to follow in her footsteps.

## Satwiksairaj Rankireddy and Chirag Shetty Power Into India Open Semifinals



Satwiksairaj Rankireddy and Chirag Shetty were determined to avoid any mistakes in their quarterfinal match at the India Open, coming out with intensity and focus from the very first point. Having been pushed to the limit in their opening two matches, the ace Indian men's doubles pair knew that avoiding avoidable errors was key to making a deep run in the tournament. Facing the tricky Korean duo of Kang Min Hyuk and Jin Yong, Satwiksairaj and Chirag were in no mood to let their opponents dictate the game.

The Indian pair dominated right from the start, winning the first game 21-10. Despite a late surge from the Koreans, Satwiksairaj and Chirag stayed composed in the second game, securing a 21-17 victory in just 41 minutes. The win sealed their spot in the semifinals, marking their second consecutive

semifinal appearance to start the 2025 season.

On a day when other Indian players, including PV Sindhu and Kiran George, faced tough losses, Satwiksairaj and Chirag's performance was a bright spot for the home crowd. Sindhu went down in a three-game thriller to Paris 2024 bronze medalist Gregoria Mariska Tunjung, while Kiran George fell to Weng Hong Yang.

With their semifinal berth, Satwiksairaj and Chirag continue to keep Indian hopes alive at this BWF World Tour event. Their focused performance against the Koreans was a reminder of their potential, as they look to push further in the tournament and make a strong start to the year. Fans will be eagerly watching to see if the Indian pair can continue their momentum and secure a title at the prestigious event.

## Gael Monfils Stuns Fourth Seed Taylor Fritz in Australian Open 3rd Round

In a stunning upset at the Australian Open, 38-year-old Gael Monfils defeated fourth seed Taylor Fritz to secure his spot in the fourth round, becoming the second-oldest man in history to reach the last 16 at Melbourne Park. Monfils staged a remarkable comeback to win 3-6, 7-5, 7-6 (7/1), 6-4, showcasing his resilience and experience.

Monfils, ranked 41st in the world, had previously sparked interest by winning the Auckland Classic, where he became the oldest singles champion in ATP Tour history. The Frenchman entered this match against Fritz, who had been in excellent form, having dropped just eight games in his first two rounds. However, Monfils proved to be a formidable opponent, unleashing powerful groundstrokes and a booming serve to overpower the American.

"The strategy was to hold the baseline



and change the tempo," Monfils explained after the match. "I focused on hitting big shots down the line, using some slice on my backhand, and serving well." His tactical play and belief in himself were key to the victory, as he continued to apply pressure and take

control of the match.

The match began with some intense baseline rallies, including one lasting 29 shots and another 24, as both players traded heavy shots. Fritz broke Monfils' serve at 5-3 to win the first set, but Monfils bounced back in the second. With both players holding steady, Fritz lost his focus while serving at 5-5, allowing Monfils to break and win the set.

In the third set, a tiebreaker saw Monfils dominate, taking it 7-1 with a series of precision shots. Monfils then kept up the pressure in the fourth set, saving break points and breaking Fritz at 5-4 to seal the victory.

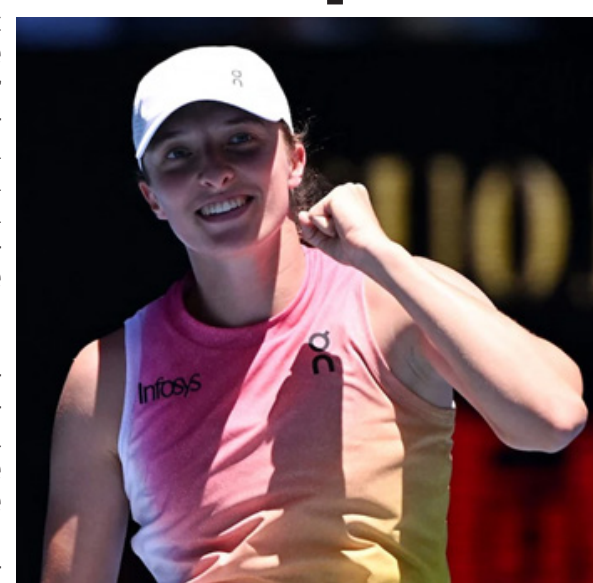
Monfils will now face either Ben Shelton or Lorenzo Musetti in the quarterfinals, continuing his quest for a maiden major semi-final appearance.

## Iga Swiatek Dominates Emma Raducanu to Reach Australian Open Second Week

Iga Swiatek continued her quest for a maiden Australian Open title with an emphatic 6-1, 6-0 victory over Emma Raducanu on Saturday, sending a strong message to her rivals. In a battle between two former US Open champions, the five-time Grand Slam winner was in ruthless form, securing 11 consecutive games after the match was tied at 1-1 in the first set.

Swiatek, who fired 24 winners to Raducanu's nine, was nearly untouchable on Rod Laver Arena. "I played a few shots today that reminded me why I practice - for moments like these," Swiatek said after the match, highlighting her confidence and enjoyment during the dominant performance. The Polish star, who committed just 12 unforced errors, also noted the importance of converting break points, which played a crucial role in her victory.

This win marked Raducanu's best per-



formance at the Australian Open, having previously never made it past the second round. However, Swiatek quickly asserted control, breaking Raducanu's serve early and taking the first set in just 31 minutes. From there, it was all one-way traffic, with Swiatek continu-

ing to apply pressure, forcing Raducanu into errors and wrapping up the match in just 1 hour and 10 minutes.

For Raducanu, who had been struggling with injury issues, including a back problem in the lead-up to the tournament, this defeat further highlighted the challenges she has faced since her stunning 2021 US Open triumph. Her best Grand Slam result since then has been a fourth-round appearance at Wimbledon.

Swiatek, the 2022 US Open champion, is looking to improve on her relatively modest Australian Open record, which includes just one semi-final appearance in 2022. With only 10 games dropped in her first three matches, she seems poised for a deep run. She will next face either Eva Lys or Jaqueline Christian in the fourth round, with a potential semi-final showdown against Elena Rybakina awaiting her.



## Enchanting Track “Aggipulle” from Dilruba Impresses Audiences

Riding high on the success of KA, the talented actor Kiran Abbavaram is all set for his next film, Dilruba, with the release of its first single, “Aggipulle.” After generating solid buzz with its teaser, the makers have now launched the much-anticipated track, which has quickly won hearts.

“Aggipulle” is a soulful composition by the sensational music director Sam CS, known for his ability to evoke deep emotions through his music. The song features stirring lyrics penned by the talented poet Bhaskar Batta, which beautifully capture the intense and fierce nature of love. With its perfect blend of a soothing melody and impactful words, the track is expected to dominate music playlists in the days to come.



Dilruba, set to release on Valentine's Day, February 14, is expected to be a treat for romantic movie lovers. Kiran Abbavaram, in a stylish makeover for this film, is sure to impress fans with his new look. Cinematography is being handled by Daniel Viswas, while Praveen KL serves as the editor, ensuring the film's visual and narrative appeal.

Produced by Sivam Celluloids and Yoodlee Films (the film studio of Saregama India Ltd.), Dilruba is backed by producers

Ravi, Jojo Jose, Rakesh Reddy, and Saregama, with Viswa Karun directing this intriguing romantic entertainer. With “Aggipulle” already making waves, expectations are high for what the full film has in store.

Anurag Kulkarni's powerful and evocative voice adds a layer of depth to the song, enhancing its emotional resonance. The song's composition, combined with the heartfelt vocals, creates a magical atmosphere, making it a standout in the film's musical lineup.

## Vijay Sethupathi's Viduthalai Part 2 to Debut on Amazon Prime Video

Viduthalai Part 2, starring Tamil actor Vijay Sethupathi and actress Manju Warrier in pivotal roles, is set to stream on the popular OTT platform Amazon Prime Video starting January 19. Directed by Kollywood filmmaker Vetri Maaran, the film is the sequel to the hit Viduthalai Part 1. While the sequel's theatrical release in December 2024 did not meet audience expectations, it is now gearing up for an OTT debut, creating renewed interest.

The sequel continues the gripping tale that began in Part 1, where Vijay Sethupathi's character, Perumal (also known as Master), was arrested following a clue provided by Constable Kumaresan, portrayed by comedian Soori. The movie picks up where Part 1 ended, diving deeper into Perumal's journey. In Viduthalai Part 2, viewers will uncover the backstory of why Perumal, who once taught children in a school, became a prominent figure



an integral part of Perumal's life. The film explores their dynamic and how Mahalakshmi's entry influences Perumal's fight against the system.

As the story unfolds, the film reveals further developments about Constable Kumaresan's involvement and actions that lead to the explosive events of Part 2. The gripping narrative promises to reveal unanswered questions from the first part, making it a must-watch for fans of the franchise.

For those who missed the theatrical release, Viduthalai Part 2 will now be available in both Tamil and Telugu languages on Amazon Prime Video,

giving viewers a chance to experience the intense drama and action-packed plot from the comfort of their homes. The new poster for the OTT release further adds excitement for this much-awaited continuation.

Manju Warrier plays a significant role in the movie as Mahalakshmi, who becomes

against the oppressive zamindari system. His transformation from a teacher to a revolutionary leader is one of the central narratives of the film.

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## Pushpa 2 Reloaded: New Scenes Add Depth to the Storyline

Pushpa 2: The Rule has once again broken norms in Telugu cinema, this time with the release of the Reloaded version, which extends the movie's runtime by 20 minutes. Following the success of the original film, the makers introduced the reloaded version in theatres, offering new content that addresses unanswered questions from the first installment.

One of the most anticipated additions is the inclusion of flashbacks that shed light on the events before and after the opening fight. In the reloaded version, Pushpa (played by Allu Arjun) recalls his childhood moments after falling into the sea. This flashback depicts a young Pushpa who, unable to swim, jumps into a pond as part of a dare to prove himself to his friends and earn his family's respect. These new scenes offer a deeper understanding of Pushpa's background and motivations.

Additionally, the reloaded version unveils a critical plot point involving Pushpa's finances. It is revealed that his money gets stuck in Japan during the transportation of red sandalwood cargo from Sri Lanka. Shekhawat's elimination of Hamid and Jali Reddy creates a disruption in the link, leaving Pushpa determined to recover his money. To do so, he lands in Japan hidden inside a container, adding another layer of intrigue to the plot.



New scenes also explore the dynamics between Mangalam Srinu and Shekhawat, who devise a plan to outwit Pushpa. However, Pushpa's clever counter-strategy keeps the syndicate united and ensures his continued dominance.

For fans who were left questioning the locket scene from the original film, the Reloaded version provides much-needed closure. In a touching moment toward the end, Ajay places the locket around Pushpa's neck, adding emotional depth to the story and answering lingering questions.

With these additional scenes, Pushpa 2 Reloaded promises an even more compelling and immersive experience for viewers, further cementing the film's place in cinematic history.

## Robinhood's New Release Date Collides with Hari Hara Veera Mallu

Nithiin's upcoming adventurous comedy entertainer Robinhood was initially slated for a Christmas release, but the film was postponed for unspecified reasons. Fans were hopeful that Robinhood would eventually make its way to theaters during the Sankranti festival, but those plans were shelved as the festival window became crowded with other big releases.

In a recent update, the makers of Robinhood confirmed that the film will now be released on March 28, 2025. However, this announcement has left Pawan Kalyan fans in shock, as it coincides with the release date of Pawan Kalyan's much-awaited PAN-Indian debut film, Hari Hara Veera Mallu, which is also scheduled for the same day.

The clash of these two major films has sparked speculation across the industry, particularly as Nithiin is a known admirer of Pawan Kalyan. It's widely believed that Nithiin would not want to compete with the release of Hari Hara Veera Mallu, given the respect he has for the star. This has led many to question whether Hari Hara Veera Mallu will indeed be released on March 28, or if there will be a change in its release schedule.

Directed by Venky Kudumula, Robinhood is expected to be an exciting comedy-action film, with Sreeleela playing the female lead. The movie is being produced by Mythri Movie Makers, with music composed by GV Prakash Kumar. Fans are eagerly awaiting the release of Robinhood, but the looming shadow of the Hari Hara Veera Mallu release has left many wondering what will happen in the coming weeks.

With two highly anticipated films now vying for the same release date, moviegoers will be watching closely to see if any adjustments are made to avoid a clash at the box office.

## Mad Square: MAD Gang arriving to theatres on March 29th

The much-awaited sequel to the youth blockbuster Mad, titled Mad Square, has finally announced its release date, much to the excitement of Tollywood fans. The original Mad movie, starring young heroes Narne Nithin, Sangeet Shobhan, and Ram Nithin, quickly became a hit among the youth for its entertaining storyline and vibrant energy. Now, with the sequel Mad Square set to hit the screens on March 29, the buzz around this crazy follow-up is undeniable.

Fans and industry insiders had been eagerly anticipating the announcement of Mad Square's release, and with its promotional content making waves,

the excitement has only intensified. The movie promises to deliver another thrilling, fun-filled ride, staying true to the energetic and youthful spirit of the first film.

The film's music, composed by the talented Bheems, is expected to add another layer of excitement, with catchy tunes that are sure to become fan favorites. Mad Square is produced by Sitara Entertainments and Fortune Four Cinemas, two prominent names in the Telugu film industry, ensuring top-notch production values.

With the release date now confirmed, Mad Square is poised to be one of the most talked-about films of the year, offering a perfect mix of fun, action, and entertainment. Fans of the original Mad and newcomers alike can look forward to an exciting cinematic experience when the movie releases on March 29. Get ready for a mad ride!

