



Weather Forecast

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

Tensions Escalate in Gram Sabhas

Public Outcry Over Welfare Scheme Beneficiary Selection



Pardhu-TPN| Telangana
The selection process for beneficiaries under four major welfare schemes in Telangana has led to unrest in Gram Sabhas across the state. Villagers have raised allegations against officials, claiming that despite meeting eligibility criteria, their names have been excluded from the lists. The schemes in question include Indiramma Houses, Rythu Bharosa, Ration Cards, and Indiramma Aathmiya Bharosa, triggering dissatisfaction and protests among the public. Villagers throughout Telangana have confronted officials during Gram Sabhas, accusing them of administrative lapses and

villagers allege exclusion from beneficiary lists despite eligibility. Ministers clarify schemes, but public trust remains eroded. Protests intensify as officials face backlash in Gram Sabhas.

inconsistencies in the selection process. Despite efforts by Ministers Utam Kumar, Ponguleti, Tummala, and Ponnam Prabhakar to clarify the schemes, doubts persist among the public regarding their implementation at the grassroots level. In many instances, protests have turned chaotic, with some villagers boycotting the meetings altogether. The government has emphasized its intent to ensure that only eligible beneficiaries receive aid, with Ministers claiming that funds were misused in the past by favoring ineligible individuals. However,

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Revanth Reddy: Building a World-Class Hyderabad

TPN Correspondent Hyderabad, Jan 23: Chief Minister A. Revanth Reddy has called for global cooperation to help transform Hyderabad into a world-class city, emphasizing the need for eco-friendly development and improved urban mobility. Speaking at a roundtable meeting in Davos, organized by the World Economic Forum, Confederation of Indian Industry, and Hero Motor Corp, Reddy outlined the Telangana government's vision to make Hyderabad the fastest and most sustainable city in the world.

The Chief Minister stressed the importance of collaboration to improve transport facilities for the state's four crore people. "Our goal is to enable faster, more affordable travel, and we are committed to providing the necessary infrastructure," he said, sharing plans for future development, including the creation of a net-zero city in Hyderabad.

Reddy also highlighted the state's focus on electric mobility, noting that Telangana is leading India in EV sales. The government has abolished road tax and registration fees for electric vehicles to encourage adoption. Additionally, 3,000 electric buses will be introduced into Hyderabad's public transport system to promote green mobility.

The Chief Minister further outlined plans to expand infrastructure, including the construction of over 100 kilometers of new metro lines, a 360-km regional ring road, and new radial roads. A ring railway line is also planned to connect these routes.

In a major boost to Hyderabad's tech sector, HCL Technologies announced the establishment of a new Tech Center in the city. This center, covering 3.20 lakh square feet, will focus on life sciences and financial services, creating approximately 5,000 jobs. The Chief Minister welcomed this expansion, reiterating Hyderabad's growing status as a global IT hub.

The state government remains committed to supporting technological innovation and job creation, while promoting sustainable growth across the region.

Building a Faster, Greener Hyderabad

Global Cooperation Key to Hyderabad's Future

Hyderabad's Vision: Eco-Friendly and High-Tech

Telangana Seals Key Deals in Davos

Big Investments for Telangana's Future

Davos Deals Boost Telangana's Growth

Telangana Secures Rs. 30,000 Crore in Davos Deals

TPN Correspondent Hyderabad, Jan 23: The Telangana Rising delegation, led by Chief Minister A. Revanth Reddy, has secured key agreements worth approximately Rs. 30,000 crores with major companies at the World Economic Forum in Davos. These agreements are set to significantly boost the state's energy, tourism,

and digital infrastructure sectors.

1) Energy Sector Investment:

The Telangana government signed a Memorandum of Understanding (MoU) with Megha Engineering and Infrastructure Limited (MEIL) for the establishment of a 2160 MW pumped storage energy generation project. With an investment of Rs. 11,000 crores, the project will create around 1,000 jobs during the construction phase and 250 permanent jobs once operational. MEIL's Managing Director, Krishna Reddy, emphasized that the project aligns with Telangana's Clean and Green Energy Policy 2025.

2) Battery Energy Storage System:

Another MoU with MEIL focuses on developing a 100 MWH Battery Energy Storage System across Telangana with an investment of Rs. 3,000 crores. This project aims to enhance grid stability, energy storage, and peak load management, while creating direct jobs for 1,000 people and indirect employment for 3,000 within two years.

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Four Additional Judges Appointed to Telangana High Court



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IT Raids Pushpa 2 Director Sukumar's Home



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KTR Targets Congress for Failing Farmers

KTR Vows Protest Against Congress

BRS to Raise Farmers' Issues

KTR Slams Congress for Failing People

TPN Correspondent Hyderabad, Jan 23: BRS Working President K.T. Rama Rao (KTR) has vowed that the party will stage a strong protest against the Congress government in the upcoming gram sabhas. Speaking after a meeting chaired by former

minister Niranjan Reddy, KTR made emotional remarks, asserting that the people would eventually reject the Congress government, just as they demolished tents in frustration. KTR also addressed the issue of the farmer's Mahadharna,

which BRS had planned for Nalgonda on January 28. Despite facing repeated refusals from the government, KTR expressed gratitude to the High Court for granting permission for the protest.

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Tensions Escalate in Gram Sabhas

ineffective implementation and political interference have fueled public distrust. The lack of transparency in the selection process has further intensified resentment among villagers.



BRS leaders have also weighed in on the issue, sharply criticizing the Congress government. Former Minister Harish Rao condemned the administration, stating, "The Congress administration is undoubtedly anti-people. Villagers are revolting in Gram Sabhas, questioning officials. With the Chief Minister abroad and Ministers busy in neighboring states, who will ensure justice for the people?"

BRS Working President K.T. Rama Rao (KTR) expressed his disapproval on 'X' (Twitter), accusing the Congress government of fraud and incompetence. "The Congress regime is indulging in fraudulent gov-

ernance. They deceived the public with six guarantees. An incompetent Chief Minister is facing public outrage. The scam in applications will not continue, and the people's anger will not subside," he stated.

The ongoing dissatisfaction in Gram Sabhas poses a critical test for the government. If swift action is not taken to address these concerns, public resentment could escalate, further challenging the administration's credibility. Transparency and fairness in welfare scheme implementation are essential to rebuilding trust and restoring stability in the state.

Telangana Secures Rs. 30,000 Crore in Davos Deals

3) Tourism Development:

MEIL also signed an agreement to develop a luxury wellness resort in Anantagiri, with an investment of Rs. 1,000 crore. The resort project will create around 2,000 jobs during construction.

ters Pvt Ltd signed an agreement to build a state-of-the-art AI data center cluster in Telangana. With a capacity of 400 megawatts and an investment of Rs. 10,000 crores, the project will generate 3,600 direct and indirect jobs, significantly boosting the state's digital infrastructure.

4) Data Center Investment:

Additionally, CtrlS Datacen-

ter Minister Duddilla Sridhar Babu hailed these investments as a milestone for Telangana's growth in energy, technology, and tourism sectors.

KTR Targets Congress for Failing Farmers

He emphasized that the BRS would follow the court's orders to bring the farmers' issues to the government's attention.

Regarding the Congress government's claim of running a "people's administration," KTR fired back, accusing Congress of spreading lies. He stated that under the BRS government, over 6.47 lakh ration cards were distributed without publicity, contrasting the Congress's efforts which he deemed publicity-driven.

KTR also criticized the Congress government's lack of

response to the pressing questions being raised by the people in village councils, including concerns about the six guarantees, loan waivers, and farmer bonds. He stated that the government was failing to answer these questions and should focus on governance instead of other non-essential programs.

KTR concluded by reiterating that BRS's priority would always be the welfare of farmers, while the Congress government was more focused on unrelated matters like the formula case and filing cases against opposition leaders.

Four Additional Judges Appointed to Telangana High Court

TPN Correspondent Hyderabad, Jan 23: The President of India has appointed four additional judges to the Telangana High Court. Justice Tirumala Devi, Justice Renuka Yara, Justice Narsing Rao Nandikonda, and Justice Madhusudhan Rao are set to take charge on Friday.

As per the President's order, Justice Tirumala Devi will serve as an additional judge until June 1 of the following year. Meanwhile, Justice Renuka Yara, Justice Narsing Rao Nandikonda, and Justice Madhusudhan Rao will serve for a term of two years.

These appointments are expected to alleviate the increas-

ing workload in the Telangana High Court, ensuring more efficient handling of cases. The new judges will play a crucial role in the functioning of the court, which has been under pressure due to a growing number of pending cases.

Additionally, Justice Sujoy Pal has been appointed as the Chief Justice of the Telangana High Court, marking another key development in the judiciary of the state.

The appointment of these judges is expected to strengthen the judicial framework in Telangana and contribute to timely delivery of justice, further enhancing the legal system's capacity to meet public needs.



Sanatana Dharma preaches equality and says no to caste inheritance by birth.



Dr. Buragadda Srinadh

- **Sanatana Dharma emphasizes equality, rejecting caste by birth.**

- **Bhagavad Gita highlights societal roles based on actions, not lineage.**

- **Lord Krishna's life exemplifies the transcendence of caste distinctions.**

- **Rishi Vedavyas' legacy proves greatness comes from actions, not caste.**

Sanatana Dharma, commonly known as Hinduism, advocates for a society liberated from the limitations imposed by caste distinctions, asserting that caste is not an intrinsic characteristic linked to one's birth. This belief is founded on the idea that an individual's actions, character, and decisions shape their identity, rather than the family caste of their birth. This principle is clearly expressed in Chapter 4, Verse 13 of the Bhagavad Gita, which states that societal divisions are determined by qualities and actions (guna and karma) rather than by family and birth lineage.

Lord Sri Krishna was born into the Yadu royal family and, by nature, embraced the role of a cowherd caretaker. However, when the circumstances required it, he transformed into a warrior, engaging in battle against demons such as Kamsa and Narakasura. He served as an ambassador for the Pandavas, acted as Arjuna's charioteer, and emerged as a universal teacher through the teachings of the Bhagavad Gita. He exemplified the various roles associated with the divisions of labor, including Shudra, Kshatriya, and Brahmin. Additionally, Lord Krishna's sister married Arjuna, highlighting the acceptance of inter-caste marriages. This illustrates the fundamental message that individuals can assume any role based on their preferences and inherent qualities.

The narrative of Lord Shiva, often portrayed as a wanderer in cremation grounds, serves as a com-

elling representation of this principle. Known as Layakaradu, he transcends societal conventions and embodies the notion that divinity is not restricted by caste or social status. His connection to the cremation grounds symbolizes a profound relationship with the cycle of life and death, reinforcing the idea that spiritual advancement is available to everyone, irrespective of their social position.

In a similar vein, the tale of King Satyachandra, who assumed the role of a caretaker in a cremation ground, exemplifies the rejection of caste hierarchies. His actions reflect a deep sense of duty and service, illustrating that nobility and honor stem from one's deeds rather than their lineage.

The character of Dronacharya, a Brahmin teacher who fought bravely on the battlefield of Kurukshetra, further exemplifies this principle. Despite his Brahmin background, his courage and dedication to his role as a warrior emphasize that an individual's place in society is defined by their choices and actions, not solely by their caste identity.

The Rishi Vedavyas, born to a fisherwoman, is well-known for his pivotal role in the survival of the Kuru dynasty and as the author of the Mahabharata epic. These examples collectively demonstrate that greatness and leadership can emerge from any background, effectively challenging the rigid caste system.

Uttam Kumar Reddy Assures Welfare for All

- **Ration cards and housing schemes to benefit all.**
- **Minister assures 6 kg rice for each beneficiary.**
- **Eligibility checks to ensure no one is left out.**

TPN Correspondent

Sircilla, Jan 23: State Irrigation and Civil Supplies Minister Uttam Kumar Reddy has assured that welfare schemes will be implemented until every eligible beneficiary receives their due benefits. Speaking at a Gram Sabha event in Rudrangi Mandal, Uttam Kumar Reddy emphasized that no eligible person would be left out. He was joined by State BC Transport Minister Varyulu Ponnampalapati Prabhakar, Government Whip Adi Srinivas, and District Collector Sandeep Kumar Jha.

Minister Reddy highlighted that no government in independent India has done as much for women, farmers, laborers, and the poor as the current administration. He explained that when Telangana was formed, around 90 lakh white ration cards existed, but only 40,000 new cards were issued in the past decade. He assured that the government

would continue issuing ration cards to eligible people, regardless of political affiliation, with the process beginning on January 26.

He clarified that the preliminary list displayed in the Gram Sabha was not a final sanction document but a list of accepted applications, with eligibility still to be verified. Reddy also announced that 6 kg of quality rice would be supplied to each person once the new ration cards are issued.

Regarding housing, Reddy mentioned the revival of the Indiramma Housing scheme, with Rs. 5 lakh for landowners without homes and Rs. 6 lakh for SC/ST beneficiaries. He also promised increased support for farmers under the Rythu Bharosa scheme, raising assistance to Rs. 12,000 per acre. He assured that these benefits would reach the last eligible person by January 26.

Minister Ponnampalapati Prabhakar praised the government's efforts and encouraged opposition leaders to provide constructive suggestions.

Harish Rao Challenges CM Revanth to Attend Village Assemblies

- **Revanth Reddy's claims on loan waiver questioned.**
- **Harish Rao demands immediate action for farmers' welfare.**

TPN Correspondent

Siddipet, Jan 23: Former Minister and Siddipet MLA Harish Rao has strongly criticized the Congress government, accusing it of coming to power through lies and continuing the same pattern of misleading governance. Speaking at a public administration ward meeting in Siddipet, Harish Rao expressed



frustration over the government's inefficiency, particularly regarding the delay in addressing applications. He questioned how many times people had to reapply for the same issues without any clear direction.

Harish Rao also took a jibe at Congress leader Revanth Reddy's claims regarding loan waivers, challenging him to attend village assemblies if he truly had the courage. He

accused Revanth Reddy of making false promises about loan waivers and questioned the authenticity of the loan waiver scheme, calling it a "dummy check" that had failed to be processed even after two months.

The MLA further criticized the Congress government for its failure to deliver on promises made to farmers, particularly the implementation of the Rythu Bandhu scheme and the distribution of farmers' bonds. He demanded that the government immediately release bonds for Yasangi and rain-affected farmers.

Harish Rao also slammed Revanth Reddy for not fulfilling promises related to housing for the poor and questioned the protocol followed during village assemblies. He accused the Congress of lacking ethics and honesty in its governance and vowed to continue fighting for the welfare of the people.

IT Raids Pushpa 2 Director Sukumar's Home

- **Raids target Sukumar, Dil Raju, and film companies.**
- **Sukumar's financials and tax payments questioned.**
- **IT officials probe film investments and income.**

TPN Correspondent

Hyderabad, Jan 23: The Income Tax (IT) department is continuing its raids on the residences of prominent film industry figures, including director Sukumar, for the second consecutive day. Sukumar's residence, along with the offices of producer Dil Raju, Telangana Film Development

Corporation (FDC) Chairman, and major production companies like Mythri Movie Makers, Mango Media, and Venkateswara Creations, are being searched by IT officials.

The investigation focuses on Sukumar's remuneration for the film Pushpa 2, his sources of income, and related tax payments. IT teams have conducted coordinated raids at multiple locations, including Banjara Hills, Jubilee Hills, Kondapur, and Gachibowli. A total of 55 teams are involved in the searches across eight locations in Hyderabad since Tuesday morning.

IT officials have also questioned Dil Raju regarding investments and income related to films produced by his companies. During questioning, Dil Raju reportedly stated that his film Varisu, starring Vijay, grossed Rs. 120 crore, and the actor received a remuneration of Rs. 40 crore. There were also reports that Rs. 60 crore were paid to distributors and exhibitors to cover the losses from the film.

The ongoing raids are part of a broader investigation into the financial dealings of the industry.

KTR Promises KCR's Return, BRS Victory

TPN Correspondent |

Sathupalli, Jan 23: BRS Working President KTR, along with party leaders including MP Vaddiraju Ravichandra, former minister Puvvada Ajay, and former MLA Sandra Venkataveeraiah, participated in the BRS leaders' meeting at Telangana Bhavan in Sathupalli Municipality.

In his speech, KTR slammed the Congress government for its failures over the past year. He pointed out the growing public discontent, with people in gram sabhas expressing their anger and dissatisfaction. "People are shouting about the guarantees in every gram sabha, and they are challenging Congress leaders in every gully," KTR said. He emphasized the evident frustration, noting that people were even tearing down tents set up for gram sabhas in protest.



KTR also highlighted the significant development under KCR's leadership, contrasting it with the past when mere allocations of Rs. 50 lakhs were considered a major achievement. "The situation changed during KCR's rule, with remarkable development in villages and towns," he said.

The BRS Working President declared that

the future belongs to the BRS, pledging a continued fight until KCR is made Chief Minister again.

He also expressed confidence in the party's victory in Sathupalli, citing the loyalty of municipal councilors and the formation of a study committee to address farmers' issues. KTR concluded with a promise that KCR will meet with Sathupalli leaders soon.

KTR is an IT employee, so he thinks with an employee mindset

TPN Correspondent |

Hyderabad, Jan 23: In a recent interaction during his Davos tour, Chief Minister Revanth Reddy responded to comments made by Chandrababu Naidu regarding the arrest of actor Allu Arjun. The incident occurred during the Pushpa-2 premiere at the Sandhya Theater, where a stampede led to the unfortunate death of a woman named Revathi, and her son, Tej, is currently receiving treatment at KIMS Hospital. Allu Arjun was arrested in connection with the incident but was later granted bail.

Arjun was arrested. He should speak only after understanding the whole story. If a woman dies in a stampede, and Allu Arjun does not care about her family for 10-12 days, the law has taken its course," Reddy said.

In another comment, CM Reddy remarked on KTR's approach, stating, "KTR is an IT employee, so he thinks with an employee mindset. I am a politician and a policymaker, and I don't need to know everything."

On the same tour, Revanth Reddy spoke at a roundtable meeting, emphasizing the need for cooperation in developing Hyderabad into a world-class, eco-friendly city with better transportation facilities for its four crore residents.

Responding to Naidu's comments, CM Revanth Reddy criticized the former Chief Minister for not understanding the full context of the arrest. "Chandrababu Naidu does not know why Allu

Congress failed to continue development projects initiated by KCR



TPN Correspondent |

Hyderabad, Jan 23: BRS leader and MLC Kavitha Kalvakuntla issued a stern warning to Congress leaders in Telangana, claiming that if 60 lakh BRS workers revolted, the Congress party would not be able to handle the situation. Kavitha made these remarks while visiting Yadagirigutta on Wednesday morning, where she had darshan of Sri Lakshmi Narasimha Swamy along with former MLA Gongidi Sunitha.

Speaking to the media, Kavitha emphasized that the BRS party is a family of 60 lakh strong members, and if they ever decided to revolt, Congress leaders would have no place to hide. She warned Congress leaders to be cautious, asserting that the BRS culture is not one of violence but of wisdom, commitment, and fighting for the people.

In her address, Kavitha also criticized the Congress government for failing to continue development projects initiated by former CM KCR, including the improvement of the Yadadri temple. She urged the Congress government to build upon the work done by KCR, particularly highlighting his success with Mission Bhagiratha, which eradicated fluoride in Nalgonda. She also mentioned the Musi Riverfront Development project and pointed out that Congress leaders were falsely claiming credit for these initiatives.

BJP MP Rajender Calls for Justice Over Land Disputes

TPN Correspondent |

Hyderabad, Jan 23: BJP MP Eetala Rajender has expressed strong concerns over the demolition of houses built by poor families in Korremula village, Hyderabad, in the name of land clearance. Speaking at the BJP office, he condemned the unjust demolitions, which, he says, are part of a larger effort to snatch lands from the poor.

Rajender outlined the background of the incident, stating that plots numbered 739 to 749 in Korremula village were bought legally by 276 people in 1985. These plots, he clarified, were not agricultural land. However, he accused a person named Srinivas of demolishing the houses of these families. Additionally, he mentioned that a man named Venkatesh had been involved in illegal activities and intimidation in the area.

The BJP leader demanded an explanation from Chief Minister Revanth Reddy regarding the safety and security of the affected families. He criticized the government's failure to protect the poor and expressed his intent to seek justice through the Human Rights Commission and courts.

Rajender reiterated that the BJP stands by the poor and called for a government committee to investigate the land disputes around Hyderabad. He also emphasized that while he had no personal animosity, the authorities responsible for creating fake documents and selling lands should be held accountable.

Rajender concluded by stressing that despite any legal challenges, he would continue to fight for the rights of the poor.



Minister Offers Another Opportunity for Scheme Applicants

TPN Correspondent |

Mahabubnagar, Jan 23: Minister Damodaran Rajanarsimha announced that another opportunity will be provided for those whose names were not included in the beneficiary list to apply for government schemes. He made this statement during his visit to the Kappeta Gram Sabha in Bhootpur Mandal, Mahabubnagar District, where villagers had raised concerns about being excluded from benefits during the previous government's tenure.

Minister Rajanarsimha assured the villagers that all their grievances would be addressed soon. He emphasized the importance of Gram Sabhas for directly connecting with the people, identifying their problems at the grassroots level, and understanding the real situation on the ground. He also stressed that the government's aim is to provide benefits to all poor families, irrespective of political affiliations.

The Minister directed officials to resolve issues immediately and assured the people that houses and ration cards would be provided to every eligible poor family in phases. Additionally, he announced that Rs. 12,000 would be provided annually under the Indiramma Atmiya Bharosa scheme to all deserving individuals. The Minister's remarks highlight the government's commitment to ensuring welfare benefits reach every eligible citizen.

Seethakka Slams BRS for Chaos in Beneficiary Selection

TPN Correspondent |

Hyderabad, Jan 23: Minister Seethakka has sharply criticized the BRS for creating unnecessary chaos while identifying beneficiaries for government schemes. Speaking to the media at the State Secretariat on Wednesday, she accused the BRS of deliberately causing confusion and obstruction, claiming that ration cards had not been distributed for the last ten years. She added that the Pink Party is deliberately fueling conflicts over the distribution process.

applications are being accepted again in Gram Sabhas, and beneficiaries are being selected democratically in the presence of the people.

Referring to the past, Seethakka criticized the previous BRS government for selecting beneficiaries in closed-door meetings, with schemes only going to the favored few, particularly those in the MLAs' circles. She emphasized that under the Congress government, schemes are based on public needs, not political motives.

Highlighting the contrast, Seethakka also mentioned that while the BRS only handed out schemes during elections, the Congress government is committed to delivering them based on eligibility and financial resources, ensuring fairness for all.

Seethakka pointed out that some people, misled by KCR and KTR's statements, had skipped the comprehensive surveys and are now anxious about missing out on schemes. She clarified that public administration

Deputy CM Bhatti Unveils Electrical Engineers' Diary



TPN Correspondent |

Hyderabad, Jan 23: Deputy Chief Minister Bhatti Vikramarka unveiled the Telangana Electrical Engineers' Association's New Year 2025 diary and calendar at Praja Bhavan on Wednesday. The event saw the participation of State President Nehru, General Secretary Bhaskar, and other members of the state committee.

to those enjoyed by state government employees.

The memorandum also called for the construction of an 8 MW thermal power project at KTPS Palvancha and an 800 MW thermal power plant under the auspices of GENCO at Ramagundam, aiming to boost the state's energy infrastructure.

State leaders Balaraju, Mohan Rao, D. Srinivas, Pandya, Madhu Krishna, Venkataramana, and others attended the program and voiced their support for the engineers' demands. The event was seen as a significant step toward addressing the concerns of electrical engineers in the state.

During the program, a memorandum was submitted to Chief Minister K. Chandrashekar Rao, highlighting several issues faced by electrical engineers. The engineers requested that those appointed between 1999-2004 be provided with General Provident Fund (GPF) and pension facilities, similar

Villagers Protest Against MLA Kambham Anil Kumar



TPN Correspondent |

Bhuvanagiri, Jan 23: Villagers in Anantaram, Yadadri Bhuvanagiri, have expressed their frustration with the Congress party over unfulfilled promises made during the last elections. The state government had planned to implement four new welfare schemes from January

26 and organized village and ward meetings to select beneficiaries. However, the situation took an unexpected turn as villagers began protesting against Congress MLAs, leaders, and activists.

During a recent gram sabha in Anantaram, Congress MLA Kambham Anil Kumar Reddy faced strong protests from locals. The villagers asked, "When will the schemes be implemented for us?" expressing disappointment over the lack of action. They raised concerns about whether the schemes would be allocated only to Congress activists, leaving deserving people out.

MLA Anil Kumar Reddy, who attended the gram sabha, was confronted by the villagers, who questioned the fairness of the process and the delay in scheme implementation. The growing unrest reflects the anger among the people, who are demanding immediate action and transparency in the distribution of welfare benefits.

Government to Develop 11 Radial Roads Between ORR and RRR

Telangana's 300 km Radial Roads to Ease Traffic
Over 300 km of Roads to Connect ORR and RRR

Radial Roads: Greenfield vs Brownfield Approach
Telangana Plans Key Infrastructure Upgrades

TPN Correspondent |
Hyderabad, Jan 23: The Telangana government is planning to construct 11 radial roads connecting the Regional Ring Road (RRR) and the Outer Ring Road (ORR), with a focus on enhancing connectivity and easing traffic. While the original plan included the construction of new (greenfield) roads, the government has decided to utilize existing (brownfield) roads in areas where land acquisition and technical challenges make greenfield development difficult.



in certain sections due to issues such as land acquisition difficulties and the presence of villages and towns along the proposed greenfield routes. The total length of these radial roads will span over 300 km, requiring the acquisition of more than a thousand acres of land. In some areas, forest lands are

also part of the land acquisition process. The government has already issued land acquisition notifications for certain sections, including areas near exit numbers 2, 4, 8, 10, 13, and 15 of the ORR. Additionally, the National Highways Authority of India (NHAI) has called tenders for the northern portion of the RRR, and the state government is also working on the southern section.

With an eye on future city development between RRR and ORR, the government is focused on expediting the construction of radial roads while resolving land acquisition and design issues.

Chief Minister Revanth Reddy recently reviewed the project and instructed officials to explore brownfield solutions

Red Alert Issued at Shamshabad Airport Ahead of Republic Day



TPN Correspondent |
Hyderabad, Jan 23: As the nation prepares to celebrate Republic Day on January 26, heightened security measures have been implemented across major locations, including Hyderabad's Shamshabad Airport. Intelligence agencies have announced a red alert at the airport, which will remain in place until January 30.

Authorities have issued a directive barring visitors from entering the airport premises during this period. The Central Industrial Security Force (CISF) has significantly strengthened security to prevent any potential incidents. The bomb disposal and dog squads have been deployed for thorough inspections along the airport's main road.

Special surveillance has been set up on all vehicles approaching the airport. Suspicious vehicles are being stopped and inspected before being allowed to proceed. Additionally, visitors are not permitted to enter, and any individuals or vehicles displaying unusual behavior are being closely monitored and investigated.

The heightened security is part of nationwide efforts to ensure public safety and maintain order during the Republic Day celebrations.

BRS Leaders Visit MLA Padma Rao Goud After Heart Attack



TPN Correspondent |
Hyderabad, Jan 23: BRS Working President KTR, along with senior party leaders, visited Secunderabad BRS MLA Padma Rao Goud, who recently suffered a heart attack. KTR inquired about Padma Rao's health at his residence in Takarabasti.

Padma Rao, who was in Dehradun for an official tour, experienced the heart attack on Tuesday afternoon. His family and staff promptly rushed him to the hospital, where doctors performed a stent procedure. Fortunately, the doctors confirmed that his condition was stable and there was no danger to his life.

KTR was accompanied by MLC Kavitha, former ministers Talasani Srinivas Yadav, Srinivas Goud, Puvvada Ajay Kumar, and other BRS leaders during the visit to the MLA's residence.

Vivekananda Criticizes Congress for Empty Promises

TPN Correspondent |
Hyderabad, Jan 23: BRS MLA KP Vivekananda has strongly criticized the Congress government for failing to address public concerns and allowing governance to deteriorate. Speaking to the media at Telangana Bhavan, he said people are expressing their frustration in Gram Sabhas, where Congress representatives are being deposed. He accused the government of being "anti-people" and disregarding public complaints, particularly regarding the guarantees made by the government.

Vivekananda also raised concerns about the delay in implementing key welfare

schemes. He questioned whether there was a deliberate attempt to postpone the promised programs, especially as new calculations suggest a need for substantial funding. He criticized Congress leaders for trying to distract people with empty promises and drama, stating that they were failing to govern effectively.

Additionally, he demanded that the income limit for ration cards be increased, both in urban and rural areas, to provide more families with access to essential services. Vivekananda concluded that BRS would continue to fight for the poor and ensure that justice is served.



Clash Between Youth Congress Leaders at Gandhi Bhavan



Kothagudem Congress leaders expressing concerns about positions being given to individuals from other parties.

As tensions escalated, the two groups clashed, leading to physical fights. The police intervened and dispersed the groups, but not before both factions began shouting slogans against each other. The situation remained tense as the leaders continued to voice their frustrations.

TPN Correspondent |
Hyderabad, Jan 23: A violent altercation erupted at Gandhi Bhavan in Hyderabad during a Youth Congress meeting, creating a tense atmosphere. The meeting, which was intended to discuss party matters, quickly devolved into a brawl as Youth Congress leaders split into two opposing groups. The dispute was over party posts, with

This unexpected outburst highlights the growing dissatisfaction within the party ranks, particularly regarding leadership decisions and party appointments. The incident has raised concerns about internal divisions in the Congress party, especially within the Youth Congress wing. Authorities are investigating the matter to prevent further disruptions.

MLA Demands Action on Drainage Blockade

TPN Correspondent |
Hyderabad, Jan 23: Kukatpally MLA Madhavaram Krishna Rao has called for legal action against those obstructing the drainage pipeline work in Gopalnagar Colony. On Wednesday, the MLA, along with Corporator Srinivas Rao, officials from the Water Board, GHMC, and Revenue departments, inspected the ongoing drainage pipeline project in the area.

Krishna Rao emphasized that it is unjust for a few plot owners to block the pipeline work along the Gopalnagar Colony road. According to the Gopalnagar layout, the land adjacent to the road belongs to the Water Board, and the road is part of the 200-foot master plan designated by GHMC. The MLA instructed the officials to take strict action against those impeding the progress of the project.

The revenue officials from Kukatpally and



Serilingampally mandals have been directed to review the documents of those obstructing the work, appropriately mark the plots, and submit the report to GHMC town planning officials. Krishna Rao also urged the filing of a complaint at the local police station against the offenders. The officials have been instructed to ensure the completion of the drainage pipeline work before the upcoming monsoon season.

MLAs Protest Footpath Demolitions in Hyderabad

Danam Warns of Law and Order Issues
Footpath Demolitions Spark Protests
Tense Standoff Over Shop Demolitions
MLAs Protest Against Encroachment Removal

TPN Correspondent |
Hyderabad, Jan 23: Tensions escalated in Chintal Basti and Nampally after local MLA Danam Nagender and Nampally MLA Majid Hussain intervened to stop the demolition of encroachments on footpaths. The demolitions, carried out by Balidia officials and traffic police, targeted footpaths in front of Khairatabad Shadan College, triggering anger among locals and leaders.



Danam Nagender, furious that officials had not informed him of the demolitions, demanded that the process be halted immediately. He expressed concern for the poor residents affected by the action and warned that it would lead to a law and order issue if not stopped. "Stop demolitions until CM Revanth Reddy returns from Davos. If not, I will protest right here," Nagender threatened.

Meanwhile, tensions also flared in Nampally as GHMC officials and the

traffic police began removing small trader shops from footpaths. MLA Majid Hussain intervened, sitting in protest and arguing with the authorities. He questioned the selective demolitions, fearing a clash between two communities. However, the situation was defused after the police convinced Hussain to leave, citing potential unrest.

Both incidents underscore growing concerns over the government's approach to encroachments and its potential impact on local communities.

Horrific Crime in Hyderabad: Man Murders Wife, Cooks Her Remains

TPN Correspondent |
Hyderabad, Jan 23: A shocking and gruesome incident has emerged in Meerpeta, Hyderabad, where a man brutally murdered his wife and engaged in chilling actions following the crime. The accused, identified as Gurumurthy, who worked as a security guard in Kanchanbagh, allegedly killed his wife, dismembered her body, and cooked parts of it in a pressure cooker. Reports suggest that Gurumurthy could not cook certain body parts, so he dried them under the sun and crushed the bones into powder using a pestle. The remains, including the cooked body parts and

powdered bones, were later disposed of in the Jillelaguda lake. The incident came to light when Gurumurthy filed a missing person report for his wife on January 18, along with her parents, in an attempt to mislead the authorities. However, the police grew suspicious of him during their investigation. Upon being detained and questioned, Gurumurthy reportedly confessed to the horrific crime. The community is in shock over the brutality of this act, and the police investigation is ongoing to uncover more details surrounding the motive and circumstances of this tragic event.

Farmers' Mahadharna in Nalgonda on 28th, KTR to Attend

TPN Correspondent | Nalgonda, Jan 23: The High Court has granted permission for the BRS farmers' Mahadharna in Nalgonda, scheduled for January 28th, from 11 am to 2 pm at the Clock Tower Center. The court imposed certain conditions on the protest. Initially planned for January 21st, the protest was delayed after the police refused permission, prompting BRS leaders to approach the High Court.

The Mahadharna aims to protest the state's failure to implement promises made to farmers. Key issues include the reduction of farmer insurance from Rs. 15,000 to Rs. 12,000, as well as the non-implementation of schemes such as the Rs. 4,000 pension, Rs. 2,500 for women, and scooties for female students. BRS leaders accuse the government of deceiving farmers by not fulfilling these commitments.

KTR, BRS working president, is expected to attend the Mahadharna. On January 17th, BRS town president Devender applied to the police for permission, but the delay in approval led to frustration among party leaders, questioning the last-minute denial of permission despite prior arrangements.



Konda Surekha Attends Mashook Rabbani Dargah Celebrations

TPN Correspondent | Warangal, Jan 23: Forest, Environment, and Endowment Department Minister Konda Surekha participated in the Mashook Rabbani Dargah celebrations held under the auspices of Peethadhipas Syed Shah Haider Hilaluddin Qadri Naveed Baba and Syed Shah Haider Hilaluddin Qadri Ubed Baba. The event took place in the Urs of Warangal East constituency. The celebrations were attended by a large number of devotees, with the Minister extending her support and participation in the religious observances.

Panchayat Worker Climbs Cell Tower to Demand Indiramma House

TPN Correspondent | Khammam, Jan 23: In a dramatic protest, Pamarthi Srinu, a Panchayat worker from Nagiligonda village in Chintakani mandal, Khammam district, climbed a cell tower to demand an Indiramma house. Srinu claimed that his application for the house was rejected despite his wife being sanctioned one in 2008. He stated that although the house was sanctioned in his wife's name, someone else had built it, and the authorities had failed to verify the matter. Srinu expressed his frustration over being denied the house under the public administration scheme.

Congress village leaders also raised concerns,



alleging that fake certificates were used to sanction the house in Srinu's name. After his protest, authorities intervened and persuaded Srinu to come down from the tower. His grievances remain unresolved as the authorities promised to investigate the issue.



Fire accident in Sangareddy Causes Rs. 13 Lakh Loss to Formers

TPN Correspondent | Sangareddy, Jan 23: A fire broke out on the outskirts of Gousabad village in Mogudampalli mandal, Sangareddy district, on Wednesday evening, leading to substantial losses for local farmers. The incident occurred when a lorry, loaded with freshly harvested sugarcane, came into contact with overhead electric wires. The resulting spark ignited the sugarcane, setting the vehicle and its contents on fire.

Farmer Sanjeeva Reddy, the owner of the lorry, quickly alerted the fire brigade. Fire department officials responded swiftly, managing to control the fire, though the lorry and its cargo were partially destroyed. In addition to the sugarcane from Reddy's 10-acre field, equipment including drip irrigation systems and a pump set were also burnt, causing an estimated loss of Rs. 10 lakh.

Another farmer, Devi Singh, faced a similar fate as his three-acre sugarcane plantation was also consumed by the flames, resulting in a loss of Rs. 3 lakh. The fire highlights the vulnerability of agricultural operations near electrical infrastructure, prompting concerns over future precautions to prevent such incidents.

Srisailem Mahashivratri Plans Announced

TPN Correspondent | Nandyala, Jan 23: Nandyala District Collector G. Rajakumari has directed officials to make thorough arrangements for the upcoming Mahashivratri Brahmotsavam in Srisailem, ensuring that devotees have a smooth and trouble-free experience. The festival, scheduled from February 19 to March 1, is expected to attract thousands of devotees.

In a coordination meeting held on Wednesday, Rajakumari emphasized the need for collaboration among temple staff, police, and district officials. She instructed that medical

camps be set up along the pilgrimage routes and that essential services such as sanitation, water, toilets, transportation, and parking be fully arranged. The Collector also ordered the forest department to allow vehicles through check posts without charging fees and instructed APSDCL to ensure a continuous power supply. A help desk and control room will be established to assist devotees, and arrangements for food, milk, and breakfast for those in queues will be made.

MLA Budda Rajasekhar Reddy stressed the importance of inter-departmental cooperation, suggesting that any



minor issues from previous years be addressed. Additional SP Yugandhar Babu confirmed that 3,000 police personnel would be deployed for security.

Khammam Villagers Protest by Demolishing Gram Sabha Tent



TPN Correspondent | Khammam, Jan 23: In Siddiq Nagar village, Konijarla mandal, Khammam, villagers expressed their anger during a Gram Sabha meeting by demolishing the tent and turning it upside down. The protest came after the villagers grew frustrated with the ongoing government scheme distribution. Many residents, including women and youth, questioned officials and Congress leaders about the inclusion of ineligible

names in the beneficiary lists while their names were left out.

The villagers, upset with the lack of proper answers from the officials, voiced their discontent by throwing down the tent as a symbol of their protest. This incident highlights growing dissatisfaction with the administration's handling of public schemes and the apparent lack of transparency in beneficiary selection.

Money Collected in the Name of Indiramma Houses in Jagityala

TPN Correspondent | Jagityala, Jan 23: Allegations of money collection in the name of the Indiramma housing scheme have surfaced in Morapelli Gram Sabha of Jagityala Rural Mandal. Villagers claimed that Congress workers were collecting money from them with promises of providing Indiramma houses. Tension erupted when the villagers confronted the Gram Sabha officials, accusing them of accepting money from over 500 individuals under false pretenses. The villagers staged a protest by sitting on the road, demanding accountability.

The state government had earlier announced plans to distribute 4 new schemes from January 26, and district officials were instructed to select beneficiaries through village and ward assemblies. However, the incident has raised concerns over the misuse of government schemes for personal gain, with allegations of coercion and exploitation. Local authorities are yet to respond to the claims.

Congress Workers Attack Man in Jangaon

TPN Correspondent | Jangaon, Jan 23: A video of a brutal attack on a man by Congress workers during a Gram Sabha meeting in Vadlakonda, Jangaon constituency, has gone viral. The man was reportedly assaulted for asking why he had not received a house under government welfare schemes. This incident highlights the growing unrest over the selection process for government schemes, with allegations that ineligible individuals are being chosen while deserving people are

left out. In another instance, villagers in Nemarugomula, Bibinagar mandal, blocked the Prajapalana Gram Sabha, protesting the inclusion of ineligible beneficiaries in welfare schemes. The argument between officials and the villagers escalated, prompting police intervention to calm the situation. The public outcry reflects increasing dissatisfaction with the distribution of welfare benefits and the lack of transparency in the selection process.



Bhupal Reddy Complains to SP Over Congress Attack

TPN Correspondent | Nalgonda, Jan 23: Former Nalgonda BRS MLA, Kancharla Bhupal Reddy, has filed a complaint with the District Superintendent of Police (SP), requesting immediate action against Congress leaders who allegedly attacked him at the Nalgonda Municipal Office. Bhupal Reddy has also demanded that police officers who assisted the Congress attackers be held accountable and arrested.

The incident occurred when Congress leaders, including Municipal Chairman Burri Srinivas Reddy and Congress town pres-

ident Gummula Mohan Reddy, allegedly assaulted Bhupal Reddy and other BRS leaders. The attack included verbal abuse, throwing chairs, and flower pots at the BRS leaders who were sitting outside the Municipal Chamber. The clash reportedly stemmed from the tearing down of a flex banner related to a BRS farmers' dharna in Nalgonda. Bhupal Reddy was accompanied by several political figures, including former State Corporation chairmen and ex-Municipal Chairman Mandadi Saidireddy, during his complaint to the SP.



The Next 20 Months: A Defining Period for Congress in Karnataka



always been a crucial factor in ensuring electoral success. The Congress won the 2023 Assembly elections by presenting a united front, despite internal differences over the Chief Minister's post. However, since coming to power, internal strife has resurfaced, particularly between the camps of Siddaramaiah and D.K. Shivakumar. The Congress party has had to address these tensions, even as the BJP struggles with its own internal divisions. The next 20 months will be critical for both parties as prolonged infighting could lead to significant political fallout. A stable, unified leadership with a clear focus on policy continuity is essential for Congress to retain its hold on power.

Building Confidence and Social Harmony

The third pillar of good governance is social harmony, which includes ensuring law and order, women's safety, and peaceful inter-group relations. Maintaining social stability requires proactive measures and efforts to build confidence among various societal groups. In the coming months, the government will need to demonstrate its ability to manage these challenges effectively. Any failure to uphold social harmony can erode public trust and impact the Congress's standing in the state. The next 20 months will be a defining period for Karnataka's Congress government. Its success will depend on its ability to address these challenges effectively, maintaining governance efficiency, party unity, and social peace.

As the Congress government in Karnataka marks 20 months in office, it finds itself at a crucial juncture in its five-year term. With a third of its tenure already completed, the next 20 months will determine the party's future in the state. Historically, Karnataka has seen a trend where governments tend to lose their focus in the second phase, which often leads to a decline in governance and eventual electoral defeat. The state has experienced a revolving-door politics cycle since 1985, with no ruling party managing to retain a clear majority by the end of its term.

Key Principles for Success

There are three key principles that shape the fate of any state government: efficiency in governance, unity within the ruling party, and social harmony. A look at past administrations reveals that most have struggled with at least two, if not all three, of these elements. Failure to meet the expectations of governance, resulting in a loss of focus or efficiency, has historically led to the downfall of several governments.

Responding to Public Aspirations

Empirical evidence shows that governments are more likely to be re-elected when voters perceive them as delivering on essential governance indicators. A post-poll study by Lokniti after the 2024 Lok Sabha elections revealed that Congress's improved performance, particularly among women voters, was driven by the successful implementation of key guarantees. This was a significant factor in their recent by-election sweep. Therefore, maintaining a focus on governance that addresses the aspirations of different voter segments is a critical path to success. However, public perception can change dramatically in the face of scandals or controversies involving government leaders, which can shift focus from governance to crisis management. For Karnataka's Congress, the next 20 months will test whether it can overcome current challenges and maintain its governance momentum.

Avoiding Internal Divisions

Unity within the ruling party has

Bangladesh's Constitutional Reforms: A Shift in Core Principles



The Constitution Reform Commission, appointed by the interim government in Bangladesh, has recommended significant changes to the country's fundamental principles. Among the most notable proposals is the deletion of the terms "secularism," "socialism," and "nationalism" from the preamble of the constitution. If these suggestions are approved, they would mark a drastic departure from the foundational principles established at the time of Bangladesh's independence.

A Departure from Traditional Principles

The inclusion of secularism, socialism, and nationalism in the constitution was a defining feature of Bangladesh's identity post-independence. Secularism aimed to ensure a separation of religion and state, promoting equal treatment for all religious communities. Socialism was intended to reflect the nation's commitment to economic equality and justice,

while nationalism emphasized unity and national identity among the people.

The proposed changes suggest replacing these terms with values that focus more on individual rights and societal justice, namely "equality," "human dignity," "social justice," and "pluralism." These new principles aim to promote a broader and more inclusive framework, which advocates for the protection of human rights and equal treatment for all citizens, regardless of their background.

Rationale Behind the Reform

The recommendations reflect a desire to shift the focus from ideological terms to more universally accepted values that align with modern democratic and human rights principles. The shift could be seen as an effort to address contemporary challenges such as religious tensions, social inequality, and the need for a more pluralistic society. By removing terms like

national discourse, appealing to a broader demographic, including religious groups that have historically been opposed to secularism.

Implications for Bangladesh's Future

If implemented, these changes could have far-reaching consequences for the political landscape of Bangladesh. The removal of secularism might invite criticism from those who view it as a step backward in terms of religious freedom and equality. On the other hand, emphasizing principles such as pluralism and equality could foster a more tolerant and balanced society, reflecting the nation's evolving needs. Ultimately, the proposed constitutional changes represent a major shift in the country's governing philosophy, potentially altering its socio-political dynamics in the years to come.



Can the BCCI's 10 Diktats End Team India's Superstar Culture?

The Board of Control for Cricket in India (BCCI) recently introduced a set of 10 guidelines aimed at curbing the growing "superstar culture" within the Indian cricket team. These rules, which echo standards from previous eras, have sparked significant debate. While some argue that they are a necessary reminder, others believe they reflect deeper issues that need addressing.

A Return to Basics: Why These Rules Matter

Many of the 10 diktats, such as mandatory availability for domestic cricket, attending all scheduled practice sessions, and staying with the team even after a Test series concludes early, were already in place. The concern now is that certain players, perhaps emboldened by their stardom, have ignored or bypassed these rules, potentially affecting team cohesion. The BCCI's move to reinforce these rules is not just about discipline; it's about fostering a sense of unity and accountability among players.

However, this intervention raises the question: Why were these basic principles not enforced earlier, especially when the team was performing well? Often, when a team is winning, complacency sets in, allowing star players to operate outside the established norms. Only when things start to unravel, as seen in recent Test performances, does the need to revisit these rules emerge.

Boosting Domestic Cricket and Player Development

One key aspect of the new rules involves encouraging players to participate in domestic cricket, which not only helps curb the

superstar culture but also strengthens the domestic circuit. High-profile players like Virat Kohli, Rohit Sharma, and Rishabh Pant making themselves available for domestic matches, including the Ranji Trophy, is a step in the right direction. This move not only boosts the standard of domestic cricket but also provides match practice for players struggling with form.

Handling Personalities and Logistical Changes

While some rules are unlikely to raise concerns, others, like restrictions on personal staff and family travel, have already drawn complaints. Reports suggest that some players have traveled with personal chefs, bodyguards, and nannies, a practice that the BCCI is seeking to curb. Additionally, the rule limiting family visits during long tours has sparked disagreement, with players like Rohit Sharma voicing dissatisfaction.

Despite these challenges, the rule about family travel is not new; it was part of player contracts since 2018 and was relaxed during the COVID-19 pandemic. Nevertheless, enforcing uniformity in such matters is crucial to maintain discipline within the team.

Striking a Balance

While the new diktats are aimed at reining in individualism for the greater good of the team, it's essential that the BCCI finds a balance. The emphasis on discipline, team unity, and cohesion should not come at the cost of team morale. The reintroduction of these rules must be handled with care to avoid deepening any rifts, especially when the team is in a phase of consolidation.

Hyderabad's Food Scene: Why Online Lists Often Miss the Mark

As a passionate foodie from Hyderabad, I find myself regularly frustrated by online lists claiming to highlight the best places to eat in the city. Recently, I came across a list by the international food guide TasteAtlas, which ranked Hyderabad 50th in its '100 Best Food Cities' category. While I don't expect these lists to get everything right, the lack of accuracy, particularly when it comes to Hyderabad's culinary gems, is hard to ignore.

The Biryani Blunder

Biryani is more than just food for us—it's a part of our lives. So, when TasteAtlas included well-known names like Hotel Shadab, Paradise, and Bawarchi for biryani recommendations, I was left shaking my head. While these places aren't bad, they hardly reflect the best of what the city has to offer. Missing iconic spots like Grand Hotel, Fanooz, and Biryaniwalla & Co. is a glaring omission. Even more perplexing is the exclusion of Nayaab Hotel, a local favorite for kheema-roti and khichdi khatta, both beloved breakfast dishes. These dishes are staples of Hyderabad's Old City and should be on any list of must-try foods. Moreover, while the list rightly includes Haleem, it overlooks kheema-roti, a dish that holds a special place in the hearts of Hyderabadi. For a true taste of local breakfast culture, Nayaab Hotel is unbeatable—its absence from the list feels almost criminal.

A Disservice to Hyderabadi Food Culture

One major issue with TasteAtlas's list is the



inclusion of mirchi ka salan in its 'Originally From Hyderabad' category. While this dish is indeed commonly served with biryani, it is a side dish, not a main attraction. Its status on the list would likely infuriate most Hyderabadi, who take their food culture very seriously. Similarly, the listing of MoMo Cafe as a traditional Hyderabad restaurant is baffling. This multicuisine spot has little to do with the city's rich culinary traditions, and mentioning it in such a list does a disservice to the many true-blue Hyderabad eateries.

My Hyderabad Food Recommendations

If you're truly looking for the best food in Hyderabad, here's my take. Start your day at Nayaab Hotel with some kheema, gurda, and khichdi khatta for breakfast. Don't miss out on their kesar biryani either—it's excellent. For biryani, skip the overhyped spots like Paradise and head to Fanooz or Biryaniwalla & Co. These places offer a more authentic, home-style experience. Also, make sure to stop by Karachi Bakery for their legendary fruit biscuits and Nimrat Cafe for Osmania biscuits, both of which are must-tries.

CBI Seeks Death Penalty For RG Kar Rape Convict, Approaches Calcutta HC

TPN Correspondent | Kolkata

The Central Bureau of Investigation (CBI) has approached the Calcutta High Court, seeking the death penalty for Sanjay Roy, the convict in the RG Kar rape and murder case. The lower court had sentenced Roy to life imprisonment, but the CBI argues that the sentence is inadequate given the heinous nature of the crime. In a move that has sparked significant controversy, the CBI contended that only the union government or the agency itself could challenge the sufficiency of the lower court's sentence. The state government's attempt to petition for the death penalty



high court. The case has caused widespread protests, particularly in Kolkata, where clashes have

frustration, questioning whether society should forgive such criminals, given their potential to commit further crimes.

The trial court had deemed the crime "particularly heinous" but emphasized the need for reformative justice in sentencing. Justice Anirban Das, who sentenced Roy to life imprisonment, stated that the CBI failed to provide enough evidence to warrant the death penalty in this instance. The Supreme Court has also taken suo moto cognizance of the case and will resume hearing the matter today. In a previous hearing, the Court denied a request to transfer the trial outside of West Bengal.



Saif Ali Khan Attacker Reveals Motive Behind the Crime

Bangladeshi national admits to attacking actor due to financial hardships and desire to help sick mother.

TPN Correspondent | Mumbai

Shariful Fakir, the Bangladeshi national arrested for attacking Bollywood actor Saif Ali Khan, has disclosed the reasons behind his crime. Fakir revealed that severe financial strain and his mother's illness in Bangladesh drove him to rob a wealthy individual to fund her medical treatment.

In a police statement, Fakir explained that on the night of January 16, he targeted Saif Ali Khan's residence with the intention of stealing valuables. He had hoped to flee to Bangladesh with the loot and use it to support his ailing mother. Fakir confessed to randomly selecting Khan's residence as the victim, intending to steal from a rich target.

Fakir, who was working with a housekeeping company, had lost his job in December 2024, leaving him with limited funds. He had previously worked at a restaurant in Worli, earning ₹13,000 per month, most of which he sent to Bangladesh for his mother's treatment. Surviving on just ₹1,000 in Mumbai, Fakir saw the robbery as a desperate option after his second job loss.

The attack on Saif Ali Khan occurred in the early hours of January 16, when Fakir stabbed the actor multiple times, including one injury to the neck. Khan was rushed to Lilavati Hospital, where he underwent emergency surgery.

Fakir was apprehended on January 19 at Hiranandani Estate in Thane while attempting to flee to his home country.

Priyanka Chopra Offers Prayers At Chilkur Balaji Temple



TPN Correspondent | Hyderabad

Priyanka Chopra, the global icon, recently arrived in Hyderabad to participate in a grand announcement for SS Rajamouli's much-awaited upcoming film, starring Mahesh Babu. The actress, known for her international success, took time during her visit to offer prayers at the Chilkur Balaji Temple in the city. On Tuesday, Priyanka shared her visit to the temple on Instagram, revealing the start of a "new chapter" in her life. Dressed in a light blue salwar suit and with a dupatta draped over her head, she was seen walking inside the temple and speaking with the pandit. Priyanka also shared a heartfelt message, thanking Upasana Konidela, wife of actor Ram Charan, for her support. In her caption, Priyanka wrote, "With the blessings of Shri Balaji, a new chapter begins. May we all find peace in our hearts and prosperity and abundance all around us. God's grace is infinite. Thank you @upasanakaminikonidela." Upasana Konidela responded warmly to the post, confirming Priyanka's involvement in a new film.



ISRO Captures Maha Kumbh Mela From Space

Advanced satellite imagery reveals the scale of the world's largest religious gathering

TPN Correspondent | Prayagraj

India's space agency, ISRO, has released stunning satellite images of the ongoing Maha Kumbh Mela in Prayagraj, Uttar Pradesh. The event, recognized as the world's largest religious gathering, is expected to draw approximately 40 crore devotees over 45 days. Using the EOS-04 (RISAT-1A) microwave satellite, ISRO captured detailed time-series images showcasing the massive infrastructure, including tent cities, pontoon bridges, and extensive road networks. Dr. Prakash Chauhan, Director of the National Remote Sensing Cen-

tre (NRSC), highlighted the radar's ability to penetrate the cloud cover enveloping Prayagraj, providing unparalleled insights into the event's layout and planning.

- Images reveal a network of 1,50,000 tents, 3,000 kitchens, and 1,45,000 restrooms.
- Uttar Pradesh administration utilizes satellite data for disaster management and crowd control.
- Nearly 26 hectares of land reclaimed, with 12 km of new bathing ghats created.

Union Minister Jitendra Singh praised the initiative, stating, "These advanced technologies represent a

paradigm shift in managing large-scale religious gatherings. The Maha Kumbh Mela stands as a testament to how technology and tradition can coexist for a cleaner, healthier future."

A new district, Mahakumbh Nagar, has been established to manage the vast crowds converging at the Triveni Sangam, where the Ganga, Yamuna, and mythical Saraswati rivers meet. As of now, over eight crore devotees have taken the sacred dip, which is believed to purify the soul and cleanse sins. The Maha Kumbh Mela, hosted this year from January 13 to February 26, rotates between four sacred sites in India every 12 years.

Sudha Murty Serves Mahaprasad, Tours ISKCON Kitchen At Maha Kumbh



TPN Correspondent | Prayagraj

During her three-day visit to the ongoing Maha Kumbh in Prayagraj, philanthropist Sudha Murty took part in serving Mahaprasad at the ISKCON camp, spreading her warmth and blessings to the devotees attending the spiritual event.

Dressed in a green saree with a black bag slung over her shoulder, Murty was seen distributing chapattis at the food counter, serving the thousands of pilgrims present. In addition to her service at the food counter, she also toured the ISKCON Mahaprasadam Kitchen, which is responsible for preparing food for the devotees. During the tour, Murty interacted with volunteers and learned about the modern equipment being used to prepare large quantities of food.

ISKCON, in collaboration with Adani Group, has undertaken the task of preparing and distributing Mahaprasad to more than 40,000 devotees every day at the Maha Kumbh. The kitchen, located in Sector 19 of Prayagraj, is equipped with cutting-edge facilities such as boilers for heating water and boiling vegetables, and automated machines to prepare massive quantities of rotis. These machines can produce up to 10,000 rotis an hour.

Excited about her visit, Murty expressed her joy and reverence for the event, calling the Maha Kumbh a "Teerthraj" (king of all pilgrimage sites). She also took a holy dip in the Sangam on the first two days of her visit and plans to do so again on the final day. Speaking to ANI, she shared her emotional connection to the event, stating, "My maternal grandfather, maternal grandmother, grandfather, none of them could come - that is why I have to offer tarpan in their name, and I am very happy..."

The Maha Kumbh Mela, which began on January 13 and will continue until February 26, is expected to host a staggering 45 crore people who believe that a holy dip in the Sangam Triveni will cleanse them of their sins.

JDU Manipur Chief Pulls Support From BJP Govt In State, Party Sacks Him

TPN Correspondent | Imphal

In a significant political development, the Janata Dal (United), led by Nitish Kumar, has withdrawn its support from the N Biren Singh-led BJP government in Manipur. Following this, the lone JDU MLA in the state assembly, Md. Abdul Nasir, has moved to the Opposition benches. This decision, however, is not expected to affect the BJP's majority in the 60-member assembly, where it holds 37 seats and is supported by five Naga People's Front MLAs and three independents. The JDU's state unit chief, Ksh Biren Singh, officially communicated the withdrawal of support to Governor Ajay Kumar Bhalla, stating that the decision aligns with the party's affiliation to the INDIA opposition bloc. However, the party immediately acted against him, removing him

from his position.

- JDU's lone MLA, Md. Abdul Nasir, shifts to the Opposition benches.
- The BJP-led government maintains a stable majority in the assembly.
- JDU's move reflects its alignment with the INDIA bloc against the BJP.

In the 2022 Manipur Assembly elections, JDU won six seats, but five of its MLAs defected to the BJP soon after, strengthening the ruling party. This development follows a similar move by the Conrad Sangma-led National People's Party, which also withdrew support to the BJP government in Manipur months earlier. The BJP's numbers in the assembly remain unaffected, ensuring that the government continues its tenure without any major challenges.

Top Maoist Leader Evaded Cops For Decades..

TPN Correspondent | New Delhi

Jayaram Reddy, a top Maoist leader and mastermind behind the 2008 Nayagarh attack, was killed this week in a joint operation by central and state forces along the Chhattisgarh-Odisha border. Known by his alias "Chalapati," Reddy had evaded security forces for decades, but a selfie with his wife led to his identification and eventual demise.

Reddy, who carried a bounty of ₹1 crore, was notorious for his role in the Nayagarh attack in Odisha, where 13 security personnel were killed, and the police armoury was looted. He had masterminded the escape plan for the Maoists and blocked police reinforcements by felling trees to obstruct roads. Reddy's elusive nature made him a significant target for authorities.

The turning point came in May 2016, when a selfie with his wife, Aruna (also known as Chaitanya Venkat Ravi), was found on an abandoned smartphone following an encounter in Andhra Pradesh. This discovery led to his identification, and a reward was announced for information on his whereabouts. To avoid detection, Reddy had started traveling with a personal security detail of 8-10 guards. Reddy's escape from Chhattisgarh's Bastar region and relocation near the Odisha border did not save him. He was killed during the latest encounter, along with 19 other Maoists.

In First Quad Meet Under Trump 2.0, Clear Warning Sent to China

TPN Correspondent | Washington DC

On his first day in office, US Secretary of State Marco Rubio convened the inaugural Quad ministerial meeting under President Trump's second term. Held in Washington, the meeting brought together Australia's Penny Wong, India's Subrahmanyam Jaishankar, and Japan's Takeshi Iwata to discuss regional stability in the Indo-Pacific. The meeting concluded with a joint statement signaling firm opposition to any attempts to alter the status quo through coercion or force—an implicit warning to China.

The Quad ministers reaffirmed their commitment to maintaining a Free and Open Indo-Pacific, emphasizing the importance of upholding democratic values, sovereignty, and territorial integrity. In a joint statement, they declared, "We strongly oppose any unilateral actions that seek to change the status quo by force or coercion." This was widely interpreted as a stance against China's claims over Taiwan and its assertive actions in the South China Sea.

- **Quad reaffirmed its stance on a Free and Open Indo-Pacific, opposing coercive actions.**
- **US Secretary of State Marco Rubio emphasized countering China's influence as a top priority.**
- **Quad Summit in India planned, signaling early collaboration under Trump 2.0.**

India's External Affairs Minister Subrahmanyam Jaishankar highlighted the meeting's significance, stating on X, "Significant that the Quad meeting took place within hours of the inauguration of the



Trump administration. This underlines the priority it has in the foreign policy of its member states."

China has consistently criticized the Quad, labeling it a US-led effort to encircle its rise in Asia. The grouping, initially envisioned by Japan's late Prime Minister Shinzo Abe, gained prominence as a leaders' summit under the Biden administration and now continues its strategic focus under President Trump.

The Quad's discussions reflected shared concerns over China's growing power in the Indo-Pacific, particularly regarding

territorial disputes involving the Philippines, a US ally. Analysts see the meeting as a message that countering Beijing remains a top priority for the Trump administration. Secretary Rubio, in his confirmation hearing, vowed to deter any invasion of Taiwan and emphasized working closely with allies to address regional challenges.

A Quad summit, planned for later this year in India, is expected to further advance collaboration among member nations and strengthen the alliance against regional threats.



22 US States Sue Trump Over Birthright Citizenship Order

TPN Correspondent | Washington DC

A coalition of 22 Democratic-led states, civil rights groups, and immigrant organizations has filed lawsuits challenging US President Donald Trump's executive order to end birthright citizenship. The controversial order, signed hours after Trump took office, declares that individuals born in the United States will not be granted automatic citizenship if their mother was in the country unlawfully and their father was not a citizen or lawful permanent resident.

Legal experts argue the order directly contradicts the Citizenship Clause of the 14th Amendment, which has guaranteed citizenship to anyone born on US soil since 1868. This constitutional provision, established after the Civil War, was reinforced by the Supreme Court's 1898 ruling in *United States v. Wong Kim Ark*, which affirmed citizenship rights for children of immigrants regardless of their parents' status.

Massachusetts Attorney General Andrea Joy Campbell emphasized the constitutional stakes, stating, "President Trump does not have the authority to take away constitutional rights." Civil rights groups have also highlighted the broader implications, including loss of access to federal programs and voting rights for affected individuals.

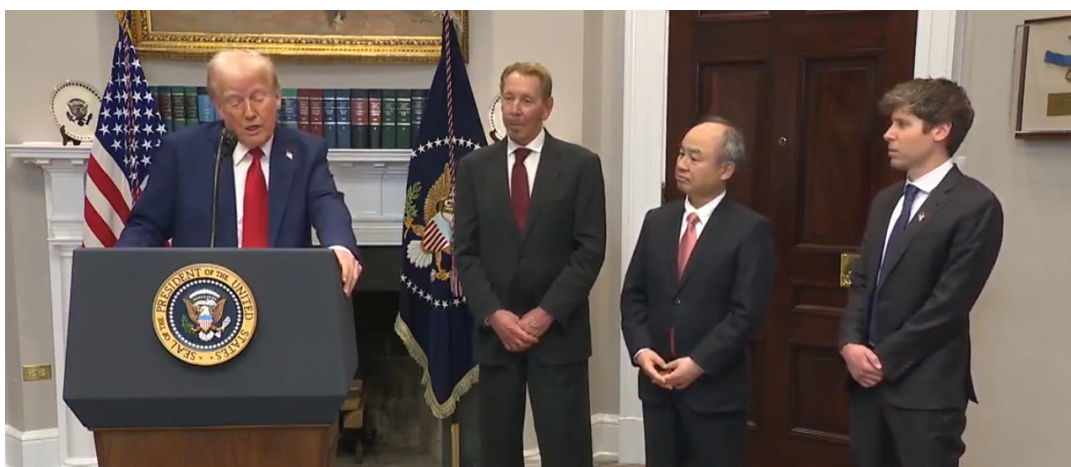
The lawsuits, filed in federal courts across Boston, Seattle, and Maryland, argue that Trump's order exceeds presidential authority. Legal experts suggest that while the President can direct federal agencies to interpret citizenship narrowly, such an action would inevitably face legal challenges.

According to Saikrishna Prakash, a constitutional expert at the University of Virginia Law School, "Ultimately, this will be decided by the courts... This is not something he can decide on his own." Amending the Constitution to end birthright citizenship would require overwhelming bipartisan support, a near impossibility given the current political landscape.

The lawsuits underscore a broader opposition to Trump's immigration policies, with many viewing the order as part of his administration's agenda to curb unauthorized immigration. Federal courts are expected to issue temporary restraining orders while the cases progress, potentially culminating in a landmark Supreme Court decision.

SoftBank, Oracle, OpenAI to Build \$500 Billion AI Infrastructure in the US

Major tech companies team up for groundbreaking AI infrastructure project in the US.



TPN Correspondent | United States

US President Donald Trump announced a historic collaboration between SoftBank, Oracle, and OpenAI to invest up to \$500 billion in artificial intelligence (AI) infrastructure in the United States. The ambitious initiative, named Stargate, is set to transform the AI landscape with a focus on building both physical and virtual infrastructure necessary for the next generation of AI advancements.

- **SoftBank, Oracle, and OpenAI pledge up to \$500 billion for US AI infrastructure.**
- **The project, named Stargate, aims**

to build data centers and support advancements in AI technology.

- **The first construction phase is underway in Texas, with more sites under consideration.**

At the White House on Tuesday, Trump hailed the project as a "monumental undertaking" that reflects immense confidence in America's technological potential. The collaboration, spearheaded by OpenAI's CEO Sam Altman, SoftBank's CEO Masayoshi Son, and Oracle founder Larry Ellison, will involve a \$100 billion initial investment, with a potential total investment of \$500 billion over the next four

years. "This is a resounding declaration of confidence in America's potential," Trump remarked, noting the scale and strategic importance of the project.

Stargate aims to develop "colossal data centers" and other critical AI infrastructure to meet the growing demands of AI technology. The project also intends to play a key role in the re-industrialization of the United States, with national security considerations at the forefront, according to OpenAI.

Key players in the project include the UAE's MGX technology fund, with major technology partners such as Arm, Microsoft, NVIDIA, Oracle, and OpenAI contributing to its development. The first phase of construction is underway in Texas, with further sites being evaluated across the country.

"This venture is not only about advancing AI, but also about ensuring that America remains at the forefront of the technology race," Altman said during the announcement. The news was followed by a surge in SoftBank's stock prices, reflecting the market's optimism surrounding the project. This investment comes at a time when the US tech sector is looking to secure its dominance in the global AI landscape.

Panama Canal Was "Not Gift From US"

TPN Correspondent | Davos

Panama's President Jose Raul Mulino firmly rejected US President Donald Trump's claims regarding the Panama Canal during a panel at the World Economic Forum in Davos. Trump had suggested the canal was a "gift" from the United States to Panama and threatened to "take it back," especially citing China's growing influence around the waterway.

Mulino responded sharply, stating, "The Panama Canal was not a concession or a gift from the United States," and reaffirmed Panama's complete ownership of the canal, which was transferred to the country on December 31, 1999, under the terms of treaties signed decades earlier.

Trump's comments, made in his inaugural address, implied that China was effectively "operating" the canal. However, China swiftly denied this, emphasizing its non-inter-



ference in the canal's affairs. Mulino also noted Panama's formal complaint to the United Nations, referencing international law protections regarding territorial integrity. Despite the controversy, Mulino re-

mained resolute, expressing that Panama would not be swayed by such statements and was focused on international cooperation, particularly with the United States, on issues like security and migration.

Canada Warns of Strong Response to Trump's Tariff Threats

TPN Correspondent | Ottawa

Canadian Prime Minister Justin Trudeau issued a stern warning to US President Donald Trump on Tuesday, vowing a robust response if the US imposes a 25% tariff on Canadian imports, as Trump has threatened. Trudeau confirmed that Ottawa's reaction would be "robust and rapid," with a dollar-for-dollar matching of the tariffs.

Trudeau's remarks came at a cabinet retreat where officials strategized how to respond to economic threats posed by the new US administration. Trump had announced on his first day in office that he planned to impose tariffs on Canada and Mexico, citing concerns over immigration and the flow of illicit drugs like fentanyl.

The tariff announcement could affect a significant portion of Canadian exports, especially energy and auto sectors, which make up the majority of goods sent to the US. A Canadian government source revealed that potential counter-tariffs could include steel, ceramics, glassware, and orange juice, targeting specific US goods.

The economic ramifications of a trade war could be severe, with some forecasts predicting a 5% reduction in Canada's GDP, a spike in unemployment, and rising inflation. Trudeau warned that while the US would feel the impact, Canada would bear costs as well, but would not back down from defending its economic interests.

Australia Probes Possible Foreign Funding Behind Anti-Semitic Attacks

TPN Correspondent | Sydney

Australia is investigating whether foreign funding is behind a series of anti-Semitic attacks that have occurred in recent weeks. Prime Minister Anthony Albanese revealed on Wednesday that local criminals may have been paid by foreign actors to target Jewish communities in the country.

The wave of attacks includes the firebombing of a synagogue in Melbourne in December, the torching of a Sydney childcare center, car fires in predominantly Jewish neighborhoods, and vandalism of synagogues with red paint and graffiti. Albanese stated that some of these incidents appeared to be the work of "paid actors" rather than individuals with ideological motivations.

"It's unclear who or where the payments are coming from," Albanese said. The Australian Federal Police (AFP) have launched an investigation into whether these attacks were funded by overseas sources. Commissioner Reece Kershaw mentioned that authorities are exploring the possibility that local criminals were paid by foreign entities to carry out these crimes. So far, authorities have charged a 33-year-old man with attempting to set fire to a Sydney synagogue, and eight others have been charged in connection with a series of hate crime-related incidents dating back to November.



Markets Rebound Amid Volatility; Relief Rally Provides Stability

Domestic stock markets were volatile on Wednesday. Investors were relieved as a relief rally took place today. Benchmark indices found support at key levels. Indices initially fell on mixed signals internationally. HDFC Bank's good results and IT and finance stocks showed aggression led to a return to gains. Nifty found support at the crucial 23000 level. Investors should remain vigilant until the markets stabilize.

The BSE Sensex, which closed at 75,838 in the previous session, opened at 76,114 on Wednesday. It touched an intraday low of 75,816. It reached an intraday high of 76,463. It finally closed at 76,404 with a gain of 566 points. The NSE Nifty, which opened at 23,099, touched a low of 22,981 and a high of 23,169. It closed at 23,155, up 130 points. The Nifty Bank rose 153 points to settle at 48,724.

In the Nifty50, 26 companies gained while 24 lost. Wipro, Infosys, TCS, TechM, and HDFC Bank were the top gainers. BEL, Tata Motors, Trent, Power Grid, and Axis Bank were the biggest losers. Today, IT, pharma, healthcare, and finance indices rebounded. The realty index fell by 5%. Metal, media, PSU banks, and consumer durables suffered moderate

losses.

Today, the market breadth in NSE has completely shifted in favor of sellers. 2894 shares were traded, while 2052 lost. Only 780 gained. Shares of 14 companies touched 52-week highs. 155 shares reached 52-week lows.

BPCL's net profit rose by 94% to Rs. 4649 crore from Rs. 2397 crore. Hindustan Unilever's net profit was Rs. 3001 crore and revenue was Rs. 15,408 crore. The rupee strengthened by 23 paise to settle at 86.33 against the dollar. Persistent Systems' profit increased to Rs. 373 crore from Rs. 325 crore. Jefferies has maintained a buy rating on Dalmia Bharat with a target price of Rs. 2070. Hudco's profit rose from Rs 519 crore to Rs 735 crore. Tata Communication's net profit rose from Rs 45 crore to Rs 236 crore. HDFC's net profit rose by 2% to Rs 16,736 crore from Rs 16,372 crore. Net interest income rose by 8%. HSBC has maintained a buy rating on Dixon Technologies with a target price of Rs 20,000.



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Britannia is a leading player in the packaged food segment, specializing in biscuits, dairy products, and baked goods. The company has a strong market presence in India and growing international operations. Revenue Growth: Consistent annual growth driven by new product launches and distribution expansion. Profit Margins: Healthy EBITDA margins (~15-17%). Debt Levels: Low leverage with a focus on maintaining financial discipline. Strong brand equity with a diversified product portfolio. Widespread distribution network across rural and urban India. Robust innovation pipeline.

Wipro is one of India's largest IT services companies, offering software development, business consulting, and IT outsourcing. Revenue: Steady growth (~8-10%) driven by digital transformation deals. Operating Margins: Moderately pressured (~15-17%) due to wage inflation and increasing competition. Dividend Yield: Attractive, consistently rewarding shareholders. Global presence with a strong client portfolio. Investments in emerging technologies like AI and cloud computing.



Bajaj Finserv operates in lending, insurance, and wealth management. It is known for its strong brand in consumer finance. Loan Book Growth: Consistently growing at ~25% CAGR. Asset Quality: Stable with a low NPA ratio. Profitability: Strong return ratios (ROE ~18-20%). Diversified financial offerings across lending, insurance, and investments. Robust technology integration for digital-first customer service.

Avanti Feeds is a market leader in shrimp feed and a significant player in shrimp exports. Revenue: Subject to fluctuations due to shrimp demand and export trends. Margins: Highly sensitive to raw material price volatility (soybean and fishmeal). Strong distribution network and established presence in the shrimp industry. Focus on R&D and product innovation for feed quality. Dependency on international shrimp demand and pricing. Regulatory changes and disease outbreaks in aquaculture.



Manappuram specializes in gold loans, microfinance, and housing finance, catering mainly to rural and semi-urban customers. Loan Book: Dominated by gold loans (~65% of portfolio). Profit Margins: High net interest margins (~14-15%) due to the secured nature of loans. Asset Quality: Resilient NPA levels due to gold-backed loans. Quick disbursement process and strong penetration in rural areas. High loan recovery rates due to gold collateral.



India's Refined Petroleum Consumption Set to Reach New High in FY26

India's consumption of refined petroleum products is poised to hit a new peak in the financial year 2025-26 (FY26), driven by continued growth in energy demand across various sectors of the economy. According to the latest projections from the Petroleum Planning & Analysis Cell (PPAC) under the Ministry of Petroleum, petroleum product consumption is expected to rise by 4.7% over the revised estimate for FY25, reaching a total of 252.93 million tonnes.

This growth in consumption is primarily attributed to the increased demand for key fuels and products, including petrol, aviation turbine fuel (ATF), liquefied petroleum gas (LPG), diesel, and petroleum coke. The surge in petrol consumption is fueled by the expanding automotive sector, while the rise in LPG use is linked to the continued push for clean cooking solutions in households across the country. Diesel demand remains robust, supported by the transportation and industrial sectors, and ATF consumption is expected to grow with the recovery in the aviation industry as travel demand rebounds post-pandemic.

Petroleum coke, which is used in industries like aluminum, cement, and steel production, is also seeing a steady rise in demand. These trends highlight the broad-based nature of India's growing reliance on refined petroleum products, as the country's economic recovery continues to gain momentum.

As India advances its economic development and urbanization, the demand for energy is expected to keep climbing, further contributing to the country's increasing petroleum consumption. The projections underscore the crucial role of the energy sector in supporting India's growth, with petroleum products continuing to be a key component in meeting the country's energy needs.

Hindustan Unilever Reports 19.18% Growth in Q3 Net Profit



Hindustan Unilever Ltd (HUL) reported a 19.18% increase in its consolidated net profit for the December quarter, reaching Rs 2,989 crore, up from Rs 2,508 crore during the same period last fiscal year. The growth was primarily driven by the sale of its Pureit business, the company stated in a regulatory filing.

Key Financial Highlights

For the third quarter of the ongoing fiscal year, HUL's consolidated total income stood at Rs 16,050 crore, compared to Rs 15,781 crore in the previous year. Total expenses increased to Rs 12,576 crore from Rs 12,305 crore year-on-year. HUL also had an exceptional item benefit of Rs 507 crore during the quarter.

The company reported an underlying sales growth of 2%, though its underlying volume growth (UVG) remained flat for the period. Despite strong absolute volume growth, this was offset by a negative product mix. HUL's CEO and Managing Director, Rohit Jawa, mentioned that while FMCG demand trends remained subdued, particularly in urban areas, the rural market showed gradual recovery.

Strategic Acquisitions and Future Outlook

In line with its strategy to expand into fast-growing sectors, HUL announced the acquisition of a 90.5% stake in Uprising Science Pvt Ltd, the company behind the premium beauty brand Minimalist. The acquisition, worth Rs 2,670 crore, will be funded through a combination of secondary buyouts and primary infusion. HUL plans to acquire the remaining stake in two years. Jawa emphasized that the acquisition aligns with HUL's goal to enhance its beauty and wellbeing portfolio and capitalize on the growing masstige beauty segment. HUL's homecare segment posted strong volume growth, while its beauty and wellbeing category saw momentum in hair care, though skincare was impacted by delayed winter conditions. The company's personal care revenue faced challenges due to a decline in the hygiene segment of skin cleansing. Looking ahead, Jawa expressed confidence in HUL's medium- to long-term prospects despite short-term economic uncertainties, reaffirming the company's potential in India's FMCG sector.



Industry Eyes Key Announcements in India's Union Budget 2025-26 for Railway Sector

As the Union Budget 2025-26 approaches, industry stakeholders are hopeful for significant announcements aimed at boosting the railway sector, particularly in freight operations and infrastructure development. Experts believe that the upcoming budget could bring much-needed reforms and investments to enhance the efficiency and competitiveness of India's freight services.

Focus on Freight Speed and Infrastructure

One of the key areas of focus for the railway sector is the need to increase the average speed of freight trains to 50 kmph. Currently, India's freight trains operate at a significantly lower speed, which hampers the timely delivery of goods across the country. The industry has also called for the deployment of advanced 12,000 HP electric locomotives, which are expected to improve operational efficiency and reduce transit times. In addition to speed improvements, the industry is eagerly awaiting announcements related to infrastructure development, particularly in freight corridors. The creation of dedicated freight corridors has been a long-standing demand of the sector to streamline freight movement and reduce congestion on passenger routes.

Wagon Orders and Investment Opportunities

Texmaxo Managing Director Sudipta Mukherjee voiced optimism about the government's continued commitment to the railway sector, particularly regarding the wagon orders. He expressed hope for a substantial order of new wagons, building on the government's 2022 announcement of approximately 1.2 lakh wagon orders over three years. This initiative is seen as a crucial step in modernizing the railway freight network and ensuring that it meets the growing demands of the logistics industry. The railway sector is also anticipating further investments in modernization, including upgrading tracks, expanding terminal facilities, and improving safety measures. Such investments are expected to enhance the overall efficiency of India's freight transportation network, positioning the railways as a key player in the country's logistics and supply chain ecosystem. As the Union Budget approaches, industry players remain hopeful that the government will prioritize the development of the railway sector to further strengthen its role in India's economic growth.

Uncovering Ancient Ice Sheets Beneath the North Sea: New Insights into Climate History



Landforms buried beneath the North Sea, formed by a massive ice sheet that existed around 1 million years ago, have been uncovered using advanced high-resolution imaging. These newly discovered features, dating back to the mid-Pleistocene transition (MPT), provide valuable insights into the glacial dynamics of the past and how they relate to shifting climate patterns.

A study published in *Science Advances* highlights the findings, which were detected using sound wave data. Researchers, including Christine Batchelor, a senior lecturer in physical geography at Newcastle University, suggest that these structures were left behind by a single, expansive ice sheet that covered regions from present-day Norway to the British

Isles. This discovery challenges previous theories that multiple smaller ice sheets shaped the region during the MPT.

The ice sheet's movement created distinct patterns under more than 1 kilometre of sediment, offering a glimpse into how it advanced and retreated over time. These patterns are key to understanding the mechanics of past ice sheet dynamics. Grounded ice sheets sculpt the underlying sediment, producing both erosional and depositional features. Batchelor notes that streamlined features aligned with the ice flow direction were created during the ice's advance, while transverse imprints, such as crevasse-squeeze ridges, formed as the ice sheet retreated. These ridges develop when soft sediment is pushed into

cracks at the base of the ice before it lifts off, often aided by water undercutting the ice.

The findings hold significant implications for climate change research. The mid-Pleistocene transition was a critical period in Earth's glacial history, marked by longer and more intense ice ages. By studying these ancient landforms, scientists aim to better understand how ice sheets respond to climate shifts, using this knowledge to model past ice sheet behavior and make comparisons with current environmental changes. This research offers crucial insights into the processes influencing today's climate systems and how they may evolve in the future.

Retrieve Lost WhatsApp Messages: Methods for Android and iOS Users

WhatsApp's "Delete for Everyone" feature allows users to remove messages within a certain timeframe, but this can leave recipients curious about what was deleted. Whether it's an accidental message or something important, there are ways to retrieve these deleted messages. Android users can take advantage of the Notification History feature, which logs all incoming notifications. By enabling this feature in the settings, users can view deleted messages if the notification was received before the message was deleted. However, this method only works for messages that triggered a notification. Additionally, WhatsApp offers a chat backup feature that allows users to restore deleted messages if they were included in a previous backup. By uninstalling and reinstalling WhatsApp and restoring from a

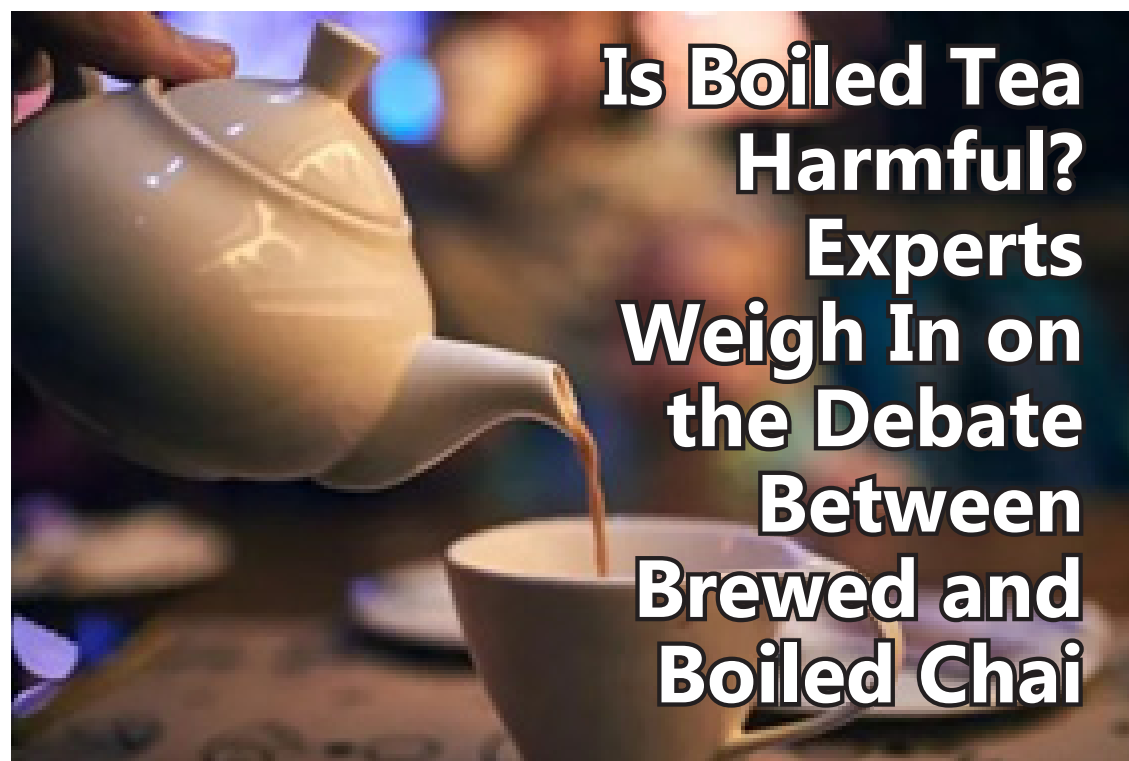


apps can only recover messages that were delivered as notifications, not those that weren't. On the iOS side, users can restore deleted WhatsApp messages using iCloud backups. If you have iCloud backups set up, simply checking the last backup date and restoring from it can help you retrieve deleted messages. However, this method replaces current chats with the backup data. iPhone users who use iTunes for regular backups can also restore deleted WhatsApp messages by rolling back to an earlier backup, but this also means any new data since the backup will be lost.

backup, users can recover lost messages, though this will not restore content received after the backup.

For Android users, third-party apps like Notisave also offer a way to retrieve deleted WhatsApp messages. These apps save incoming notifications, including deleted ones, allowing users to view content that was deleted after it appeared in the notification bar. However, these

While these methods provide ways to recover deleted WhatsApp messages, they all depend on prior actions, such as enabling notifications or creating backups. Users should exercise caution, particularly when using third-party apps, to ensure their privacy is protected.



Is Boiled Tea Harmful? Experts Weigh In on the Debate Between Brewed and Boiled Chai

Nutritionist Suman Agarwal recently made waves on social media when she suggested that brewed tea is a healthier option compared to the traditional boiled tea, commonly known as masala chai. According to Agarwal, boiling tea can release harmful elements like acrylamide, which is considered carcinogenic with long-term exposure. She emphasized that tea should be brewed, not boiled, to preserve its health benefits and avoid these potential risks. "Tea leaves should be steeped in hot water to extract the taste, flavor, and aroma within three minutes," Agarwal explained in an interview with *Traya.Health*.

Effects if consumed regularly over time. The prolonged exposure to high heat during boiling can degrade the tea's antioxidants and other beneficial compounds, making it less effective in promoting overall health.

While brewing tea at the right temperature can preserve its flavor and health benefits, it's important to note that occasional consumption of boiled tea isn't likely to cause harm. However, for those seeking the maximum health benefits from tea, brewing it gently and avoiding excessive boiling could be a wise choice for the long run.

But is there any truth to this claim? Experts in the field of nutrition are weighing in on the brewing vs. boiling debate. Apeksha Chandurkar, a nutritionist and the founder of *Balanced Bite*, supports Agarwal's stance on brewing tea as a healthier alternative. She explains that brewing tea is a gentler process that helps maintain its delicate flavors and health-promoting compounds. "When tea leaves are brewed at the right temperature, they release their full potential. However, boiling the tea at high temperatures can destroy these delicate compounds, making the tea more bitter and less beneficial," Chandurkar said.

Furthermore, she acknowledged that Indian masala chai, which is typically boiled at high temperatures, could have some adverse effects if consumed regularly over time. The prolonged exposure to high heat during boiling can degrade the tea's antioxidants and other beneficial compounds, making it less effective in promoting overall health.

Apple Set to Launch New iPad Pro and iPad Air Models in 2025: What to Expect

Apple is reportedly gearing up for the release of new iPad Pro and iPad Air models in 2025, with some exciting upgrades over the current versions. According to recent leaks and reports, the upcoming iPad Pro models, including the 11-inch and 13-inch variants, are expected to receive minor upgrades, while the iPad Air lineup could see a significant boost with the addition of new chipsets and features.



The next-generation iPad Pro models are likely to retain a similar design to the current OLED tablets. However, Apple is expected to incorporate some internal enhancements, including better performance and new features. One major update could involve the display drivers, with South Korea's LX Semicon reportedly supplying components for the upcoming models. Mass production of these components is expected to begin in April or May 2025, suggesting an official release later in the year.

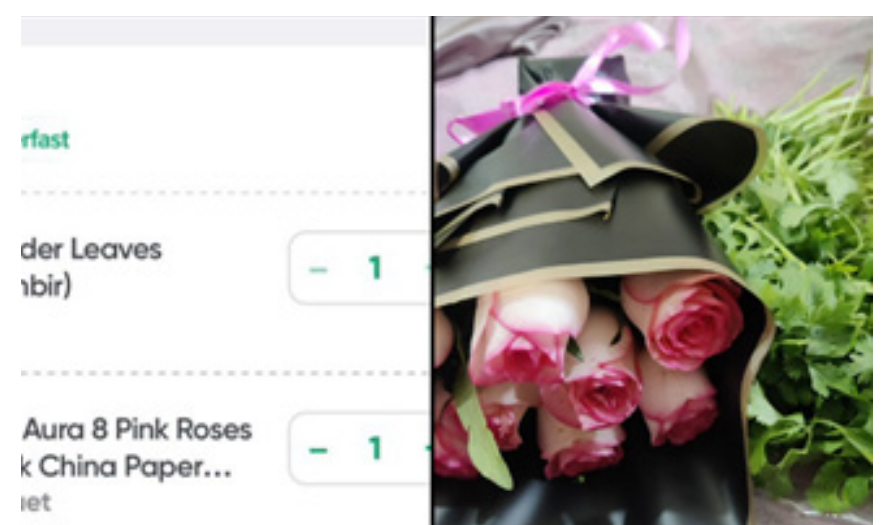
The upcoming iPad models are also expected to run on iPadOS 18.3, with support for 8GB of RAM and new Apple Intelligence features, which will improve the overall performance and functionality of the devices. While the exact details of the upgraded

iPad Pro are still unclear, these improvements will likely offer a more powerful and refined user experience compared to the current models.

In addition to the iPad Pro refresh, Apple is also expected to launch the new iPad Air lineup in 2025. These new models could feature 11-inch and 13-inch displays and are expected to be powered by the M3 chipset, a significant upgrade over the current M2-powered iPad Air models. This move is likely aimed at providing users with better performance and more capabilities, making the iPad Air a more attractive option for those seeking a high-performance tablet at a more affordable price point.

The new iPad models, including the iPad Pro and iPad Air, are expected to be launched alongside the rumored iPhone SE 4, potentially marking a major update to Apple's tablet and smartphone lineup in 2025.

Woman Receives "Free" Dhaniya With Roses From Swiggy Instamart, Internet Reacts



In an unexpected and humorous turn of events, a social media user recently shared her surprise when online grocery delivery platform Swiggy sent her free dhaniya (coriander leaves) along with a bouquet of roses. The bouquet, a thoughtful gift from her partner, was accompanied by a surprise addition — coriander leaves labeled as "free" on the Swiggy Instamart page.

The woman took to X (formerly Twitter) to express her confusion and amusement, writing, "He sent me flowers and Swiggy sent free dhaniya with that bro why would I need that?" Along with her post, she shared two images: one showing the Swiggy Instamart page where the rose bouquet was listed alongside coriander leaves with the word "free" next to it, and the second showing the actual bouquet of roses paired with the free dhaniya.

part of a promotional strategy by Swiggy, which has long been known for surprising customers with free items like coriander and green chillies when they buy vegetables or grocery items. However, in this case, the free dhaniya was given with a completely different purchase — a bouquet of flowers.

The post quickly went viral, with users amused by the unusual pairing and wondering why an online grocery store would pair flowers with a culinary ingredient. Some Twitter users joked about the unexpected addition, with others suggesting that it could be a humorous marketing tactic.

Whether a simple mistake or a clever promotional move, Swiggy's free dhaniya offer certainly caught the attention of many, proving that in the world of online shopping, anything is possible.

This quirky offer appears to be

Jasprit Bumrah Retains ICC No. 1 Test Bowler Spot; Noman Ali Joins Top 10

India's pace spearhead, Jasprit Bumrah, continues to hold the top position in the ICC Test Bowler Rankings, cementing his status as the world's No. 1 bowler. Bumrah has consistently performed at the highest level, and in the latest rankings, he has achieved a career-best rating of 908 points, surpassing his previous record of 907 points set ahead of the fifth Border-Gavaskar Test against Australia in January. This impressive feat keeps him firmly ahead of his closest rivals: Australia's Pat Cummins, who is ranked second with 841 points, and South Africa's Kagiso Rabada, who holds the third spot with 837 points.



he took a remarkable six-wicket haul. His performance helped him reach the No. 10 spot with a rating of 761 points, making him one of the most promising bowlers in Test cricket today.

Meanwhile, the top positions in the ICC Test All-Rounder Rankings remain unchanged. Ravindra Jadeja continues to occupy the top spot, holding steady at 400 rating points. South Africa's

Marco Jansen is ranked second with 294 points, while Bangladesh's Mehedi Hasan remains third with 263 points. There has been no movement in the all-rounder rankings, reflecting the consistency of these top players.

As Bumrah leads the bowling rankings and Jadeja dominates the all-rounders' list, Indian cricket continues to shine on the global stage with some of the world's most outstanding players.

In addition to Bumrah's dominance, the rankings also see a significant move from Pakistan's Noman Ali, who has broken into the top 10. Noman's rise comes after his stellar performance in the first Test against the West Indies in Multan, where

Madison Keys Wins 10th Match In A Row, Enters Australian Open 2025 Semi-Finals

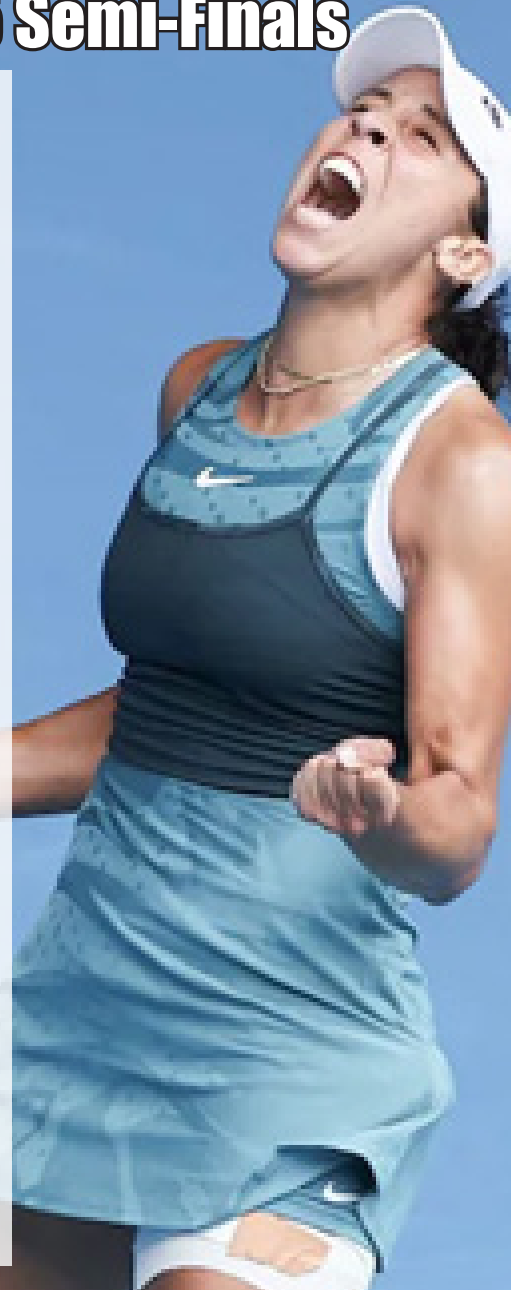
Madison Keys continued her stunning run at the Australian Open 2025 by coming from a set down to defeat Elina Svitolina 3-6, 6-3, 6-4, securing a spot in the semi-finals. This victory marked her 10th consecutive win, extending her unbeaten streak to 10 matches after claiming the Adelaide title earlier this year. The 19th seed American is now set to reach the semi-finals of Melbourne Park for the third time, a decade after her first appearance in the last four.

Keys, who will celebrate her 30th birthday next month, showed tremendous resilience in the match, recovering from a difficult first set. "I felt like I kind of just had to start playing a little bit more aggressive and try to get to the net a little bit quicker," she admitted after the win. Svitolina had the upper hand early on, controlling the points and forcing Keys to chase down rallies. However, Keys adjusted her strategy and began to dictate the play, especially in the second set.

The first set saw both players starting cautiously, with Svitolina taking the initiative in the eighth game when she converted her first break point. She sealed the set after just 33 minutes when Keys hit a ball into the net. In the second set, Keys increased her pace, creating several break points and eventually leveling the match with a forehand winner.

The deciding set was a tight contest, with both players holding serve until Keys capitalized on her opportunities. She broke Svitolina's serve at 2-2 with a backhand return winner, and from there, she held on to her lead to secure the win in 1 hour and 53 minutes.

Keys will now face either Iga Swiatek or Emma Navarro in the semi-finals, with a place in the final on the line. This victory also sees Keys move back into the top 10 in the WTA rankings, as she continues to build momentum ahead of the season's first Grand Slam final.



Zverev becomes first semifinalist in Australian Open 2025, Beating Tommy Paul in quarterfinal

Top German tennis player Alexander Zverev has secured his spot in the semifinals of the Australian Open 2025 after a hard-fought victory over Tommy Paul in the quarterfinals. Zverev triumphed 7-6(1), 7-6(0), 2-6, 6-1, becoming the first player to reach the semifinals in this year's tournament. The 27-year-old will now await the winner of the match between Carlos Alcaraz and Novak Djokovic in his quest for a first Grand Slam title.

Tuesday's match marked Zverev's third appearance in a Grand Slam quarterfinal and his second at the Australian Open. His previous best performance in Melbourne came in 2023 when he reached the semifinals. Despite

his impressive resume, Zverev faced a tough challenge from American Tommy Paul, who put up a strong fight in the opening sets.

After the match, Zverev was quick to praise his opponent for playing the better game. "To be honest, I should have been down two sets to love," said Zverev. "He played better than me. I was not playing great, and I thought he was. I somehow won the first set, somehow won the second set, and I'm up two sets to love all of a sudden and I need only one more set." Zverev admitted that he was lucky to take the first two sets but acknowledged his strong performance in the fourth set. "The fourth set was definitely the best that I've played, and

I'm obviously extremely happy to be back in the semi-finals now," he added.

Tommy Paul fought valiantly, taking the third set in a thrilling display, but Zverev responded with sheer dominance in the fourth. The German closed it out 6-1, sealing his place in the semifinals with a dominant performance.

Earlier in the tournament, Zverev had extended his remarkable streak against left-handed opponents to 26 consecutive wins, defeating Ugo Humbert in the fourth round. With his solid form continuing, Zverev remains a formidable contender for the title as the tournament



PV Sindhu and Lakshya Sen to Lead India at Badminton Asia Mixed Championship

Double Olympic medallist PV Sindhu and World Championship bronze medallist Lakshya Sen will spearhead a 14-member Indian team for the prestigious Badminton Asia Mixed Team Championship, which will be held in Qingdao, China, from February 11-16, 2025. India had a successful campaign in the previous edition in Dubai in 2023, where they clinched a bronze medal, and the team is hopeful of improving on that performance this year.

The selection of the team was based on the players' world rankings and current form, as stated by the Badminton Association of India (BAI). Joining Sindhu and Sen will be other top players, including HS Prannoy and Malvika Bansod, who will feature as the second men's and women's singles players respectively. The squad also boasts of star doubles players Satwiksairaj Rankireddy and Chirag Shetty, who have been instrumental in India's success in international competitions.

The women's doubles pairing will consist of either Gayatri



Gopichand and Treasa Jolly or Ashwini Ponnappa and Tanisha Crasto. In mixed doubles, Tanisha Crasto will pair up with Dhruv Kapila, while Sathish Kumar K and Adya Variyath will form the second combination.

Sanjay Mishra, the secretary general of the Badminton Association of India, emphasized the team's ambitious goals for the tournament. While they were proud of their bronze finish in 2023, the target this year is to reach the finals and potentially secure a gold medal. Mishra added that the team is determined to give their best and make the country proud.

The Indian squad for the Badminton Asia Mixed Team Championship includes the following players:

Men's: Lakshya Sen, HS Prannoy, Satwiksairaj Rankireddy, Chirag Shetty, Dhruv Kapila, MR Arjun, Sathish Kumar K.

Women's: PV Sindhu, Malvika Bansod, Gayatri Gopichand, Treasa Jolly, Ashwini Ponnappa, Tanisha Crasto, Adya Variyath.

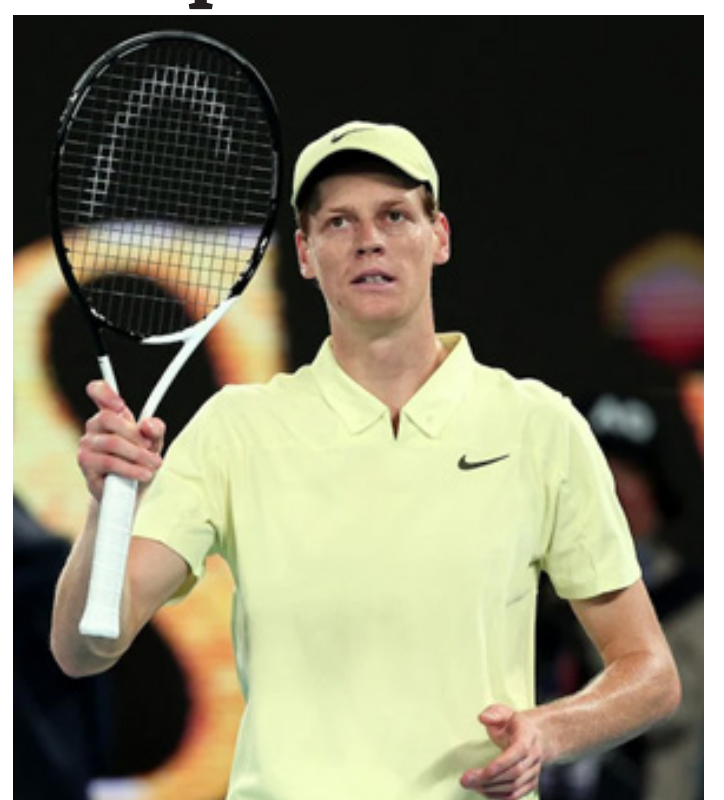
With a strong lineup and high hopes, India will look to make a deep run in the tournament, aiming for their first gold in this prestigious event.

Jannik Sinner and Iga Swiatek Storm Into Semis at Australian Open 2025

Jannik Sinner and Iga Swiatek continued their dominant runs at the Australian Open 2025, each securing a place in the semi-finals with commanding performances on Wednesday. Sinner, the defending champion, cruised to a 6-3, 6-2, 6-1 victory over Australia's Alex de Minaur, extending his unbeaten streak against the 8th seed to 10 matches. The Italian world number one, who had struggled with heat exhaustion earlier in the tournament, looked refreshed in the evening's cooler conditions and was in sublime form. "Today I felt like I was feeling everything," Sinner said, noting the ease with which he broke early in each set.

Sinner, who is aiming to defend his Grand Slam title for the first time after his triumph over Daniil Medvedev in last year's final, will next face 21st seed Ben Shelton. The American delivered a gritty 6-4, 7-5, 4-6, 7-6 (7/4) win over Italian Lorenzo Sonego to reach his first Australian Open semi-final. Shelton's performance, highlighted by a powerful 232kph ace, has earned him praise, though he expressed frustration over post-match interviews, calling them "embarrassing" and "disrespectful."

On the women's side, Swiatek continued her impressive form with a dominant 6-1, 6-2 win over American Emma Navarro. The Polish world number two has yet to drop a set at the tournament, making her the favorite to clinch



her first Australian Open title. Swiatek will next meet American 19th seed Madison Keys, who made a strong comeback to beat Elina Svitolina 3-6, 6-3, 6-4, advancing to her third Australian Open semi-final.

Swiatek remains cautious about her upcoming clash with Keys, stating, "Madison is a great player and experienced, so you never know." The women's semi-finals are set to take place on Thursday, with Swiatek and Keys battling for a spot in the final.



Naga Shaurya's next titled **Bad Boy Karthik**, first look revealed

Actor Naga Shaurya is all set to thrill audiences with his new film *Bad Boy Karthik*, where he teams up with debut director Raam Desina. The film is being produced by Srinivasa Rao Chintalapudi under the banner of Sri Vaishnavi Films. To celebrate Naga Shaurya's birthday, the makers not only unveiled the title of the film but also released its first-look poster, creating a buzz among fans.

The poster gives a glimpse into the high-energy, mass-appealing vibe of the film. Naga Shaurya, portraying the titular role of Karthik, is seen sitting with an air of authority on the back of a van. His forehead bears a blood mark, and the sacred namalu (lines) etched on it suggest a deep connection to his character's spiritual beliefs. His blood-stained hands further allude to the intense, violent journey his character will undertake. The first look hints at an action-packed nar-

ative that promises to captivate fans of high-octane thrillers.

Bad Boy Karthik features Vidhi as the female lead, with talented actors Samuthirakani and Sr Narresh playing pivotal roles. Music for the film is being composed by Harris Jayaraj, known for his memorable soundtracks, while Rasool Ellore handles the cinematography. With these experienced names on board, the film is expected to deliver both visually striking action sequences and a gripping musical experience.

The production of the film is currently in its final stages, and fans are eagerly awaiting its release. *Bad Boy Karthik* looks set to be an engaging action entertainer, with Naga Shaurya's intense portrayal promising to bring a fresh dimension to his acting career. This film could be a major milestone in his journey, blending mass appeal with a strong, compelling character.

First Look of **Thalapathy69** (Bhagavanth Kesari Remake) to Release on Republic Day

Thalapathy Vijay's upcoming film, tentatively titled *Thalapathy69*, is generating massive buzz as it marks his final project before he transitions into full-time politics. Directed by renowned filmmaker H. Vinoth, this film is an official adaptation of Balakrishna's *Bhagavanth Kesari*. As Vijay prepares to bid farewell to the silver screen, fans eagerly await his last cinematic appearance in this action-packed drama.

According to the latest reports, the first look of *Thalapathy69* will be unveiled on Republic Day, January 26, 2025. The movie is said to feature significant army-related sequences, which is why the team is choosing this special occasion for the big reveal. Along with the first look, fans can also expect clarity on the final title of the film. While an official announcement is still awaited, the anticipation for the first look is reaching a fever pitch.

Thalapathy69 is set to release in October 2025, and the star-studded cast includes Pooja Hegde, Bobby Deol, Mamitha Baiju, Prakash Raj, Priya-



mani, Narain, and Gautham Vasudev Menon, who will play pivotal roles. The film is produced by KVN Productions, marking the production house's foray into Tamil cinema. The music for the film will be composed by the acclaimed Anirudh Ravichander, adding to the excitement surrounding the movie.

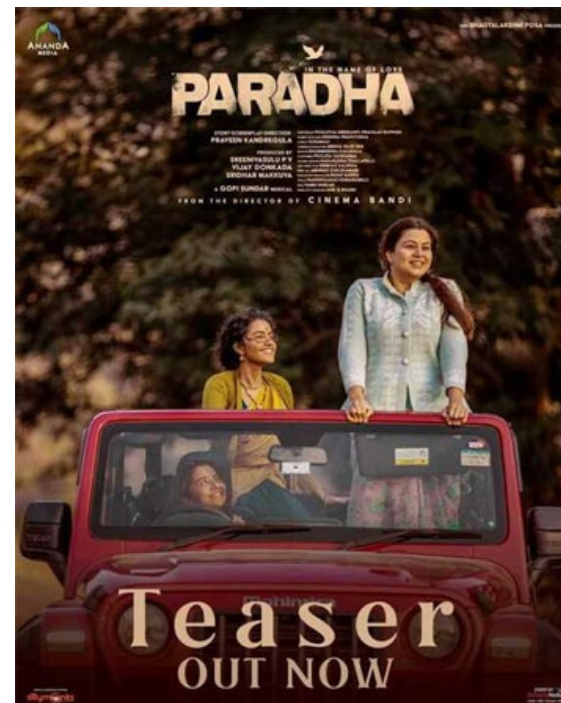
With its stellar cast, high-octane action sequences, and Vijay's final performance before his political journey, *Thalapathy69* is shaping up to be one of the most anticipated releases of 2025. Fans and cinephiles alike are eagerly awaiting the first look, which will offer a glimpse into what promises to be an unforgettable cinematic experience.

Anupama Parameswaran's **PARADHA** Teaser: A Promising Rustic Drama

The much-anticipated rustic drama *Paradha*, directed by Praveen Kandregula of Cinema Bandi fame, has just dropped its official teaser, and it's already creating a buzz. The film stars Anupama Parameswaran in the lead role, alongside Darshana Rajendran and Sangitha in pivotal roles. The teaser offers a glimpse into the world of Subbu, played by Anupama, a character deeply rooted in her village's customs and traditions.

Set against a rural backdrop, the teaser introduces Subbu, who embarks on an adventurous journey alongside two other women. One notable feature of Subbu's character is her adherence to the tradition of covering her face with a *paradha* (veil), a custom that represents the village's deep-rooted beliefs and superstitions. The teaser hints at the villagers' strong commitment to these traditions, which influence their actions and decisions for the betterment of their community.

The storyline appears to be a fascinating blend of humor, intensity, and



Anupama Parameswaran shines in her portrayal of Subbu, a village girl bound by tradition. Her performance is compelling, especially in moments that reveal the internal conflict between following customs and stepping out of them. Darshana Rajendran and Sangitha also make a significant impact, adding depth to their respective roles.

The cinematography by Mridul Sujit Sen is striking, perfectly capturing the rural setting with visually immersive shots, while Gopi Sundar's background score heightens the emotional atmosphere. The film's production, led by Vijay Donkada, Sreenivasulu PV, and Sridhar Makkuva under Ananda Media, reflects high production values that are clearly evident in the teaser.

emotional depth, capturing the essence of rural life with authenticity. Praveen Kandregula's direction and writing stand out for their realism, highlighting the strong cultural elements while ensuring the story remains engaging and relatable.

With a strong premise and solid performances, *Paradha* has generated significant curiosity. The film will be released in both Telugu and Malayalam, with the official release date to be announced soon.



Naga Chaitanya and Sai Pallavi's Romantic Tune **Hilesso Hilesso** Released from **Thandel**

The much-loved duo of Naga Chaitanya and Sai Pallavi is all set to share the screen again in the upcoming romantic action entertainer *Thandel*. Known for their incredible chemistry, the pair is expected to create magic once more, captivating audiences with their performances. The film, which features a mix of romance and action, also boasts music by the talented Rockstar Devi Sri Prasad, with the songs *Bujji Thalli* and *Namo Namah Shivaya* already receiving a positive response from listeners.

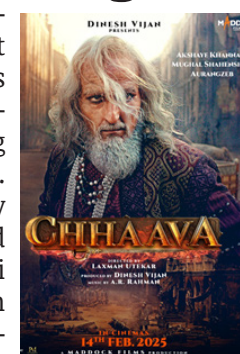
The excitement around *Thandel* continues to build, with the release of its third single, *Hilesso Hilesso*, scheduled for January 23rd. The announcement was made through a charming poster that showcases Naga Chaitanya

gazing affectionately at Sai Pallavi, who is seen dancing joyfully. Set against a tranquil beach backdrop, the image perfectly encapsulates the song's serene and romantic mood. Fans are eagerly anticipating this melody, which promises to be a soulful addition to the film's soundtrack.

Directed by Chandoo Mondeti, *Thandel* is produced by Allu Aravind and Bunny Vasu under the Geetha Arts banner. The movie is slated for release on February 7th, and with the promising chemistry between Naga Chaitanya and Sai Pallavi, along with a memorable soundtrack, expectations are high for this much-anticipated film. The trio of music, direction, and on-screen magic from the lead pair is sure to make *Thandel* a film to remember.

Akshay Khanna Unveils First Look as Aurangzeb in **Chhaava**

Bollywood actor Akshay Khanna is set to portray the infamous Mughal emperor Aurangzeb in the upcoming biographical film *Chhaava*. The movie, directed by Laxman Utekar, is based on the life of Shambhaji Maharaj, the eldest son of the legendary Maharashtrian warrior, Chhatrapati Shivaji Maharaj. Actor Vicky Kaushal stars in the titular role as Shambhaji Maharaj, while Rashmika Mandanna plays the female lead, Esu Bai. The film, produced by Dinesh Vision under the Madak Films banner, is set for release on February 14, 2025, just in time for Valentine's Day.



To mark the occasion, the filmmakers have revealed the first look of Akshay Khanna as the Mughal emperor Aurangzeb. Known for his ruthless reign over the Mughal Empire, Aurangzeb's portrayal in *Chhaava* promises to be an intense and powerful per-

formance. The first-look poster showcases Khanna in full Mughal attire, exuding the authority and cruelty associated with the historical figure. Alongside Khanna's look, the first looks of Vicky Kaushal as Shambhaji Maharaj and Rashmika Mandanna as Esu Bai have also been released, further building anticipation for the film.

The trailer for *Chhaava* will be released tomorrow, giving fans an exciting preview of the movie's epic scale and historical significance. The music for the film is being composed by the legendary A.R. Rahman, adding another layer of anticipation for what promises to be a grand cinematic experience. With a powerful cast, a gripping historical narrative, and a renowned director at the helm, *Chhaava* is shaping up to be one of the most awaited films of the year.