



Weather Forecast

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



Revanth's Investment Triumph

- Amazon's Rs. 60,000 Crore Commitment
- Economic Boost from Davos
- Job Creation on the Horizon
- Singapore and Davos: A Winning Combination
- Telangana's Investment Milestone

TPN Correspondent Hyderabad, Jan 25
Chief Minister Revanth Reddy returned to Hyderabad after a successful foreign tour in Singapore and Davos, arriving at Shamshabad Airport via Dubai. Congress leaders and activists gave him a grand welcome, applauding the monumental investment deals secured during the trip. The Telangana delegation,

under the leadership of CM Revanth Reddy, signed agreements with 20 companies, securing investments amounting to Rs. 1,78,950 crore. This is a fourfold increase from the Rs. 40,232 crore investments from the previous visit, with an expectation of creating about 50,000 new jobs in the state.

A key highlight was the Rs.

60,000 crore agreement with Amazon for establishing data centers in Hyderabad. Additionally, a deal worth Rs. 3,950 crore was inked in Singapore.

The grand reception at the airport included Government Principal Advisor Vem Narendar Reddy, MLAs Malreddy Ranga Reddy, Danam Nagen-

der, and other leaders who praised CM Revanth Reddy for his successful outreach and investment attraction.

This tour not only amplifies Telangana's economic prospects but also cements its position as a preferred destination for global investors. The return of the delegation marks the beginning of a new era of economic growth for Telangana.

Water Rights Clash: Harish Rao

Water Woes: Telangana's Rights Under Scrutiny

Polavaram Project: A Legal and Ethical Debate

Rao's Outburst: Allegations of Political Favoritism

Inter-State Water Disputes Resurface

CM Revanth Reddy's Water Management Under Fire



TPN Correspondent Hyderabad, Jan 25

Former minister Harish Rao has launched a scathing attack on the Congress government for its handling of Telangana's water rights. Addressing the media on Friday, Rao underscored that water was a pivotal issue during the Telangana movement, expressing dismay at the government's silence on water distribution from the Godavari Basin.

Rao accused the government of planning to divert water to Rayalaseema via Banakachera without consulting Telangana, and criticized the con-

struction of the Polavaram project as being against the rules. He questioned the rationale behind transferring 200 TMC of water to Rayalaseema, hinting at political favoritism.

He also targeted Chief Minister Revanth Reddy, suggesting that the water diversion might be a political payoff to Chandrababu Naidu. Rao highlighted the controversial role of Adityanath Das, currently an advisor to CM Revanth Reddy, accusing him of past actions detrimental to Telangana's interests. Rao pointed out the

"Mystery illness" that caused panic in Jammu and Kashmir's Rajouri



Union Minister Jitendra Singh confirms toxic metal as the cause of 17 deaths.

Cadmium Poisoning Behind Rajouri Mystery Illness.

Neurotoxins led to irreversible brain damage in victims.

200 close contacts quarantined

Budhal declared a containment zone.

TPN Correspondent | Srinagar
A "mystery illness" that caused panic in Jammu and Kashmir's Rajouri district has been traced to cadmium poisoning, according to Union Minister Jitendra Singh. At least 17 people, including 14 children, lost their lives in Budhal village over the past month. Earlier investigations ruled out viral or bacterial causes.

Cadmium, a highly toxic metal, was detected in the victims' bodies during tests at the Indian Institute of Toxicology Research, Lucknow. It can enter the body through polluted air, contaminated food, or water. Authorities are investigating how the toxin reached the victims, with Minister Singh emphasizing that any foul play will be uncovered.

Alakananda Hospital Kidney Racket: Minister Orders CID Probe

CID Takes Over Kidney Case

Arrests Made in Hospital Scandal

Government's Strong Response

Ensuring Medical Integrity

TPN Correspondent Hyderabad, Jan 25
Medical and Health Minister Damodaran Rajanar-simha has taken stringent action against the kidney racket unveiled at Alakananda Hospital by ordering a CID investigation. The minister has underscored the government's serious stance on this issue, mandating a comprehensive probe.

Damodaran has directed that all individuals implicated in this scandal be arrested, ensuring they face legal repercussions. His directive is clear: to set a precedent that will deter similar illegal activities in the future.



The police have acted swiftly, arresting eight people, including the hospital chairman, Sumanth, and another key figure, Gopi, who have both been presented to a judge. Special teams are actively seeking out other suspects linked to the case.

The kidney scandal at Alakananda Hospital in Saroornagar has shocked the public, leading to this decisive governmental response. The scope of the CID's investigation will extend to all private hospitals to check for similar illegal practices, aiming to safeguard public health and uphold medical ethics in Telangana.



Medigadda's Missed Repairs

- Defects Ignored Since 2019
- Higher Flow, Damaged Blocks
- L&T's Call for Action
- Irrigation Department's Silence
- Quality vs. Bureaucracy

Rythu Bharosa Guidelines Released

- Rythu Bharosa: New Beginnings
- Investment Aid on Republic Day
- Application Process Simplified

TPN Correspondent Hyderabad, Jan 25
The Telangana government has released detailed guidelines for the Rythu Bharosa Scheme, designed to ensure that crop investment assistance is effectively distributed to farmers. Under the guidance of CM Revanth Reddy,





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Water Rights Clash: Harish Rao

misuse of Tungbhadra waters by Andhra Pradesh and Karnataka and accused the Andhra Pradesh government of attempting to divert Godavari waters to the Penna river.

apparent indifference to these actions, questioning their commitment to safeguarding Telangana's water rights. His remarks have reignited discussions on the equitable distribution of water resources among states.

Rao expressed frustration over the state government's

Medigadda's Missed Repairs

TPN Correspondent
Hyderabad, Jan 25

The inquiry into the Medigadda dam by Larsen & Toubro (L&T) representatives has concluded, pointing to negligence since 2019 as the root cause of the dam's current peril. L&T representatives have stated that if the defects identified after the first water storage season had been corrected, the disaster could have been avoided.

suitable remedial designs from the Irrigation Department went unanswered.

The L&T team highlighted that the dam was never empty until the sagging of the seventh block, which indicates continuous water storage without adequate maintenance or repair. They emphasized that the lack of response from the Irrigation Department over four years directly contributed to the current state of the dam.

The investigation was conducted by the Justice PC Ghosh Commission, which is looking into issues with the Kaleshwaram dams. L&T's team, including former Project Director Ramakrishna Rao, current Hydel Division Vice President Suresh, and DGM Rajneesh, provided insights based on earlier affidavits. They were rigorously questioned on various aspects like the dam's design, construction phases, and the reasons behind the dam's sagging.

Moreover, L&T representatives clarified that no subcontracts were involved in the dam's construction, ensuring quality was not compromised despite the project's short timeline. They also mentioned that no additional payments or certifications for the coffer dam were made by the Irrigation Department, even though requested.

Justice PC Ghosh noted that Amar Pal Singh, an L&T coordinator with the Irrigation Department during the project's early stages, had left the company and had brought certain discrepancies to the commission's attention. This inquiry sheds light on the critical need for timely maintenance and the significant impact of bureaucratic inertia in infrastructure projects.

According to L&T, the Medigadda dam was built according to the designs and drawings supplied by the Irrigation Department. Problems emerged in 2019 when the flow velocity exceeded design estimates, damaging the apron and CC blocks beneath the dam. Despite identifying these issues early on, the representatives noted that their requests for

Rythu Bharosa Guidelines Released

the scheme will commence on Republic Day, January 26, providing Rs. 6,000 per acre for cultivable lands directly into farmers' bank accounts.

per acre need to apply with documents like the Pattadar passbook or digital signature, Aadhaar card, and bank account details by January 1, 2025. Those who have updated their bank details must submit a new application form.

The Finance Department has estimated a financial commitment of Rs. 8,900 crore for this initiative. According to the Agriculture Department, crops were grown on approximately 1.49 crore acres during the last rainy season, with more than 3 lakh acres identified as uncultivable and their survey numbers blocked from this scheme.

The government has collected landowner data from the Bhu Bharati (Dharani) portal to streamline the process. Farmers who previously received aid under the Rythu Bandhu scheme do not need to reapply, ensuring a smooth transition to the new Rythu Bharosa Scheme. This initiative aims to rectify past inefficiencies in fund distribution to bolster the agricultural sector.

Farmers looking to benefit from the Yasangi 2024-25 season's assistance of Rs. 12,000

"Mystery illness" that caused panic in Jammu and Kashmir's Rajouri

The victims suffered from neurotoxins that caused severe brain swelling or edema, confirmed Dr. AS Bhatia, principal of GMC Rajouri. Despite extensive testing at premier labs, including the NCDC and NIV Pune, no other infections were identified. The district administration, under DC Abhishek Sharma's supervision, relocated affected families to safer locations.

GMC Rajouri has bolstered its medical team, adding child and anesthesia specialists to manage emergencies. Chief Minister Omar Abdullah visited Rajouri earlier this week, assuring residents of state and central efforts to address the crisis. An inter-ministerial team is further investigating the unexplained deaths.

Minister Uttam Accuses KCR, Harish of Betrayal

- Minister Uttam calls out BRS for mismanagement in irrigation.
- Uttam demands action against illegal water projects under BRS rule.



TPN Correspondent
Telangana, Jan 25

Minister Uttam Kumar Reddy has strongly criticized the BRS government, accusing former Minister Harish Rao and Former Chief Minister K. Chandrashekar Rao (KCR) of spreading false propaganda about the state's irrigation projects. He claimed that they misled the public with their exaggerated claims of progress and achievement in the irrigation sector.

ernment. He said the project collapsed, reflecting the incompetence and lack of understanding of the administration. According to Reddy, Harish Rao's claims about the project were nothing more than a façade, and the real impact on Telangana's irrigation system was one of unrelenting injustice.

claim that 200 TMC of water would be transferred to Andhra Pradesh. Reddy clarified that no water had been transferred so far, and his government was vigilant on the matter. He mentioned that he had written letters to both the Union Ministers and the KRMB and GRMB, warning them that the construction of the Banakacharla project was illegal.

Furthermore, Reddy emphasized his personal involvement in arguing against the water desalination plants under Section 3, stating that he had directly written to Union Minister Nirmala Sitharaman, urging her not to allocate funds for projects that violated regulations.

Reddy concluded by accusing KCR and Harish Rao of betraying the people of Telangana, accusing them of deceit and manipulation in handling the state's crucial irrigation resources.

Reddy alleged that the Kaleshwaram project, which cost around one lakh crore rupees, was a failure under the BRS gov-

The Minister also addressed the issue of the Banakacharla project, which he said was being used by BRS leaders to falsely

Komatireddy: Infrastructure Key to Telangana's Future



TPN Correspondent
Telangana, Jan 25

Minister Komatireddy Venkat Reddy addressed architects, builders, and engineers at the ACE-TECH program, emphasizing the importance of modern infrastructure in driving economic and social growth. He acknowledged that great civilizations in history were built by those with exceptional construction skills, and in the 21st century, infrastructure remains key to a nation's development.

infrastructure projects, including the development of a future city, the expansion of the Young India Skill University, and the growth of the Metro. He stressed that advanced technology and the latest construction skills are essential for the success of these projects.

Reddy also touched on the government's commitment to skill development, mentioning efforts to modernize 65 ITIs in partnership with Tata Consultancy and providing training to youth across the state. He praised the ACE-TECH exhibition as a vital platform to showcase construction technology and equipment, urging the industry to embrace new technologies for a sustainable future.

Reddy highlighted that Hyderabad is rapidly becoming one of the world's top investment destinations, with an unprecedented Rs. 1.64 lakh crore in investments already received at the World Economic Forum in Davos. He stressed that continued support from architects, engineers, and construction experts is crucial to turning these investments into reality.

In closing, Reddy expressed his gratitude to the Economic Times management for organizing the event, hoping it would pave the way for further growth in Telangana's construction sector.

The Minister further spoke about Telangana's ambitious

Kishan Reddy Praises New Education Policy

TPN Correspondent
Telangana, Jan 25

Union Minister G. Kishan Reddy expressed strong support for the Central Government's new education policy, calling it a crucial step for the country's future. Speaking at events in Amberpet constituency, where he distributed notebooks at Tulasiram Nagar Government School and furniture at the

students. The Minister also highlighted ongoing improvements in government schools in the Secunderabad constituency. These include the establishment of



Police Boys' High School CPL, Reddy emphasized that the policy, introduced after 33 years, would greatly benefit students and the nation as a whole.

computer labs, Atal Tinkering Labs, the distribution of notebooks, and the installation of toilet cleaning machines to promote cleanliness.

Reddy explained that the new education policy is already being partially implemented in some states, and when fully rolled out, it will bring significant advantages, particularly in teaching professional courses at the primary level. He added that the policy focuses on comprehensive development by teaching practical skills to

Reddy also addressed local infrastructure issues, urging the state government and GHMC to complete land acquisition for the Amberpet flyover and road expansion. He raised concerns over illegal houses of worship obstructing road expansion and called for swift action from the state government to resolve the issue.

KTR Urges Congress to Revive IT Hubs in Telangana

TPN Correspondent
Telangana, Jan 25

BRS Working President and former IT Minister K.T. Rama Rao (KTR) has sharply criticized the Congress government for neglecting the IT hubs established in second-tier cities of Telangana. He claimed that the previous BRS government had prioritized the establishment of IT companies to ensure a bright future for engineering students in the state. The government expanded IT opportunities beyond Hyderabad to other cities, creating job and employment prospects for thousands of students.



frustration over the deteriorating state of these IT hubs. He highlighted that the BRS government had set up around eight IT hubs with the aim of decentralizing IT development and spreading employment opportunities throughout the state.

However, KTR accused the Congress-led government of failing to maintain these IT hubs, which he said were suffering from a lack of basic infrastructure. He pointed to the IT hub in Siddipet, where internet services were halted due to non-payment of bills, as a prime example of this neglect.

KTR urged the Congress government to focus on properly running these hubs, which were established with the intention of providing jobs for the youth of Telangana. He called for a halt to what he described as "misdeeds" aimed at undermining the previous government's efforts, warning that companies were now closing down due to the lack of basic services.

"God knows what new companies are doing... make sure that the existing companies don't disappear!" KTR remarked, expressing

Energy Officials to Review Summer Power Supply



TPN Correspondent
Telangana, Jan 25

Deputy Chief Minister Bhatti Vikramarka Mallu has directed energy department officials, from CMDs to Superintending Engineers (SEs), to conduct field visits across the state to ensure a continuous and quality power supply this summer. In a review meeting held at Praja Bhavan on Friday, Bhatti emphasized the importance of taking proactive measures to avoid power shortages during peak summer months.

officials to discuss the measures being taken to prevent power shortages and accept grievances and complaints from consumers, especially farmers, who were affected during last summer.

The Deputy CM instructed officials from Transco, NPDCL, and SPDCI to begin implementing the action plan for summer power supply. Awareness and review meetings should be conducted to inform farmers, consumers, and media about the summer power supply plan. Bhatti urged

The meetings are set to take place at the field level from January 27 to February 4, with district and sub-division level meetings scheduled for January 29. A review meeting at the division level will be held on February 4 to address issues such as overloaded feeders and long-standing problems with DTRs at sub-stations.

Principal Secretary of Energy Sundeep Kumar Sultania, Transco CMD Krishna Bhasakar, SPDCI CMD Musharaff Ali, NPDCL CMD Varun Reddy, and other officials attended the review meeting.

Raja Singh's Sensational Allegations Against Congress Government

TPN Correspondent | Hyderabad, Jan 25
Goshamahal BJP MLA Raja Singh has made sensational allegations against the Congress government in Telangana, accusing it of fostering corruption. He claimed that bribery has increased significantly since the Congress took power, and expressed outrage over police officers being caught accepting bribes by the Anti-Corruption Bureau (ACB).



Raja Singh demanded that CCTV cameras be installed in the chambers of police officers to ensure transparency and accountability. He further insisted that any officer caught taking bribes should be immediately dismissed from service.

Criticizing Chief Minister Revanth Reddy, Raja Singh stated that despite multiple incidents of corruption being exposed, neither the government nor the CM has taken serious action. He accused the Congress of failing to fulfill its promise of providing corruption-free governance.

The BJP leader's remarks come amid growing political tensions in the state, with opposition leaders increasingly targeting the ruling party over governance issues.

MLA Nayini Controversial Remarks Spark Outrage

TPN Correspondent | Warangal, Jan 25

Warangal West MLA Nayini Rajender Reddy has stirred controversy with his remarks warning that those who argue in gram sabhas over not receiving a house or ration card could be tied to a tree and beaten. He accused some BRS members of inciting people, misleading them, and creating chaos, thereby obstructing the selection of beneficiaries for welfare schemes.

Reddy argued that political interference in gram sabhas is depriving the genuinely needy of their rightful benefits. He asserted that he would not tolerate delays in providing welfare to the poor due to politically motivated disruptions.

Defending his government's commitment, he stated that election promises would be fulfilled systematically. He also criticized opposition efforts to create unrest, saying that when the government introduced the free bus travel scheme for women, they provoked auto drivers. Now, as the government prepares to distribute ration cards, implement the Indiramma Indlu housing scheme, Rythu Bharosa, and the Indiramma Atmiya scheme from Jan-



uary 26, he claimed they are once again attempting to disrupt gram sabhas.

His statements have drawn criticism, with many condemning his choice of words and questioning the government's approach to handling dissent in public meetings.

Release a White Paper on Investments: BRS Leader Krishank



TPN Correspondent | Hyderabad, Jan 25

BRS leader Manne Krishank has demanded that the Revanth Reddy-led Congress government release a white paper detailing the investments it has secured since coming to power. He questioned how many companies have signed MoUs, how many are operational, and what progress has been made on the ground.

Krishank pointed out that during Chief Minister Revanth Reddy's first visit to Davos, he claimed to have

secured investments worth ₹40,000 crore. During his second Davos visit, the government announced investments exceeding ₹1.70 lakh crore.

In this context, Krishank urged the government to clarify how many of these investments were genuinely new and how many were from projects initiated under the previous BRS regime. He asserted that releasing a white paper would provide transparency and help people understand the real impact of these investment claims.

Minister Seethakka Warns Officials Against Arbitrary Decisions



TPN Correspondent | Hyderabad, Jan 25

State Panchayat Raj and Rural Development Minister Seethakka has warned government employees against making arbitrary decisions in the implementation of public welfare and development schemes, cautioning that such actions could tarnish the government's reputation. She emphasized that strict action would be taken against those responsible for any misconduct.

On Friday, the minister virtually attended an online grievance meeting with employees of the Panchayat Raj and Rural Development Department. During her visit to Mulugu, she also listened to employees' concerns regarding service-related issues.

Seethakka highlighted that an innovative approach is being adopted to address employee grievances efficiently. She assured that problems would be resolved without requiring employees to personally visit the Secretariat. Decisions at the departmental level will be taken immediately, while issues requiring higher-level intervention will be addressed at the cabinet level.

The minister's remarks underscore the government's commitment to both employee welfare and the effective implementation of public schemes.

BJP MLA Exposes Alleged Corruption

TPN Correspondent | Hyderabad, Jan 25

BJP Armur MLA Paidi Rakesh Reddy has accused Mega Krishna Reddy's Mega Engineering Company of bribing ruling parties to secure government contracts. He claimed that Krishna Reddy is one of the most corrupt businessmen and demanded that the Telangana government blacklist Mega Engineering for alleged large-scale corruption. He warned that if the state fails to act, central investigation agencies will intervene at the appropriate time.

In an interview with a news channel, Rakesh Reddy questioned why an MoU worth ₹15,000 crore was signed with Mega Engineering at Davos instead of in Hyderabad. He alleged that fraudulent agreements were being made under the Congress government and promised to expose the truth behind these deals. He recalled that CM Revanth Reddy, when in opposi-



tion, had criticized Mega Engineering for corruption and called for its blacklisting, yet after coming to power, his government awarded four contracts to the same company.

Citing the CAG report, Rakesh Reddy alleged corruption in the Kaleshwaram Project involving Mega Engineering. He further claimed that during the BRS regime, commissions were at 8%, whereas under the Congress government, they have increased

to 14%. He also alleged that the MoU signed with Mega Engineering in Switzerland was part of a larger corruption scheme aimed at diverting funds to Delhi.

Rakesh Reddy accused former BRS MLA Jeevan Reddy and Congress leader Vinay Reddy of orchestrating a poster campaign against him, alleging that they lacked the courage to confront him politically. He declared that if the government fails to provide houses to the poor in Armur, he will construct houses using his own funds. He also demanded that Indiramma Committees, which he claimed are misusing welfare schemes for political gains, be abolished.

Finally, he insisted that if the government does not allocate houses to Armur, the taxes paid by its residents should be refunded, even suggesting that he would govern the constituency separately if necessary.

Jagadish Reddy Accuses Congress of Betraying Farmers

TPN Correspondent | Nalgonda, Jan 25

Former Minister and BRS leader Jagadish Reddy has accused the Congress government of trying to suppress opposition from farmers and the public. He claimed that despite the government's efforts, people are rising in protest, demanding the fulfillment of election promises. Speaking to the media at the BRS office in Nalgonda, Reddy asserted that it is their responsibility to lead these agitations. He alleged that Congress and BJP are working together to exploit the people, while KCR and BRS continue to stand for Telangana's interests. He announced that farmers, frustrated with power cuts, fertilizer shortages, and the delayed loan waiver, are preparing to stage a dharna at the Clock Tower on the 28th of this

month. He emphasized that despite government resistance, the court has permitted the protest. Reddy also accused the Nalgonda district minister of corruption, alleging that farmers were defrauded of ₹1,000 crore and that commissions were being taken from millers. He urged farmers to rise against the frauds being committed in the district. Challenging Agriculture Minister Tummala Nag-eswara Rao, Reddy questioned how much grain had been purchased and how much bonus had been paid to farmers. He criticized the government for its inefficiency and claimed that BRS was responsible for bringing Krishna water to the region and turning Nalgonda into a major agricultural hub. He further accused Congress leaders of selling application forms for welfare schemes, calling it a disgrace.

Minister Urges Centre to Sanction 20 Lakh Houses

TPN Correspondent | Hyderabad, Jan 25

Revenue, Housing, and Information Minister Ponguleti Srinivasa Reddy has appealed to the Central Government to sanction 20 lakh houses for Telangana, citing the unmet housing needs of the poor over the past decade. He emphasized that the demand for housing has significantly increased, and immediate action is necessary to address the issue. Union Urban Development Minister Manohar Lal Khattar was welcomed by Minister Ponguleti at Rajiv Gandhi International Airport during his one-day visit to Telangana. The two ministers later traveled to Karimnagar together.

Following his return to Hyderabad, Minister Ponguleti highlighted key housing-related concerns in a meeting. He stated that the Housing Department has been revitalized, with essential infrastructure put in place

to facilitate construction. Stressing Telangana's eligibility for central assistance, he urged the government to approve at least 20 lakh houses under the **Pradhan Mantri Awas Yojana - Urban (PMAY-U)** scheme. His appeal underscores the state's commitment to addressing housing shortages and improving living conditions for the economically weaker sections.





TPCC Chief Slams BRS, Promises Jobs from Davos Investments



TPN Correspondent | Hyderabad, Jan 25
TPCC President Mahesh Kumar Goud has criticized the BRS government for its lack of development and investment in Telangana over the past decade. Speaking at a media conference at Gandhi Bhavan, Goud accused the BRS of failing to bring significant investments to the state and called on the ruling party to introspect on its past performance. He claimed that through investments from Davos, Telangana could see the creation of 50,000 to 75,000 jobs, highlighting the growing interest in the state's business opportunities.

Goud emphasized that the Telangana pavilion at the World Economic Forum had attracted many companies eager to invest in the state, countering BRS's claims. He criticized the BRS for making unrealistic promises and deceiving the people, and pointed out the burden of paying six and a half thousand crore rupees in interest every month due to the previous government's mismanagement. He urged the opposition to appreciate positive developments instead of focusing on criticism.

Additionally, Goud addressed the internal issue within the Congress party, particularly regarding the conflict between MLA Gudem Mahipal Reddy and Kata Srinivas in the Patan Cheru constituency. Goud stated that the party had formed a committee to investigate the matter, including the attack on the camp office and Mahipal Reddy's comments about CM Revanth Reddy's photo. He assured that the committee's report would guide further action, acknowledging the party's efforts to resolve issues between its old and new leaders.

Dr. Narender Kumar Appointed Telangana Director of Medical Education

TPN Correspondent | Hyderabad, Jan 25

Hyderabad: The Telangana Health Department has appointed Dr. A. Narender Kumar as the new Director of Medical Education (DME) on January 23. This appointment comes as the state has not had a permanent DME since its formation.



Dr. Kumar, who is currently serving as the superintendent of the Government General Hospital in Wanaparthy, will replace Dr. N. Vani as DME. The appointment was made under Government Order number 27 and is temporary in nature.

The order, signed by Telangana Health Secretary Dr. Christina Z. Chongthu, has been distributed to the DME in charge, principals of all medical colleges, and superintendents of government hospitals across the state. Dr. Kumar's appointment is expected to bring new leadership to the state's medical education sector.

Center Orders Disposal of 3558 kg of Seized Narcotic Drugs

TPN Correspondent | Hyderabad, Jan 25
The Union Home Ministry has directed the disposal of 3558 kg of narcotic drugs seized in 303 cases across Telangana between January 10 and 25.

The Central Government issued a notification on December 23, 2024, to carry out the disposal of these drugs under the Narcotic Drugs and Psychotropic Substances (NDPS) Act.

In compliance with the orders, the Director of Enforcement, Prohibition, and Excise, V.B. Kamalasan Reddy, instructed the Deputy Commissioners of the

Excise Department to ensure the disposal of the seized substances. As per the Director's orders, 3558 kg of ganja and other drugs were incinerated in ten divisions under the Excise Department.

The burnt narcotics, valued at approximately Rs. 14.60 crores, were destroyed only in incineration companies approved by the Telangana Pollution Control Board to ensure environmental safety. Additionally, another 10,596 kg of seized narcotics is scheduled for disposal this month. Excise officials are taking necessary steps to complete the process by the end of January.



Breakthrough in Meerpet Murder Case: Police Uncover Key Evidence

TPN Correspondent | Hyderabad, Jan 25

In a significant development in the Meerpet murder case, Hyderabad police have discovered two crucial pieces of evidence that are propelling the investigation forward. The evidence, a tissue and blood stains, were found on a gas stove at the home of Gurumurthy, the accused. These items have been sent to a forensic lab for analysis.

According to the police, after Madhavi's death, Gurumurthy allegedly dismembered the body in the bathroom. He then reportedly used a commercial gas stove to roast the pieces, grinding the well-burnt bones into powder. This gruesome process concluded with him disposing of the bone powder in a pond. This chilling method of body disposal sheds new light on the case, which has captured widespread attention. The forensic results are eagerly awaited as they could confirm the sequence of events and potentially lead to further legal actions against Gurumurthy. The investigation continues as the community remains on edge awaiting justice.



HC Orders State to Respond to PILs on BRS Land Allotments



TPN Correspondent Hyderabad, Jan 25
The Telangana High Court has directed the state government to submit its response within four weeks regarding three Public Interest Litigations (PILs) challenging land allotments to the Bharat Rashtra Samithi (BRS). The division bench, led by Acting Chief Justice Sujoy Paul and Justice G. Radha Rani, issued this order after Additional Advocate

General Mohammed Imran Khan requested additional time.

One of the PILs contests the allotment of prime land on Road No. 12 in Banjara Hills, where the BRS has established its headquarters, Telangana Bhavan. The other two PILs challenge land allocations to the party in Kokapet and various district headquarters.

The petitioners argue that these land allotments are illegal, arbitrary, and discriminatory, violating previous Supreme Court and High Court rulings. They have requested the court to direct the government to reclaim the land and any buildings constructed by the BRS. The next hearing is scheduled for March 6, 2025.

Unemployed Protest for Power Dept Vacancies



TPN Correspondent | Hyderabad, Jan 25

Unemployed individuals staged a protest in front of Gandhi Bhavan in Nampally on Friday, demanding the immediate release of notifications to fill vacancies in the power department. Holding placards, the protesters voiced their concerns over the long delay in filling vacant positions.

The protesters questioned the promise made in October 2024 regarding the issuance of a notification for power department vacancies. They highlighted that no notifications have been released since 2018, despite the fact that more than 5,000 posts re-

main unfilled in the department. The unemployed individuals are seeking immediate action to fill positions such as Assistant Engineer (AE), Superintendent Engineer (SE), and Junior Engineer (JIM) in various power companies.

The protesters later attempted to meet TPCC Chief Mahesh Kumar Goud at Gandhi Bhavan to raise their concerns. They demanded that the government take swift action to address the issue and provide employment opportunities for the thousands of unemployed individuals waiting for job notifications in the power sector.

Gas Cylinder Explosion Causes Major Fire in Nizampet

TPN Correspondent | Hyderabad, Jan 25

A major fire broke out near a fitness studio in Nizampet, Bachupalli PS area, on Friday after a gas cylinder exploded in a tiffin center. The explosion caused the fire to spread quickly to three nearby shops, sending locals into a panic.



Witnesses immediately alerted the fire brigade, who quickly arrived at the scene and managed to bring the fire under control. Thanks to their swift response, a major disaster was narrowly avoided.

No casualties were reported, but the incident caused significant damage to the affected shops. The cause of the explosion is under investigation, and authorities are looking into the safety measures in place at the tiffin center and nearby establishments. The fire serves as a reminder of the dangers posed by gas cylinders and the importance of ensuring proper safety precautions.

Shocking Murder Under Medchal Bridge Echoes Disha Case

TPN Correspondent | Hyderabad, Jan 25

A married woman was brutally murdered under the Munirabad Outer Ring Road Bypass bridge in Medchal in a chilling echo of the Disha case. The victim was savagely beaten with stones, and petrol was poured over her head by unknown assailants. They then set her on fire under the culvert of the Medchal ORR bridge.

The post-mortem report is crucial to ascertain if the woman was also subjected to rape before her murder. The Medchal police, having formed four investigative teams, are actively collecting evidence at the scene. The body has been moved to Gandhi Hospital's morgue for a thorough examination. The victim's face was completely burnt, making her unrecognizable, but she was identified by tattoos on her hand reading 'Srikanth' in Telugu and 'Narender' in English.



Four Children Injured as Slabs Collapse at Anganwadi School in Venkatapur

TPN Correspondent Hyderabad, Jan 25

Four children were injured when slabs fell on the Anganwadi school building in Venkatapur village, Narayankhed mandal, Sangareddy district, on Friday. The building, which has been in disrepair for some time, continues to be used for educational purposes, despite multiple requests for repairs.

According to reports, the authorities ignored repeated pleas for maintenance, leading to the unfortunate incident. The collapsing slabs caused serious injuries to four children who were inside the classroom at the time. The injured children—identified as Abhilas, Monika, Harika, and Ankita—were promptly taken to Narayankhed Government Hospital for treatment.

The incident has raised concerns about the safety of government school buildings, especially in rural areas. Police have launched an investigation into the incident, and local officials are under pressure to take immediate action to prevent such incidents in the future. The lack of proper maintenance of school infrastructure remains a major issue in many parts of the state, putting children's lives at risk.



MLA Kaushik Reddy Attacked with Tomatoes and Eggs

TPN Correspondent | Kamalapur, Jan 25

Tension erupted in Kamalapur village today during a village meeting attended by MLA Kaushik Reddy. While addressing the gathering about Congress government schemes, Reddy was interrupted by angry Congress leaders and activists, who raised slogans against him.

In response, Reddy lashed out at the protesters, making provocative statements that escalated tensions. His remarks led to a verbal clash between BRS and Congress leaders. The situation intensified when some activists threw tomatoes and eggs at Reddy.

Reddy, alert to the situation, was quickly escorted off the stage by his security personnel. Police at the scene intervened and managed to disperse the agitators from both parties. The incident has sparked further political unrest in the region.

Khattar Pledges Extra Housing for Telangana

TPN Correspondent | Karimnagar Dist, Jan 25

Union Minister for Urban Development, Power, and Housing, Manohar Lal Khattar, assured the people of Telangana that the state will receive more housing grants than its allocated share under the Pradhan Mantri Awas Yojana. Speaking at a public meeting in Karimnagar, Khattar emphasized the government's commitment to building one crore houses across the country this year, with more than 3.5 crore houses already built under the scheme. He highlighted that 12 crore houses had been granted water connections through the Jal Jeevan Mission, with 38 lakh houses in Telangana benefiting from clean water access.



Khattar also announced significant funding for Telangana's urban infrastructure, including Rs. 1,116 crore for Warangal and Karimnagar under the Smart City Mission. The state has received Rs. 826 crore, with ongoing projects worth Rs. 2,733 crore. Additionally, Rs. 10 lakh crore has been spent on Telangana's development over the last decade, including funds for roads, railways, and regional infrastructure.

Khattar strongly condemned misinformation regarding the central government's support for Telangana and urged the state to utilize the funds allocated for welfare schemes. He also reaffirmed that welfare programs like free rice and gas connections would continue to benefit millions in the state.

BRS Farmer Suicide Study Committee Visits Family of Deceased Farmer

TPN Correspondent | Adilabad, Jan 25

On Friday, the BRS Farmer Suicide Study Committee visited the family of Aude Gajanand, a farmer from Neradigonda Thanda village in Gudihatnoor mandal, Adilabad district, who tragically took his own life due to mounting debt. The committee was led by Chairman and former Minister Niranjan Reddy, accompanied by former Ministers Puvvada Ajay, Satyavathi Rathod, Jogu Ramanna, MLCs MC Koti Reddy and Yadav Reddy, and former MLAs Bajireddy Govardhan, Rasamai Balakishan, and Anjaiah Yadav. They expressed their condolences and inquired about the hardships faced by the victim's family.



The committee members reiterated that BRS Chief KCR had formed the study committees to investigate the increasing farmer suicides in the state, particularly under the Congress government's rule. They assured the family that the BRS party would continue to stand by farmers in their times of need.

In a gesture of support, MLA Anil Jadhav extended Rs. 1 lakh in financial assistance to the family from his own funds. He criticized the Congress for deceiving the people and farmers, expressing hope that better days

Minister Uttam's Convoy Involved in Accident



TPN Correspondent | Suryapet, Jan 25

Minister Uttam Kumar Reddy's convoy was involved in an accident in Suryapet district while en route to the Janpahad Urs celebra-

tions from Huzurnagar. Eight cars in the convoy collided, causing partial damage to the front parts and bonnets of the vehicles. Fortunately, no one was injured in the inci-

dent, and everyone breathed a sigh of relief.

The accident occurred when a large crowd of villagers from Garidepalli gathered to see the minister. As the convoy passed, the escort vehicle crossed the crowd, causing the vehicle behind it to brake suddenly. This led to a chain reaction where one car hit another, resulting in damage to eight vehicles.

A traffic jam ensued following the accident, but police arrived promptly to clear the road. The damaged vehicles were moved aside, and the minister continued his journey. Congress leaders clarified that the villagers had gathered peacefully, denying any claims of disruption by the minister's convoy.

The accident occurred amid the ongoing Urs Gusul Sharif celebrations at Janpahad Saidulu Dargah, where thousands of devotees had gathered for the festivities.

Bandi Sanjay Emphasizes Development Beyond Politics in Karimnagar

TPN Correspondent | Karimnagar Dist, Jan 25

Union Minister Bandi Sanjay Kumar, a native of Karimnagar, emphasized that the development of the region must transcend political boundaries. Speaking at a public meeting during the launch of several development projects, including a continuous drinking water scheme for 4,000 homes in Karimnagar, Sanjay stressed the importance of collaborative efforts for the city's growth.

Sanjay, along with Union Urban Development Minister Manohar Lal Khattar and other political leaders, urged that politics should be set aside for the common good. He highlighted that



the 24-hour water supply project is a significant achievement for the city and expressed pride in the contribution of Union Minister Khattar, who rose from poverty to become the Chief Minister of Haryana and a Union Minister. Sanjay also discussed various

other projects, including a Navodaya School in Sircilla, an ESI hospital in Karimnagar, and the inclusion of local temples in the Ramayana circuit. He noted that the central government, led by Prime Minister Modi, has invested Rs 12 lakh crores in Telangana over the last decade, with signif-

icant contributions to road infrastructure and national highways.

The event also saw participation from Karimnagar Municipal Corporation Mayor Sunil Rao, former Mayor Ravindra Singh, and other local officials.

Show Cause Notices Issued to Youth Congress Leaders

TPN Correspondent | Hyderabad, Jan 25

The state leadership of Youth Congress has taken serious action following a recent clash at Gandhi Bhavan in Hyderabad. Show cause notices have been issued to several leaders involved in the altercation, demanding an explanation for their actions.

The clash erupted when Youth Congress leaders from Kotthagudem alleged that members who joined the Congress from BRS were being given preferential treatment, with high respect and nominated posts. This led to heated arguments and physical violence, resulting in several injuries among the leaders.

The high command expressed anger over the incident and has sought explanations from key figures involved, including Gaddam Rajasekhar, Baragadi Sanni, Sudheer Kumar, Yadagiri Pradeep, and Ravi Teja. The disciplinary action underscores the party's zero-tolerance approach to internal violence and misconduct.



Sisters Reunited After Five Years: Emotional Moment at Dubbak Council Meeting

TPN Correspondent | Dubbak, Jan 25

A heartwarming and emotional reunion unfolded at the Dubbak Municipal Council meeting as two estranged sisters, Mallareddy and Devalakshmi, reunited after five years. Both sisters, from Gonapalli, had previously been active in local politics, contesting the municipal elections five years ago. Devalakshmi ran as a BRS candidate in the third ward, while Mallareddy contested independently from the second ward. Both women won their respective council seats, but political differences caused a rift between them, and they stopped communicating despite living in the same village.



Though the political divide caused a separation, their bond of love and affection as sisters remained strong over the years. At the recent council meeting, the sisters put aside their differences, embraced each other, and shared an emotional moment, shedding tears of reconciliation. The touching video of their reunion has gone viral on social media, bringing a wave of emotion among viewers.

Sarvai Papanna's Legacy to Boost Tourism in Karimnagar

TPN Correspondent | Karimnagar Dist, Jan 25

State Transport and BC Welfare Minister Ponnamp Prabhakar Goud unveiled plans to promote tourism and infrastructure development in Karimnagar. Speaking at the foundation stone ceremony for the development of Sarvai Kota in Sarvaiyet village, the minister emphasized the importance of telling the history of Sardar Sarvai Papanna to the nation. The tourism project, valued at Rs. 4.7 crore, aims to transform the area into a prominent tourism circle.

Minister Prabhakar shared that the development would include the enhancement of the Sarvai Papanna Nela, the Hanuman Temple, Mohammedapur Gutta, and Mahasahanam Gandini, making the region a historical and cultural hub. Once completed, the project will be inaugurated by the Chief Minister, followed by further developments with additional funding.

Additionally, Prabhakar inaugurated the Primary Agricultural Cooperative Society building in Vennampally, highlighting the government's commitment to the welfare of farmers, including the waiver of loans and irrigation projects for various mandals.

The minister also announced Rs. 60 lakh in funding for a model school in Saidapur, with provisions for flood-resilient infrastructure and improved amenities for students. District Collector Pamela Satpathi and other local officials attended the events, marking a significant step toward regional growth and development.



Tamizhaga Vetri Kazhagam: Vijay's Political Gambit and Emerging Alliances

Actor Vijay's TVK explores partnerships amid Tamil Nadu's polarized political landscape



TVK is positioning itself as an anti-Dravida Munnetra Kazhagam (DMK) entity open to alliances with major opposition players like the All India Anna Dravida Munnetra Kazhagam (AIADMK). Vijay's move follows the lessons learned by Tamil cinema colleagues Kamal Haasan and the late Vijayakanth, who struggled to make electoral impacts without aligning with dominant Dravidian parties.

Vijayakanth's Desiya Murpokku Dravida Kazhagam (DMDK) gained 8% vote share in the 2006 assembly elections but won only one seat. However, his 2011 alliance with the AIADMK secured 28 seats. Similarly, Kamal Haasan's Makkal Needhi Maiam (MNM) saw limited success in the 2019 and 2021 elections, eventually aligning with the DMK. Vijay's acknowledgment of coalition power-sharing underscores the necessity

anti-DMK vote.

Vijay's TVK aligns on key issues with AIADMK and BJP to challenge DMK. Anti-DMK bloc faces hurdles over leadership roles and seat-sharing. BJP remains a minor player in Tamil Nadu's Dravidian-dominated politics.

Recent events suggest tacit coordination between TVK, AIADMK, and BJP. The Anna University sexual assault protests saw Vijay meet Tamil Nadu's Governor, aligning with AIADMK and BJP efforts to highlight law-and-order issues against the DMK. All three parties also boycotted the Erode East by-election, citing concerns over electoral manipulation.

Despite shared goals, obstacles remain. Leadership dynamics will play a significant role in shaping a

principal opposition, may resist conceding too many seats to TVK. Vijay, leveraging his star power, will likely demand substantial representation. Additionally, incorporating the BJP into this coalition presents a challenge, given Tamil Nadu's strong Dravidian identity and resistance to the BJP's ideology. For the AIADMK, reeling from losses in three consecutive elections, an alliance with TVK offers a chance to revitalize its voter base and challenge the DMK's formidable coalition. Vijay, too, risks fragmenting the anti-DMK vote if he contests alone, making collaboration a strategic necessity. While hurdles persist, the groundwork for a cohesive anti-DMK front is being laid. If successful, such an alliance could alter Tamil Nadu's political trajectory, demonstrating the enduring need for strategic partnerships in a polarized electoral landscape.

Repatriation of Illegal Immigrants: A Challenge for India Amid U.S. Policy Shift



The repatriation of illegal immigrants and trade tariffs are emerging as two key challenges for India, especially in the wake of United States President Donald Trump's recent policies. One of the most immediate threats to India is the potential deportation of thousands of undocumented Indian nationals living in the U.S.

Under the new administration, nearly 18,000 illegal immigrants from India could be repatriated, as part of Trump's commitment to protect the American public from the negative effects of unlawful migration. With approximately 725,000 undocumented Indian immigrants in the U.S., Indians represent the ninth-largest group of illegal immigrants, making up around 6.6% of the total, according to 2022 statistics.

While it may not be feasible to deport all of these individuals to India in a short period, the symbolic action of sending back a significant number could occur as Trump seeks to fulfill his promise. However, he may eventually recognize that the U.S. economy relies on both low-skilled and high-skilled migrant workers, which could make a large-scale repatriation more challenging.

In the past, undocumented Indian immigrants have already faced deportation from the U.S. In the 2024 fiscal year, over 1,500 Indian nationals were deported, and the U.S. has been repatriating Indian immigrants for several years. For example, in October 2023, the U.S. Department of Homeland Security collaborated with the U.S. Immigration and Customs Enforcement to send back Indian nationals who were unable to legally stay in the U.S.

India has been working on agreements to manage the mobility of its labor force through Labour Mobility Agreements with countries like Qatar, Kuwait, and Saudi Arabia. Additionally, India has Migration and Mobility Partnership Agreements with nations like France, the UK, Germany, and Italy to streamline migration processes and address issues related to deportation and legal stay. These agreements may help India manage the potential impact of a large-scale repatriation from the U.S.

AI videos from China are coming for the world



Chinese artificial intelligence (AI) companies are relentlessly pushing forward in an effort to close the development gap with the United States. Despite Washington's ongoing efforts to restrict the growth of China's AI industry, Chinese firms are proving their ability to remain competitive with Silicon Valley's best.

One example of this innovation is Vidu 2.0, an AI video generator released last week by Shengshu Technology, a Beijing-based startup with strong ties to Tsinghua University, a key institution in China's AI development. Vidu 2.0, which has been touted as a domestic rival to OpenAI's Sora, allows users from around the world to generate short videos from images.

While I experienced some inconsistencies during my tests, such as strange facial expressions, unnatural limb movements, and other clear signs of AI involvement, I was most impressed by the platform's speed. Within seconds, I was able to produce video clips, including one of Donald Trump crying and another of him embracing Elon Musk in a romantic setting.

What's even more impressive is Vidu 2.0's cost-efficiency. The platform claims to produce short-

form video content at 55% lower costs than the industry average, showcasing China's ability to cut production costs in AI-driven technology.

Vidu 2.0's release follows another notable AI development from China: DeepSeek-V3, a large language model launched late last month. The model not only performed impressively on global AI benchmarks but was also reportedly developed at an astonishingly low cost. Andrej Karpathy, a founding member of OpenAI, remarked on the budget for DeepSeek-V3, calling it a "joke of a budget."

These consecutive advancements serve as a clear signal to the U.S. administration, highlighting the limitations of its export controls and policies aimed at stalling China's AI progress. They underscore the fact that Beijing's AI capabilities are advancing at an accelerated pace, making it evident that the U.S.'s current strategy may not be as effective as intended in hindering China's technological ambitions. China's rapid strides in AI innovation could reshape the global technology landscape, challenging the U.S.'s historical dominance in this field and prompting a reevaluation of how both nations navigate the future of artificial intelligence.

Chandrababu Naidu Calls for More Children: A Demographic Solution in a Growing State

In a surprising move, Andhra Pradesh Chief Minister Chandrababu Naidu has called for families to have more children, a stance that seems out of sync with the global trend of population control, especially in a country that is set to become the world's most populous nation. Known for his progressive policies, Naidu's recent decision to amend the rules for local body elections, allowing candidates to have more than two children, has raised eyebrows. This policy reverses a law introduced three decades ago, which capped the number of children public representatives could have.



The catalyst behind this change stems from Naidu's recognition of a demographic imbalance in the state. With Andhra Pradesh's Total Fertility Rate (TFR) at 1.7, below the replacement level of 2.1, the state's population is expected to peak at 54.4 million by 2034 and then begin to decline. This trend, combined with the growing elderly population—predicted to surpass the number of children by 2046—has prompted the Chief Minister to reassess the need for a policy that encourages larger families.

This shift is not solely based on population dynamics. There are political considerations at play, as well. Southern states like Andhra Pradesh and Tamil Nadu, which have successfully managed to reduce birth rates, are concerned about losing political representation during the upcoming delimitation process. The number of Lok Sabha seats allocated to states is determined by population, and with northern states still experiencing higher growth rates, southern states fear their voices will be diminished in the future.

Historically, this has been a point of contention. In 2001, when the delimitation exercise was frozen until 2025, southern political leaders argued that states with controlled population growth should not be penalized. This concern has only grown more pressing as the demographic gap between the south and the north widens.

While Naidu's call for larger families may be driven by a desire to counterbalance the ageing population, encouraging a return to the "Small is Beautiful" mentality, which advocates limiting families to two children, will not be easy. Social norms take time to change, as evidenced by Japan's struggle to overcome similar demographic issues.

Ultimately, this debate is about more than just population numbers; it's about finding a balance between political representation and social sustainability. As India moves towards its goal of becoming a developed nation by 2047, policymakers must engage in thoughtful discussions to address demographic shifts pragmatically.

PM Modi to Co-Chair AI Action Summit in Paris in February

The visit marks Modi's first to France in his third term, spotlighting India's AI ambitions and global partnerships.

TPN Correspondent |
New Delhi

Prime Minister Narendra Modi is set to travel to Paris on February 10 and 11 to co-chair the Artificial Intelligence (AI) Action Summit, hosted by France. The summit, a key event in the global AI discourse, will be co-chaired by Modi and French President Emmanuel Macron. This visit, Modi's first to France in his third term, underscores the importance of India's strategic partnership with France. Ministry of External Affairs spokesperson Randhir Jaiswal confirmed the trip, stating, "The Prime Minister has accepted the invitation to travel to France and will co-chair the summit at the invitation of President Macron."

Strengthening AI Collaboration

The summit provides a platform to deepen AI-related collaboration between India and France while fostering global



cooperation on responsible AI development. As AI continues to transform industries, the focus will be on ethical governance, innovation, and leveraging AI to address global challenges.

Modi to co-chair the summit with French President Macron.

Focus on ethical AI development and innovation to tackle global challenges. Opportunity for bilateral en-

gagements with other world leaders.

Potential High-Profile Interactions

Modi's visit may also include a meeting with US President Donald Trump, should he attend the summit. Such interactions would be significant in aligning AI strategies among global leaders and exploring bilateral and multilateral cooperation on emerging technologies.

Beyond AI discussions, Modi is expected to hold bilateral engagements with Macron and other attending leaders, strengthening India's ties with key partners in technology, trade, and innovation.

India's AI Ambitions

India has been actively positioning itself as a leader in AI development and adoption, emphasizing its potential to drive economic growth, improve governance, and enhance public services. The summit offers an opportunity for India to showcase its advancements and contribute to shaping global AI policies. PM Modi's participation highlights India's commitment to leveraging AI responsibly while collaborating with global partners to address its challenges and opportunities. The visit reinforces India's stature in the international AI ecosystem, paving the way for impactful collaborations and policies.

Madhya Pradesh CM Takes a Step Toward Liquor Prohibition with Ban in 19 Sacred Cities



TPN Correspondent | Maheshwar, Madhya Pradesh

Madhya Pradesh Chief Minister Mohan Yadav has announced a landmark decision to prohibit liquor sales in 19 religious cities and rural areas, marking a significant step towards a potential statewide alcohol ban. Drawing parallels to Bihar's prohibition policy, the move highlights the government's commitment to preserving cultural and spiritual values over revenue generation.

The new excise policy, approved during a cabinet meeting in the historic city of Maheshwar, mandates the permanent closure of all liquor shops and bars within urban limits of cities like Ujjain, Omkareshwar, and Orchha. Starting April 1, a total of 47 liquor outlets will be shut down without relocation options, underscoring the state's resolve to enforce the prohibition.

47 liquor outlets in sacred cities to shut by April 1, marking a cultural shift.

Decision echoes previous calls for prohibition by leaders like Uma Bharti.

Government expects a revenue loss of Rs 450 crore due to this policy.

Cultural Significance and Historical Context

The cabinet meeting in Maheshwar, a city revered for its spiritual heritage, provided a fitting venue for this announcement. Known as the erstwhile capital of Devi Ahilyabai Holkar, Maheshwar holds a deep connection to India's cultural and religious history, making it a symbolic backdrop for the policy shift.

The idea of prohibition is not new to Madhya Pradesh. Leaders across party lines, including Digvijay Singh, Uma Bharti, and Shivraj Singh Chauhan, have historically advocated for curbing alcohol consumption, albeit with limited success. Former Chief Minister Uma Bharti, a staunch proponent of liquor prohibition, lauded the decision as a long-awaited and commendable step.

Balancing Culture with Economy

While the decision aligns with the state's goal to preserve its spiritual ethos, it comes at an economic cost. The expected revenue loss of Rs 450 crore highlights the government's determination to prioritize public sentiment over financial gains. The move has sparked discussions about a potential statewide liquor ban, with Chief Minister Yadav hinting at broader plans for prohibition. For now, the closure of liquor vents in these sacred cities marks a pivotal moment in Madhya Pradesh's journey toward a transformative policy shift.

CM MK Stalin Credits Governor RN Ravi's Criticism for Boosting DMK's Support

TPN Correspondent | Chennai

Tamil Nadu Chief Minister MK Stalin asserted on Friday that criticisms from Governor RN Ravi have inadvertently bolstered public support for the Dravida Munnetra Kazhagam (DMK). Addressing party workers, Stalin pledged that the DMK would stay committed to its Dravidian model of governance, undeterred by the Governor's remarks.

Stalin claimed that the DMK's ideology, deeply rooted in Dravidian principles, has only gained strength in the face of opposition. While some have demanded Ra-

vi's removal, Stalin noted that the DMK had refrained from passing any formal resolutions on the issue. Instead, he suggested that the Governor's criticisms have indirectly enhanced the party's standing among the people. Stalin says Governor's criticisms have unified and energized DMK supporters. DMK emphasizes commitment to the Dravidian model despite political rhetoric. Governor Ravi urged to symbolically skip reading next year's Assembly address. Stalin sarcastically proposed that Governor Ravi should attend the Tamil Nadu Assembly's annual session next year but leave without delivering the customary address, highlighting what he

perceives as a disconnect between the Governor's stance and the people's sentiment.

"He should be the Governor, and the DMK will grow further," Stalin remarked, suggesting that the Governor's actions are inadvertently strengthening the DMK's influence. Governor Ravi has previously been vocal in his critique of the DMK's policies, often clashing with the party's Dravidian ideology. Stalin, however, has used these criticisms to consolidate support, presenting the Governor's rhetoric as an opportunity for the DMK to reaffirm its commitment to its principles and governance model.

Uddhav Thackeray Admits Post-Lok Sabha Lapse

TPN Correspondent | Mumbai

In a rare moment of introspection, Uddhav Thackeray, the leader of the Shiv Sena (UBT), conceded that the Mahavikas Aghadi (MVA) coalition underestimated the challenges following its impressive performance in the 2024 Lok Sabha elections. Speaking after the alliance's dismal showing in the Maharashtra Assembly elections, Thackeray acknowledged that post-election complacency paved the way for the BJP to dominate the narrative.

Overconfidence and Negligence

"After the Lok Sabha elections, we got overconfident," Thackeray admitted. "There was negligence on our part to assume that the Assembly elections would naturally favor us. The BJP exploited this to spread a fake narrative against us."

The MVA, which helped thwart the BJP's bid for a majority in the general elections, failed to replicate its success at the state level. The BJP-led National Democratic Alliance (NDA) secured a sweeping victory with 233 seats, including 132 for the BJP, while the MVA managed only 49.

Allegations of EVM Misuse

Thackeray raised concerns about electronic voting machines (EVMs), echoing a familiar grievance among opposition leaders. "Even those who have won don't know how it happened. If you have guts, take one election with ballot papers," he challenged the BJP.

Thackeray accuses BJP of exploiting EVMs to secure a landslide win. Calls for reverting to ballot papers for transparency. BJP denies allegations, calling them baseless. Defending Campaign Remarks



Thackeray also addressed controversies from the campaign trail, including his emphasis on patriotism and references to the 1992 riots. He clarified that his remarks aimed to unite people rather than divide them, rejecting claims that he apologized for the riots as "fake news."

"Deshbhakt Muslims embraced the MVA," he said, challenging the BJP to prove their commitment to unity by removing the "green color" from their flag.

Maharashtra's Identity

The Shiv Sena (UBT) leader underscored the importance of respecting Maharashtra's cultural heritage. "In Maharashtra, you must say both 'Jai Shri Ram' and 'Jai Shivrai,'" he asserted, emphasizing the legacy of Chhatrapati Shivaji Maharaj.

Lessons for the Opposition

The MVA's failure to maintain its Lok Sabha momentum in the Assembly elections highlights the challenges of sustaining a coalition. Thackeray's candid admission signals the need for recalibration as the INDIA bloc prepares for future electoral battles.

For now, the BJP's decisive win solidifies its grip on Maharashtra, leaving the opposition to rethink its strategy to stay relevant in the state's political landscape.

Gold Prices Surge Past ₹83,000 for the First Time Amid Global Uncertainty



TPN Correspondent | New Delhi

Gold prices continued their rally for the eighth consecutive session, crossing the ₹83,000-mark per 10 grams for the first time in history. On Friday, gold of 99.9% purity surged ₹200 to hit ₹83,100 in the national capital, according to the All India Sarafa Association. This milestone reflects increasing investor interest amid global market uncertainties.

The yellow metal's 99.5% purity variant also climbed ₹200, reaching a record high of ₹82,700 per 10 grams. Silver prices followed suit, rising ₹500 to ₹94,000 per kilogram. Analysts attribute this trend to escalating geopolitical and economic concerns.

Gold prices hit ₹83,100 per 10 grams, marking an all-time high in India. Silver prices climbed ₹500 to reach ₹94,000 per kilogram.

Market volatility driven by U.S. tariff uncertainties boosts safe-haven assets.

The Multi Commodity Exchange (MCX) mirrored this bullish sentiment, with February gold futures gaining ₹334 to ₹79,960 per 10 grams. Intraday trading saw prices approach ₹80,050, nearing the October 2024 peak of ₹80,282. Similarly, silver futures for March delivery surged ₹835 to ₹91,984 per kilogram.

Globally, Comex gold futures rose \$15.50 per ounce to \$2,780.50, while silver increased 1.53% to \$31.32 per ounce. These gains were driven by concerns over U.S. tariff policies under President Trump and expectations for critical economic data releases.

Experts like Saumil Gandhi from HDFC Securities and Deveya Gaglani from Axis Securities emphasized that safe-haven demand will likely persist. Upcoming events, including the Union Budget and U.S. Federal Reserve's policy decisions, will be pivotal in determining future trends for bullion prices.

End Ukraine War Or Face Sanctions; Trump warns To Putin

US President calls for negotiations to end the "ridiculous war" as tensions persist.

TPN Correspondent | Washington

Newly sworn-in US President Donald Trump has urged Russian President Vladimir Putin to negotiate a peace deal with Ukraine, describing the ongoing conflict as "ridiculous" and unprecedented in its scale of devastation. Speaking on Truth Social on Wednesday and later to reporters in the Oval Office on Thursday, Trump reiterated his willingness to mediate, emphasizing the need to halt the loss of lives on the battlefield.

"I think he (Putin) should make a deal," Trump stated, expressing openness to meet Putin "as soon as possible." He warned Russia of further sanctions and high tariffs if progress toward a ceasefire is not made, underscoring his administration's firm stance on resolving the conflict.

- **Trump signals readiness to mediate peace talks between Russia and Ukraine.**
- **Warns of high tariffs, taxes, and sanctions if ceasefire negotiations fail.**
- **Describes the battlefield as unprecedented since World War II in terms of human loss.**

Trump criticized the human cost of the war, describing images of battlefield casualties as "pictures you don't want to see." He claimed that Russia has lost an estimated 800,000 soldiers, while Ukraine has also endured significant losses. "It



would be nice to end that war. It's a ridiculous war," he remarked.

The president noted that Ukrainian President Volodymyr Zelenskyy is prepared to negotiate. "He's ready to make a deal... He'd like to stop. He's somebody that lost a lot of soldiers," Trump said. However, he stopped short of confirming whether sanctions alone would compel Russia to engage in talks, adding, "I don't know."

Trump's comments came with a stern warning to Moscow. "If there is no ceasefire deal soon, I'll have no other choice

but to impose tariffs, taxes, and sanctions on anything being sold by Russia to the United States, and various other participating countries," he declared, signaling a tough economic response if the conflict continues. As the war grinds on, Trump's remarks highlight the urgency of diplomatic intervention to prevent further loss of life and economic destabilization. His administration's approach underscores both willingness to mediate and readiness to exert economic pressure on Russia to bring about peace.



PM Modi Congratulates Micheal Martin on Securing Second Term as Irish PM

India reaffirms commitment to strengthening bilateral ties with Ireland.

TPN Correspondent | Delhi

PM Modi Congratulates Micheal Martin on Securing Second Term as Irish PM
India reaffirms commitment to strengthening bilateral ties with Ireland.

Prime Minister Narendra Modi congratulated Micheal Martin on his re-election as the Prime Minister of Ireland for a second term. Taking to X, PM Modi emphasized India's dedication to enhancing its bilateral partnership with Ireland, rooted in shared values and strong people-to-people connections.

"Congratulations @MichealMartinTD on assuming the office of Prime Minister of Ireland. Committed to work together to further strengthen our bilateral partnership," PM Modi posted.

Micheal Martin, leader of the Fianna Fáil party, secured his return to the top office following a vote in the Irish parliament on Thursday, receiving 95 votes in favor and 76 against. He will helm a coalition government that includes his party's historic rival, Fine Gael, along with independent lawmakers.

PM Modi expresses commitment to enhancing India-Ireland relations.

Micheal Martin elected for a second term after a delayed parliamentary vote.

Coalition includes Fianna Fáil, Fine Gael, and independents, replacing the Green Party.

Martin's nomination faced a brief delay after parliamentary proceedings were disrupted by opposition protests over speaking rights for independent lawmakers. The impasse was resolved through overnight talks, allowing the vote to proceed.

This marks the second consecutive coalition between Fianna Fáil and Fine Gael, two parties that have dominated Irish politics since 1937. Independent ministers will replace the Green Party, which lost considerable ground in the November elections.

Micheal Martin, 64, previously served as Prime Minister from 2020 to 2022. Under the coalition arrangement, Simon Harris of Fine Gael is slated to succeed Martin as Prime Minister in 2027. Harris, currently positioned to take over as Deputy Prime Minister, is expected to serve as Foreign Minister initially.

Bharat Mobility Global Expo 2025: A Grand Showcase of India's Mobility Future

TPN Correspondent | Delhi

The Bharat Mobility Global Expo 2025 concluded on a high note, highlighting India's growing dominance in the global mobility ecosystem. Spread across three premier locations—Bharat Mandapam and Yashobhoomi Convention Centre in Delhi, and India Expo Mart in Greater Noida—the event featured concurrent shows like the Auto Expo, Battery Expo, Cycle Expo, Construction Equipment Expo, and Component Expo. Prime Minister Narendra Modi inaugurated the event on January 17, 2025, setting the tone for a landmark showcase of innovation.

The expo recorded an unprecedented footfall of 9,83,522 visitors, a significant leap from its inaugural edition in 2024, which attracted over 1,50,000 attendees. This surge underscored growing public and industry interest in India's sustainable mobility revolution.

239 launches across diverse mobility sectors mark the event's success. Over 9.8 lakh visitors attend, cementing the expo's status as a major global event. Electric vehicles, advanced batteries, and urban air mobility steal the spotlight. Launches Highlight the Future of Mobility The expo saw a staggering 239 product and technology launches, underscoring industry commitment to smart, sustainable transportation. Key highlights included:

Auto Expo Motor Show 2025: Featuring 90 vehicle launches, dominated by electric and alternative powertrains like flex-fuel vehicles. **Auto Components Show:** With 97 launches, this segment highlighted advancements in supply chain readiness for a transformative future. **Bharat Construction Equipment Expo:** Twenty-four new products, including BS (CEV) Stage 5-compliant and hydrogen-powered equipment, showcased India's construction mobility evolution. **Battery Show:** Showcasing 21 new products in storage and charging solutions, emphasizing advancements in EV infrastructure.

India Engages UK Over Disruptions of Kangana Ranaut's 'Emergency' Screenings

TPN Correspondent | Delhi

The Indian External Affairs Ministry has expressed strong concerns over disruptions to screenings of Kangana Ranaut's film *Emergency* in the United Kingdom. The film, which portrays events during the Emergency declared by former Prime Minister Indira Gandhi in 1975, faced protests and alleged intimidation from groups objecting to its content.

The ministry stated, "Freedom of speech and expression cannot be applied selectively. Those obstructing the film's screening must be held accountable." It added that the Indian High Commission in London is in contact with UK authorities and community members to ensure their safety.

Protests and Disruptions

Reports indicated that masked individuals, identified as Khalistani sympathizers, disrupted screenings in northwest London, Wolverhampton, Birmingham, and Manchester. Bob Blackman, a Conservative MP, highlighted an incident where "masked Khalistani terrorists" interrupted a screening at Harrow Vue cinema, threatening the audience and forcing the show to stop.

Screenings in UK disrupted by protests, allegedly led by Khalistani groups. British MP Bob Blackman condemned the incidents, defending constituents' rights to view the film. Two cinema chains reportedly pulled the



movie amid safety concerns.

Protests were organized by British Sikh groups, such as the Sikh Press Association, citing objections to the film's portrayal of Sikh-related events. They claimed the movie was "anti-Sikh" and misrepresented historical facts, leading to disruptions and cancellations.

The Film's Journey

Emergency faced challenges during its production and release in India as well. Objections from Sikh organizations delayed its clearance by the Censor Board, which required cuts and verifiable sources for controversial dialogues. The film was eventually cleared in November and released on January 17, 2025.

Responding to protests, government sources acknowledged "sensitive content"

in the film but emphasized the importance of addressing religious concerns while upholding freedom of expression.

India's Stand

The Indian government has urged the UK to take appropriate action against those responsible for the disruptions, emphasizing that acts of intimidation threaten democratic values. "We consistently raise concerns with the UK regarding violent protests and intimidation by anti-India elements," the ministry said. These incidents have reignited debates over freedom of speech, religious sensitivities, and the fine balance required to uphold both in democratic societies. As *Emergency* continues to spark controversy, the focus remains on ensuring safe and uninterrupted screenings for audiences worldwide.

Sri Lanka government slashes ministerial privileges

TPN Correspondent | Colombo

The Sri Lankan government has introduced stringent regulations to curtail the benefits afforded to Cabinet and deputy ministers, addressing widespread public discontent over political privilege and accountability.

A circular issued by President Anura Kumara Dissanayake on Thursday limits Cabinet ministers to two official vehicles. Caps have also been placed on fuel allowances and monthly payments for office, residential, and mobile phone expenses. The support staff is restricted to 15 for Cabinet ministers and 12 for deputy ministers. Notably, family members or close relatives are barred from holding key advisory roles such as Private Secretary or



Media Secretary.

Ministers limited to two vehicles and capped allowances. Restrictions on hiring relatives for key positions.

Move follows debate over privileges of former President Mahinda Rajapaksa.

These reforms come amid mounting criticism over the treatment of former President Mahinda Rajapaksa, whose state-provided security was reduced from over 300 personnel to just 60 in December. Rajapaksa was also asked to vacate his state mansion, drawing sharp reactions from opposition leaders.

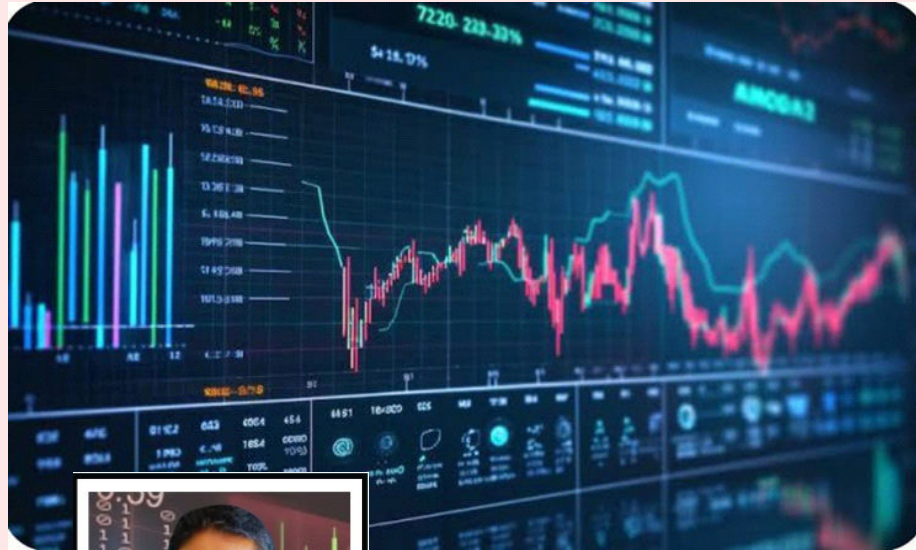
Sagara Kariyawasam, a spokesman for Rajapaksa's party, accused the government of political revenge, stating, "Mahinda Rajapaksa's personal security is under threat. The government wants to put him out on the road." Opposition members argue that benefits extended to former presidents are constitutionally protected and backed by legislation passed in 1986.

Sensex Slips 329 Points Amid Volatility; Nifty Manages to Hold 23,000 Mark

Domestic stock markets ended in losses on Thursday. There were mixed signals from international markets. The indices, which started in losses initially, continued in a range-bound mode for some time. At one stage, the Sensex rallied by 800 points as buying picked up. It fell into heavy losses again due to the Bank of Japan raising interest rates, disappointing corporate results and uncertainty. The markets may fluctuate between the tides for a few more days due to weak sentiment. The rise in bond yields and the dollar index is increasing concerns. However, the Nifty holding the 23000 level is a bit positive.

The BSE Sensex, which closed at 76,520 in the previous session, opened at 76,455 on Thursday. It touched an intraday low at 76,091. It reached an intraday high at 76,985. It ended at 76,190, down 329 points. The NSE Nifty, which opened at 23,183, touched a low of 23,050 and a high of 23,347. It closed at 23,092, down 113 points. The Nifty Bank fell 221 points to settle at 48,367.

In the Nifty50, 19 companies gained and 31 lost. Hindustan Unilever, Britannia, Eicher Motors, Grasim, ICICI Bank were the top gainers. Dr. Reddy's, Trent, Mahindra & Mahindra, Adani Enterprises, BPCL were the top losers. All but the FMCG and IT sector indices lost today. Bank, auto, finance, media, metal, pharma, PSU bank, realty, health-



care, consumer durables, oil and gas indices rose.

Today, the market breadth on the NSE completely favored sellers. Of the 2891 shares traded, only 635 gained. 2183 lost. Shares of 18 companies reached 52-week highs. Only 168 reached 52-week lows. Fear Index India VIX is at 16.75.

Shriram Finance has registered a net profit of Rs 3570 crore in the third quarter. This is almost double compared to the same period last year. The company declared a dividend of Rs 2.5 per share. Caffeine Tech shares gained heavily after it said that the Rs 250 SIP plan was positive. Laurus Labs' net profit increased from Rs. 23 crore to Rs. 92.3 crore. AU Small Finance Bank's net profit increased by 7.5% to Rs. 528 crore. Atul Limited's profit increased by 53% to Rs. 109 crore from Rs. 71 crore. Revenue increased from Rs. 1138 crore to Rs. 1417 crore. Jagil signed a customer service agreement with Tiger Capital. NTPC Renewable Energy won a 300 MW solar project. Jindal SA's net profit and revenue decreased. FIIs are increasing their stake in small-cap companies more than in large-caps.

India's Forex Reserves Drop by \$1.88 Billion to \$623.98 Billion



India's foreign exchange reserves dropped by \$1.88 billion to stand at \$623.983 billion for the week ended January 17, according to data released by the Reserve Bank of India (RBI) on Friday. This decline follows a larger reduction of \$8.714 billion recorded in the previous week (ended January 10), which brought the reserves down to \$625.871 billion.

The dip in the forex reserves has been attributed to a combination of factors,

including revaluation effects and the RBI's interventions in the forex market. The central bank has been actively managing the rupee's volatility, which has contributed to the reserves' downward trend in recent weeks.

Despite the decline, India's foreign exchange reserves are still significantly higher than the levels seen in the past. The reserves reached an all-time high of \$704.885 billion at the end of September 2021.

Breaking down the components of India's forex reserves, foreign currency assets — the largest part of the reserves — saw a decrease of \$2.878 billion, falling to \$533.133 billion. These assets reflect changes in the value of foreign currencies like the euro, pound, and yen, relative to the US dollar, which can lead to fluctuations due to exchange rate movements.

On a more positive note, India's gold reserves saw a slight increase, rising by \$1.063 billion to reach \$68.947 billion during the week. In addition, India's reserve position with the International Monetary Fund (IMF) fell by \$74 million to stand at \$4.122 billion.

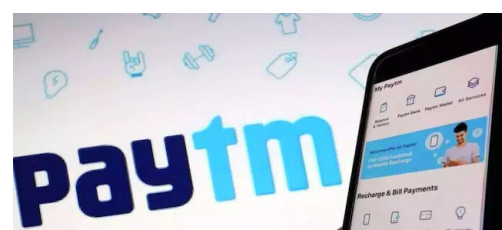
The overall dip in India's forex reserves signals a period of adjustment as the RBI continues to navigate global economic uncertainties and manage domestic currency fluctuations. However, the reserves remain at healthy levels, ensuring that India retains sufficient liquidity to meet its external payment obligations.

Paytm Shares Drop 9% Amid ED Probe, Company Denies Allegations

Shares of One97 Communications, the parent company of Paytm, plunged by as much as 9% to an intraday low of Rs 773.90 on Friday following reports that the Enforcement Directorate (ED) is investigating the company in connection with a cryptocurrency scam. The news sent shockwaves through the stock market, with Paytm's share price hitting Rs 773.05 on the NSE before partially recovering to trade 3.32% lower at Rs 820.95 by mid-morning.

In response to the reports, Paytm issued a clarification, stating that it had not received any inquiry or communication from the ED. The company described the media reports as "factually incorrect and misleading" and denied any new notices from the ED regarding the alleged investigation.

"We confirm that we have not received



any such new notice, communication, or query from the Enforcement Directorate," Paytm said in a stock exchange filing. The company added that the news article was based on incorrect information and clarified that they had not been contacted by the media before the publication of the report.

Paytm is one of several payment gateways, including Razorpay, PayU, and Easebuzz, under investigation by the ED in relation to the HPZ Token cryptocurrency scam, allegedly operated by Chinese nationals. The ED has been investigating the matter for

the past two years, freezing nearly Rs 500 crore in virtual accounts across various platforms, including Paytm.

According to the ED, the accused defrauded investors of over Rs 2,200 crore, with illicit funds being transferred out of India. Paytm is reported to hold around Rs 2.8 crore of the alleged "proceeds of crime," while other platforms like PayU and Easebuzz have larger amounts involved in the scam.

In addition to the ongoing investigation, Paytm's parent company, One97 Communications, recently posted a narrower consolidated loss of Rs 208.5 crore for Q3 FY25, compared to a loss of Rs 221.7 crore in the same period last year. However, the company's revenue from operations dropped by 35.8% to Rs 1,827.8 crore, primarily due to declines in payment processing, financial services, and marketing services.

Budget 2025 : Sitharaman Marks Final Preparations With Traditional 'Halwa' Ceremony



As preparations for India's Union Budget 2025-26 intensify, HSBC Global Research has laid out its expectations, forecasting a tax rationalization in the upcoming budget. While the research house does not anticipate significant cuts in taxes, it predicts adjustments aimed at simplifying the tax structure. Alongside this, there is an expected focus on boosting exports, improving center-state capital expenditure coordination, and continuing employment-linked benefits. Additionally, HSBC anticipates greater clarity on the structural reforms the government intends to pursue.

Finance Minister Nirmala Sitharaman marked the beginning of the final phase of the budget preparation process on Friday with the traditional 'halwa' ceremony. The ceremony, which took place in the basement of North Block, the Ministry of Finance's headquarters, was attended by the finance minister and senior ministry officials. The Union Budget is set to be presented on February 1 in the Lok Sabha.

In the lead-up to the Budget, Sushil Suri, Chairman and Managing Director of Morepen Laboratories, emphasized the importance of leveraging the immense potential of the pharmaceutical sector. The sector is projected to reach \$130 billion by 2030 and \$440 billion by 2047, and Suri called for a more streamlined regulatory approval process to drive investments and productivity. He also urged the government to expand the scope of the Production-Linked Incentive (PLI) schemes to foster further growth.

These discussions point to a broader emphasis on sectors like pharma, which are seen as key drivers of India's economic growth. By facilitating exports and strengthening the regulatory environment, the Budget could unlock significant opportunities for various industries.

With less than a week to go before the presentation, the focus on tax reforms, exports, and structural enhancements reflects the government's drive to build a resilient economy and encourage sustainable growth in the years ahead.

Adani Power's Growth Boosted by Coal Supply, Expansion; Target Price Rs 806



Adani Power Ltd's growth is being fueled by enhanced coal availability and its business expansion, according to brokerage firm Ventura. The firm has set a target price of Rs 806 for the stock over the next 24 months, which indicates a potential upside of 54.5% from its current trading price of around Rs 522.

India's rising power demand, driven by increased manufacturing activities and the growing use of white goods and gadgets, has created a significant energy gap. As renewable energy is unable to meet the country's growing power needs, the gap between peak demand and supply highlights the need for a stronger thermal power capacity. Adani Power, India's largest private pure-play thermal power producer, is well-positioned to meet this demand with its aggressive capacity expansion plans.

Ventura has revised its price target for Adani Power, recommending a "BUY" with an upwardly adjusted DCF-based price target of Rs 806 (13.8X FY27 EV/EBITDA), representing an upside of 54.5%. The brokerage firm noted that the company's installed capacity of 17.55 GW and its capacity to source coal from both domestic and international markets provides a strong competitive edge.

The firm also highlighted the company's operational improvements. Adani Power's plant load factor (PLF) surged from 48% in FY23 to 72% in H1 FY25, marking the highest level in seven years. This increase in PLF, along with improved coal availability and lower imported coal prices, has significantly boosted Adani Power's operational efficiency.

In FY24, the company recorded a year-on-year revenue growth of 29.9%, reaching Rs 50,351 crore, with EBITDA rising 81% to Rs 18,181 crore. Ventura also anticipates steady growth for the company, with revenue and EBITDA expected to grow at a compound annual growth rate (CAGR) of 11.8% and 11%, respectively, over the FY24-27 period.

Adani Power is targeting a total capacity of 30.67 GW by FY31, which would increase its share in India's thermal power sector from 6% in FY24 to 11% by FY31.

Boiled Egg Turns into Fine Dining Materpiece for Rs 990 in Viral Video

High-end restaurants are known for their creativity in transforming even the simplest ingredients into gastronomic wonders. A recent viral video showcases a jaw-dropping example of this concept, as a basic boiled egg is elevated into a luxurious fine dining experience. The video, which has captured widespread attention, comes with the caption, "When you go fine dining and ask for one boiled egg."



The footage takes viewers through the meticulous and almost artistic process of preparing the humble boiled egg for a high-end meal. The chef starts by carefully placing the egg on a chopping board and presses it using a specialized machine. Next, the egg is sliced into six delicate pieces using thin threads, showcasing the precision involved in every step.

The egg pieces are then artfully arranged on a plate, with a layer of artistic sauce and garnishes that add both visual appeal and complexity to the dish. As the video progresses, the chef takes another boiled egg, cutting it into

a heart shape with a cutter. This piece is placed on a plate, once again adorned with sauce and garnishes, creating a picture-perfect dish.

What truly stands out is the price tag: this seemingly simple boiled egg, now transformed into an extravagant plate of fine dining, is priced at Rs 990. This surprising price reflects the effort, intricate plating, and creative presentation that go into turning a basic breakfast staple into an upscale culinary experience.

The viral video has sparked both amusement and amazement, showing how fine dining can take the most unexpected ingredients and turn them into an extraordinary dining experience.

AI Pets Are Helping China's Young Generation Deal With Social Anxiety

The use of smart Artificial Intelligence (AI) pets to help children cope with social anxiety and provide emotional support is rapidly growing in China, according to the South China Morning Post (SCMP). One notable example is BooBoo, a smart pet resembling a guinea pig, which has sold 1,000 units since its launch in May 2024.



Zhang Yachun, 19, shared with SCMP that owning a BooBoo has significantly eased her life. Having struggled with building friendships and anxiety at school, Zhang now feels more emotionally supported. She has named her AI pet "Aluo," a rugby ball-sized companion that she even outfits with winter clothes. Zhang, who lives with her parents and a real pet duck, explained that Aluo makes her feel needed and provides companionship, especially during moments of joy.

The rise in demand for AI pets is part of a broader trend where young adults, particularly in urban areas, are turning to "smart pets" for emotional support. This trend has led to a significant market forecast. The global market for "social robots," including AI pets like BooBoo, is expected to expand sevenfold, reaching \$42.5 billion by 2033.

Zhang's father, Peng, understands her attachment to Aluo, commenting that children today face more

pressures and may have fewer friends than in the past. He points out that while friendships were once formed easily, the urban lifestyle today can make it harder for kids to build meaningful connections.

However, the desire for AI pets is not confined to the younger generation. Guo Zichen, a 33-year-old father, also sees the benefit of these robots for his children. At a Weilan electronics store in Nanjing, Guo explained that AI pets can help children with studying and provide companionship when family members are busy. He acknowledges, however, that AI pets can never replace real ones.

Weilan, a provider of four-legged robots, states that 70 percent of their customers are families with young children, with their AI dog, BabyAlpha, priced between 8,000 and 26,000 yuan (Rs 95,000 to Rs 3 lakh).

Scientists finally make heads of giant stingray tails

Manta rays, known for their horn-like facial fins and diamond-shaped bodies that can stretch up to 30 feet, are among the ocean's most enigmatic creatures. However, it's their long, whip-like tails that have puzzled scientists for years. Unlike stingrays, whose tails are famous for their deadly stingers, mantas do not use their tails for propulsion or defense. The mystery of why these enormous creatures possess such elongated tails has now been partially solved.

A new study published in Proceedings of the Royal Society B: Biological Sciences sheds light on the purpose of these tails. Researchers examined the tails of cownose rays, a smaller relative of the manta,

and discovered that their long tails contain specialized organs. These organs help the rays sense underwater stimuli, essentially acting as finely tuned sensory antennae. This finding suggests that the long tails of mantas and related rays might play a critical role in detecting approaching threats in the open ocean.

Unlike most stingrays that dwell near the seafloor, mantas and their kin in the myliobatid family spend much of their time in open water. They are known for "flying" through the ocean, using their large, triangle-shaped pectoral fins to glide gracefully. The new research provides a possible explanation for why these rays might have evolved such lengthy tails—they likely use them to

sense the water around them as they navigate vast ocean expanses and avoid predators.

Júlia Chaumel, a marine biologist at Harvard University and one of the study's authors, expressed surprise at the complexity of the tail's function. "The complexity inside the tail was super surprising," Chaumel said. "We had no idea that this huge structure had a sensorial function."

This breakthrough gives scientists a deeper understanding of manta rays and their fascinating biology, opening the door for further exploration into how these giant creatures interact with their underwater environment.



ChatGPT outage: Netizens unable to access OpenAI's chatbot services globally

OpenAI's popular artificial intelligence chatbot, ChatGPT, is back online after experiencing significant outages earlier today. The disruptions affected millions of users globally, preventing access to the platform for hours.



The issue was traced to a "bad gateway error," which typically indicates a communication problem between the website's servers. Users were unable to interact with the chatbot for several hours, leading to widespread frustration, particularly among those who rely on ChatGPT for work, education, and various other tasks. Many took to social media to express their disappointment, with one user on X sharing, "Can't believe ChatGPT is down! I was in the middle of a project and now I'm stuck."

According to OpenAI, the problem was resolved at 15:09 GMT, and users can now access the service again. However, OpenAI has not yet provided a detailed explanation of the cause behind the outage. While service has been re-

stored, the outage had sparked a wave of disruption, as users across the globe reported being unable to use the chatbot for essential tasks.

This incident highlights the growing reliance on AI tools like ChatGPT, which have become integral for a wide range of activities. Whether for quick answers, brainstorming ideas, or solving complex problems, users are increasingly turning to AI for assistance, making such outages a significant inconvenience.

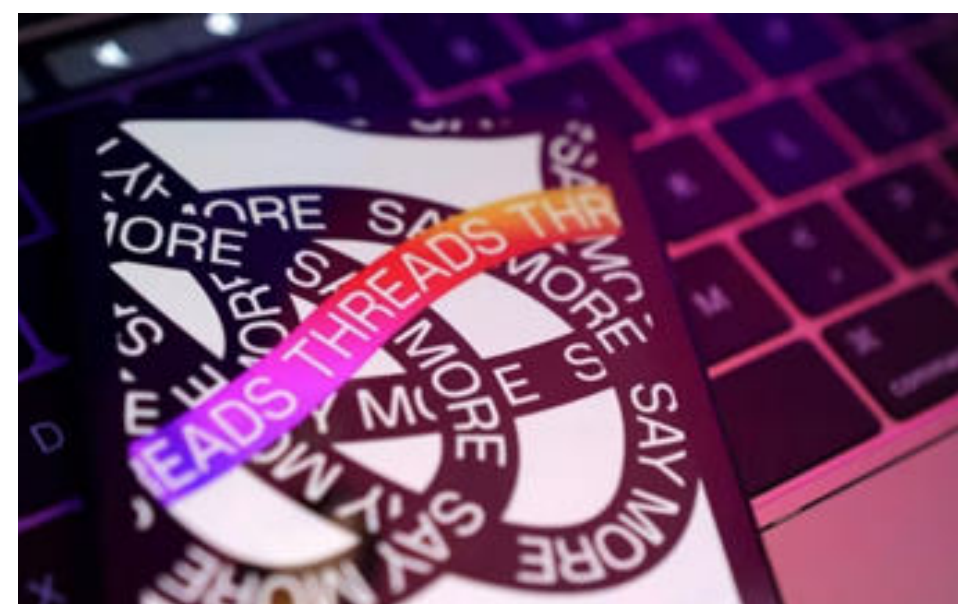
As of now, OpenAI's status page confirms that the issue has been resolved, and users are once again able to access the AI chatbot without interruption.

Threads Introduces New Features : Post Scheduling, Insights, and Markup Tools

Threads, the Meta-owned social media platform, has rolled out three new features designed to enhance user experience and engagement. On Thursday, Instagram head Adam Mosseri announced that the new features—Post Scheduling, Post Insights, and the Markup tool—will help users better manage their content and presence on the platform.

One of the most anticipated updates is the introduction of post scheduling, a feature that users have long requested. Until now, Threads did not allow users to schedule posts for a future time, but with this new addition, users can now plan and schedule posts ahead of time. To access the feature, users simply need to tap on the three-dot menu in the composer screen. Once scheduled, the post will appear in the user's drafts folder, where it can be edited or deleted before it goes live. The scheduling tool allows users to schedule posts up to 76 days in advance, offering flexibility in content planning.

Another new feature being rolled out is post insights, which provides users with detailed analytics on their posts. Available on both mobile apps



and the web client, post insights will give users information such as the number of views, interactions, likes, and replies for each post. A new insights icon has been added to the profile tab, where users can view metrics and filter posts based on a selected date range. This tool allows users to track their post performance and understand their audience better.

Additionally, Threads is introducing a Markup tool that allows users to add creative elements when

reposting or quoting content on the platform. However, this tool will be gradually rolled out, starting with select regions before being made available globally.

These updates come just a month after Threads enabled users to repost images without quoting the original post. With these new features, Threads continues to improve its functionality and user engagement, keeping up with the evolving needs of its growing user base.

Pat Cummins Leads ICC Test Team of 2024 with Three Indians Included

In a stellar year for Test cricket, Pat Cummins has been named captain of the ICC Test Team of 2024, which includes three Indian players—Jasprit Bumrah, Ravindra Jadeja, and Yashasvi Jaiswal. The squad also features prominent names from England, New Zealand, and Sri Lanka, but notably no players from South Africa, Pakistan, or the West Indies.

Jasprit Bumrah was a standout performer in 2024, taking 71 wickets at an exceptional average of 14.92, making him the highest wicket-taker in Test cricket that year. His dominant performances, including a remarkable 32 wickets in the Border-Gavaskar series against Australia, cemented his place in the team. Bumrah's ability to perform consistently against top teams, including a stunning 19-wicket haul against England, solidified his reputation as one of the greatest bowlers of all time.

Ravindra Jadeja also made his mark in 2024, contributing both with the bat and ball. Jadeja scored 527 runs at an average of 29.27 and picked up 48 wickets at an impressive average of 24.29. His all-round prowess played a crucial role in India's Test campaigns throughout the year.

Young opener Yashasvi Jaiswal's breakthrough year saw him become one of India's brightest batting stars. He amassed 1,478 runs at an av-



erage of 54.74, with two double centuries and three fifties to his name. Jaiswal's consistent performances, including a top score of 161 in the Border-Gavaskar Trophy, helped him secure a spot in the all-star team.

Pat Cummins, the lone Australian in the squad, led his side to series victories over the West Indies, New Zealand, and India. He took 37 wickets in 2024 at an average of 24.02 while contributing 306 runs with the bat, showcasing his leadership and all-round skills.

Other notable players in the team include England's Joe Root, New Zealand's Kane Williamson, and Sri Lanka's Kamindu Mendis, who impressed with their batting exploits during the year.

Djokovic Withdraws from Australian Open Semifinal Due to Injury

Novak Djokovic was forced to retire from his Australian Open semifinal match against Alexander Zverev on Friday due to a torn muscle in his left leg. After losing the first set 7-6 (5) in a tiebreaker, Djokovic walked around the net to concede the match to Zverev. The crowd reacted with boos as the Serbian champion made his way off the court, but Djokovic responded with two thumbs-up gestures to acknowledge his supporters.

During a post-match press conference, Djokovic explained the severity of the injury, stating, "It was getting worse and worse." He revealed that the pain in his left leg, which he initially injured during his quarterfinal win over Carlos Alcaraz earlier in the week, had become unbearable. Despite losing the first set, Djokovic admitted that even if he had won, it would have been a tough battle to continue playing through the pain.

The 11-time Australian Open champion was aiming for a record 25th Grand Slam title, and the loss was particularly disappointing for the 35-year-old, who had been in strong form leading up to the semifinal. Last year, Djokovic withdrew from the French Open before the quarterfinals due to a torn meniscus in his



right knee, further compounding his recent injury woes.

The opening set between Djokovic and Zverev lasted 1 hour and 20 minutes, filled with long rallies and intense points. A total of 19 points in the first set featured exchanges that lasted for more than nine strokes, including the first four games, which alone took 31 minutes to complete. Despite Djokovic's injury, the set was a thrilling display of high-level tennis between two top-tier competitors.



Mandhana Shine in ICC Women's ODI Team of the Year, No Representation in Men's Side

In a notable recognition for Indian women cricketers, Smriti Mandhana and Deepti Sharma were included in the prestigious ICC Women's ODI Team of the Year for 2024. The all-star team, which includes players from across the globe, saw India represented by these two stellar athletes. However, the men's team had no Indian players, a gap attributed to the limited number of ODIs India played in 2024.

Mandhana's inclusion came after an outstanding year in which she scored 747 runs across 13 matches, making her the highest run-scorer in women's ODIs for 2024. Among her highlights were back-to-back centuries in the home series against South Africa, where she also earned the Player of the Series award. Mandhana's consistency has made her a strong contender for the ICC Women's ODI Cricketer of the Year award as well.

Deepti Sharma, a key

all-rounder for India, also earned her place in the team for her impressive performances throughout the year. The 2024 Women's ODI Team also boasts players from England, Australia, South Africa, Sri Lanka, and the West Indies, with South African Laura Wolvaardt leading the squad as captain. Wolvaardt herself had an exceptional year, amassing 697 runs in 12 matches.

On the men's side, India was absent from the ICC Team due to a lack of ODI engagement in 2024. The men's team played only three ODIs during the year, all against Sri Lanka, losing two of them and drawing one. This limited exposure in the format left Indian players out of contention for selection.

Overall, Mandhana and Deepti's inclusion in the ICC Women's ODI Team of the Year highlights their stellar contributions to Indian cricket and global women's cricket in 2024.

On India's Big Win In 1st T20I, England Star Makes Bizarre 'Lucky' Remark

England fast bowler Jofra Archer expressed frustration after his team suffered a crushing seven-wicket defeat against India in the first T20I in Kolkata on Wednesday. Despite picking up 2 wickets, Archer felt that Indian batters were fortunate as many of their shots, including several mishits, found gaps rather than being caught in the field. India easily chased down a modest total of 132 with 43 balls to spare, driven by opener Abhishek Sharma's explosive 8 sixes in his innings.

Archer acknowledged that he had favorable conditions compared to his teammates but pointed out that luck played a significant role in India's success. "A few balls, well, a lot of balls, went up in the air but didn't go to hand, and probably next game they all go to hand and they're 40 for six," he said. He added that despite England's loss, they should not be discouraged, as such results are common in India when aggressive tactics are em-



ployed. "It's just important to keep the head up, this happens a lot in India, especially in the IPL. The batters go hard, the bowlers go hard, and we were just on the unlucky side of it," Archer explained. He also em-

phasized the importance of trying to take early wickets in the powerplay to shift the momentum. "If you get them three or four down early, teams usually bat differently in the middle," he said, underscoring the need to continue challenging the opposition.

England captain Jos Buttler also reflected on the team's performance, attributing the loss to their inability to handle quality spin bowling. England collapsed to 132, struggling against the spin trio of Varun Chakravarthy, Axar Patel, and Ravi Bishnoi. Buttler admitted that his batters failed to "impose the game" in difficult conditions.

With coach Brendon McCullum's tenure beginning with a defeat, England will look to bounce back in the next game, hoping for better execution in their tactics and more favorable outcomes against India's spinners.

England Make One Change to Playing XI for 2nd T20I vs India

England have announced one change to their playing XI for the second T20I against India, scheduled to be held at the MA Chidambaram Stadium in Chennai on Saturday. Pacer Brydon Carse will replace Gus Atkinson in the lineup after the latter's poor performance in the series opener, where he struggled to contain the Indian batsmen.

In the first T20I, Atkinson had a tough outing, conceding 38 runs in just two overs, and he was unable to complete his full quota of four overs. Abhishek Sharma's brilliant knock of 79 off 34 balls, coupled with India's dominant chase, handed England a crushing seven-wicket defeat. This loss prompted England to make the tactical change, with Carse coming in to add more depth



to their pace attack. Additionally, wicketkeeper-batsman Jamie Smith has been added to the 12-player squad for the match, though he is not expected to feature in the starting XI.

England captain Jos Buttler, reflecting on the first T20I defeat, said that the team would

assess the conditions in Chennai for the upcoming matches. He acknowledged that while the wicket offered some assistance to bowlers early on, it was a good pitch for batting once players got through the tough phase. Buttler praised the pace attack, especially Jofra Archer and Mark Wood, for their threatening spells, and emphasized that England

would continue to play aggressively while adapting to conditions at different venues throughout the series.

On the Indian side, captain Suryakumar Yadav was pleased with his team's performance, especially the energy after winning the toss, which set the tone for the victory. Yadav highlighted the strong execution of plans by the bowlers and praised the team's aggressive yet controlled batting. India currently lead the five-match series 1-0.

England's XI for the second T20I: Ben Duckett, Phil Salt (WK), Jos Buttler (C), Harry Brook, Liam Livingstone, Jacob Bethell, Jamie Overton, Brydon Carse, Jofra Archer, Adil Rashid, Mark Wood.



Oscar Nominations 2025: A Stellar Lineup of Films and Talent

The 97th Academy Awards promise a night of fierce competition and cinematic brilliance.

With the announcement of the 2025 Oscar nominations, anticipation for the 97th Academy Awards, scheduled for March 2nd, has reached new heights. This year's diverse slate of nominees celebrates the best in global cinema, featuring films and performances that have captivated audiences and critics alike.

Leading the race for Best Picture are *The Brutalist* and *Emilia Perez*, both of which made waves at the Golden Globe Awards. Other contenders include *Anora*, *A Complete Unknown*, *Conclave*, and *Dune: Part Two*, showcasing exceptional storytelling and visionary direction.

In the Best Director category, Jacques Audiard (*Emilia Perez*), Sean Baker (*Anora*), Brady Corbett (*The Brutalist*), and James Mangold (*A Complete Unknown*) are recognized for their outstanding contributions.

Best Picture contenders include *Dune: Part Two* and *The Brutalist*.

Adrien Brody, Timothée Chalamet, and Cynthia Erivo lead acting categories.

Inside Out 2 and *Memoir of a Snail* vie for Best Animated Feature.

The acting categories are no less competitive. Adrien Brody (*The Brutalist*), Timothée Chalamet (*A Complete Unknown*),



and Colman Domingo (*Sing Sing*) lead the Best Actor race, while Cynthia Erivo (*Wicked*), Carla Sofia Gascon (*Emilia Perez*), and Mikey Madison (*Anora*) headline the Best Actress category. Supporting performances by Kieran Culkin (*A Real Pain*), Guy Pearce (*The Brutalist*), and Ariana Grande (*Wicked*) have also earned acclaim.

In technical categories, *Dune: Part Two* and *The Brutalist* dominate, securing nods for Best Cinematography, Best Production Design, and more. Meanwhile, *Inside Out 2* and *Memoir of a Snail* are strong contenders for Best Animated Feature, showcasing the creativity of animated cinema.

Manoj Bajpayee Wraps Up Shooting for 'The Family Man' Season 3



The highly anticipated third season of *The Family Man*, starring Manoj Bajpayee in the lead role, has officially completed its shooting. This thrilling spy series, which first captivated audiences with its gripping storylines and stellar performances, continues to be a fan favorite on Amazon Prime Video.

Directed by Raj & DK, the show made waves with its unique blend of suspense, action, and drama. Season 1 delved into the world of terrorism, while Season 2 shifted its focus to the Sri Lankan rebel conflict. With Season 3, the stakes are set to rise even further, as it will take place in the scenic yet troubled backdrop of North East India.

The shooting of *The Family Man 3* began in May of the previous year, and the series has now wrapped up production. To mark the completion, Raj & DK shared a set of behind-the-scenes photos, capturing moments with the cast and crew, including a special appearance from Samantha, who played a pivotal role in the second season.

Season 3 promises to continue the journey of Srikanth Tiwari (played by Manoj Bajpayee), as he navigates both personal and professional challenges. In this season, Srikanth's children are now adults, and as Srikanth himself grows older, the challenges he faces intensify. Fans of the series will be eager to see how the character evolves and how the intricate plotlines unfold.

Raghava Lawrence's Kanchana 4: Pooja Hegde and Nora Fatehi Finalized for Key Roles



The popular horror-comedy genre has always had a massive following in both South and North India, and the *Kanchana* franchise is a prime example of this. The series, known for its thrilling yet comedic elements, has already seen three successful installments from the talented actor and director Raghava Lawrence. Now, fans are eagerly awaiting the next chapter in the series: *Kanchana 4*.

A major update has emerged about the cast of *Kanchana 4*, with two prominent actresses finalizing their roles. Pooja Hegde, known for her charm and versatile acting, has been confirmed as the female lead. Joining her is none other than the sizzling Nora Fatehi, the Bollywood dancing sensation, who will also play a crucial role in the film. Producer Manish Shah, who is backing the project, made the announcement

and revealed that the film will be produced by Gold Mine Films.

While the main cast has been decided, there are still a few more roles and technicians yet to be finalized. *Kanchana 4* is expected to go on the floors in January or February 2025, with production set to span multiple languages including Hindi, Tamil, Telugu, and Malayalam. The film is rumored to have a massive budget of Rs. 100 crore, further raising the anticipation.

Notably, *Kanchana 4* will be released in theaters first, followed by a digital release eight weeks after its theatrical debut. This is a strategic move, as the *Kanchana* series already enjoys a strong fanbase, particularly in the Hindi-speaking belt, where even Bollywood remade the original *Kanchana* as *Lakshmi* starring Akshay Kumar

Akhanda 2: Samyuktha Joins Nandamuri Balakrishna in Sequel's New Poster

The highly anticipated sequel *Akhanda 2* has created a buzz among fans, especially with the recent reveal of a new poster featuring Samyuktha as the leading lady opposite Nandamuri Balakrishna. Directed by Boyapati Srinu, *Akhanda 2* is set to continue the high-octane saga that began with the blockbuster *Akhanda*, which became a major hit due to its intense action and gripping storyline.



The film crew has already started shooting in parts of Andhra Pradesh, includ-

ing sequences tied to the Mahakumbh Mela. Regular shooting for the film will continue in the coming months. As excitement builds, the filmmakers have unveiled the first look at Samyuktha, who will be playing Balayya's partner in this high-profile film. Samyuktha, a popular Malayalam actress, is expected to bring a fresh energy to the screen alongside Balakrishna.

The film is being produced by Ram Achanta and Gopi Achanta under the banner of 14 Reels Entertainment, with Balakrishna's daughter, Tejaswini, also involved in the production. With a solid production team behind it, *Akhanda 2* is already generating massive anticipation, especially since it is set to delve into themes with a political undertone, adding more depth to the action-packed narrative.



Ravi Teja's Mass Jathara Glimpses Unveiled Ahead of Birthday Release

Tollywood's *Mass Maharaja* Ravi Teja is all set to thrill his fans with his upcoming film *Mass Jathara* (RT75), a highly anticipated project. With Sreeleela playing the female lead, the film promises high-energy action and entertainment. Recently, the makers shared a striking new look of Ravi Teja in the film, sparking excitement across social media. In this look, Ravi Teja is seen stroking his signature mustache while sitting down to eat, hinting that the film will be a "delicious feast" for fans.

The stills suggest that Ravi Teja's character, "Ravanna," is in for a thrilling ride, ready to start his "mass davat," indicating that the film will be a feast of entertainment, action, and drama for fans.

Directed by Bhanu Bogavarapu, who is making his directorial debut, *Mass Jathara* is shaping up to be a benchmark film for Ravi Teja. Known for his charismatic mass appeal, Ravi Teja's role in *Mass Jathara* is expected to be nothing short of iconic. The tagline "Lakshmana Bheri... I won't tell you the income... I will count the expenses... Rajya Pujyam Unlimited... Avamanam Zero" has already garnered attention, teasing the movie's grand scale and intense action.

On the occasion of Ravi Teja's birthday, set to be celebrated on January 26, the makers revealed that new glimpses from *Mass Jathara* would be coming soon, further raising expectations.

Teaser for Mohanlal's 'L2E' Set to Release on January 26, 2025

The much-anticipated sequel to the blockbuster *Lucifer*, *L2E* (Empuraan), is all set to take Mollywood by storm. Directed by Prithviraj Sukumaran and starring the legendary Mohanlal in the lead role, *L2E* is one of the most awaited releases in the Malayalam film industry. This action-packed thriller is not only gearing up for a grand release in Malayalam but will also have a Telugu version, expanding its reach to a broader audience.



Scheduled to hit theaters on March 27, 2025, *L2E* has already created a buzz among fans. To kick off the excitement, the makers have announced the release of the film's teaser on January 26, 2025, at 7:07 PM, coinciding with Republic Day celebrations. This strategic release date has fans eagerly awaiting the first glimpse of the highly anticipated film.

In addition to Mohanlal's powerful performance, *L2E* boasts an ensemble cast that includes Tovino Thomas, Indrajith Sukumaran, Manju Warrier, Saniya Iyappan, Sai Kumar, and Sachin Khedekar. Produced by Lyca Productions and Aashirvad Cinemas, the film is set to feature gripping action sequences and intense drama. Deepak Dev, known for his stellar music compositions, has been roped in to create the soundtrack, further adding to the excitement surrounding the film.