

**Weather Forecast**

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

**At Least 30 Feared Killed..70 Injured**

**Stampede occurs as devotees rush for holy dip at Triveni Sangam.**

**Second stampede triggered by crowd surge at closed pontoon bridges.**

**Chaos leads to suspension of "Amrit Snan" ritual.**

**President Murmu, PM Modi Express Condolences**



# Maha Kumbh Mela Stampede

## President Murmu, PM Modi Express Condolences



**TPN Correspondent | Prayagraj**  
At least 30 people are feared dead and around 70 others injured in a stampede at the Maha Kumbh Mela in Prayagraj on Wednesday, as tens of millions of devotees gathered to take a holy dip at the Triveni Sangam on the auspicious occasion of Mauni Amavasya. This day holds immense spiritual significance, amplified by a rare celestial alignment that occurs once in 144 years. Authorities have not officially confirmed the deaths, but sources close to the matter reported the fatalities, with many others seriously injured. The stampede occurred when devotees, eager to participate in the sacred "amrit snan", became trapped in a crush of people. Videos and photographs from the scene show bodies being carried away on stretchers and the injured struggling to escape the chaos. Eyewitness ac-

counts describe the scene as chaotic, with people stepping over discarded belongings as they tried to flee. The stampede occurred after an initial incident at 1 am, which was not deemed serious at the time. However, a second stampede escalated when devotees found the pontoon bridges closed and began pushing in a panic. Witnesses said the crowd surged, leading to people falling and being trampled. Some pilgrims, carrying luggage, lost their balance and fell into the mass of people, causing further chaos. Vivek Mishra, a content creator from Prayagraj, recalled his harrowing experience: "I fell when my foot got stuck in a dustbin. I was left barefoot and injured. I had to help my parents and another woman who was lying on the ground. The situation spiraled out of control, with young people

pushing others, leading to the stampede." The stampede has led to the suspension of the "Amrit Snan" ritual, with authorities urging devotees to refrain from heading to the confluence of the Ganga, Yamuna, and Saraswati rivers. Uttar Pradesh Chief Minister Yogi Adityanath has appealed to the public to bathe at nearby ghats and avoid the Sangam area. "Follow the instructions of the administration and cooperate in making arrangements," he said in a statement. Prime Minister Narendra Modi has been in constant communication with CM Adityanath, calling for immediate support measures. The administration has deployed the Rapid Action Force to restore order, and rescue operations continue. The situation is being closely monitored, as the administration works to ensure the safety of the remaining devotees.

President Droupadi Murmu on Wednesday expressed her sorrow over the tragic stampede at the Maha Kumbh in Prayagraj and extended her condolences to the victims' families. She also wished for the swift recovery of those injured in the incident. "The stampede incident at Prayagraj Maha Kumbh is extremely sad. I express my condolences to the families of the injured devotees and pray to God that all the injured devotees recover soon," Murmu said in a post on 'X' in Hindi. Prime Minister Narendra Modi also responded to the tragedy, offering his deepest sympathies. "The accident that happened in Prayagraj Maha Kumbh is extremely sad. My deepest condolences to the devotees who have lost their loved ones. I wish for the speedy recovery of all the injured," Modi wrote on 'X'. The stampede occurred between 1 am and 2 am on Wednesday, as a massive crowd gathered to take a holy dip at the Triveni Sangam for Mauni Amavasya. Reports suggest that the incident was triggered when devotees climbed over barricades at Akhara marg, resulting in the tragic chaos.

## ISRO's 100th GSLV Launch Success

**Milestone Orbit Achieved**

**Enhancing NavIC Services**

**GSLV-F15 Soars with NVS-02**

**TPN Correspondent Hyderabad, Jan 30 :** The Indian Space Research Organisation (ISRO) marked a historic milestone with its 100th launch, successfully sending the GSLV-F15 rocket into space from the Satish Dhawan Space Centre in Sriharikota, Andhra Pradesh. The rocket carried the NVS-02 navigation satellite, which now orbits to enhance India's NavIC system.

The NVS-02, weighing 2,250 kg, was launched under the watchful eye of ISRO's new Chairman, V. Narayanan, in his first mission oversight. This satellite aims to bolster geographical, air, and maritime navigation services, providing location-based services for agriculture, aircraft management, and smartphones.

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## MLC Election Dates Announced for Telangana

- Three MLC Seats Up for Grabs in Telangana
- Biennial MLC Election Schedule Out in Telangana
- Telangana to Elect New MLCs: Dates Announced

**TPN Correspondent Hyderabad, Jan 30 :** The Central Election Commission has unveiled the schedule for the biennial elections of three MLC seats in Telangana. The elections will cover the Medak-Nizamabad-Adilabad graduate constituency and the teacher constituencies of Warangal-Khammam-Nalgonda and Nalgonda-Warangal-Khammam. The current holders, Jeevan Reddy, Raghottam Reddy, and Narasi Reddy, will see their terms end on March 29.

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## Panchayat Elections Set for February After BC Report

- BC survey report to shape upcoming elections.
- Report on BC reservations due by February 2.
- Elections to follow BC reservation finalization.
- Caste census findings to influence local polls.

**TPN Correspondent Hyderabad, Jan 30 :** Chief Minister Revanth Reddy has provided clarity on the upcoming panchayat elections, stating that they will be held after the submission of a report on BC reservations. The Dedicated Commission, tasked with analyzing a comprehensive caste census survey,

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## Komatireddy Takes Action on Akshara Chit Fund Fraud

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## CM Orders New Tourism Policy by February 10

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# Honor Killing in Suryapet

- Plotted for Two Months: Krishna's Murder Unveiled
- Grandmother's Deadly Influence: How a Family Conspired to Kill
- Tragic End to Love: Caste Prejudice Claims Another Life
- Chilling Details: How Krishna Was Lured to His Death
- Murder in the Name of Honor: Suryapet Police Crack the Case
- Buchamma's Role: The Mastermind Behind a Brutal Crime



## TPN Correspondent

**Suryapet, Jan 30** : In a shocking case of honor killing, police have arrested six individuals, including the victim's wife's family members, for the murder of Vadlakonda Krishna. The incident, which came to light on Monday in Suryapet district, was meticulously planned and executed by the accused. District Superintendent of Police (SP) Sanpreet Singh revealed details of the case to the media.

## Arrests and Seizures

The police arrested Bhargavi's brothers, Naveen and Vamsi, her father, Saidulu, her grandmother, Buchamma, and two associates, Mahesh and Sai Charan. A car, five mobile phones, and a knife were seized from the accused. According to the investigation, Krishna had been targeted multiple times in the past before the final act was carried out on Sunday night.

## A Premeditated Murder

Krishna, a resident of Mamillagadda in Suryapet, had married Kotla Bhargavi six months ago against the wishes of her family due to inter-caste differences. Enraged by the marriage, Bhargavi's brothers plotted for two months to kill Krishna. On Sunday night, at around 9 PM, they lured him to a farm near Janagama Cross Road in Suryapet and brutally murdered him.

## Grandmother's Role in the Crime

Shockingly, the mastermind behind the murder was revealed to be Bhargavi's grandmother, Buchamma. She strongly opposed her granddaughter's love marriage and incited her son and grandsons to carry out the murder.

Following the killing, the accused placed Krishna's body in a car and

drove to Old Suryapet, Atmakur (S) mandal, where they presented the body to Buchamma at a relative's house. Later, they transported the corpse in the car's trunk, aimlessly driving to Nalgonda in search of a disposal site. Unable to finalize a location, they eventually abandoned the body on the Pillaramarri canal embankment.

## Investigation and Legal Action

The murder, which initially appeared to be a mystery, was unraveled through diligent police investigation. SP Sanpreet Singh stated that the accused will face strict legal action, emphasizing that honor killings will not be tolerated. The case has sent shockwaves through the district, highlighting the brutal consequences of caste-based intolerance and family honor crimes.

## SP Sanpreet Singh Releases Details

**Suryapet:** Police have arrested six accused in the honor killing of Vadlakonda Krishna in Suryapet. SP Sanpreet Singh revealed that Krishna's wife Bhargavi's family members—her father Saidulu, grandmother Buchamma, brothers Naveen and Vamsi, and two accomplices, Mahesh and Sai Charan—were involved in the crime.

A car, a knife, and five mobile phones were seized from the accused. Cases have been registered under atrocity and murder charges. The SP stated that the murder was carried out to satisfy the grandmother. The body was later dumped near the Pillaramarri canal.

# Bandi Sanjay Writes Open Letter to CM Revanth Reddy

- Sanjay criticizes slow pace of government's welfare distribution.
- Open letter calls for action on unfulfilled welfare schemes.
- Bandi Sanjay questions CM's failure to deliver on promises.



## TPN Correspondent

**Hyderabad, Jan 30** : Union Minister of State Bandi Sanjay has written an open letter to Telangana Chief Minister Revanth Reddy, expressing concern over the unfulfilled promises made by the government regarding various welfare schemes. In his letter, Sanjay highlighted issues related to farmer assurance, spiritual assurance, housing, and ration cards, stating that it is outrageous that eligible beneficiaries are not receiving the promised benefits.

Sanjay pointed out that while there are 70 lakh eligible farmers across the state, money has not been deposited into the accounts of 65 lakh farmers so far. He also criticized the government's failure to provide funds to 9.79 lakh out of 10 lakh agricultural laborers in the state. The letter further noted that despite the government's announcements, the implementation of schemes like Rythu Bharosa, Atmiya Bharosa, housing, and ration cards has been inadequate.

The Union Minister expressed disappointment that the government had claimed to begin distributing these benefits by January 26, but so far, less than three percent of the eligible population has received any assistance. He also pointed out that only 561 out of 12,991 village panchayats in the state had received the schemes, with one village per mandal benefiting. Furthermore, while the government identified 40 lakh poor families eligible for housing, only 72,000 families have received houses to date.

Sanjay urged the government to immediately grant the promised benefits to all eligible citizens and fulfill its commitments. He criticized the slow pace of implementation and the disparity between announcements and actual delivery.

# Harish Rao Calls CM's Governance Style Arrogant

- Rao Slams CM for Avoiding Public Interaction
- Harish Rao Questions CM's Leadership and Residence Choice



## TPN Correspondent

**Hyderabad, Jan 30** : Former minister and BRS leader Harish Rao has once again targeted Chief Minister Revanth Reddy, criticizing his approach to governance. In a recent statement, Harish Rao claimed that while the CM promotes "people's governance," he has failed to meet with the public for an entire year. Rao pointed out that although the CM holds a "people's darbar" at his camp office, he has not engaged directly with the public in a significant way for over a year.

at, where the official offices of the CM, ministers, and government departments are located. He criticized the CM for making key government decisions in village assemblies and police-controlled command centers, often guarded by security.

Rao expressed frustration with the CM's choice to reside in a private palace instead of the official Chief Minister's residence, accusing Revanth Reddy of showing arrogance by calling ministers and officials to his personal residence for meetings. He questioned whether this behavior was reflective of Indiramma's rule, a reference to past governance practices.

The remarks from Harish Rao highlight ongoing tensions between the ruling BRS party and CM Revanth Reddy, who has faced increasing criticism over his leadership style.

Rao further questioned the CM's decision to operate from his Jubilee Hills residence and the Congress's Command Control Center, rather than from the Ambedkar Secretari-

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# Komatireddy Takes Action on Akshara Chit Fund Fraud

- Komatireddy addresses media, promises justice.
- Investigation launched into chit fund fraud.
- Komatireddy responds to KTR, Bandi Sanjay remarks.

## TPN Correspondent

**Hyderabad, Jan 30** : Minister Komatireddy Venkat Reddy participated in a face-to-face program at Gandhi Bhavan today, where he responded to several questions from the media. When asked about KTR's recent criticisms, Komatireddy dismissed them as "useless words," stating that talking about such matters was a waste of time. He also responded to questions regarding Bandi Sanjay's comments, particularly about accusations of being a "traitor" in the Telangana movement, by questioning whether Bandi Sanjay himself could be considered a traitor.

Referring to KTR's past actions, Komatireddy criticized the Minister for his failure to address issues like fluoride contamination during his tenure and for not attending Mahatma Gandhi University for ten years. He also challenged KTR and Harish Rao's ethics, claiming they had only risen to prominence by

using KCR's name. Komatireddy claimed that he, by contrast, was known for his honesty and was free from allegations of corruption.

In a significant moment of the program, victims of the Akshara Chit Fund scam brought their grievances to Minister Komatireddy's attention. Perala Srinivas Rao, the MD of the Akshara Chit Fund, was accused of defrauding poor people. Komatireddy responded immediately, directing the state DGP to take strict action against the accused and ensure justice for the victims. He also ordered the appointment of a special officer to investigate the matter thoroughly.

The DGP confirmed that a special officer would be appointed to recover the money stolen from the poor, and a thorough investigation would be conducted to bring those responsible to justice.

The face-to-face program at Gandhi Bhavan provided a platform for citizens to raise concerns, and Komatireddy Venkat Reddy assured the public that their issues would be addressed promptly.

# CM Orders New Tourism Policy by February 10

- CM outlines new plans for tourism growth.
- Focus on eco and temple tourism development.
- New tourism policy to attract global visitors.

## TPN Correspondent

**Hyderabad, Jan 30** : Chief Minister A. Revanth Reddy conducted a review of the tourism department, directing officials to draft a comprehensive tourism policy by February 10. The CM emphasized the need to study the best tourism policies from both India and abroad

to create a plan that will attract tourists locally and internationally.

The new policy will prioritize eco-tourism and temple tourism, with a particular focus on areas like Adilabad, Warangal, and Nagarjuna Sagar. The CM instructed officials to collaborate with the Revenue, Forest, and Tourism departments to design a plan for the Sammakka-Saralamma Jatara, ensuring the development of nearby temples and tourist spots.

Additionally, CM Revanth Reddy called for the creation of tourism circuits linking key locations such as Sanjeevaiah Park, NTR Park, and Indira Park around Hussain Sagar. He also asked officials to examine eco-tourism models like those in Singapore and prepare plans to attract tourists for the upcoming Pushkarams at Godavari and Krishna rivers.

The Chief Minister is committed to enhancing tourism infrastructure and promoting Telangana as a prime destination for eco-tourism and religious tourism.

# Panchayat Elections Set for February After BC Report

will submit its report by February 2. The government plans to take a final decision on the elections once the report is received.

The caste census survey, which covered 1 crore 16 lakh 14 thousand 349 households across the state, aimed to gather detailed information on social, economic, political, educational, employment, and caste-related issues. The survey, which was conducted from November 9 and included 76 questions answered by around 87,000 people, has revealed that BCs constitute about 55 percent of the state's population.

Officials have stated that the survey data will be used to finalize BC reservations in local bodies. A cabinet meeting is expected to be held after the report's submission to make the final decision on the panchayat elec-

tions. CM Revanth Reddy emphasized that the caste census survey has garnered national praise, with the Chief Minister highlighting its importance for the empowerment of BCs, SCs, STs, minorities, and other weaker sections of society.

CM Revanth Reddy congratulated the officials for successfully conducting the survey and reiterated that it was a promise made by the Congress government to the people. The survey's findings will aid in determining the allocation of resources and benefits for marginalized communities, paving the way for their social and economic upliftment.

The report, which will be submitted shortly, is expected to play a crucial role in finalizing the BC reservation quotas for local bodies. With elections likely to take place in February, the government remains committed to ensuring a fair and inclusive process based on the survey's findings.

# ISRO's 100th GSLV Launch Success

It is expected to serve for a decade, further solidifying India's space capabilities.

ISRO's journey from its inception under Vikram Sarabhai to now includes six generations of launch vehicles, with the first mission launched under Abdul Kalam's leadership in 1979. This 100th launch from Sriharikota has seen 548 satellites placed into orbit, including missions like Chandrayaan, Mars Orbiter, Aditya, and the Space Recovery Experiment.

Chairman Narayanan congratulated the ISRO team, stating that this launch not only marks a significant achievement but also sets a benchmark for future missions.

Telangana's Chief Minister Revanth Reddy also extended his congratulations, expressing national pride in ISRO's success. He stated, "ISRO's success is a matter of pride for the country."

This launch underscores ISRO's continued success and its pivotal role in advancing India's space technology and global navigation services.

# MLC Election Dates Announced for Telangana

The election process kicks off with a notification on February 3. Nominations can be filed until February 10, followed by scrutiny on February 11. The last date for withdrawal of nominations is February 13. Polling will take place on February 27 from 8 am to 4 pm, with vote counting on March 3. The Election Commission has stressed that the entire process must conclude by March 8. With the announcement of the schedule, the Model Code of Conduct is now in effect across the involved districts, excluding Hyderabad, Rangareddy, and Mahabubnagar.



## Congress MP Criticizes KTR for Excessive Media Appearances



TPN | Correspondent

**Hyderabad, Jan 30** : Bhuvanagiri Congress MP Chamala Kiran Kumar Reddy has strongly criticized Telangana Minister K.T. Rama Rao (KTR), accusing him of prioritizing press conferences and social media over governance. Speaking at Gandhi Bhavan, Reddy claimed that KTR holds three press meets and posts four tweets daily, questioning his commitment to the state's administration. Reddy highlighted the importance of the Regional Ring Road (RRR) project, which requires ₹34,367 crore and plays a crucial role in Hyderabad's urban development. He revealed that he had already approached Union Ministers for financial support and urged all MPs to collaborate in securing central funds for Telangana. The Congress MP also criticized the BRS government for opaque decision-making and accused KTR of misleading the public through excessive media presence. He reaffirmed Congress's commitment to transparent governance and questioned BJP MPs' dedication to Telangana's development ahead of the Budget Session.

## Congress Leaders Criticize KTR's Protest and Farmer Support



TPN Correspondent

**Hyderabad, Jan 30** : Congress leaders have sharply criticized Telangana Minister K.T. Rama Rao (KTR) over his recent farmer protest in Nalgonda. Birla Ilayya, Government Whip, accused KTR of using the protest to divert attention from a pending legal case, questioning his genuine concern for farmers. He pointed out that KTR, despite holding a farmer dharna, had once put handcuffs on protesting farmers and had neglected their issues for ten years during the previous government's rule. Ilayya also criticized KTR for holding a dharna while claiming to provide assurance to farmers and agricultural laborers.

Patel Ramesh Reddy, Chairman of the Tourism Development Corporation, echoed similar sentiments, calling KTR's farmer protest a "flop show." He alleged that there were no real farmers present at the protest, but rather political brokers and opportunists. Reddy accused KCR and KTR of deceiving farmers, claiming that the promise of free urea had not been fulfilled. He also criticized the deaths of 7,000 farmers under their governance, stating that the Congress party had historically worked to provide water and improve conditions for farmers. Reddy concluded by warning that if KTR returns to Nalgonda, Congress supporters would protest against him.

# Kavitha Slams Government Over Groundnut Farmers' Struggles

TPN | Correspondent

**Hyderabad, Jan 30** : MLC Kalvakuntla Kavitha has voiced strong criticism over the ongoing issues faced by groundnut farmers, accusing the government of failing to address their plight. In a series of tweets, Kavitha expressed frustration that the groundnut farmers' agitation has not gained the attention it deserves, particularly in Mahabubnagar district, which she claimed is "burning" due to the farmers' unrest.

Kavitha highlighted the struggles of farmers who are suffering from poor yields and not receiving a remunera-

tive price for their crops. She pointed out that traders' fraud and the government's cold storage policies have compounded the farmers' problems. She expressed disappointment that the purchase of groundnuts is taking place under police security, which she called unfortunate.

The MLC demanded that the government take immediate action to provide a fair price for the groundnut crop, ensuring that traders and commission agents no longer disrupt the market yards.

Kavitha's remarks call for urgent intervention to support the distressed farming community.



## Wesley Slams Congress for Telangana's Failures

Wesley calls out Congress for failing the people.

CPM leader vows to address unfulfilled promises.

Wesley critiques Congress on housing, jobs, and services.

TPN | Correspondent

**Hyderabad, Jan 30** : John Wesley, the newly elected Secretary of Telangana State CPM, has harshly criticized the Congress-led state government, accusing it of failing to address the core issues affecting the people of Telangana. Wesley claimed that Congress has not delivered on its promises, leaving farmers, laborers, and the poor to suffer. Wesley pointed out the government's failure to provide financial assistance to laborers and the ongoing lack of homes for lakhs of beneficiaries under the Indiramma housing scheme. He also criticized Congress leaders for allegedly supporting real estate traders instead of focusing on the welfare of the common people.



laborers and addressing housing issues—have not been implemented," Wesley said. He further highlighted the government's neglect of crucial

sectors like education and healthcare, which he argued have become businesses rather than services for the poor.

The CPM leader also expressed concerns over the lack of job opportunities, despite Congress's promises during the election campaign. He accused the government of prioritizing real estate development around Hyderabad, while failing to create policies that could generate employment or support industry growth.

Wesley pledged that his party would work to address these issues and ensure that the people's needs are prioritized, vowing to fight for better education, healthcare, housing, and job opportunities for all.

## PCC Chief Calls for Support for Families of Kumbh Mela Victims

TPN | Correspondent

**Hyderabad, Jan 30** : Telangana PCC chief Mahesh Kumar Goud expressed deep sympathy for the families of those who died in the recent Kumbh Mela stampede. He expressed his shock over the tragic incident and conveyed his heartfelt condolences to the bereaved families. Goud emphasized the need for both the central and state governments to implement comprehensive security measures, especially given the large gathering of devotees during Mauni Amavasya.

He further stated that the central and state authorities must take immediate action to support the families affected by this disaster. Goud also prayed for the souls of the deceased, wishing them eternal peace. He urged the governments to provide all necessary assistance to help the grieving families during this difficult time.

## Harish Rao Calls Out CM for Ignoring Student Welfare

- \* Students' Health at Risk Amid Government Negligence
- \* BRS Leader Demands Immediate Action on Food Poisoning
- \* Harish Rao Calls for Quality Food in Gurukuls
- \* CM's Empty Promises Amid Rising Food Poisoning Cases

TPN Correspondent

**Hyderabad, Jan 30** : Former Minister and BRS leader Tanniru Harish Rao has strongly criticized the Congress government, particularly Chief Minister Revanth Reddy, for failing to take action amid repeated food poisoning incidents in student hostels. On Twitter, Harish Rao expressed his outrage after several students were hospitalized due to food poisoning. He shared a video of students undergoing treatment and raised concerns over the lack of government response.

Harish Rao highlighted two separate incidents in which students were affected by food poisoning. On the previous day, 84 students at Kandukur Gurukulam were hospitalized, and on the following day, 12 students from an ST hostel near Girinagar in Suryapet district suffered the same fate. Despite these alarming incidents, Harish Rao called it "shameful" that there had been no movement or preventive measures from the government.

The former minister also criticized CM Revanth Reddy's failure to act, calling his statement that students would be jailed for serving adulterated food an empty promise. Harish Rao demanded that the government take immediate steps to ensure the



safety of students by providing quality food in Gurukuls and preventing further incidents of food poisoning.

Meanwhile, in a related incident at Kandukur Gurukul hostel in Rangareddy district, several female students fell ill after consuming sweets on Republic Day. The authorities initially downplayed the situation, treating the students without informing their parents. Angered parents later confronted the principal, who had locked the school, but police intervened to allow them entry. The principal claimed no injuries had occurred, but the incident has sparked further outrage among parents.

## Minister Seethakka Calls for 100 Liters of Water per Person Daily

- \* Seethakka Pushes for 100L Water Per Person Daily
- \* Minister Seethakka Calls for Efficient Water Use
- \* Mission Bhagiratha: 100L Water for Every Citizen

TPN Correspondent

**Hyderabad, Jan 30** : Minister Seethakka emphasized the importance of ensuring every person in Telangana is provided with 100 liters of water per day. Speaking on the progress of Mission Bhagiratha, she directed staff to prepare a comprehensive plan for the next five months to ensure no one faces water shortages until the end of summer. "After air, water is essential. We are fortunate to have water for crores of people," she said.

Seethakka urged the formation of committees at the village and mandal levels to ensure effective water distribution. She emphasized the need for field visits by officials to identify issues and conduct awareness programs to build

confidence in Mission Bhagiratha's water supply.

Despite significant investments in the project, Seethakka noted that many people were not fully utilizing the water provided. She suggested conducting surveys to assess how many people are using Mission Bhagiratha water for drinking and how much is being supplied to various assembly constituencies. Additionally, the minister called for awareness campaigns to encourage households to use Mission Bhagiratha water efficiently.

Her comments aim to ensure the effective use of the state's water resources and address concerns about water accessibility before the summer season intensifies.



## Bomb Threats Target Bollaram Army School and DPS Nacharam

TPN | Correspondent

Hyderabad, Jan 30 : Bollaram Army Public School received a bomb threat email on Wednesday morning from an unknown ID, prompting immediate action. The school management evacuated students to a safe area, informed parents, and sent the children home. Army police, along with the bomb squad, conducted a thorough inspection of the premises for nearly three hours but found no explosives. Fortunately, the situation ended without incident. The police have launched an investigation and promised to apprehend the individual responsible for the threat.

This follows a similar bomb threat at Delhi Public School (DPS) in Nacharam on Tuesday. The school received an email claiming a bomb had been planted. The police and bomb squad responded promptly and conducted a search, finding no explosives. This marks the second bomb threat received by DPS this month. Authorities are investigating the origin of these threats and have escalated their vigilance regarding school safety.



Sri Teja's Health Update

## Recovering But Unaware of His Family

TPN | Correspondent

Hyderabad, Jan 30 : KIMS Hospital has released an update on the health of Sri Teja, who was injured in the tragic stampede at Sandhya Theater during the release of Pushpa 2. Unfortunately, his mother lost her life in the incident. Sri Teja was admitted to KIMS Hospital, where he is currently undergoing treatment. The government is providing him with the necessary medical care.

The health bulletin states that Sri Teja is breathing independently, and physiotherapy is ongoing. However, despite his recovery, he is reportedly unable to recognize his family members. Fortunately, his body is responding to treatment, and doctors remain optimistic about his progress.

During his treatment, Sri Teja has received visits from several well-wishers, including state ministers and Pushpa movie star Allu Arjun, who expressed their support for him and his family during this difficult time.



## Meat Shops to Remain Closed Tomorrow



TPN | Correspondent

Hyderabad, Jan 30 : The Greater Hyderabad Municipal Corporation (GHMC) has ordered the closure of all meat shops, goat, and sheep mandis on January 30, marking the 77th death anniversary of Mahatma Gandhi. GHMC officials emphasized that strict action will be taken against those violating the order, as per the GHMC Act. The police have been instructed to ensure compliance across the city. This closure is observed as a tribute to Gandhi's principles of non-violence. Similar restrictions will also be implemented across Telangana and Andhra Pradesh. Gandhi's teachings on peace and compassion continue to inspire millions worldwide.

# Major Breakthrough in Afzalgunj Firing Case

Notorious Bihar Gang Identified

Multi-State Manhunt Underway

CCTV Footage Reveals Key Clues

Chassis Number Leads to Breakthrough

Police Close in on Fleeing Suspects

TPN | Correspondent

Hyderabad, Jan 30 : Hyderabad police have made a significant breakthrough in the Afzalgunj firing case, identifying the key accused as members of a notorious gang from Bihar. Following the shooting incident in December, law enforcement agencies across four states launched an extensive search operation. The investigation revealed that the perpetrators fled from Hyderabad to Andhra Pradesh, then to Chennai and Bidar, in an attempt to evade capture. Notably, Uttar Pradesh police had been tracking the same gang for a year,



prompting coordinated efforts among multiple state police departments. Authorities have confirmed that the accused will be apprehended soon. Preliminary findings indicate that the accused have prior criminal records in Bihar, Uttar Pradesh, and other states.



Their modus operandi involves targeting ATM centers and unsuspecting travelers on highways, particularly at night. Extensive investigation and CCTV analysis following the Afzalgunj incident, Hyderabad police

meticulously examined 500-800 CCTV cameras along the suspects' escape route, analyzing hours of footage. These efforts led to the identification of the gang's origins in Hajipur, Bihar. Several police teams have been deployed to track and apprehend the accused.

Crucial Clue: Chassis Number Leads to Bihar

Initial technical investigations yielded no substantial leads. However, a breakthrough came when the police traced a two-wheeler used by the suspects to a parking lot at Mahatma

Gandhi Bus Station. Despite tampering attempts, the chassis number revealed the vehicle's registered owner in Hajipur, Bihar. Upon verification, the owner confirmed that two individuals had borrowed the vehicle in December for a month.

This crucial evidence allowed investigators to uncover the full history of the perpetrators. While police are maintaining confidentiality regarding certain details, officials have assured that all specifics will be disclosed upon the arrest of the accused. The investigation remains ongoing.

## Hyderabad Mayor in Legal Trouble Over Land Issue

- \* PIL Questions Land Allotment to Mayor's Family
- \* Court to Hear PIL Against Gadwala Vijayalakshmi
- \* Land Allotment Controversy Hits Hyderabad Mayor
- \* Legal Challenge Filed Over Land Allotment Issue

TPN | Correspondent

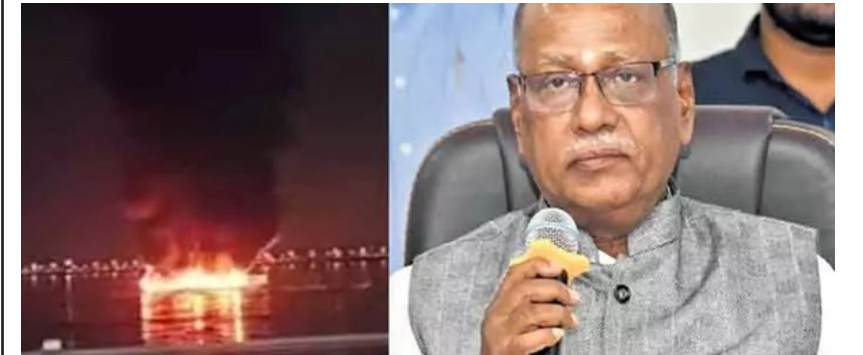
Hyderabad, Jan 30 : Hyderabad Mayor Gadwala Vijayalakshmi has encountered a significant legal challenge as a Public Interest Litigation (PIL) was filed in the Telangana High Court regarding the regularization of lands belonging to the family of state government advisor K. Keshavarao. The PIL, filed by Raghuvvera Reddy, alleges that valuable lands in NBT Nagar, Banjara Hills, were allotted under G.O. No. 56. The petition names Keshavarao's daughter, Mayor Vijayalakshmi, GPA holder Kavitha, and revenue officials as respondents. The petitioner has requested the government to cancel the G.O. and reclaim the land.



K. Keshavarao and his daughter Gadwala Vijayalakshmi have held positions in the previous government and continue in the same roles under the Congress administration. The land in question was reportedly allotted through G.O.s issued by the previous government. Political critics argue that both the father and daughter are facing increasing scrutiny, with parties attempting to corner them politically following the Congress party's election victory.

The Telangana High Court, under Chief Justice Justice Sujoy Paul, took up the case but allowed the respondents' lawyers additional time to file a counter. The next hearing is scheduled for February 27.

## BC Commission Orders Report on Hussain Sagar Boat Accident



TPN | Correspondent

Hyderabad, Jan 30 : The Telangana BC Commission has taken serious note of the boat accident that occurred at Hussain Sagar during the Bharat Mata Harathi program. BC Commission Chairman Niranjan has directed Hyderabad CP CV Anand to submit a detailed report on the incident within three days. The tragic accident resulted in eight people sustaining serious injuries, with one person dying while undergoing treatment on Tuesday. Additionally, one youth went missing, and his body was recovered after a 48-hour rescue operation by DRF, NDRF, and fire teams.

The accident took place on Republic Day at the Bharat Mata Maha Aarti event, organized by the Bharat Mata Foundation at People's Plaza on Necklace Road. Two boats caught fire during the program. Following the incident, families of the victims have expressed anger over the lack of support from the event organizers and Union Minister Kishan Reddy. They have demanded assistance and accountability for the tragedy. In response, the BC Commission has issued orders to submit a comprehensive report on the incident by 5 pm on February 1. The Commission is looking to address concerns and ensure accountability for the accident.

## Family of Boat Fire Victim Protests Outside Gandhi Hospital, Demands Justice

TPN | Correspondent

Hyderabad, Jan 30 : Relatives of Ajay, a young man who tragically lost his life in the Tank Bund boat fire on January 26, staged a protest outside Gandhi Hospital on Monday. Ajay had been missing since the accident, and his body was recently recovered, with a post-mortem currently underway.

The fire broke out when firecrackers on a boat accidentally ignited, leading to a deadly

blaze during the Maha Aarti program organized by Union Minister Kishan Reddy for Republic Day celebrations. The protesters raised slogans against Kishan Reddy and the state government, demanding accountability and compensation for the grieving family. The tragedy has sparked serious concerns over safety protocols at public events, with Ajay's relatives calling for a thorough investigation into the incident.

## HUJ Launches 2025 Media Diary, Ministers Praise its Long History



TPN | Correspondent

Hyderabad, Jan 30 : State Ministers Ponnampati Prabhakar and Duddilla Sridhar Babu praised the Hyderabad Union of Journalists (HUJ) for its rich history and the invaluable contributions of senior journalists who have served the association over the years. The ministers emphasized the association's role in supporting journalists and upholding their rights.

chaired by HUJ President Shiga Shankar Goud and attended by several prominent figures, including Hyderabad District In-charge Minister Ponnampati Prabhakar, IT Minister Duddilla Sridhar Babu, PCC President Mahesh Kumar Goud, Media Academy Chairman K. Srinivas Reddy, and TUWJ President K. Virahat Ali.

The event was also graced by Rajya Sabha member Anil Kumar Yadav, government advisors Vem Narender Reddy, Shabbir Ali, MLC Balamur Venkat, Corporation Chairman Faheem Qureshi, and other key members of the media community.

## Principal and Clerk Videotape Teacher Changing Saree

TPN | Correspondent

Hyderabad, Jan 30 : A scandal involving a college principal and clerk has shaken the academic community in Hyderabad. Both individuals are accused of secretly filming a female teacher while she was changing her saree. The incident took place at Maharshi College in Begumpet and was exposed on Wednesday morning.

The teacher, upon discovering that she was being filmed, protested outside the college with her students, demanding immediate action against the principal and clerk. The video of the incident has since gone viral on social media, raising serious concerns about privacy violations and abuse of power within educational institutions.

Details about the incident are still emerging, and investigations are underway. The teacher has called for strict punishment for those involved, emphasizing the need for stronger safeguards to protect the dignity and privacy of staff members in educational settings.



### Prostitution Ring Exposed in Gaulidoddi, Foreign Women Rescued



**TPN | Correspondent**  
**Hyderabad, Jan 30** : In a recent crackdown on human trafficking and prostitution in Hyderabad, the SOT conducted surprise raids at two apartments in Gaulidoddi. During the operation, the police rescued nine African women who had been brought to Hyderabad under the false pretense of employment and were being forced into prostitution.

The police apprehended a gang of three members, who had been luring foreign women online and trafficking them into the city. The women were reportedly promised work opportunities, only to be exploited for sex work once they arrived.

The police have registered a case and are continuing to investigate the operation, working to dismantle the network behind the exploitation of these women. Authorities have vowed to take strict action against those involved in such criminal activities.

### 84 Students Fall Ill Due to Food Poisoning at Gurukulam



**TPN | Correspondent**  
**Rangareddy, Jan 30** : A food poisoning incident has been reported at Kandukur Gurukulam in Nadargul, Rangareddy district, where 84 students fell ill after consuming sweets on January 26, Republic Day. The students experienced severe symptoms such as vomiting, diarrhea, and stomach pain, with many being confined to their beds.

The incident came to light late, as the school principal initially attempted to manage the situation by seeking help from a nurse at the hostel. However, when some students' conditions worsened, they were transferred to a hospital in Vanasthalipuram for treatment.

Reports indicate that the principal initially attempted to cover up the incident by locking the school to prevent parents from learning of the situation. When parents arrived and were informed of the issue, tensions escalated, and the principal called the police to allow parents inside. Many parents have expressed anger over the lack of communication and transparency from the school regarding the students' health crisis. Authorities are investigating the cause of the food poisoning.

### Food Poisoning Strikes Girls' Hostel in Suryapet, Students Hospitalized



**TPN | Correspondent**  
**Suryapet, Jan 30** : A food poisoning incident at a girls' hostel in Suryapet district has caused alarm, with several students falling seriously ill after consuming spoiled food. The affected girls were initially taken to the Urban Health Center after vomiting

and other symptoms, and later transferred to a private hospital in Suryapet for further treatment.

The local RDO and medical officer visited the hospital to monitor the students' condition, and the Deputy DMHO confirmed that their health is now stable. Meanwhile, the parents of the affected students arrived at the hostel after learning of the incident.

The situation has raised concerns about the quality of food served in the hostel, and authorities are investigating the cause of the food poisoning.

### TPN Correspondent

**Hyderabad, Jan 30** : In a significant rally held on Wednesday, residents of E nubhamula village voiced their demand for an alcohol ban and the closure of belt shops. Youth leader Tagulla Janardhan Yadav emphasized that alcohol consumption has led to numerous deaths in the village every month due to related illnesses. He shared that an all-party meeting held on January 9 resulted in the decision to implement a ban, with a deadline set for the closure of belt shops by January 31. From February 1, the village will enforce a complete alcohol ban.

The Mandal Social Service JAC also expressed solidarity with the movement. JAC Chairman Bhupathi Ramulu highlighted the negative impact of alcohol on village peace and security, citing increased clashes. He noted that villages like Gattikal, Istalapuram, and Patarla Pahad in Atmakur S Mandal, where liquor bans were already implemented, have seen significant improvements in community health and harmony. The rally, supported by local students, called for development in the village once the alcohol ban is in place.



### Aghori Attacks and Causes Chaos at Komuravelli Temple, Police File Case

#### TPN Correspondent

**Siddipet, Jan 30** : An incident involving an Aghori at the Mallikarjuna Swamy temple in Komuravelli has led to a police case being filed. The Aghori was seen roaming around the temple carrying a knife, causing concern among temple officials and devotees. The Siddipet Commissioner of Police has registered a case under four sections, including assault and destruction of property, and an investigation has been launched.

On Tuesday, the Aghori attempted to enter the temple through the main gate, demanding a darshan of the Lord. When temple officials advised her to come dressed appropriately, an argument ensued. As a crowd gathered to witness the incident, tensions escalated. In the midst of the commotion, the Aghori attacked and injured a person, and also destroyed the mobile phone of a reporter who was recording the scene.

The situation led to heightened anxiety among temple-goers, and authorities are now investigating the incident to ensure that appropriate actions are taken.

### Minister Surekha Expresses Shock Over Stampede at Prayagraj



#### TPN | Correspondent

**Hyderabad, Jan 30** : Minister Surekha expressed deep shock and grief over the stampede that occurred during the Mauni Amavasya at the Mahakumbh Mela in Prayagraj, resulting in the loss of lives and injuries to several devotees. Recalling a similar tragic incident 70 years ago, where hundreds of devotees died in a stampede on the same day at the Kumbh Mela, the Minister called this accident "unfortunate."

Minister Surekha urged both the Uttar Pradesh and Central governments to take appropriate safety measures as many more devotees are expected to attend the Mahakumbh Mela in the coming days, especially during significant events like Vasant Panchami, Achala Navami, and Mahashivratri.

She extended her heartfelt condolences to the families of the deceased and wished a swift recovery to those injured in the incident.

### Rally Held in E nubhamula Village to Demand Alcohol Ban



### Seethakka Calls for Bridging Education Gaps

#### TPN | Correspondent

**Hyderabad, Jan 30** : Minister Seethakka highlighted the ongoing gaps in education and development, emphasizing the need for collective efforts to bridge these gaps. She noted that, in the current changing environment, human relations are weakening, and it is crucial to promote education to reinforce human values and relationships.

Speaking as the chief guest at a program organized by the Vidyadhan Foundation on Wednesday, Seethakka recalled the pivotal role of the late Manmohan Singh government's Right to Education Act, which made education for children aged 6-14

years compulsory. She emphasized that true development can only be achieved through education and that knowledge grows when it is shared.

The Minister praised the Vidyadhan Foundation for its commendable work in providing education to underprivileged children, ensuring that they have access to opportunities for growth. Seethakka assured that her government would continue to support the foundation's efforts in empowering the poor through education, reinforcing the importance of this initiative for building a stronger, more educated society.



### RS Praveen Criticizes Congress MLA's Behavior Towards Police

#### TPN | Correspondent

**Hyderabad, Jan 30** : BRS leader RS Praveen Kumar has made sensational comments regarding the clash between Congress MLA Makkan Singh and a police officer, calling the incident a "crime." Kumar accused the state government of allowing a "kingdom of rowdies and thieves" to flourish, resulting in police officers being inadequately protected.

Kumar praised Telangana DGP and ACP Johnny Narasimhulu, describing him as a courageous officer who has repeatedly defended the honor of the police department. He lauded Narasimhulu as a "khaki bullet" who is not afraid to sacrifice his life for his colleagues. Kumar expressed disappointment that Narasimhulu, an SC officer, had not been given an accelerated promotion, citing instances where individuals involved in criminal activities had received such promotions instead.

Kumar also condemned Congress MLA Makkan Singh for calling Narasimhulu a "madman," after the officer was allegedly pushed away during the altercation. He demanded that a case be filed against Singh and his followers for attacking the ACP, calling it a clear example of the "Congress state" fostering such behavior. He vowed to reveal the list of individuals who were given accelerated promotions despite their involvement in illegal activities.



### Veterinary Doctor Caught by ACB Taking Bribe in Adilabad

#### TPN | Correspondent

**Hyderabad, Jan 30** : A veterinary doctor, Ramesh Rathod, was caught by the Anti-Corruption Bureau (ACB) while accepting a bribe from a fellow staff member in Utnoor mandal, Adilabad district. According to ACB officials, Rathod, who worked in the Utnoor mandal, was demanding a bribe from Jugunaka Madhav, a veterinary assistant recently transferred to another area.



Madhav had pending salary dues for the past two months and approached Rathod to have it sanctioned. Rathod initially demanded Rs. 30,000 but later settled on Rs. 15,000. Madhav, suspecting foul play, reported the incident to the ACB. Following their instructions, the ACB officials caught Rathod red-handed while he was accepting the bribe of Rs. 15,000 at the Shampur sub-center on Wednesday afternoon.

The ACB has registered a case and launched an investigation into the matter.

# A Comparative Analysis of the Unified Pension Scheme and the National Pension System

The union government has recently introduced the Unified Pension Scheme (UPS) for its employees, with further details expected in the coming weeks. While the complete picture of the scheme's benefits and implementation remains unclear, initial insights suggest key differences when compared to the existing National Pension System (NPS). Employees will need to assess their risk tolerance when deciding between the two schemes.

## How Assured Pension is Calculated

Under the NPS, both the employee and government contribute a percentage of the employee's basic salary to their retirement account. Specifically, employees contribute 10%, while the government adds 14%. Similarly, under the UPS, employees contribute 10% of their salary, with the government matching this amount. However, the UPS introduces an additional 8.5% contribution by the government to a pooled fund, which is managed without employee input. The management of this pooled fund is a key risk factor, as its sustainability depends on the government's investment strategy and governance.

At retirement, the UPS presents three potential outcomes based on the value of the individual fund relative to the pooled fund:

**Case 1:** If the individual's fund equals the pooled fund, the employee will receive a lump sum and an assured pension, set at 50% of their last 12 months' salary, plus dearness relief.

**Case 2:** If the individual fund exceeds the pooled fund, the employee can take the excess amount alongside the assured pension.

**Case 3:** If the individual fund is smaller, the employee may need to contribute more or face a reduced pension.



For example, with a corpus of ₹50 lakh and an average salary of ₹45,000, an employee could receive a lump sum of ₹3.44 lakh and an assured pension of ₹22,500 per month, plus inflation adjustments. The employee's spouse is entitled to 60% of the pension after death.

## NPS vs. UPS

In contrast, the NPS allows employees to invest their accumulated corpus in an annuity, with no assured pension. For instance, a ₹50 lakh corpus can generate an annual annuity of approximately ₹3.90 lakh or ₹32,500 per month. While the NPS annuity is not inflation-protected, employees can opt for an annuity with a 3% annual increment, which would lower the monthly payout to around ₹28,500. The NPS annuity is more flexible but lacks the spouse's pension benefit offered by the UPS.

## Risk Factors

The NPS presents two main risks: low

returns on contributions and inflation erosion of pension value. While the NPS is vulnerable to inflation, particularly if the RBI's inflation targets are not met, it offers greater flexibility in terms of investment choices.

On the other hand, the UPS offers better inflation protection with its dearness relief component. However, the risk here lies in the sustainability of the pooled fund and the future government's commitment to pension payments. Should the pooled fund face losses, employees might not receive the expected benefits.

The choice between NPS and UPS largely depends on an individual's career timeline and risk tolerance. Employees in the NPS for a shorter period may benefit from the UPS's assured pension, while long-term NPS contributors might prefer the flexibility and potential higher returns of the NPS. Each system carries its own set of risks, and understanding the nuances of both will help employees make informed decisions for their retirement.



## DeepSeek and the Thali Analogy: The Future of AI Disruption

The recent fluctuations in the US stock market have raised questions about the future of AI technology, especially after the debut of DeepSeek, a new open-source AI engine developed by a Chinese-backed hedge fund. To understand the implications, we can draw an analogy to India's diverse thali meals, which can provide insights into the way DeepSeek disrupts the AI landscape.

In India, a thali meal can be as humble as a roadside stall offering a simple, affordable meal for Rs 50 or as luxurious as an unlimited thali in a five-star restaurant for Rs 1,500. Despite the differences in ambiance and presentation, both meals offer a satisfying, complete experience. Similarly, DeepSeek, though built on open-source technology and developed at a fraction of the cost (\$5.6 million), provides a well-rounded AI experience that rivals expensive engines like ChatGPT. It's a more affordable, customizable option that gives users the flexibility to tweak its features, much like how a thali meal allows for second servings or extra sides.

DeepSeek can be likened to Android in the mobile world—an open-source platform that provides a low-cost alternative to Apple's iOS. Just as Android revolutionized the mobile market by offering an affordable and customizable operating system, DeepSeek aims to democratize access to artificial general intelligence (AGI), challenging the monopoly of costly AI solutions. Its entry into the AI space is akin to Linux's disruption of Windows in the 2000s, making powerful technology accessible to a broader range of users.

One of the main concerns with AGI is its enormous processing power requirements, which demand costly GPUs and vast amounts of electricity. Nvidia, the leader in this domain, saw a dramatic 17% drop in stock value, reflecting the market's uncertainty about the future of AI investments. DeepSeek's rise challenges this model, showing that powerful AI engines can be built without relying on top-tier GPUs or traditional training methods. This efficiency offers companies a chance to embrace generative AI at a fraction of the cost, making it an attractive option for businesses focused on profitability.

While the US still leads in creating core technologies for AI, the timing of DeepSeek's launch is significant. Its release raises questions about the balance of power in the AI space and may prompt the US to reconsider its approach to trade restrictions with China. DeepSeek's emergence signals the beginning of an exciting, more accessible AI era—one where affordability and innovation go hand-in-hand, creating a more inclusive technological future.

# Reviving Yamuna: A Sabarmati Riverfront-Like Transformation for Delhi's Lifeline



As Delhi approaches its upcoming election, the Yamuna River, heavily polluted and foaming with toxic foam, has become a focal point of political debate. Arvind Kejriwal's Aam Aadmi Party (AAP) has accused Haryana of contaminating the river with ammonia, sparking sharp responses from the BJP. This ongoing political clash, however, underscores a deeper issue—the complete neglect of the Yamuna, which now resembles a vast sewage drain, rather than the lifeline it once was.

Amidst the political rhetoric, Union Home Minister Amit Shah's proposal to develop the Yamuna Riverfront akin to Ahmedabad's Sabarmati Riverfront has rekindled hope for a transformative change. But is such a makeover feasible for the Yamuna?

The Sabarmati Riverfront, now a shining example of urban renewal, underwent a remarkable transformation. Once a highly polluted water body, Sabarmati was revitalized through a combination of commercial, residential, and recreational

developments along its banks. The project began taking shape in the late 1990s and gained momentum in 2004, with the Ahmedabad Municipal Corporation leading the charge. The project transformed a neglected stretch into a vibrant public space, with beautiful parks and promenades attracting both locals and tourists.

However, Sabarmati's journey to recovery was not without challenges. As a seasonal river, Sabarmati's waters were largely confined to the monsoon months, making it difficult to maintain water quality. In response, the Gujarat government released water from the Narmada River into Sabarmati, a step that stabilized the water levels, though the river still faces issues of pollution, especially downstream.

For the Yamuna, the task is even more daunting. Despite the implementation of three Yamuna Action Plans and the expenditure of over Rs 8,500 crore since 1993, the river remains choked with untreated sewage, industrial waste, and chemical pollutants. Both AAP and the

BJP have used the river's pollution as a political tool, blaming neighboring states like Haryana and Uttar Pradesh for discharging contaminants, while Delhi contributes to the problem by overusing the river for drinking, irrigation, and industrial needs.

Reviving the Yamuna to mirror the success of Sabarmati will be an arduous task. The river's unique challenges—ranging from flooding in the monsoons to low water levels in summer—make it difficult to replicate the Sabarmati model. However, with proper planning, expert consultation, and government support, the Yamuna can undergo a much-needed ecological overhaul. Removing encroachments, upgrading sewage treatment plants, and ensuring freshwater flow are critical steps.

Yet, just as the political uproar over the Yamuna pollution ebbs and flows with election cycles, so too does the commitment to solving its crisis. Without sustained effort and a long-term vision, the Yamuna will remain a toxic symbol of Delhi's environmental neglect.

## Pakistan's Crisis of Perpetual Uncertainty: A Deepening National Challenge

Pakistan finds itself entrenched in a state of "perpetual uncertainty," with no clear path forward. The nation is facing a multifaceted crisis of immense proportions that threatens the very fabric of its existence. Political instability, internal security issues, and governance deficiencies intersect in a way that undermines the country's ability to recover or stabilize. At the heart of this crisis lies a pervasive economic unpredictability that continues to undermine the nation's future.

Despite receiving significant financial assistance from international creditors, both bilateral and multilateral, totaling billions of dollars over the past year, Pakistan's economic outlook remains grim. Rather than seeing meaningful recovery, the country's economy has stagnated, burdened by structural inefficiencies, a lack of investor confidence, and an absence of long-term policy solutions. This ongoing economic struggle starkly illustrates the failure of Pakistan's political and governance systems to enact meaningful reforms or deliver sustainable growth.

The roots of Pakistan's economic and political instability are deeply embedded in its military-dominated governance structure. The country's leadership, largely shaped by entrenched military elites, has failed to prioritize or implement the structural reforms needed to address the systemic issues facing the nation. Corruption among the elite remains pervasive, undermining efforts to address the country's challenges effectively. The continued mismanagement of public resources, coupled with a reluctance to engage in essential policy reforms, only exacerbates Pakistan's vulnerabilities, both politically and economically. The inefficiencies within the government are compounded by a security situation that has spiraled out of control, with increasing incidents of internal unrest and militant activity. The national security crisis not only distracts from the country's political and economic priorities but also creates an environment of fear and uncertainty that further erodes investor confidence and exacerbates social tensions.



# Condolences To Those Who Lost Loved Ones": PM On Maha Kumbh Stampede

## Stampede at Maha Kumbh Grounds Leaves Several Injured

TPN Correspondent | New Delhi

Prime Minister Narendra Modi extended his condolences after a stampede at the Maha Kumbh fair grounds, where casualties are feared. He wished for the speedy recovery of around 30 women injured when an overwhelming crowd broke barricades near the Triveni Sangam ghat on the sacred occasion of Mauni Amavasya, a day expected to witness 10 crore pilgrims taking a holy dip. PM Modi has spoken to Uttar Pradesh Chief Minister Yogi Adityanath four times, assuring full support from the Centre while local authorities manage the situation.

Akharas cancelled their processions and deferred the holy dip following the stampede. Chief Minister Yogi Adityanath confirmed that some people were seriously injured but reassured that the situation remains under control. He urged devotees to avoid crowding at Sangam Nose and advised the elderly, children, and asthma patients to bathe at the nearest ghats, emphasizing that all Ganga ghats hold the same spiritual significance. The stampede occurred near Triveni Sangam



ghat on Mauni Amavasya. Over 4.80 crore devotees took a dip on Tuesday alone, surpassing Makar Sankranti's numbers. CM Yogi, Amit Shah, JP Nadda, and Anandiben Patel reviewed the situation. The Amrit Snan on Mauni Amavasya is the

most significant ritual of the Maha Kumbh, made even more auspicious this year due to a rare celestial event, 'Triveni Yog,' which occurs once in 144 years. The Maha Kumbh, which began on January 13, has already seen over 15 crore pilgrims in 17 days and will continue till February 26.

## "Mysuru Land Scam Case Is Politically Motivated"



TPN Correspondent | Bengaluru

Karnataka Chief Minister Siddaramaiah on Tuesday expressed confidence in receiving justice from the judiciary regarding the Mysuru Urban Development Authority (MUDA) scam, where he is the prime accused and his wife, BM Parvathi, is the second accused. The Dharwad bench of the Karnataka High Court has reserved judgment on a petition seeking a Central Bureau of Investigation (CBI) probe into the case. When asked about his concerns, Siddaramaiah dismissed any worry, saying, "Why should I be concerned? I trust the judiciary."

The High Court on Monday stayed the Enforcement Directorate's (ED) summons to Parvathi and State Urban Development Minister Byrathi Suresh, questioning the urgency of the ED's actions. The court noted that the investigation was still ongoing and observed that the timing of the summons was inappropriate. The stay order will remain in effect until February 10, pending further hearings.

The MUDA scam allegations suggest that Siddaramaiah used his political influence to secure compensation for 14 sites in his wife's name in exchange for 3 acres and 16 guntas of land acquired by MUDA. The petitioner, Snehamayi Krishna, has challenged the ongoing Karnataka Lokayukta probe and requested a CBI investigation. While reserving judgment, the court directed the Lokayukta to continue its investigation and submit further findings on the day of the verdict.

## Congress challenges Kejriwal over CAG reports

### Panel to Study the Feasibility of Banning Fossil Fuel Vehicles



TPN Correspondent | Delhi

Congress spokesperson Pawan Khera on Wednesday criticised the Aam Aadmi Party (AAP) government in Delhi over 14 contentious Comptroller and Auditor General (CAG) reports. Khera accused Arvind Kejriwal of hypocrisy, recalling how Kejriwal once carried "fake drafts" of CAG reports against the Congress government but is now silent on similar findings against his own administration. He challenged Kejriwal to a debate on the CAG reports concerning AAP's governance in Delhi.

"If he has any guts, he should debate on the CAG reports with us," Khera said. This criticism follows a scathing attack by Congress MP Rahul Gandhi, who had earlier slammed Kejriwal over the Delhi excise policy scam, highlighting the AAP leader's past promises and present contradictions.

## Maharashtra Forms Committee to Explore Petrol, Diesel Car Ban in Mumbai

TPN Correspondent | Maharashtra

The Maharashtra government has taken a significant step in tackling Mumbai's air pollution crisis by forming a seven-member committee tasked with exploring the possibility of banning petrol and diesel vehicles within the Mumbai Metropolitan Region (MMR). The move comes in response to growing concerns over deteriorating air quality in the city and its surrounding areas, including Thane, Raigad, and Palghar. The committee will focus on promoting cleaner alternatives like CNG and electric vehicles to reduce vehicular emissions.



Led by retired IAS officer Sudhir Kumar Shrivastava, the committee includes key stakeholders such as Maharashtra's transport commissioner, Mumbai's joint police commissioner (traffic), the managing director

of Mahanagar Gas Limited, and representatives from the Society of Indian Automobile Manufacturers (SIAM), among others. The committee is expected to conduct a detailed study and submit a report with recommen-

dations within three months. This move follows a suo-motu Public Interest Litigation heard by the Bombay High Court, which raised concerns about traffic congestion and its role in increasing pollution levels. The court emphasized that current strategies to manage vehicle numbers and pollution are insufficient. In response, the state government is seeking expert advice to determine whether phasing out fossil fuel-powered vehicles is a viable solution to Mumbai's air quality problem.

## Mumbai Police Insist Arrested Man is the Attacker in Saif Ali Khan Stabbing Case



TPN Correspondent | Mumbai

Mumbai Police on Tuesday firmly asserted that they have arrested the right person in connection with actor Saif Ali Khan's stabbing case. Additional Commissioner of Police Paramjit Singh Dahiya stated, "Yes, we have the right man in custody. There is no doubt that he is the accused." The officer emphasized that substantial technical, physical, and oral evidence has been gathered to prove the accused's involvement, rejecting media speculation suggesting otherwise.

Saif Ali Khan was stabbed in five places—including his back, wrist, neck, shoulder, and elbow—during an apparent burglary at his Bandra residence in the early hours of January 16. His friend rushed him to Lilavati Hospital in an autorickshaw, and he was discharged within a week.

- Police assert strong evidence against the accused, Shariful Islam.
- No fingerprint report has been received yet, despite media claims.
- The accused's lawyer argues he is being made a scapegoat.

Shariful Islam was arrested near Hiranandani Estate in Thane, 35 kilometers from Khan's home, after an intensive 70-hour manhunt. However, controversy arose when reports suggested the 19 sets of fingerprints collected from the crime scene did not match Islam's. Mumbai Police refuted these claims, stating that they have yet to receive the official fingerprint report.

Meanwhile, a West Bengal-based woman's Aadhaar card, allegedly used by Islam to purchase a SIM card, has led police to record her statement. Maharashtra Chief Minister Devendra Fadnavis assured the public that the investigation is proceeding meticulously, urging against unnecessary confusion. However, the father of another man initially detained in Chhattisgarh criticized Mumbai Police, stating his son lost his job and marriage due to mistaken identity, questioning who would be held accountable for his ruined future.

## Court Dismisses Bibhav Kumar's Plea in MP Swati Maliwal Assault Case



TPN Correspondent | New Delhi

The Tis Hazari Court in Delhi has dismissed multiple revision petitions filed by Bibhav Kumar, a close aide of Arvind Kejriwal, in the assault case involving AAP Rajya Sabha MP Swati Maliwal. The court rejected Kumar's challenge against the cognizance order and his appeal against the committal of his case to the Sessions Court.

Additionally, the court turned down a revision plea by the Delhi Police against an earlier order directing them to provide un-relied documents to Kumar. The judge emphasized the need for transparency, allowing access to materials that could support his defense.

Bibhav Kumar was accused of physically and verbally assaulting Swati Maliwal at the Chief Minister's residence on May 13 last year. Maliwal alleged that he slapped, kicked, and attempted to disrobe her. Kumar was arrested on May 18 following her complaint.

The Supreme Court later granted him bail but barred him from resuming any role in the Chief Minister's Office. The Delhi Police has filed a 500-page charge sheet, with testimonies from multiple witnesses. Kumar continues to face charges, including culpable homicide and criminal intimidation.

# India Rejects Canada's Allegations of Election Interference

## MEA Hits Back at "Baseless" Claims of India's Involvement in Toronto Elections

TPN Correspondent | Delhi

India has firmly rejected the allegations made by a Canadian commission regarding interference in Toronto's elections, categorizing the report as "insinuations" without merit. The Ministry of External Affairs (MEA) also criticized Canada's interference in India's internal matters, emphasizing the negative consequences of such actions, including illegal migration and organized criminal activities.

The report, issued by Canada's National Security and Intelligence Committee of Parliamentarians, claimed that India was one of the most active foreign actors engaging in electoral interference in Canada, specifically citing involvement in the support of candidates through proxy agents.

The Canadian report also referenced the expulsion of six Indian diplomats in October 2024, following allegations of their involve-



ment in a campaign of violence, which was met with reciprocal action by India. The report's mention of India's supposed disinformation

regarding the killing of Hardeep Singh Nijjar was also strongly denied by India, further escalating tensions between the two coun-

tries. The MEA reaffirmed its stance that such smear campaigns only serve to harm the already delicate diplomatic relations.

## White House Opens Briefing Room to "New Media" in Move to Engage Younger Audiences



TPN Correspondent | Washington DC

In a groundbreaking move, the White House has adapted its media strategy under President Donald Trump's administration by opening up the briefing room to a new generation of media outlets, including podcasters, social media influencers, and content creators.

This shift is part of the administration's effort to cater to the evolving media landscape, particularly among younger Americans who are increasingly consuming news outside traditional television and newspapers. Karoline Leavitt, at 27 the youngest White House press secretary in history, emphasized that this change is critical for effectively spreading the president's message.

Leavitt invited content creators from independent platforms to apply for press credentials via a newly launched website, [whitehouse.gov/newmedia](https://www.whitehouse.gov/newmedia). She further announced plans to reinstate press passes for 440 journalists whose access was revoked under the previous administration. The change marks a significant step toward embracing diverse voices and expanding the reach of presidential communications in an era dominated by digital media.

## Zelensky: Ukraine to Replace Suspended US Aid Funding for Critical Humanitarian Projects



TPN Correspondent | Ukraine

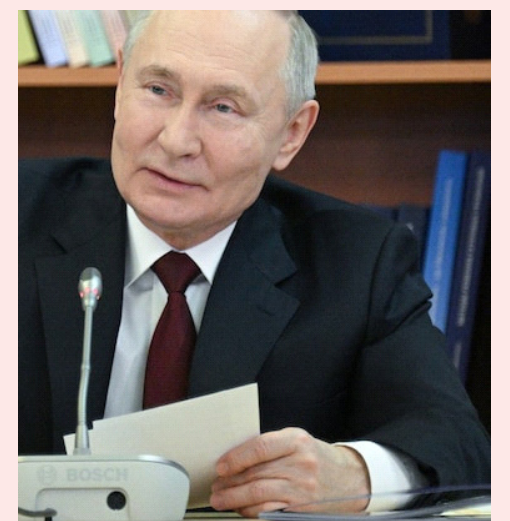
Ukrainian President Volodymyr Zelensky stated on Tuesday that several vital humanitarian projects in the country had been put on hold due to the US government's decision to freeze foreign aid. This includes key initiatives aimed at supporting veterans, local media, and various sectors reliant on international assistance since Russia's invasion began in February 2022.

Zelensky emphasized that despite the setback, Ukraine would prioritize these suspended programs by reallocating public funds where possible, ensuring the continuation of essential services for its citizens. His government has already begun assessing which projects need immediate attention, particularly those involving vulnerable groups such as children and veterans, as well as infrastructure protection efforts crucial to the country's survival amid ongoing conflict.

Since the outbreak of the war, Ukraine has heavily relied on foreign aid, particularly from the United States, which has contributed billions of dollars toward its defense and humanitarian needs. However, with the new administration under US President Donald Trump halting much of this financial support last week, Ukraine has had to find alternative means to sustain its efforts. Zelensky assured his country that despite the funding freeze, his government remains committed to addressing the needs of its citizens during this challenging period, with a clear focus on national priorities.

The US freeze has left Ukraine in a difficult position, prompting Zelensky to take immediate action to safeguard essential services. While the president's response underscores resilience in the face of adversity, it also highlights the growing reliance on both domestic resources and continued international assistance to navigate the prolonged conflict.

## Talks With Ukraine Possible, But Not With Zelensky: Putin



TPN Correspondent | Moscow

Russian President Vladimir Putin stated on Tuesday that he would be open to negotiations with Ukraine, but not with Ukrainian President Volodymyr Zelensky. Putin argued that Zelensky is an "illegitimate" leader due to the expiration of his term during martial law. Instead, Putin suggested that negotiations could take place with a different Ukrainian representative who is willing to seek a compromise.

Putin's comments mark a continued rejection of Zelensky's leadership, even as the war in Ukraine rages on without any signs of de-escalation. The Russian president's stance is indicative of Moscow's reluctance to engage directly with Zelensky, who has been a vocal figure in rallying international support for Ukraine's fight against Russian aggression.

Putin also implied that the war could be brought to an end within two months, should Western support to Ukraine cease. This statement highlights Russia's belief that the continued supply of military aid and political backing from the West is prolonging the conflict. He suggested that without this external influence, Ukraine would be forced to negotiate or face a shift in the balance of power.

The Russian president's remarks come amid ongoing efforts from other global leaders to mediate a ceasefire. U.S. President Donald Trump has expressed support for a quick end to the conflict, even going so far as to promise a ceasefire if he were in power. However, Russian officials have indicated that no one from Trump's team has yet reached out to initiate peace talks, despite his public comments in favor of a swift resolution.

On the Ukrainian side, Kyiv has raised concerns about the possibility of being excluded from any peace negotiations. Ukrainian officials have accused Putin of trying to manipulate the situation, particularly regarding Trump's comments. There is a growing unease in Ukraine about the risk of being sidelined in discussions that could shape the future of their sovereignty, with some fearing that any negotiations without direct involvement from Kyiv would be detrimental to Ukraine's interests.

## MP CM Mohan Yadav's Japan Visit Boosts State's Investment Prospects CM's Discussions with Japanese Officials and Companies Focus on Key Sectors

TPN Correspondent | Tokyo

Madhya Pradesh Chief Minister Mohan Yadav's ongoing Japan visit is yielding promising results as he engages with top Japanese officials and business leaders, emphasizing the state's vast potential for investment across various sectors. Yadav has highlighted the opportunities available for Japanese organizations in areas such as IT, healthcare, education, and railways, expressing confidence that the discussions are leading to fruitful collaborations.

On the second day of his tour, Yadav visited the Sensoji Temple and continued his series of high-profile meetings. His dialogue with Yuji Fukasawa, Chair of Keidanren's South Asia Committee and Chairman of East Japan Railway Company, was focused on potential collaborations involving Japanese railway technology. Fukasawa showed interest in visiting Madhya Pradesh to explore further opportunities.

Yadav also met with Daiki Arai, Director of A&D Medical, who expressed interest in establishing a

manufacturing unit in Madhya Pradesh within the year. Additionally, the CM's meeting with Japan's Parliamentary Vice Minister for Foreign Affairs, Hisashi Matsumoto, aimed to enhance Indo-Japan cooperation at the state level.

This four-day visit is a part of the 'Invest in Madhya Pradesh' campaign, which seeks to position the state as a prime destination for foreign investment. The campaign is gearing up for the 'Invest Madhya Pradesh Global Investors Summit 2025', to be held in Bhopal in February.





# Stock Market Rebounds as Nifty Holds 23,000; Sensex Surges 631 Points



Domestic stock markets gained on Wednesday. Despite mixed signals from Asian and international markets, the relief rally continued for the second consecutive day. Investors bought as the indices were already in the oversold zone. Shares from IT, media, realty and healthcare sectors supported the indices. The results of some companies were also impressive. With this, the Nifty 200 and the Sensex ended with gains of more than 600 points. It is noteworthy that the Nifty maintained the key support level of 23,000. If it sustains for a few more days, there is a possibility of a reversal. The BSE Sensex, which closed at 75,901 in the

previous session, opened at 76,138 today. It touched an intraday low at 75,975. It reached an intraday high at 76,599. It ended at 76,532 with a gain of 631 points. The NSE Nifty, which opened at 23,026 on Wednesday, reached a low of 22,976 and a high of 23,183. It gained 205 points in total and closed at 22,163. The Nifty Bank rose 299 points to settle at 48,165.

In the Nifty50, 42 companies gained and 9 lost. Shriram Finance, BEL, Tata Motors, SBI Life, Trent were the top gainers. ITC Hotels, Maruti, Asian Paints, Bharti Airtel, Britan-

nia were the biggest losers. All sectoral indices rose today except FMCG. IT, media, realty, healthcare, consumer durables, pharma, metal, bank, auto and finance indices performed well. Market breadth on NSE is in favor of buyers today. Out of 2909 stocks traded, 2311 gained. 528 lost. 14 stocks touched 52-week highs. 98 shares reached 52-week lows.

SRF's net profit in the third quarter increased by 7% from Rs.253 crore to Rs.271 crore. Bluestar's net profit increased



**MURTHY NAIDU PAADAM**  
Stock Market Analyst  
+91 988 556 9709

by 31% from Rs.100 crore to Rs.132 crore. The rupee weakened slightly against the dollar and settled at 86.55. Dr. Agarwal IPO received a response of 0.06 times on the first day. HSBC has given a reduce rating to SBI Card. The Cabinet has allocated Rs 16,300 crore for the Critical Mineral Development Mission. It also approved the rates for molasses-based ethanol. HSBC has given a buy rating to M&M Financial with a target price of Rs 320. Adani Power's net profit rose 7.4% to Rs 2940 crore. Credit Access

Grameen shares gained for the third consecutive day. JBM Auto's net profit rose 8.3%. Radico Khaitan's net profit rose 27% to Rs 95 crore from Rs 75 crore.

**1. Cholamandalam Investment and Finance Company Limited (CHOLAFIN):**



Cholamandalam Investment and Finance Company Limited is a prominent non-banking financial company (NBFC) in India, primarily focusing on vehicle finance, home loans, and small and medium-sized enterprise (SME) loans. The company has demonstrated consistent growth in its loan book and maintains a strong asset quality. As of recent data, the stock was trading at ₹1,223.05.

**2. SBI Life Insurance Company Limited (SBILIFE):** SBI Life Insurance is one of India's leading life insurance companies, offering a range



of individual and group insurance products. The company benefits from a strong distribution network, leveraging State Bank of India's extensive branch network. It has shown robust growth in new business premiums and maintains a healthy solvency ratio, reflecting its financial stability.

**3. Mphasis Limited (MPHASIS):**

Mphasis is an IT services company specializing in cloud and cognitive services, serving clients across various industries, including banking, financial services, and insurance. The company has reported steady revenue growth, driven by its focus on digital transformation services. The stock was recently priced at ₹3,009.30.



**4. Zensar Technologies Limited (ZENSARTECH):**

Zensar Technologies is a technology services and solutions company offering digital and infrastructure services. The company has been focusing



on expanding its digital capabilities and has seen growth in its key markets. The stock was trading at ₹850.50, with a market capitalization of ₹17,826.4 crore.

**5. Zomato Limited (ZOMATO):**



Zomato is a leading online food delivery platform in India, providing services like restaurant discovery, reviews, and food delivery. The company has experienced significant growth in its us

## India's Coffee Exports Set to Drop 10% in 2025



India's coffee exports are set to decline by more than 10% in 2025, as the country faces a reduced crop and lower carry-forward stocks from last year's harvest, according to industry officials. Despite record-high prices for coffee beans, the decrease in production is expected to curb export volumes, impacting global supply.

India is the world's seventh-largest coffee producer, known primarily for its robusta beans, which are commonly used in instant coffee production. The country also cultivates arabica beans, a more expensive variety. The reduced export forecast comes at a time when the global coffee market is already grappling with tighter supplies due to diminished output from Brazil, the world's largest coffee producer.

Industry experts suggest that the smaller harvest in India, along with reduced stocks, will result in a significant dip in exports in 2025. According to Chengappa Pradhan, a researcher at Volcafe, the coffee trading division of ED&F Man, the lower crop yield is expected to cause export volumes to fall by more than 10% compared to 2024's record level of 295,402 metric tons.

While the rise in prices offers some financial relief for producers, the decline in coffee exports could have broader consequences for the global market. The combination of reduced production in India and Brazil, both key suppliers, has already placed strain on global coffee inventories, driving up futures prices.

India's coffee industry has been facing challenges in recent years, including adverse weather conditions and labor shortages, which have contributed to the lower production levels. Despite the ongoing price surge, the overall export outlook remains grim, with officials and traders bracing for a tougher year ahead.

As the 2025 season unfolds, stakeholders will be closely monitoring how global demand responds to the reduced supply from two of the world's largest coffee producers. The continued tightness in global coffee markets is expected to sustain high prices but also exacerbate supply concerns.

## Sebi Rejects Digvijay Gaekwad's Request for Competing Open Offer for Religare Enterprises

On Tuesday, the Securities and Exchange Board of India (Sebi) returned a letter from US-based entrepreneur Digvijay 'Danny' Gaekwad, who had sought permission to make a competing open offer for an equity stake in Religare Enterprises Limited (REL). Gaekwad's proposal aimed to acquire a 55% stake in REL at Rs 275 per share.

The rejection came after Sebi reviewed Gaekwad's request and determined that it did not qualify as an exemption application under Regulation 11 of the SEBI (Substantial Acquisition of Shares and Takeovers) Regulations, 2011. Regulation 11 covers the procedures and guidelines for acquisitions and open offers, including the conditions for exempting certain transactions from mandatory open offer requirements.

Religare Enterprises shared Sebi's response to Gaekwad's proposal with the stock exchanges on Tuesday, highlighting that the regulator had not granted permission for the competing open offer. According to Sebi's letter, Gaekwad's request did not meet the necessary criteria to be considered an exemption under the relevant regulations.

Gaekwad had made his intention known to acquire a substantial stake in REL, offering to purchase 55% of the company's equity at Rs 275 per share. This move came amid ongoing changes and developments within Religare Enterprises, which has attracted attention due to its strategic restructuring and shifting market dynamics.

The rejection of Gaekwad's proposal has significant implications for his plans to enter REL's ownership structure. Without Sebi's approval, he will not be able to proceed with the competing open offer as initially proposed.

This move underscores the importance of complying with the regulatory framework set by Sebi, especially in high-stakes corporate acquisitions. It also highlights the role of market regulators in maintaining transparency and fairness in the acquisition process, ensuring that the interests of all shareholders are safeguarded.



## Maruti Suzuki Reports Strong Q3 Results for FY24, Revenue and Profit Surge



Maruti Suzuki India Ltd announced its third-quarter financial results for the period ending December 31, 2024, revealing significant growth in both revenue and profit. The company's consolidated revenue increased by 15.67%, reaching ₹38,764.3 crore, compared to ₹33,512.8 crore during the same period last year. This represented a rise of ₹5,251.5 crore in the October-December period, highlighting the automaker's robust performance.

The company's net profit also saw a healthy increase of 16.21%, rising to ₹3,726.9 crore from ₹3,206.8 crore in the previous year. This increase of ₹520.1 crore was driven by improved sales and operational efficiency.

Maruti Suzuki's total income for the third quarter of FY24 climbed 15.39%, or ₹5,312.8 crore, reaching ₹39,822 crore, up from ₹34,509.2 crore in Q3 of FY23. The increase in total income reflects the company's strong sales performance and market presence.

While the company's total expenses rose by 3.78%, or ₹1,284 crore, to ₹35,163.1 crore from ₹33,879.1 crore, this increase was significantly smaller compared to the revenue growth, indicating efficient cost management.

In terms of stock market performance, Maruti Suzuki shares saw a decline in value on Wednesday. At 3 pm IST, the company's stock was trading at ₹11,968.40 on the Bombay Stock Exchange (BSE), reflecting a drop of 1.27%, or ₹154.50, from the previous trading session.

Despite the stock's decline, Maruti Suzuki's solid financial results for Q3 demonstrate its continued strength in the Indian automotive market. The company's ability to maintain revenue growth while keeping expenses in check suggests a resilient business model, positioning it well for future performance in the upcoming quarters.

## ChatGPT Founder Altman is 'impressed' by DeepSeek, hints at new releases by OpenAI



OpenAI founder Sam Altman has responded to the rapid rise of Chinese AI startup DeepSeek, which has quickly gained attention in the AI community. Altman, who is credited with the success of ChatGPT, expressed both admiration and excitement over DeepSeek's impressive development, specifically their R1 reasoning model. Despite being a new competitor, Altman stated that OpenAI remains committed to continuing its own progress in AI, hinting at potential upcoming releases to rival DeepSeek.

In a series of posts on X (formerly Twitter), Altman acknowledged the impressive nature of DeepSeek's R1 model, particularly its value for the price. He emphasized that OpenAI would continue to push the boundaries of AI development, vowing to deliver superior models. "We will obviously deliver much better models, and it's invigorating to have a new competitor! We will pull up some releases," Altman wrote. He further noted that OpenAI remains focused on executing its research roadmap, stressing the importance of computing power to succeed

in the mission of advancing AI. "The world is going to want to use a LOT of AI, and really be quite amazed by the next-gen models coming," he added.

DeepSeek, founded in 2023 by Liang Wenfeng, the head of the Chinese hedge fund High-Flyer, has gained significant attention for its V3 large language model (LLM). Remarkably, the model has outperformed those of major US tech giants, such as OpenAI and Meta, but with far lower development costs. DeepSeek's V3 model was built using older Nvidia H800 chips, with the project costing approximately \$5.6 million — a fraction of the billions invested by companies like OpenAI, Meta, and Microsoft.

This low-cost approach to AI development has positioned DeepSeek as a serious competitor to Western tech companies, potentially forcing them to lower prices to remain competitive in the growing AI market. With DeepSeek challenging traditional assumptions about the cost and power required for AI models, the competition in the industry is heating up.

## Rock Climber's Final Post Goes Viral After Fatal Fall In California

Micah Manalese, a 30-year-old rock climber from California, tragically lost her life during a hike along the Pine Creek Trail in Red Rocks Canyon, Nevada. The incident occurred while Micah was climbing with a friend. Several other climbers in the vicinity witnessed the fall. Despite the swift response from emergency teams, Micah was declared dead at the scene.

The accident took place on January 18, when the Las Vegas Metropolitan Police Department (LVMPD) responded to two simultaneous rescue operations at the Cat in the Hat climbing area, a popular spot for outdoor enthusiasts. While rescuers worked to save Micah, they also assisted four other climbers who had become trapped by their ropes. Tragically, despite the efforts of emergency personnel, Micah could not be revived.

In her final Facebook post, shared just days before the accident, Micah reflected on her love for climbing and her recent return to the sport after a break. She wrote about reigniting her passion for sport climbing, which had been sidelined for the past few



years. "I have been outside climbing since 2014 but in the past 4 years it's been on the back-burner. I love sport climbing and it was special for me to reignite this passion for myself this year. Thank you for all the delays and moments I got to spend outside. I am hungry for more," she shared, alongside photos of her past climbing adventures.

Micah's passion for the outdoors and climbing was evident to those who knew her, and her untimely death serves as a somber reminder of the risks inherent in the sport. Her memory will live on through the many adventures she shared with the climbing community and the friends who admired her spirit.

## Spaceflight's Impact on Eye Health: Challenges for Mars Missions

Astronauts returning from extended space missions often report significant changes in eye health, largely due to prolonged exposure to microgravity. Research has shown that altered blood flow and pressure in space can lead to vision problems, particularly a condition known as spaceflight-associated neuro-ocular syndrome (SANS), which affects approximately 70% of astronauts on six- to twelve-month stays aboard the International Space Station (ISS). As plans for longer missions, such as trips to Mars, progress, understanding these changes becomes critical.

A recent study published in the IEEE Open Journal of Engineering in Medicine and Biology examined three key ocular parameters: ocular rigidity, intraocular pressure, and ocular pulse amplitude, in data from 13 astronauts who completed missions lasting between 157 and 186 days. The results revealed notable biome-



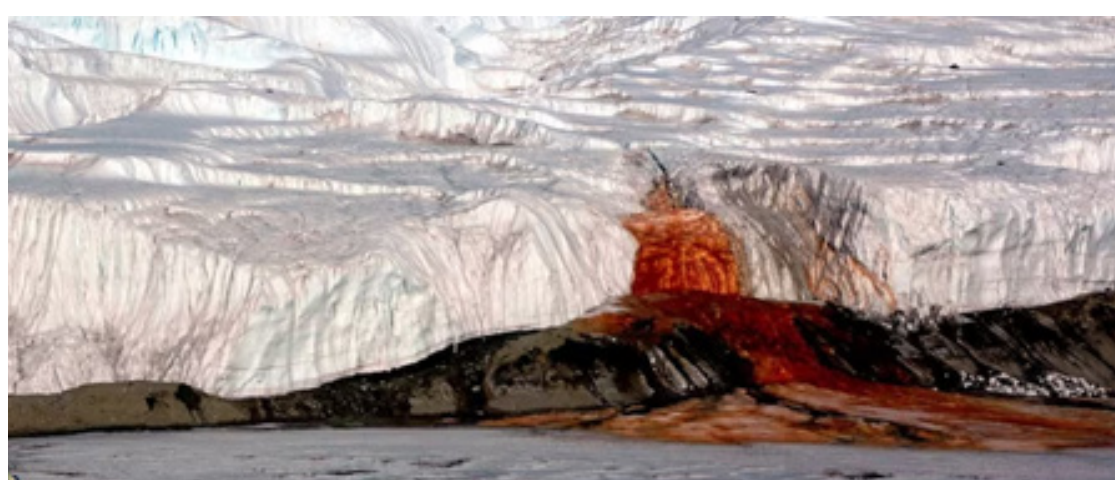
chanical changes: a 33% reduction in ocular rigidity, an 11% decrease in intraocular pressure, and a 25% decline in ocular pulse amplitude. These shifts were linked to symptoms like reduced eye size, optic nerve swelling, and retinal folds.

Dr. Santiago Costantino, an ophthalmologist at Université de Montréal, explained that microgravity affects blood flow and venous circulation in the eyes, which

could cause structural changes in the sclera and choroid. While most astronauts' vision returned to normal after their missions, some required corrective lenses during their recovery, raising concerns about the long-term impact of these changes.

These findings are particularly concerning for future space missions to Mars, which would last much longer than typical ISS stays. Experts stress the need for more research and preventive measures to ensure astronauts' health during extended missions. The study's findings offer an early warning, allowing researchers to identify astronauts at risk and develop targeted solutions to safeguard their vision during future space exploration. As space travel advances, addressing these ocular health challenges will be essential for the safety and success of missions to distant destinations like Mars.

## Unveiling the Mystery of Antarctica's Blood Falls



Antarctica, one of the most remote and unexplored places on Earth, continues to captivate scientists and explorers alike. One of its most intriguing natural wonders is the Blood Falls, a crimson waterfall that flows from Taylor Glacier into West Lake Bonney. The striking red color of the waterfall against the vast, white landscape has fascinated observers since its discovery by geologist Thomas Griffith Taylor in 1911.

For over a century, researchers were puzzled by the waterfall's eerie red hue. Initially, many believed the color was caused by red algae in the water. However, recent studies have uncovered a more scientific explanation. The red color is due to the high iron content in the water. As the water emerges from the glacier and comes into contact with oxygen, the iron reacts with the air, turning the water a vivid, bloody crimson.

In addition to the color, the fact that the water remains liquid at such cold temperatures—around minus 19 degrees Celsius—has also baffled scientists. In 2003, it was

discovered that the water's high salt content, which is twice the level of seawater, lowers its freezing point, allowing it to stay liquid despite the freezing conditions.

Another fascinating aspect of the Blood Falls ecosystem is the life it supports. Despite the harsh conditions—no sunlight, no oxygen, and limited nutrients—bacteria thrive in this extreme environment. These microorganisms rely on chemosynthesis, a process where they obtain energy by breaking down sulfate and iron in the water, rather than through photosynthesis like most other life forms.

The origin of the water adds another layer of intrigue. According to researchers, about 1.5 million years ago, saltwater was trapped beneath a glacier. Over time, the glacier sealed the water in, and today, it bursts from under the ice in the form of the Blood Falls. This combination of geological and biological phenomena makes the Blood Falls a truly remarkable natural wonder in one of the world's most inhospitable places.

## Millions Across Asia Celebrate the Year of the Snake

Hundreds of millions of people across Asia are celebrating the Lunar New Year, bidding farewell to the Year of the Dragon and ushering in the Year of the Snake. This marks a time of family reunions, prayers, and festive celebrations throughout East and Southeast Asia.

In China, the 2025 Spring Festival is marked by eight consecutive public holidays, offering families the chance to gather, share meals, and engage in traditional activities like setting off fireworks. Train stations and airports have been bustling with travelers, as millions return home for the annual migration, expected to reach record numbers. High streets, shopping malls, and homes are adorned with red banners, which are believed to ward off evil spirits and bring good fortune.

On the island of Taiwan, temples were packed on New Year's Day as people of all ages made offerings of fruit, sweets, and incense in hopes of a prosperous year. Chen Ching-yuan, a visitor to Taipei's Longshan Temple, shared that her prayers were simple: "I wish for a smooth, peaceful, safe, and healthy year," she said. Elderly worshippers, like Lin Yu-soon, expressed how visiting the temple with family provided spiritual solace.

Some temple-goers participated in an exciting tradition of racing to be the first to release incense for good luck. Kao Meng-shun, who won the event at



Fusing Temple in Yunlin County, explained his motivation: "While I'm still young and have the energy, it's the perfect time to take action and make the most of it."

Travel disruptions were caused by heavy snowfall in South Korea, where thousands of people struggled with delayed train and bus services while traveling to visit family. Traffic on major highways, including the route from Seoul to Busan, was severely impacted, with some journeys taking over seven hours.

In a symbolic gesture, Chinese astronauts aboard the Tiangong space station also joined in the festivities, sending heartfelt New Year's greetings in a video shared by the China Manned Space Agency.

With the spirit of celebration transcending borders, the Year of the Snake has begun with joy, prayers, and excitement across Asia.

## Steve Smith, Usman Khawaja Slam Unbeaten Tons as Australia Dominate Sri Lanka in 1st Test

Australia took firm control on Day 1 of the first Test against Sri Lanka, thanks to unbeaten centuries from Steve Smith (104) and Usman Khawaja (147)\*\*. The duo shared a formidable 195-run stand, guiding Australia to 330-2 in 81.1 overs before rain ended play prematurely.

The highlight of the day was Steve Smith's milestone, as he became the 15th batsman in Test history and only the fourth Australian to surpass 10,000 Test runs. He reached the milestone with a single off Prabath Jayasuriya, later bringing up his 35th Test century in dominant fashion.

Khawaja, playing his first Test on Sri Lankan soil, ended his 17-match century drought with a brilliant knock. His 16th Test hundred came with a flick to fine leg off Asitha Fernando, showcasing his class and resilience. Though he had some lucky escapes, including an unreviewed edge at 74, he made Sri Lanka pay with his patient batting. Earlier in the day, Travis Head (57 off 40 balls) provided a blistering start, smashing 10 fours and a six before mistiming a shot against Jayasuriya. Marnus Labuschagne (20) fell to Jeffrey Vandersay, leaving Australia at 135-2



before Smith and Khawaja took control. Sri Lanka missed crucial chances, including dropped catches of both Smith and Khawaja. With Australia fielding three specialist spinners, they now hold a strong advantage as the pitch is expected to deteriorate. Day 2 promises an exciting contest as Sri Lanka looks to fight back.

## Sachin Tendulkar Returns to Cricket in International Masters League (IML)



Cricket legend Sachin Tendulkar is set to return to action, leading Team India in the inaugural International Masters League (IML). The highly anticipated tournament, featuring six teams—India, Australia, England, South Africa, Sri Lanka, and the West Indies—kicks off on February 22, 2025. The opening match will witness India vs. Sri Lanka, with Tendulkar and Kumar Sangakkara leading their respective teams. The tournament will be broadcast live on JioStar's Disney+ Hotstar, Colors Cineplex (SD & HD), and Colors Cineplex Superhits, with all matches starting at 7:30 PM IST. Speaking about his return, Tendulkar expressed excitement, stating, "IML will be a celebration of cricket's unique and enduring legacy. I can't wait to step back onto the field with my contemporaries in a league that will be intense and competitive." Similarly, Sangakkara described IML as a tribute to cricket's timeless charm, adding, "It's a wonderful opportunity for former cricketers to relive old rivalries and reconnect with fans." The league aims to provide a nostalgic experience for cricket fans while allowing veteran players to showcase their skills once again. With top-class broadcasting and expert commentary, IML promises to be an exciting addition to the cricketing calendar.

## Novak Djokovic Withdraws from Serbia's Davis Cup Squad Due to Injury

Tennis legend Novak Djokovic has withdrawn from Serbia's Davis Cup first-round qualifying tie against Denmark due to a hamstring injury, the Serbian Tennis Federation (TSS) confirmed.

Djokovic, who sustained the injury during his Australian Open semi-final against Alexander Zverev, was scheduled to represent Serbia in the Jan 31 - Feb 2 match in Copenhagen. However, his fitness concerns forced him to withdraw.

Following his retirement from the Australian Open, the 24-time Grand Slam champion responded to criticism by sharing an MRI scan of his left hamstring on social media, dismissing doubts about his injury.

Despite Djokovic's absence, Serbia's Davis Cup captain Viktor Troicki remains optimistic, stating, "We are weakened without Novak, but we are still aiming for victory. Denmark has a great player in Holger Rune, but I believe in my team."

Djokovic, 37, was instrumental in leading Ser-



bia to their first-ever Davis Cup title in 2010, securing a historic victory over France in Belgrade. His absence presents a challenge for Serbia, but the team is determined to fight for qualification.

## Kidambi Srikanth Cruises Into 2nd Round of Thailand Masters BWF Super 300

Former World No. 1 Indian shuttler Kidambi Srikanth advanced to the second round of the Thailand Masters BWF Super 300 tournament with a straight-game victory over Israel's Daniil Dubovenko on Wednesday. Srikanth dominated the match, winning 21-13, 21-18 in the men's singles opening round. This marks Srikanth's second consecutive victory over Dubovenko, having previously beaten him at the 2024 Macau Open in September. In the next round, Srikanth will face Hong Kong's Jason Gunawan.

### Mixed Results for Indian Shuttlers

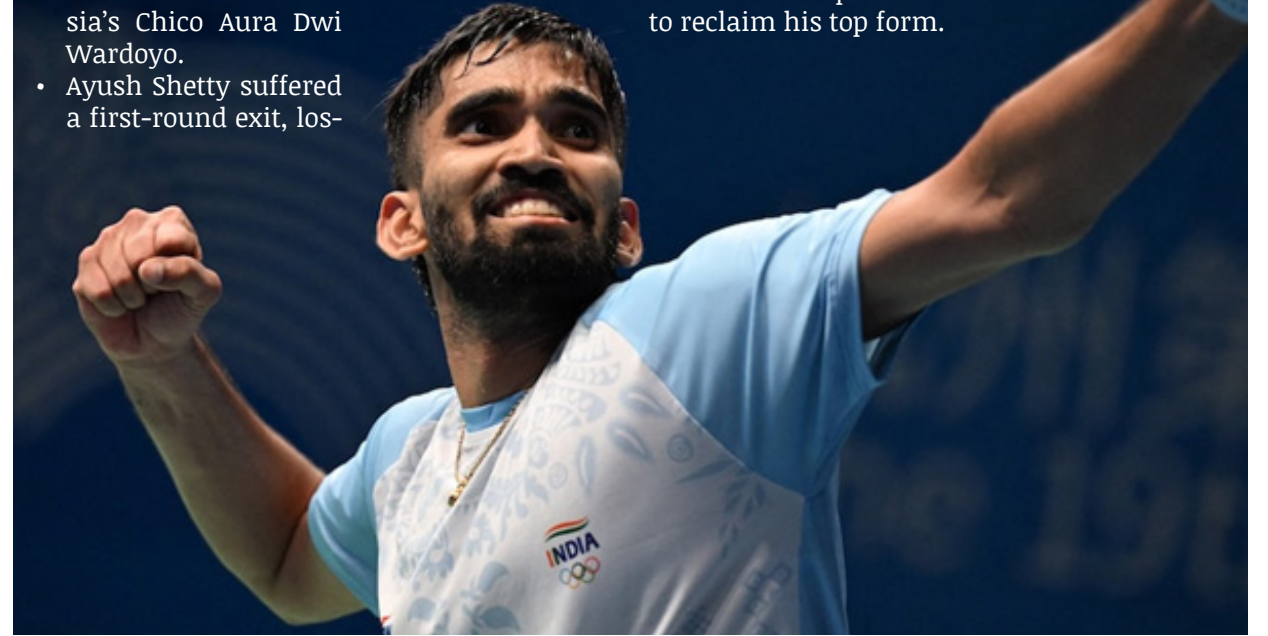
- S Sankar Muthusamy Subramanian battled past Malaysia's June Wei Cheam in a three-game thriller, winning 15-21, 21-15, 21-19. He will next face Indonesia's Chico Aura Dwi Wardoyo.
- Ayush Shetty suffered a first-round exit, los-

- ing to Malaysia's Jing Hong Kok 15-21, 17-21.
- Mithun Manjunath also bowed out after falling to Sholeh Aidil 14-21, 13-21.

### Doubles Success for India

- In mixed doubles, Rohan Kapoor and Ruthvika Shivani Gadde advanced to the second round with a 21-8, 21-16 victory over Thailand's Weeraphat Phakjarung and Sararat Chueboca. They will next face another Thai duo, Ratchapol Makkasasithorn and Nat-tamon Laisuan.
- In men's doubles, Ruben Kumar and Hariharan secured a comfortable 21-18, 21-12 win over Pannawat Jamtubtim and Ratchapol Makkasasithorn.

Srikanth's dominant start in the tournament raises hopes for a deep run in the competition as he looks to reclaim his top form.



## Gukesh Triumphs Over Leon Mendonca to Secure Sole Lead at Tata Steel Masters

Indian Grandmaster D Gukesh delivered a stellar performance, defeating compatriot Leon Luke Mendonca in the ninth round of the Tata Steel Masters, securing the sole lead in the tournament. With this victory, Gukesh's tally rose to 6.5 points out of nine, putting him ahead of Uzbek Grandmaster Nodirbek Abdusattorov and Slovenian Vladimir Fedoseev, who both stand at six points.

On a day filled with intense battles, R Praggnanandhaa suffered his first defeat in the tournament against Dutch Grandmaster Anish Giri, while veteran P Harikrishna also faced a setback, losing to Fedoseev. Despite the lead, Gukesh remained focused, stating, "I'm happy that I played a good game today, but there are still four rounds left, so I'm not thinking much about the standings. I'm just happy with how I'm playing."

Gukesh's remarkable consistency in the tournament has positioned him as a strong contender for the title. Meanwhile, Praggnanandhaa, who now has 5.5 points, shares the fourth spot.

### Round 9 Results:

- Anish Giri (NED, 4.5) beat R Praggnanandhaa (IND, 5.5)
- D Gukesh (IND, 6.5) beat Leon Luke Mendonca (IND, 2.5)
- Vladimir Fedoseev (SLO, 6) beat P Harikrishna (IND, 4)



- Jorden van Foreest (NED, 3.5) drew with Max Warmerdam (NED, 3.5)
- Wei Yi (CHN, 5) drew with Arjun Erigaisi (IND, 2.5)
- Alexey Sarana (SRB, 5) drew with Vincent Keymer (GER, 3.5)
- Fabiano Caruana (USA, 5) drew with Nodirbek Abdusattorov (UZB, 6)

With four rounds remaining, all eyes are on Gukesh as he aims to maintain his lead and claim victory at the prestigious tournament.

## Hockey India Announces 24-Member Women's Squad for FIH Pro League 2024-25

Hockey India has announced the 24-member Indian Women's Hockey Team for the Bhubaneswar leg of the FIH Pro League 2024-25, scheduled from February 15 to 25 at the Kalinga Hockey Stadium. India will compete against England, the Netherlands, Spain, and Germany, facing each team twice. Their campaign begins with a match against England on February 15.

The squad includes goalkeepers Savita and Bichu Devi Kharibam, while defenders Sushila Chanu, Pikhrambam, Nikki Pradhan, Udita, Jyoti, Ishika Chaudhary, and Jyoti Chhatri bolster the backline. Midfielders Vaishnavi Vitthal Phalke, Neha, Manisha Chauhan, Salima Tete, Sunelita Toppo, Lahremsiami, Baljeet Kaur, and



Sharmila Devi bring balance to the squad. Forwards include Navneet Kaur, Mumtaz Khan, Preeti Dubey, Rutaja Dadaso Pisal, Beauty Dungdung, Sangita Kumari, Deepika, and Vandana Katariya.

Dynamic midfielder Salima Tete will lead the team as captain, with Navneet Kaur as vice-captain.

Head coach Harendra Singh emphasized the blend of experience and young talent, stating, "We have built a balanced squad with strong options in every position. I am eager to see how our young players perform against top-tier competition."

India hopes to make a strong impact in the tournament as they prepare to face the best teams in the world.



## “Agent Guy 001” will release on January 31st in Telugu states by Deepa Arts Banner

The Hollywood dubbed film ‘Agent Guy 001’ Directed by David Andersson, produced by Erik Andersson, screenplay by Baltazar Plateau and David Andersson will be released to the telugu audience. Anton Cloud Jumper Gustin provided the music for the film, while Dennis Andersson acted as the production designer. Anton Carlsson worked as the cinematographer. Baltazar Plateau, Anton Sjolund, Milton Bjornegren, Knut Westbacka and Omar Myrza are playing key roles in this film. P Srinivasa Goud will produce the film in Telugu and P Hemanth will be the associate producer. The film is releasing through Deepa arts banner on 31st January in both Telugu States.



for the mayor’s seat as well as some adventures. The quality of the film is going to be very clearly understood through the production values in the trailer.

The upcoming project features an impressive cast, including Baltazar Plateau, Anton Sjolund, Milton Bjornegren, Knut Westbacka, and Omar Myrza. Directed by David Andersson and produced by Erik Andersson, the film’s screenplay is crafted by Baltazar Plateau and David Andersson. Anton Carlsson handles the cinematography, while Anton Cloud Jumper Gustin composes the music. Production design is led by Dennis Andersson. On the Telugu front, the film is backed by producer P. Srinivasa Goud, with P. Hemanth as the co-producer. Madhu VR serves as the PRO, and Digital Dukanam manages digital media promotions.

However, if you look at the trailer of this film, which has already been released in Telugu, it is clear that this film is going to be another amazing action and adventure film on the lines of James Bond films. Trailer looks like a political drama revolving around money. There are Major fights

## Vikrant Massey to Play Villain in Don 3 Alongside Ranveer Singh

Bollywood actor Vikrant Massey, who recently earned acclaim for his role in the movie 12th Fail, has landed an exciting opportunity in the world of Bollywood’s most iconic film franchises. The actor is all set to play the villain in Don 3, marking his entry into the prestigious series.



The Don franchise, which has captivated audiences with its thrilling plotlines and high-octane action, has so far been led by Bollywood Badshah Shah Rukh Khan, with Priyanka Chopra playing the female lead. The first two films, directed by Farhan Akhtar, were major hits, and now, the third installment is under development. However, in a significant change for this new chapter, Farhan Akhtar will feature Ranveer Singh as the new Don, replacing Shah Rukh Khan.

The film, which is currently in pre-production, is expected to go into shooting soon. Exciting news has surfaced recently about the casting of Vikrant Massey, who is reportedly set to portray the antagonist in Don 3. While this news has created a buzz on social media, an official confirmation from the filmmakers is still awaited.

Vikrant Massey and Ranveer Singh have previously worked together in the 2013 film Lootera, and their reunion in Don 3 has sparked interest among fans. With Farhan Akhtar and Ritesh Sidhwani collaborating again as producers, Don 3 is expected to be a pan-India film, set to appeal to a wide range of audiences.

As the third installment of the Don franchise gears up for production, fans are eagerly awaiting further updates, especially about the film’s plot and the chemistry between Ranveer Singh and Vikrant Massey. With the promise of a fresh and exciting twist in the iconic series, Don 3 is already generating significant anticipation in the Bollywood industry.

## Jana Nayagan: Thalapathy Vijay’s Movie Overseas Rights Sold for Record Price

Kollywood superstar Thalapathy Vijay, who is currently juggling his political aspirations and his filmmaking career, has once again created a buzz in the entertainment world with his upcoming movie Jana Nayagan. Known for his dedicated fan base, Vijay is making waves both in Tamil Nadu’s political scene and the film industry. While he prepares for his political journey with his party, his focus remains on completing Jana Nayagan, which promises to be a treat for his fans.



Directed by H. Vinod, the filmmaker behind the hit movie Khaki, Jana Nayagan (translated as ‘People’s Leader’) has already gained significant attention. The film’s first look, released as a Republic Day gift, and its title have been met with positive responses from fans and critics alike.

In a recent development, it has been reported that the

overseas distribution rights of Jana Nayagan have been sold for a staggering Rs. 75 crores, a record-breaking amount that speaks volumes about Vijay’s global popularity. This sale showcases the immense international demand for Vijay’s films, further cementing his position as one of Kollywood’s top stars. The news of the record-breaking price for the overseas rights has

gone viral, highlighting the movie’s worldwide potential.

The film’s music is being composed by the popular Anirudh, adding to the anticipation surrounding its release. Produced by the renowned KVN Production banner, Jana Nayagan stars Mamita Baiju, known for her role in Premala, as the female lead. The makers

have announced that the film will have a worldwide release in October 2025, further building excitement among fans.

With such a significant deal in place for its overseas rights, Jana Nayagan is poised to become one of the most highly anticipated films in Kollywood, with Vijay’s star power extending well beyond Indian shores.



## Revolution in the Making: Sivakarthikeyan’s SK 25 Pre-Look Sparks Curiosity

Kollywood actor Sivakarthikeyan is all set to captivate audiences with a series of exciting films, and one of the most anticipated projects in his lineup is \*SK 25\*, directed by Sudha Kongara. This upcoming period drama has already created a buzz, especially with the release of its intriguing pre-look, which has raised the curiosity of fans and movie enthusiasts alike.

The pre-look, released with the tagline “Revolution waits for no one... We are going to start the revolution tomorrow,” has created an electrifying atmosphere. The announcement of the teaser, set to drop tomorrow at 4 PM, only adds to the excitement surrounding the film. From the pre-look, it is evident that Sivakarthikeyan is taking on a bold, fresh role that promises to bring something unique to the big screen. The glimpses shared so far have left fans eagerly awaiting more.

\*SK 25\* is a period film set to showcase a revolution, and the film promises a strong narrative backed by an exciting ensemble cast. Sivakarthikeyan

will be joined by Srileela as the female lead, with Jayam Ravi and Atharva Murali playing pivotal roles. The talented GV Prakash Kumar is composing the music, further heightening expectations for the film’s audio-visual experience.

Sivakarthikeyan has already expressed his excitement about \*SK 25\*, sharing that the promo shoot has been completed. He spoke fondly of working with Jayam Ravi, mentioning how happy Ravi was to play a powerful villain role. Sivakarthikeyan added that he had been a fan of Jayam Ravi’s films during his college days, making their collaboration even more special. The dynamic between the two actors, especially in their upcoming fight sequences, has fans eagerly anticipating their performances.

With its period setting, powerful storyline, and talented cast, \*SK 25\* is shaping up to be a revolutionary film that could become a game-changer in Tamil cinema. Fans are in for a thrilling ride when the teaser drops tomorrow!

## Vijay Antony’s 25th film titled Parashakthi in Telugu

Multifaceted Tamil actor Vijay Antony is gearing up for the release of his milestone 25th film, now officially titled Sakthi Thirumagan in Tamil. Directed by Arun Prabu Purushothaman, known for his acclaimed film Aruvi, the movie will also be released in Telugu under the title Parashakthi.

The film’s first-look poster, unveiled alongside the title announcement, shows Vijay Antony in a gripping pose, sitting on the floor while holding a gun, hinting at the intense and action-packed nature of the film. This teaser gives a glimpse into the genre and tone of Parashakthi, further piquing the curiosity of fans.



In this much-anticipated project, Vijay Antony is not only playing the lead role but also taking on the responsibilities of producing and composing the music, showcasing his multifaceted talents. This combination of acting, music, and production reflects his growing prominence in the Tamil film industry.

The film is slated for release this summer, and more details regarding the plot, cast, and crew are expected to be revealed in the coming days. With his 25th film, Vijay Antony is ready to captivate audiences with yet another memorable performance, and the film’s cross-language release underscores its pan-Indian appeal. Fans of the actor and the genre can look forward to a gripping cinematic experience this summer with Parashakthi.