



### Weather Forecast

HYDERABAD	VIJAYAWADA	TIRUPATHI
TEMPERATURE	TEMPERATURE	TEMPERATURE
H 28°C L 22°C	H 29°C L 24°C	H 26°C L 24°C



## Telangana Assembly Session Set for February 7

Caste census and BC reservations to be discussed  
 Assembly session set to review caste data.  
 February 7 session to focus on BC reservation appeal.  
 Cabinet to approve caste census report before elections.

### TPN Correspondent

**Hyderabad, Jan 31 :** The time for the upcoming Telangana Assembly sessions has been finalized, with the sessions scheduled to begin on February 7, 2025. The primary focus of the session will be a discussion on the caste census survey report and an appeal to the Central Government for an increase in BC reservations.

The final report of the caste census survey, conducted across the state, will be submitted to the Cabinet Sub-Committee on February 2, 2025. The Sub-Committee will discuss the report before sending it to the Cabinet for approval on February 5, 2025. A special session of the Assembly will then be convened on February 7 to discuss and approve the report.

Meanwhile, Chief Minister Revanth Reddy has inquired about the feasibility of completing the local body elections before the start of the 10th-grade exams on March 21. Officials have been asked to provide timelines for finalizing ward-wise BC caste data, as well as how long it would take to finalize the Dedicated Commission's reservations and announce the election schedule.

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# Congress Poll Stirs Controversy on Social Media

Majority prefer 'farmhouse rule'

Critics say people reject 'people's rule'

Congress poll on official Twitter account sparks debate

Congress accuses BRS of spreading false propaganda

Manne Satish alleges BRS's social media operations are run from the U.S.

BRS circulates viral screenshots of poll results

### TPN-Pardhu

**Hyderabad, Jan 31 :** A poll conducted on the official Twitter (X) account of the Telangana Congress has sparked widespread debate on social media. The poll posed the question: "Do you want farmhouse rule, or do you want rule from the people?" Unexpectedly, a majority of netizens voted in favor of 'farmhouse rule,' leading to sharp criticism from the Bharat Rashtra Samithi (BRS).

BRS leaders are actively using the poll results to target the Congress government, claiming that public dissatisfaction with Chief Minister Revanth Reddy's administration is rising and that people prefer the return of former CM K. Chandrashekar Rao's (KCR) rule. BRS members have circulated screenshots of the poll across social media platforms, amplifying the discussion.

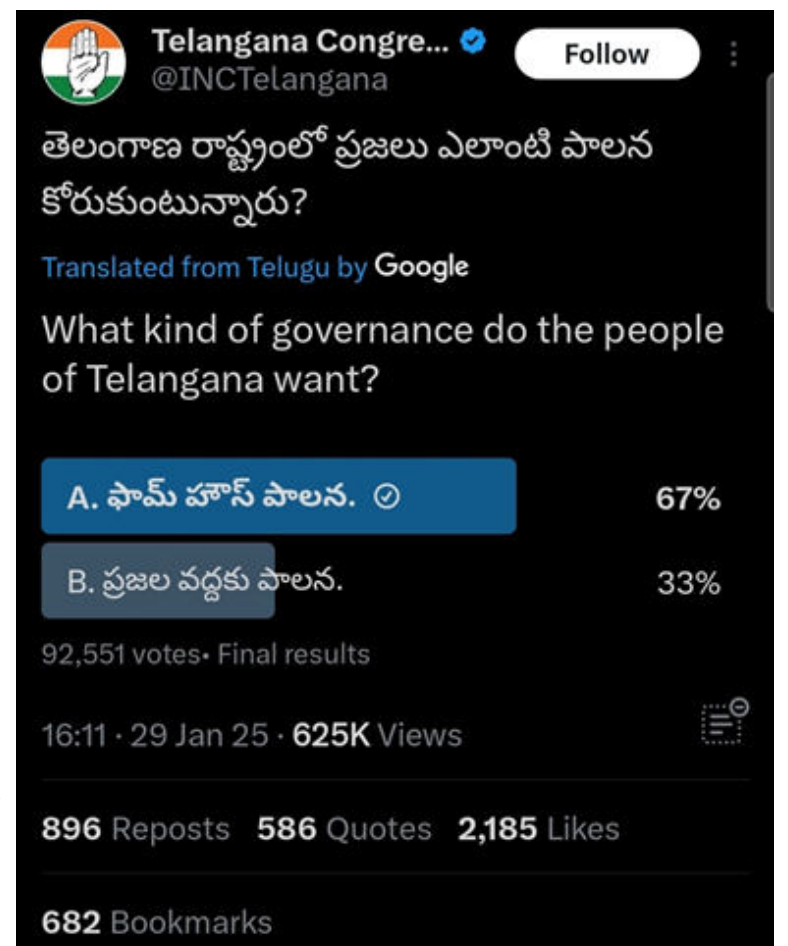
Reacting to the controversy, Congress social media convener Manne Satish dismissed the poll results as manipulated, stating, "The real face of BRS has been exposed through this poll. BRS leaders are

spreading false propaganda using their social media networks. In a democracy, 'farmhouse rule' is irrelevant—people always prefer true democracy."

Satish further alleged that BRS's social media operations are run from the United States and accused them of influencing poll results using automated accounts (BOTS). "Public opinion should be respected in a democracy. However, BRS attempted to skew the results in their favor using fake accounts," he claimed.

The poll reportedly showed that 70% of participants favored 'farmhouse rule,' while 30% opted for 'people's rule.' Congress leaders argue that BRS is misrepresenting these results to mislead the public. "BRS is using its propaganda machinery to spread misinformation, but people must know the truth," they asserted.

As the controversy intensifies, the war of words between Congress and BRS continues, with both parties leveraging social media to shape public perception.



## Government Plans Liquor Price Hike Shock For Alcohol Consumers



to approve a price hike, citing rising operational costs. In response, the Excise Department is considering a revision in alcohol prices. A three-member committee has already submitted its report, recommending a price increase. Following recent discussions among officials, sources indicate that the new pricing structure is likely to be implemented from February 1.

As per reports, the proposed increase includes a 15% hike on premium liquor brands and beer. The government is currently finalizing the modalities of the price revision.

This decision is expected to have a significant impact on alcohol consumers in the state. While liquor companies argue that the price hike is necessary due to rising costs, critics believe it could lead to increased illegal sales and smuggling. With the government taking key steps to implement the price hike, the final decision is awaited. If approved, this move could mark a major shift in the state's liquor pricing policy after years of stability.

### TPN Correspondent

**Hyderabad, Jan 31 :** The Telangana government is reportedly preparing to deliver bad news to alcohol consumers as it plans to increase liquor prices. Since the Congress party came to power over a year ago, alcohol prices in the state have remained unchanged for the past four years. However, liquor companies have been pressuring the government

## Telangana Eyes Hydel Power in Himachal



### TPN Correspondent

**Hyderabad, Jan 31 :** In a move to enhance its power generation capacity, the Government of Telangana has expressed interest in participating in hydroelectric power projects in Himachal Pradesh. This comes in response to an invitation from the Government of Himachal Pradesh, which has called for proposals to implement 22 Hydro Electric Projects (HEPs) on a Build-Operate-Own-Transfer (BOOT) basis.

A team of senior officials from the Power Department of Telangana visited Himachal Pradesh to assess the potential of these projects.

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## Telangana Leaders Honor Mahatma Gandhi on Death Anniversary



### TPN Correspondent

**Hyderabad, Jan 31 :** On Mahatma Gandhi's death anniversary, Telangana Governor Jishnu Dev Varma and Chief Minister Revanth Reddy joined numerous dignitaries in paying homage at Babu Ghat in Langar House, Hyderabad. They reflected on Gandhi's pivotal role in India's fight for independence.

Ministers Ponguleti Srinivas Reddy, Tum-mala Nageswara Rao, Ponnam Prabhakar, Konda Surekha, Chief Secretary Shanti Kumari, and TPCC Chief Mahesh Kumar Goud.

In New Delhi, President Draupadi Murmu, Vice President Jagdeep Dhankhar, and Prime Minister Narendra Modi, along with various Union ministers, paid their respects at Raj Ghat. PM Modi emphasized that Gandhi's ideals continue to inspire the nation's development.

Among those present were Legislative Assembly Speaker Gaddam Prasad Kumar,



## Telangana Goes Digital in School Education

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February 7

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Officials confirmed that the election process, which previously took three weeks, can be completed before the exams begin, with no hindrance expected even if the intermediate exams are held before the 10th exams. The Cabinet will meet soon to approve the caste census report, after which the Dedicated Commission will proceed with finalizing BC reservations.

## Power in Himachal

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The team held discussions with the Secretary of the Department of Power in Himachal Pradesh and inspected key project sites, including the SELI Hydro Electric Project (400 MW) and the MIYAR Hydro Electric Project (120 MW). After evaluating the sites, Telangana officials recommended expressing interest in projects with a capacity exceeding 100 MW.

As a result, Shri Bhatti Vikramarka Mallu, Deputy Chief Minister of Telangana, along with the Principal Secretary of the Department of Energy, met Shri Sukhvinder Singh Sukhu, Chief Minister of Himachal Pradesh, and other officials today. During the meeting, the Telangana government formally submitted a letter expressing its interest in the SELI HEP (400 MW) and MIYAR HEP (120 MW) projects.

The Deputy Chief Minister requested the Himachal Pradesh government to provide a draft Memorandum of Understanding (MoU) for further examination. Telangana intends to initiate necessary procedures for signing the MoU promptly.

The electricity generated from these hydroelectric projects will be used to meet Telangana's growing energy needs and strengthen the state's power supply. This initiative is a significant step toward securing a more sustainable and reliable energy future for the state.

By engaging in these hydel projects, Telangana aims to bolster its power generation capacity, ensuring a stable electricity supply to meet current and future demands.

## Telangana Goes Digital in School Education

**TPN Correspondent**  
**Hyderabad, Jan 31** : The Revanth Reddy government in Telangana is taking significant steps to revolutionize school education through artificial intelligence (AI). The government has signed an MoU with the Ek Step Foundation to implement AI-driven solutions aimed at improving foundation literacy and numeracy for primary school students.

As part of this initiative, the Telangana government plans to transition school education into digital mode. The plan includes training teachers on the use of technology to enhance the learning experience. In the first phase, 7,346 classrooms in 3,673 schools will be equipped with digital screens to facilitate interactive learning.

Education department officials recently visited the Ek Step Foundation in Bengaluru to explore the foundation's AI-based tools for educational improvement. The government aims to make foundational learning more effective and accessible through technology, ensuring that students and teachers benefit from digital innovations in education.

This initiative is part of the government's broader vision to enhance quality education and foster technological integration in the state's schooling system.

# MLC Election Rush in North Telangana

Election Schedule and Code of Conduct

Political Party Strategies and Candidate Selection

Congress Still in Candidate Selection Process

**TPN Correspondent**  
**Hyderabad, Jan 31** : The schedule for the Graduate and Teacher MLC elections in North Telangana has been officially released. Polling for these elections in Karimnagar, Nizamabad, Medak, and Adilabad districts is set to take place on February 27, while the counting of votes will be conducted on March 3. With the enforcement of the election code of conduct, officials have been placed on high alert to ensure a smooth electoral process.



Satpathi has been appointed as the Returning Officer. The nomination process will commence on February 3 and conclude on February 10. The scrutiny of nominations will take place on February 11, and the last date for the withdrawal of nominations is February 13.

**Political Party Strategies**  
With the election schedule announced, major political parties have intensified their preparations. The Bharatiya Janata Party (BJP) has already finalized its candidates. Godavari Anjireddy from Sangareddy district will contest

**Arrangements for the Elections**  
There are a total of 3,52,369 graduate voters and 28,069 teacher voters across the four joint districts of North Telangana. To facilitate the polling process, 499 polling stations will be set up for the graduate elections, while 274 polling stations will be established for the teacher elections across 15 districts.

Karimnagar Collector Pamela

Arrangements for the Elections

BJP Finalizes Its Candidates

BRS Opts Out of the Contest

as the Graduate MLC candidate, while Malka Komaraiah from Peddapalli district will contest as the Teachers MLC candidate. The BJP is gearing up for a strong fight to gain influence in North Telangana.

On the other hand, the Congress party is still in the process of selecting its candidates. Narender Reddy, head of Allforce Educational Institutions from Karimnagar, and Prasanna Kumar, who recently resigned from his job, are competing for the party ticket. The Pradesh Congress Committee (PCC) had initially decided to give sitting MLC Jeevan Reddy another chance, but with his apparent lack of interest in contesting, Narender Reddy's name is now under active consideration.

**BRS Opts Out of the Contest**  
While both the BJP at the Center and the Congress in the state are taking the MLC elections seriously, the Bharat Rashtra Samithi

(BRS) has chosen to stay away from the contest. Even during its time in power in 2018, BRS had refrained from fielding an official candidate, instead supporting independent candidate Ravinder Singh. Now, assessing its chances of victory as slim, BRS has once again decided not to participate.

**Independent Candidates and Election Process**

So far, 25 independent candidates have entered the fray, making the competition more dynamic. Polling will be conducted on February 27 from 8:00 AM to 4:00 PM, and the counting of votes will take place on March 3.

The election authorities are taking all necessary measures to ensure a transparent and efficient voting process. With heightened political activity and independent candidates adding to the competition, the upcoming MLC elections in North Telangana promise to be a crucial political battle.

## Government to Extend Accreditations and Ads to Digital Media

**TPN Correspondent**  
**Hyderabad, Jan 31** : In a significant move towards recognizing digital journalism, Telangana Information and Public Relations (I&PR) Special Commissioner S. Harish has announced that the government is set to start accrediting digital media journalists and providing government advertisements to online platforms. This decision follows a memorandum submitted by leaders Swami Muddam and Pothu Ashok Lu of the Telangana Digital Media Journalists Association, urging for such inclusivity.



The association highlighted the essential role digital media plays in disseminating information to the public. They argued that online news media, including websites and apps, deserve the same recognition and support as traditional media outlets. Responding to this, Commissioner Harish assured that the process would commence soon, with guidelines

being formulated to facilitate this integration.

Swami Muddam emphasized the importance of digital media as a vital link between the government and the public, noting the substantial number of journalists working in this sector. He expressed gratitude for the government's positive response and the promise to draft guidelines for recognizing digital journalists and distributing government ads.

This step signifies a progressive approach by the Telangana government towards embracing the evolving landscape of journalism, ensuring that digital media is not left behind in the realm of official acknowledgment and support.

## Bail Granted to Bhujanga Rao and Radha Kishan in Phone Tapping Case

**TPN Correspondent**  
**Hyderabad, Jan 31** : In a notable development in the phone tapping case, the High Court has granted bail to Additional SP Bhujanga Rao and former DCP Radha Kishan Rao. Both officials were required to deposit a bond of Rs.1 lakh each, hand over their passports, and cooperate with any ongoing investigations. They have been strictly warned against influencing witnesses or tampering with evidence.

Bhujanga Rao was arrested on March 23 last year but received interim bail on August 19 due to health concerns, which was later extended. His request for regular bail was denied, leading him to surrender at Nampally Court on November 14. Radha Kishan Rao was arrested on March 29 of the same year but was granted escort bail following his grandfather's sudden death on December 25, 2014.

Additionally, in the same case, Additional SP Tirupathanna was granted conditional bail by the Supreme Court. The High Court's decision follows recent bail hearings where conditions were set for both Rao's release. This case continues to draw attention due to its implications on privacy and law enforcement practices.



## Telangana Launches AI Health App



**TPN Correspondent**  
**Hyderabad, Jan 31** : Telangana's IT and Industries Minister, Duddilla Sridhar Babu, announced that the government has initiated steps to create a 'health profile' for every citizen in the state using an AI-based mobile app. The minister formally launched the 'MDR.My Digi Record' mobile app, developed by Hyderabad-based Madure Hospital Services, at an event in Hyderabad.

The launch event was attended by MLC and TPCC President B. Mahesh Kumar Goud, Madure Hospital Services Chairman Moturi Krishna Prasad, Founder and CEO Dr. Saroj Gupta, and Chief Marketing Officer Dr. Chris Humphries.

Speaking at the event, Minister Sridhar Babu emphasized that the app is a significant step toward ensuring reliable and accessible health records for all citizens, particularly patients. He highlighted the government's commitment to leveraging technology to streamline healthcare services.

The AI-powered mobile app will allow users to generate a comprehensive health record by scanning their face or body parts in just 45 seconds. This initiative aims to make medical history easily accessible across hospitals, ensuring seamless healthcare delivery.

MLC Mahesh Kumar Goud reiterated the Congress government's focus on education and healthcare. He noted that at the recent World Economic Forum in Davos, Telangana received investment proposals worth ₹1.78 lakh crore, with several medical sector organizations signing MoUs with the state government.

Madure Hospital Services Chairman, Moturi Krishna Prasad, explained that the app is designed to provide complete and instant health information, enabling better diagnosis and treatment. The Telangana government's digital health initiative marks a major step toward modernizing healthcare services, ensuring efficiency and accessibility for citizens across the state.

## KTR Slams Congress for Neglecting Telangana Farmers

**TPN Correspondent**  
**Hyderabad, Jan 31** : BRS working president KT Rama Rao (KTR) has strongly criticized the Congress government for failing to support Telangana's farmers in its one year of rule. He accused the government of leaving farmers waiting for essential assistance, including Rythu Bandhu, Rythu Bima, crop loan waivers, power supply, water, urea, and fair crop prices.



Sharing media reports on social media platform X, KTR highlighted the severe hardships faced by farmers in Palamuru, Wyra, Bayyaram, and Jagtial. He pointed out that they are struggling to secure support prices for their crops while also facing shortages of power and fertilizers. He alleged that the government's negligence has forced many farmers to abandon cultivation and take to the streets in protest for their basic needs.

KTR compared the current situation with the previous BRS regime, claim-

ing that under former Chief Minister K. Chandrashekar Rao's leadership, farmers had confidence in their livelihoods. He warned that the progress made over the last decade is now deteriorating due to the inefficiency of the Congress government.

Expressing concern over the state of agriculture, he called upon the farmers and people of Telangana to fight for their rights. He emphasized that immediate action is needed to prevent further damage to the agricultural sector and to ensure farmers receive the necessary support. KTR urged the government to fulfill its promises and address the pressing issues affecting the farming community.

# Congress Confident on GHMC Elections

- \* MLC Candidate Selection Underway
- \* Caste Census Report Discussion on Feb 5
- \* Rahul Gandhi to Visit Suryapet in February
- \* Congress to Strengthen Social Media Presence

**TPN Correspondent**

**Hyderabad, Jan 31** : TPCC Chief Mahesh Kumar Goud engaged in a candid discussion with the media at Gandhi Bhavan, outlining the Congress party's upcoming political maneuvers. Goud announced that local body elections would follow after adjustments to reservations, asserting that unlike the BRS, Congress schemes are effectively reaching the populace.

He detailed the selection process for graduate and teacher MLC candidates, which would incorporate MLA opinions, with the shortlist already sent to the AICC for final approval. A crucial meeting on candidate selection is slated for next month's 3rd.

Goud also addressed the recently completed caste census, denying allegations of political manipulation and scheduling a cabinet sub-committee meeting on February 5 to



discuss the report. He defended CM Revanth Reddy's practice of conducting reviews from his residence and questioned the need for the previous government's Secretariat demolition and reconstruction.

Discussing social media, Goud admitted the party's current weaknesses in this area but promised enhancements. He criticized the notion of "farmhouse rule" and manipulative surveys.

He revealed that Rahul Gandhi will visit Suryapet for a meeting in the second week of February and stressed resolving internal party disputes amicably. Goud expressed optimism for the Congress in the forthcoming GHMC elections, highlighting the lack of central funds from two Union Ministers from the state. He emphasized the positive impact of government policies, including investments through Metro expansion, and noted the sustained real estate boom in Telangana.

This discussion underscored the Congress party's proactive approach to governance and electoral strategy in the state.

# Kavitha Slams Govt Over School Food Safety

**TPN Correspondent**

**Hyderabad, Jan 31** : A series of food poisoning incidents across three districts in Telangana has sparked outrage, with BRS MLC Kavitha sharply criticizing the Congress government. On Thursday, Kavitha accused the government of negligence after 50 students were reported ill in one day due to contaminated mid-day meals.



The incidents unfolded on Wednesday, with 22 people falling sick at Dhanwada Government Boys' High School in Narayanpet district, 16 students at Yellareddy Government High School in Kamareddy district, and several girls at the Government Tribal Girls' Welfare Hostel in Suryapet. While some students have recovered, others are still receiving treatment.

Kavitha lambasted Chief Minister Revanth Reddy for being engrossed in political activities, neglecting the welfare of children who represent Telangana's future. She stressed that every child has a right to safe and nutritious food, lamenting that the Congress regime has failed to ensure this. She questioned, "How many more innocent children have to suffer before this irresponsible government wakes up?" These events highlight a dire need for better food safety measures and oversight in government educational institutions.

# Kaushik Reddy Claims 67% Voted for KCR's Rule in Telangana

**TPN Correspondent**

**Hyderabad, Jan 31** : Huzurabad MLA Padi Kaushik Reddy recently commented on the state of Telangana politics, stating that 67% of voters supported Chief Minister K. Chandrashekar Rao's (KCR) rule in the state. Speaking to the media, Kaushik Reddy claimed that if people had voted for Telangana Congress, the outcome would have been different, with Congress leader Revanth Reddy facing a significant setback.

Reddy also criticized Revanth Reddy's leadership, suggesting that under his guidance, figures like Sunil Kanwal could have easily swayed several Congress and BRS MLAs for large sums of money. Kaushik Reddy referenced a tweet from Sunil Kanwal, who pointed out that while 87,000 people voted for Congress, the majority—66.5% or roughly 67%—voted for the BRS.



# Govt plans to establish mini MSME industries in rural areas.



**TPN Correspondent**  
**Hyderabad, Jan 31** : Minister Sridhar Babu, reflecting on the recent Davos trip, emphasized the Telangana government's commitment to increasing employment opportunities through industri-

al investments. Speaking to the media, he mentioned that the visit successfully secured several investment agreements, thanking the companies that expressed trust in the state. He also noted efforts to attract investments not just in Hyderabad, but also in second-tier and third-tier cities.

Sridhar Babu highlighted the introduction of the MSME policy in Telangana, which is recognized as one of the most productive policies in the country. He emphasized the state's focus on agro-processing units to support farmers and plans to establish mini MSME industries in rural areas.

Addressing concerns about the Indiramma housing scheme, the Minister stated that individuals who already own homes will not be eligible for new houses. He clarified that the government will prioritize granting Indiramma houses to those who are genuinely in need of shelter. This initiative aims to ensure that the most vulnerable people in the state receive adequate housing support.

# Niranjan Reddy: KCR Remains in Telangana's Memory

**TPN Correspondent**

**Hyderabad, Jan 31** : Former Agriculture Minister Niranjan Reddy took a firm stand against Chief Minister Revanth Reddy's statement that he would make KCR "disappear" from Telangana, asserting that the people of the state remember KCR every day. Reddy, who is also the Chairman of the BRS Rythu Adhyayan Committee, expressed his dissatisfaction with the Congress government, stating that it has failed to fulfill any of the six guarantees and 420 promises made during the election campaign.

He highlighted the challenges faced by farmers, particularly the lack of support prices for their crops, which was ensured under KCR's regime. According to Reddy, the Congress government has left farmers struggling, leading to suicides due to unmet promises like loan waivers and support prices.

Reddy also criticized the Congress party's administration, accusing the government of silencing their efforts to assist affected farmers by deny-



ing them permission to visit families of deceased farmers. He pointed out the discrepancy between the ideals of Mahatma Gandhi and the actions of Congress leaders, accusing them of spreading lies.

In response to the remarks of Congress leaders such as Tummala Nageswara Rao and Komati Reddy Venkat Reddy, Reddy vowed that the BRS would continue to stand firm, addressing the issues that matter to the people of Telangana.

# SC Classification a Priority: Sampath Kumar

**TPN Correspondent**

**Hyderabad, Jan 31** : AICC Secretary Sampath Kumar reiterated the Congress government's commitment to the classification of Scheduled Caste (SC) reservations, stating that the process will be carried out under the leadership of Chief Minister Revanth Reddy. Speaking to the media at Gandhi Bhavan, he assured that there is no need for concern regarding the classification, echoing the views of MRPS founder president Manda Krishna Madiga.



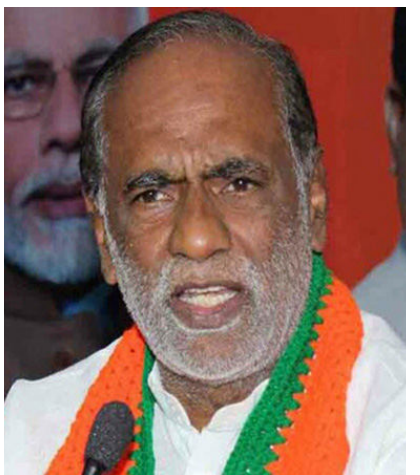
Sampath Kumar emphasized that Revanth Reddy is the only Chief Minister who has argued in the Supreme Court for the rights of the Madiga community. He stated that the Telangana government is proceeding with SC classification as soon as the one-sided commission report is finalized. He also recalled that he had clearly stated in the PAC meeting that SC classification is a core principle of the Congress party. Criticizing BRS leaders Harish Rao and KT Rama Rao, he dismissed their claims of ensuring justice for the Madiga community, noting that they remained silent in the Assembly for a decade on the Ushamehra Commission report. He highlighted that Revanth Reddy has consistently raised the issue and even formed a cabinet sub-committee for its implementation.

Sampath Kumar acknowledged internal opposition within Congress, particularly from MLA Gaddam Vivek, and stated that the party leadership would work towards building consensus on the issue.

# MP Laxman Demands Congress to Fulfill Promises or Step Down

**TPN Correspondent**

**Hyderabad, Jan 31** : BJP MP Laxman strongly criticized the Congress government, stating that the party's unfulfilled election promises are becoming a burden. He pointed out that even Assembly Speaker Gaddam Prasad Kumar acknowledged that promises were made without assessing the state's economic situation. Laxman accused the ruling party of misleading voters to gain power and now using financial constraints as an excuse.



He highlighted the growing discontent among farmers, who feel betrayed by the unfulfilled promise of a ₹2 lakh loan waiver. He also criticized the government for failing to deliver on its pledge to provide gold to women. Laxman warned that the BJP would not remain silent if Congress continued to ignore its commitments.

Referring to similar instances in Haryana and Maharashtra, he stated that Congress had been held accountable for its failures. He also questioned the delay in implementing the old pension scheme, pointing out that 8,000 retirees had yet to receive their benefits, leaving them in a dire situation.

Laxman urged voters to reject Congress in the upcoming teachers and graduates MLC elections and support BJP candidates instead, assuring them that the BJP would work to resolve their grievances.

# MP Etala Stresses Responsibility Beyond Politics for GHMC

**TPN Correspondent**

**Hyderabad, Jan 31** : BJP MP Etala Rajender has called for prioritizing people's responsibilities beyond political interests in the functioning of the Greater Hyderabad Municipal Corporation (GHMC). Speaking at a recent GHMC council meeting, Etala emphasized the need for funds to be allocated based on necessity, without narrow political considerations. He stressed the importance of focusing on areas lacking basic amenities to ensure the city's growth and development.

Etala warned that ignoring the balance between the budget's expenses and income could lead to the city's decline. He

expressed his knowledge of GHMC's struggles, questioning how new contractors could be attracted when old ones haven't received payment. Etala also pointed out that corporators have more reach than MLAs, highlighting the need for stronger local governance.

Further, Etala urged the identification of the poorest residents for the provision of Indiramma houses and other welfare schemes. He expressed support for the construction of a new Osmania Hospital but proposed that it be built at the current location of Osmania Hospital, ensuring both preservation and progress.



# "Budget Drama" at GHMC Council Meeting

### BRS, Congress Clash Over Budget Presentation

**TPN Correspondent**  
**Hyderabad, Jan 31** : In a dramatic turn of events at the GHMC Council meeting on Thursday, chaos ensued when BRS and Congress members clashed over the budget for the financial year 2025-26. The session, held under heavy security, witnessed BRS members protesting for a question and answer session, leading to an uproar in the house.

to their removal by marshals, after which they staged a protest outside the GHMC office.

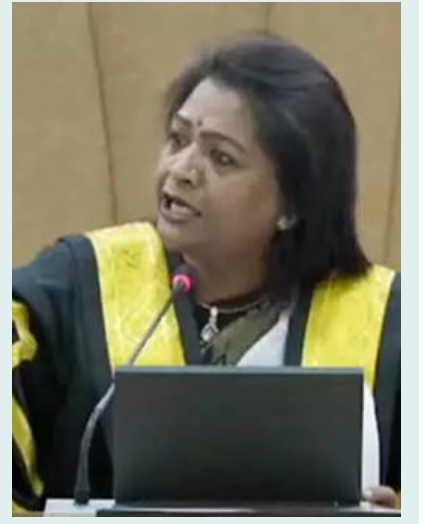
Simultaneously, BJP corporators raised slogans against the proposed demolition of Ghoshmahal Stadium for the construction of Osmania Hospital. The police presence was significantly increased around the GHMC headquarters to manage the situation.

Mayor Gadwal Vijaya Lakshmi presented the budget of Rs. 8,440 crore, which was approved amidst protests from BRS and BJP members. The BRS corporators protested by holding up placards, which were torn by Congress members, escalating tensions. The BRS demanded the fulfillment of election promises and the release of development funds for Hyderabad.

Former Minister K.T. Rama Rao (KTR) of BRS condemned the arrests of protesting corporators, calling them "illegal" and accusing the Congress of stifling democratic voices. He demanded the immediate release of the detained corporators, emphasizing that protests on public issues should not lead to arrests.

The meeting took a tumultuous turn when BRS corporators stormed the podium, protesting against the Mayor's decision to start the question session only after budget approval. This led

The day's events highlight the deep political divisions within Hyderabad's municipal governance, potentially impacting future civic projects and public welfare initiatives.



## Harish Rao Condemns Arrests of BRS Corporators



**TPN Correspondent**  
**Hyderabad, Jan 31** : Former Minister and BRS MLA Harish Rao strongly condemned the illegal arrests of GHMC BRS corporators, expressing outrage at the Congress government's actions. He questioned whether asking for funds to develop Hyderabad would result in arrests, and criticized the government's neglect of the city, calling it the heart of the state.

Rao further attacked the Congress leadership, stating that the budget was being approved without discussion, labeling the move as undemocratic and autocratic. He expressed his disapproval of the suppression of voices from public representatives who are raising concerns on behalf of the people. Harish Rao demanded the immediate release of the corporators who were arrested, urging a reconsideration of the government's approach.

## Ponnam Prabhakar Criticizes BRS for Blocking GHMC Budget



**TPN Correspondent**  
**Hyderabad, Jan 31** : Minister Ponnam Prabhakar has expressed strong concerns over the BRS's actions during the GHMC Council meeting, accusing the party of mocking the Constitution. He emphasized that the GHMC budget, essential for Hyderabad's development, was being obstructed by the BRS. Prabhakar stressed that blocking the budget equates to hindering the city's progress.

He further defended the Congress-led government under CM Revanth Reddy, claiming that it is working hard to protect and enhance Hyderabad's image. While Congress is prepared to face any no-confidence motions against the mayor, Prabhakar questioned the motives behind BRS's actions, suggesting that the party's opposition could stem from jealousy of the development now taking place in the city—development that he claimed had been absent for the last decade.

## Shamshabad Airport Bomb Scare Turns Out to Be Hoax

**TPN Correspondent**  
**Hyderabad, Jan 31** : Shamshabad Airport was thrown into chaos once again after receiving a bomb threat. A stranger contacted the Cyberabad control room, warning of explosives at the airport. This led to an immediate and thorough security sweep by the alerted airport staff.

However, after extensive checks, authorities determined the threat was a hoax. The caller, identified as a resident from Kamareddy, was

interrogated by the police. Investigations revealed that the individual was not mentally sound.

With the threat confirmed as false, passengers at Shamshabad Airport breathed a sigh of relief. This incident, which has now gone viral, adds to the list of previous bomb threats received by the airport, highlighting ongoing security concerns despite the latest scare being unfounded.



## Two Imposters Caught at Telangana Secretariat



**TPN Correspondent**  
**Hyderabad, Jan 31** : In a surprising turn of events at the Telangana State Secretariat, two men, Bhaskar Rao and Ravi from Khammam district, were caught impersonating government officials. They were using fake ID cards to roam around different sections, causing a disturbance.

Following intelligence alerts about fake employees, security personnel were on high alert. On Tuesday, the duo was apprehended red-handed by ASI Yusuf and Head Constable Anjaneyulu from

the Intelligence wing after they were found soliciting money by promising to speed up work processes.

Bhaskar Rao was posing as a Junior Assistant in the Revenue Department, while Ravi pretended to be a driver. The Secretariat security, in coordination with intelligence officials, managed to detain them. Both have been handed over to the Saifabad police for further investigation. This incident has sparked concerns regarding security measures at the Secretariat.

## Brutal Murder Shakes Balanagar, Body Found with Head Injury

**TPN Correspondent**  
**Hyderabad, Jan 31** : A chilling murder has sent shockwaves through Balanagar, with the discovery of an unidentified man's body in Jinkala Wada. The victim, estimated to be between 35 and 40 years old, was found with a severe head injury and blood stains, indicating he might have been killed elsewhere and then dumped in the Balanagar police station area.

The police noted a tattoo on the deceased's right hand spelling "Mom Dad" in English. This detail might assist in identifying the man. Local residents are in a state of panic as the police seek information from the community. A case has been registered, and an investigation is actively underway to uncover the circumstances of this brutal crime.



## GHMC Demolishes Illegal Construction in Nimboli Adda

**TPN Correspondent**  
**Hyderabad, Jan 31** : GHMC officials took action against illegal construction in Nimboli Adda, Kacheguda division, on Thursday. The construction, a four-storey building, was being carried out by Dasharath Yadav on a 127-yard plot without the necessary permits. Acting on court orders, the Greater Hyderabad Municipal Corporation (GHMC) demolished the unauthorized structure.

GHMC DMC Maruthi Diwakar, with the assistance of Kacheguda police, carried out the demolition. Diwakar warned of strict legal consequences for illegal constructions within Circle-6 and announced plans for a special



drive to address ongoing violations. GHMC ACP Devender and other officials also participated in the operation.

## Rahul Gandhi, Calls for Removal of 'Gandhi' Surname

**TPN Correspondent**  
**Hyderabad, Jan 31** : Y Satish Reddy, former REDCO chairman and BRS social media convenor, criticized Congress leader Rahul Gandhi and the party for failing to fulfill their election promises. Speaking at a protest in Mansurabad, Reddy suggested that Rahul Gandhi should remove the surname "Gandhi" from his name, accusing him of deceiving people and insulting the legacy of Mahatma Gandhi.

Reddy pointed out that despite making 420 promises during the election campaign, none had been fulfilled even after 420 days in power. He expressed concern over the dire situation of farmers, with many committing suicide due to the suspension of key welfare schemes like Rythu Bandhu and Rythu Bima. He also criticized Congress for its failure to deliver on promises of job creation and trans-



portation improvements, adding that the party had damaged women's self-respect by offering free travel without expanding bus services. Reddy concluded by calling on the people to hold Congress accountable for its unkept promises. The protest was attended by former Nagole Division BRS president Satish Yadav and others.

## Worksite tragedy in Siddipet District

### Mother and Daughter Killed in Work Accident



**TPN Correspondent**  
**Siddipet, Jan 31:** In a heart-wrenching incident today in Siddipet district, a mother and her daughter lost their lives while working under the Mahatma Gandhi National Rural Employment Guarantee Scheme. The tragedy unfolded in Govardhanagiri village, Akannapet mandal, where Kandrapu Sarojana (45) and Annaji Mamatha (28) were

digging as part of their daily labor. While they were excavating soil, large rocks from above dislodged and fell on them, leading to their immediate deaths at the site. Additionally, two other workers, Renuka and Swarupa, suffered leg fractures in the same incident.

Local villagers managed to extricate Sarojana and Mamatha from

under the rubble with great difficulty. Meanwhile, Renuka and Swarupa were rushed to the government hospital in Husnabad for urgent medical treatment via 108 ambulance services.

The police have arrived at the scene, registered a case, and are intensifying their investigation into this devastating event.

## Minister Seethakka Issues Key Orders After Siddipet Work Accident



**TPN Correspondent**  
**Siddipet, Jan 31:** In response to the tragic incident in Govardhanagiri village, Akannapet mandal of Siddipet district, where two workers died during MGNREGA work, Minister Seethakka expressed deep concern. Upon learning of the accident, she immediately dispatched the district DRDO to the site. Seethakka sought details from the concerned department officials, highlighting her frustration over

the continuation of work in an area previously flagged as hazardous by district officials a week ago.

She ordered a comprehensive inquiry into the incident and directed that the injured receive proper medical care. Seethakka assured that the government would support the families of the deceased and injured laborers. She instructed the Rural Development Department officials to make all necessary arrangements for the affected families.

On Thursday, while working on the MGNREGA project, a mound of soil collapsed, leading to the death of two workers and severe injuries to five others. Local revenue officials and police arrived at the scene, using JCBs to clear debris and recover the bodies, while the injured were rushed to a local government hospital for treatment.

## Huge Crowd Gathers for Goddess Idamma Procession in Kollapur

**TPN Correspondent**  
**Hyderabad, Jan 31:** A massive crowd gathered for the procession of Goddess Idamma in Kollapur, as the idol of the goddess was taken from Madhava Swamy Temple to the Eedamma Thalli Temple. The procession, held on January 30, was accompanied by vibrant celebrations, including children's dances, traditional pothuraj costumes, and drum performances, attracting thousands of devotees. The temple's reconstruction was a long-awaited project after the original idol was destroyed and the temple fell into ruins over the years. The Surabhi rulers had vowed to build the temple if Goddess Idamma saved people from the plague, a promise fulfilled as the plague diseases in the region subsided. Former MLA Beeram Harshavardhan Reddy played a key role in funding the temple's reconstruction. The statue of Goddess Idamma was carved from Krishnashila stone in Mahabalipuram. Along with BRS leaders, Beeram participated in the inauguration, offering special pujas.



## Large Crowd Attends Nagoba Jatara in Adilabad District



**TPN Correspondent**  
**Adilabad, Jan 31:** A large number of devotees gathered at the Nagoba Jatara held in Keslapur, Indraveli mandal, Adilabad district, on Thursday. Tribals from the Telugu states, as well as from Maharashtra, Odisha, and Madhya Pradesh, participated in the festival. Devotees from various castes worshipped Peddadevu, while women performed rituals for Ban Devi.

To manage the large crowd, authorities made special arrangements to ensure smooth proceedings on the second day of the festival. State ministers Seethakka and Konda Surekha are expected to attend the tribal darbar on Friday.

## Hyderabad Student Dies in US Road Accident

**TPN Correspondent**  
**Hyderabad, Jan 31:** Mohammed Wajid, a 28-year-old from Khaitarabad, Hyderabad, tragically died in a road accident in Plymouth County, Massachusetts, on January 28. Wajid, who had completed his master's degree in Chicago, was driving a semi-truck when the accident occurred. His truck ran a stop sign and collided with another truck, resulting in

the destruction of his vehicle. Despite being rushed to the hospital, he was declared dead. The other truck driver, Timothy Wilkin, was unharmed. A small fire broke out during the incident. Wajid was a member of the NRI Minority Congress Committee in America, and Telangana Congress Secretary Shahabuddin shared a photo of him with Telangana CM Revanth Reddy on Twitter.



## Uttam Kumar Hails Premsagar Rao as Pillar of Congress

**TPN Correspondent**  
**Hyderabad, Jan 31:** Minister Uttam Kumar Reddy addressed the media on Thursday, emphasizing that Premsagar Rao is the pillar of the Telangana Congress party. He stressed the government's commitment to ensuring that all schemes reach the people, stating that the upcoming panchayat elections will be held soon. On cabinet expansion, he refrained from commenting, calling it a secret matter. Reddy also responded to criticism from BRS leaders, accusing them of spreading false propaganda about government schemes. He assured the public that there is no question of halting ongoing initiatives, emphasizing his 40 years of political experi-



ence. Reddy declared that no government has implemented as many schemes as his and expressed confidence that the administration was the best in Telangana's history.

Reddy also voiced frustration with engineers for delaying lift irrigation projects in his constituency, Huzurnagar. After failing to resolve the issue locally, he issued immediate orders for the work to start and directed higher officials to investigate and resolve the delays. He expressed dissatisfaction with district officials' lack of accountability and ordered an urgent review with the concerned authorities.

## Nalgonda Municipal Workers Protest Over Unpaid Salaries



**TPN Correspondent**  
**Nalgonda, Jan 31:** In Nalgonda, municipal workers have taken to the streets, protesting against the Congress government's failure to fulfill promises. Workers have not received their salaries for two months and are also owed nine months' arrears. The workers, supported by the CITU and Municipal Workers Union, organized a dharna in front of the municipal office. They expressed their struggles due to the lack of wages, with many facing hardships in supporting their families. The workers have demanded immediate payment of their dues, warning that they will intensify their protest if the issue is not resolved promptly.

## Minister Surekha Ensures Aid for Injured Laborers

**TPN Correspondent**  
**Siddipet, Jan 31:** Minister of Forest, Environment, and Endowments Konda Surekha has been invited to the Brahmotsavam at the Jogulamba Bala Brahmeshwari Swamy Temple from January 30 to February 3, and the Mahashivratri Celebrations from February 25 to March 1. During a meeting with temple officials at the Hyderabad Secretariat, the temple EO Purenra Kumar and priests presented an invitation and blessings to the minister. EO Kumar briefed Surekha on the festival events, including flag hoisting, Sahasra Kalashabhishekam, and the Kalyanotsavams. Minister Surekha instructed the EO to coordinate with officials of various departments to ensure all necessary arrangements for devotees during the festivals and emphasized the importance of organizing the events on a grand scale.



In a separate development, Minister Surekha expressed deep sorrow over the tragic deaths of two employment guarantee laborers in Govardhanagiri, Husnabad, Siddipet district. The Siddipet Dis-

trict Collector, Manu Chaudhary, briefed the minister about the incident. Surekha ordered that immediate financial assistance be provided to the deceased and the injured, as per the Employment Guarantee Scheme, and instructed that medical treatment should be arranged according to the wishes of the injured. She also ensured that the injured laborer, Swaroop, receiving treatment at MGM Hospital in Warangal, would receive the best possible care until full recovery. The minister also directed that Swaroop's family be provided with food, accommodation, and all necessary facilities during the treatment period.

## Kavitha on Congress Failures



**TPN Correspondent**  
**Nizamabad, Jan 31:** In a fiery speech in Nizamabad district, BRS MLC Kalvakuntla Kavitha lambasted the Congress government for its governance failures. Kavitha criticized the administration for making promises without financial planning, as even acknowledged by the Assembly Speaker. She questioned the credibility of a party with a 130-year history that she claims has deceived the public.

regression under Congress, with CM Revanth Reddy allegedly spreading lies, which she metaphorically linked to seeing his image in a mirror of deceit.

She accused the Congress of biased distribution of benefits like farmer insurance and ration cards, only to party workers, and of neglecting infrastructure development, including the Kaleshwaram Package 21. Kavitha noted the government's failure to increase pension amounts, leaving them at the levels set during KCR's tenure.

Kavitha pointed out Rahul Gandhi's silence on Telangana's issues during his national tour, accusing him of ignoring local crises. She highlighted the state's

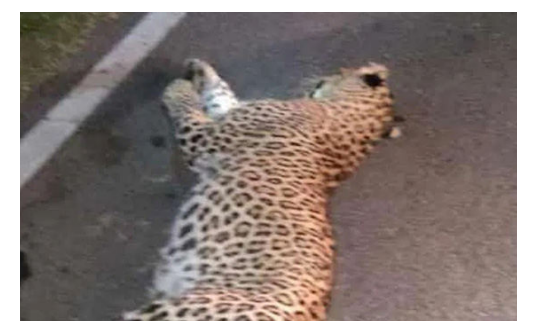
Further, she criticized the mismanagement of basic services like electricity and water, and the health hazards in educational institutions, citing an incident where students fell ill due to contaminated food. Kavitha also called on the BJP to announce a minimum support price for turmeric to aid local farmers, emphasizing the dire agricultural situation. Her speech painted a picture of widespread discontent with the Congress administration's performance in Telangana.

## Leopard Dies After Being Hit by Vehicle in Medak District

**TPN Correspondent**  
**Medak, Jan 31:** A leopard tragically lost its life after being struck by an unidentified vehicle on National Highway No. 44 in Medak district. The incident occurred near Vallur in Narsingi mandal, where the leopard, believed to have come from a nearby forest area, was walking on the road at night.

Chaitanya Kumar Reddy, who alerted the forest department, coordinated the transport of the leopard's body back to the Vallur forest area. Authorities stated that the body will undergo a postmortem before being laid to rest.

Forest officials arrived at the scene following the report and examined the deceased animal, confirming it to be a male leopard, approximately two years old. The animal was seriously injured and succumbed to the impact of a vehicle traveling from Hyderabad.



# How PM Modi Has Taken Gandhi's Khadi Dream To New Heights

In 2023, Prime Minister Narendra Modi addressed a gathering of over 3,000 students, stating, "Many foreign-made objects have encroached on our lives, and getting rid of them is important for saving the country." This statement echoes the ideals of Mahatma Gandhi, who envisioned Khadi as a symbol of self-reliance, economic empowerment, and resistance to colonial rule. For Gandhi, Khadi was more than just fabric; it represented a movement—one that could unite India, uplift rural artisans, and promote the Swadeshi spirit.

Over the past decade, Khadi has witnessed remarkable growth, thanks to initiatives supporting the 'Make in India' and 'Vocal for Local' missions. The Khadi industry has seen record-breaking achievements, with sales turnover in the financial year 2023-24 surpassing Rs 1.5 lakh crore—an increase of around 400% from Rs 31,154.20 crore in 2013-14. The production value of Khadi products grew by 315%, from Rs 26,109.08 crore in 2013-14 to Rs 1,08,297.68 crore in 2023-24. Khadi fabric production alone increased by approximately 295%, and sales rose by 501%.

Khadi's expansion has also had a significant social impact, creating over 10.17 lakh jobs, with half of them in rural areas, and 80% of Khadi artisans being women. This growth is a testament to Khadi's role in empowering rural communities, particularly women, and contributing to local economies.

To boost Khadi's appeal, the government has taken several steps, including replacing rebates with the Market De-



velopment Assistance (MDA) scheme, which offers incentives to spinners and weavers. Khadi has also gained attention through collaborations with various government sectors, including railways and defense, and by showcasing products in major events like the IITF 2022 and Lakme Fashion Week. Social media and collaborations with design institutes such as NIFT have also played a role in rebranding Khadi as a contemporary fabric.

Internationally, PM Modi has used forums like the G20 Summit to promote Khadi, gifting Khadi shawls to world leaders. His advocacy for Khadi extends to the youth, encouraging them to embrace it as a symbol of self-respect and national pride. "Khadi is not just a piece of cloth, but a weapon for those with self-respect, who are proud of the nation, and who dream of Aatmanirbhar

Bharat," he said in August.

Khadi's low environmental footprint makes it even more appealing. The fabric's production uses no machines or energy, contributing to a minimal carbon footprint. It is skin-friendly, breathable in summer, and warm in winter. The water usage for producing Khadi is significantly lower than that of mill-produced fabric, which further underscores its eco-friendly nature. However, one of the biggest challenges facing Khadi is adoption. Many Indians still hesitate to make Khadi their go-to fabric. If more people embrace Khadi, it could drive significant economic, environmental, and social change, benefiting rural communities and reinforcing India's Aatmanirbhar mission. Turning Khadi into a global brand could be a transformative step towards a sustainable and self-reliant future for India.

# Champions Trophy: Pakistan's Mess Is Shocking, But Not Surprising



When a country secures the hosting rights for a global sports tournament, the last thing it wants is to fall behind in preparations. Unfortunately, Pakistan is currently facing that nightmare scenario as it races against time to complete the renovation work on venues set to host the Champions Trophy matches, excluding those involving India. The country has already missed two deadlines—December 31 and January 25—and is now set to miss a third deadline on January 31. Renovation work at Lahore's Gaddafi Stadium, one of the key venues, is now expected to finish by February 2, just weeks before the tournament begins.

Reports suggest that the Pakistan Cricket Board (PCB) had to restrict journalists from entering stadiums in Karachi and Lahore to save face, as work was still incomplete. As of January 25, Gaddafi Stadium, which is scheduled to host four matches including the Australia vs England game on February 22, had unfinished seating and digital screen installations. The slow pace of renovation has sparked widespread criticism, with several social media videos showing the poor state of the venues.

The situation became more apparent after the issue of India's participation in the tournament was resolved. Many argue that the PCB could have directed more energy toward accelerating venue work rather than focusing solely on ensuring all matches would take place in Pakistan.

While the blame for the delay initially falls on the PCB, the International Cricket Council (ICC) shares some responsibility. The resignation of Geoff Allardice as ICC CEO just weeks before the tournament began raised eyebrows. Allardice was responsible for overseeing the preparations, and his departure is seen as a direct consequence of the delays. Additionally, the failure to plan for a hybrid model, where India could play its matches at a neutral venue, is considered a significant oversight by both the ICC and the PCB.

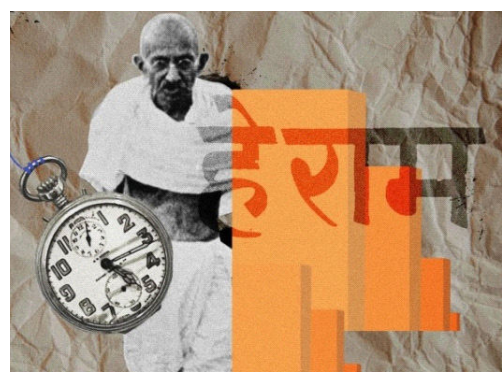
The mishandling of the Champions Trophy preparations highlights broader governance issues within Pakistan's sports ecosystem. Once known for excellence in sports like cricket, hockey, squash, and boxing, Pakistan's global sporting performance has steadily declined. Failures in administration, political interference, corruption, and lack of forward-thinking systems have hampered the country's sports development.

Despite manufacturing high-quality sports equipment, Pakistan has struggled to maintain a competitive edge in global sports. Cricket, the country's most popular sport, has been particularly affected by mismanagement. The PCB has seen frequent changes in leadership, with allegations of political interference and vested interests undermining its effectiveness. These issues were evident when Australian cricketer Jason Gillespie resigned as Pakistan's Test coach in December, citing poor communication with the PCB.

The current situation around the Champions Trophy serves as a stark reminder of Pakistan's struggles to maintain its sports infrastructure and governance. The PCB's large-scale renovation efforts, the most significant since 1996, are under intense scrutiny as the tournament approaches. The question remains: how will the ICC and the new leadership respond to the lessons learned from this fiasco? The tournament's success or failure may serve as a turning point for both the PCB and international sports governance in Pakistan.

# The Complicated Legacy of Nathuram Godse and the Politics of Hindutva

On January 30, 1948, Nathuram Godse assassinated Mahatma Gandhi, an act that remains one of the darkest chapters in India's history. Godse's motivations were rooted in his belief that Gandhi's relentless efforts to reconcile with Pakistan and his policy of appeasement were harmful to Hindus and India's sovereignty. Godse's confession during his trial reflected his view that Gandhi's actions—particularly his insistence on compensating Pakistan—were tantamount to betrayal, fueling his decision to end Gandhi's life.



Seventy-seven years later, Godse's legacy continues to stir controversy in India. While Prime Minister Narendra Modi and Bharatiya Janata Party (BJP) leaders routinely honor Gandhi's memory, publicly offering prayers at Rajghat, there remains a lingering, uncomfortable connection with Godse within their ranks. Some BJP members have expressed admiration for Godse, a stark contrast to the party's official disavowal of him.

This dichotomy is particularly evident when considering the ideological link between Godse and his mentor, Vinay-

ak Damodar Savarkar, the founder of Hindutva. While the BJP has embraced Savarkar as the party's intellectual forebear, they are compelled to distance themselves from Godse, whose actions and confessions are too controversial to embrace publicly. In his pre-trial statement, Godse insisted that Gandhi had failed in his duty as the Father of the Nation and blamed him for the Partition and the creation of Pakistan.

Godse's relationship with Savarkar was deeply symbiotic. Under Savarkar's influence, Godse became a fervent advocate of Hindutva and played a key role in establishing underground organizations like the Hindu Rashtra Dal in Pune, aimed at advancing the ideology.

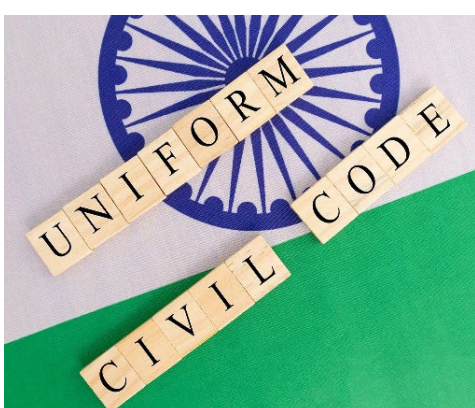
This ideological bond between the two figures is undeniable, yet the political complexities surrounding Godse's assassination of Gandhi make it challenging for the BJP to publicly acknowledge or reject one without implicating the other.

Interestingly, Gandhi and Savarkar had crossed paths earlier, and their differing philosophies on violence and politics were evident. In 1909, Gandhi expressed his regret after meeting Savarkar in London, particularly over Savarkar's advocacy for violence as a political tool. This philosophical divide would continue throughout their lives, with Gandhi's non-violence contrasting sharply against Savarkar's support for militant Hindu nationalism.

The question of how contemporary political leaders, such as Modi, who claim allegiance to Swami Vivekananda's teachings, also venerate Savarkar is troubling. Swami Vivekananda, who championed spiritual and intellectual growth, stood in stark opposition to violence as a political tool. Savarkar, on the other hand, espoused a doctrine of violence, rejecting democracy, and aligning himself with fascist ideologies.

# Uttarakhand Implements Uniform Civil Code: A Postcolonial Perspective

On January 27, the Uttarakhand government made history by promulgating a Uniform Civil Code (UCC), becoming the first state in India to do so since independence. Goa, however, has been following a form of UCC since colonial rule, based on the Portuguese Civil Code of 1967. Uttarakhand's move marks a significant postcolonial development that warrants a closer look, both in terms of its contextual relevance and the merits of the proposal.



## Contextual Significance

The Bharatiya Janata Party (BJP) has long championed the idea of implementing a Uniform Civil Code nationwide. The BJP's political agenda, inherited from its Hindu Right predecessors, has centered around two key

issues: the construction of the Ram temple at Ayodhya and the imposition of a UCC. While the Ram temple has gained substantial progress, the implementation of a UCC has been a more contentious issue.

Uttarakhand's decision to implement a UCC is not an isolated one. Several

other BJP-ruled states, such as Assam, Haryana, Karnataka, Madhya Pradesh, Maharashtra, and Uttar Pradesh, have either expressed intentions to do so or have already initiated steps toward its implementation. However, Uttarakhand's small size and unique demographic landscape make it an interesting case study.

## Demographic and Political Landscape

Uttarakhand's population is predominantly Hindu, comprising over 80% of the state's residents. Muslims account for about 14%, while other religious communities, including Buddhists, Christians, Jains, and Sikhs, make up around 3%. Scheduled Tribes (STs), though a minority, also hold significance in the state, and the UCC

exempts them from its scope. This demographic composition plays a crucial role in the implementation of the UCC, particularly when considering that the state's majority population is Hindu.

The BJP's push for a UCC, particularly in a state with such a clear Hindu majority, seems less contentious compared to other regions with more religious diversity. Nevertheless, the implementation of a UCC is deeply political, aligning with the BJP's vision of a nation unified under a common legal framework that transcends personal laws based on religion.

## Merits of the Case

The argument for a UCC is rooted in the desire for equal treatment under

the law, irrespective of religious or cultural affiliations. Proponents argue that a UCC would bring much-needed uniformity to family laws, including marriage, inheritance, and property rights. It could potentially eliminate discrepancies between personal laws that often treat individuals based on their religious background, especially in cases of divorce or property disputes.

However, critics of the UCC raise concerns about its impact on India's pluralistic society. They argue that the imposition of a uniform law may not respect the diverse cultural and religious practices followed by various communities. For instance, many Muslim and Christian groups view their personal laws as an essential part of their religious identity.

# RG Kar rape-murder victim's parents withdraw plea for fresh investigate

West Bengal BJP Chief Alleges Evidence Tampering, Vows to Meet Family

TPN Correspondent | New Delhi

BJP's West Bengal president Sukanta Majumdar on Wednesday strongly condemned the alleged mistreatment of the victim's family in the RG Kar rape-murder case in Kolkata. He accused the Kolkata police of mishandling the initial investigation and vowed to visit the victim's family to express his solidarity.

"It is shameful to malign the family. That is why I will go to their house and meet them... For five days, when Kolkata police were investigating the case, evidence was destroyed, preventing justice from being served," Majumdar said.

Meanwhile, the victim's parents withdrew their plea from the Supreme Court seeking a fresh investigation into the case. The Court, after reviewing the submissions, advised Senior Advocate Karuna Nundy to withdraw the application and file a new one if necessary, as the original plea had been filed before the trial and conviction.

The case saw a major development on January 20 when a Sealdah Civil and Criminal Court convicted and sentenced Sanjoy Roy to life imprisonment for the rape and murder. However, the verdict has sparked an outcry among doctors and medical workers, who are calling for the death penalty. There are also growing demands



- Majumdar alleges crucial evidence was destroyed in the first five days of the probe
- Victim's parents withdraw their Supreme Court plea seeking reinvestigation
- Doctors and medical workers demand the death penalty for the convict

for a reinvestigation, citing concerns over the way evidence was handled during the initial probe.

As legal battles continue, the political storm surrounding the case intensifies, with BJP leaders questioning the ruling party's role in ensuring justice.



## ED Attaches ₹1.45 Lakh Crore Worth of Assets Under PMLA

TPN Correspondent | Delhi

The Enforcement Directorate (ED) has attached assets worth ₹1.45 lakh crore under the Prevention of Money Laundering Act (PMLA) till date, with ₹21,370 crore seized in the first nine months of FY 2024-25 alone. The federal agency, which has ramped up its crackdown on financial crimes in the last decade, has also facilitated the restitution of ₹22,737 crore in attached assets to banks and victims.

Since Prime Minister Narendra Modi took office in 2014, the ED has significantly increased its actions against money laundering, attaching assets worth ₹1.19 lakh crore in the last decade. The agency has pursued major economic offenders such as Vijay Mallya, Nirav Modi, and Mehul Choksi, recovering funds linked to high-profile financial fraud cases.

Apart from PMLA, the ED also operates under the Fugitive Economic Offenders Act (FEOA) and the Foreign Exchange Management Act (FEMA). Enacted in 2018, FEOA targets individuals charged with high-value economic frauds who flee the country to escape legal proceedings. To date, 23 FEOA applications have been filed, with 13 individuals declared fugitive economic offenders. The Financial Action Task Force (FATF), a global anti-money laundering watchdog, recognized India's strong compliance with counter-money laundering and terror financing standards in June last year, further reinforcing the country's efforts in combating financial crimes.

## Manipur Govt Orders Major Reshuffle of 70 Officers After New Governor Takes Charge

TPN Correspondent | Manipur

The Manipur government on Tuesday carried out a major bureaucratic reshuffle, transferring a total of 70 officers, including 60 from administrative services and 10 from police services. The move comes just days after Ajay Kumar Bhalla, a former Union Home Secretary, took charge as the state's new governor.

Among the significant changes, senior IAS officer Paudunthang Vaiphei has been appointed as Additional Chief Secretary and Director General of the State Academy of Training (SAT), while IAS officer Arurak Bajpai will now serve as Additional Chief Secretary for Textiles, Commerce, and Industries alongside his existing role as Principal Chief Conservator of Forests (PCCF).



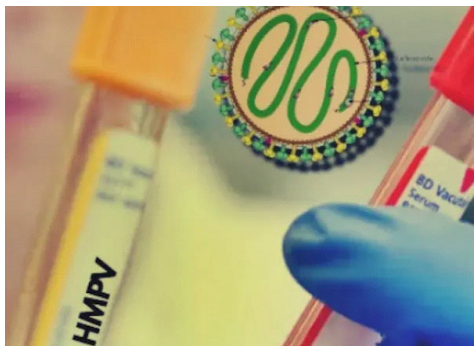
The reshuffling is expected to bring administrative efficiency and reinforce governance in the state amid ongoing political and security challenges. These changes will remain in force until further notice, ensuring a streamlined approach under the leadership of Governor Bhalla.

## Gujarat Reports Eighth Case of Human Metapneumovirus in Ahmedabad

TPN Correspondent | Ahmedabad

A 4-year-old boy from Ahmedabad has tested positive for human metapneumovirus (HMPV), raising the number of cases in Gujarat to eight, health officials confirmed on Thursday. The child, from the Gota area, is currently undergoing treatment at a trust-run hospital in the city, and his condition is reported to be stable.

The child was admitted to SGVP Hospital on January 28 after experiencing fever and a persistent cough. A test conducted the same day confirmed that he was infected with HMPV. According to Bhavin Solanki, the medical officer from Ahmedabad Municipal Corporation, the boy has no history of recent foreign travel, indicating that the virus was contracted locally.



Before this case, Ahmedabad had already recorded six instances of HMPV, with three patients coming from other regions but seeking treatment in the city. All six previous patients have since been discharged following full recovery.

With the addition of this new case, Gujarat now has eight confirmed HMPV cases, with seven in Ahmedabad and one in Sabarkantha district.

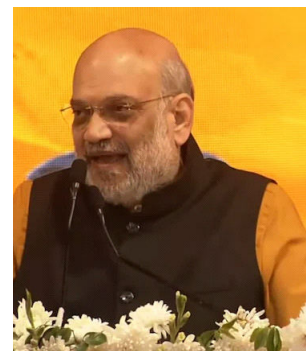
HMPV, discovered in 2001, is a virus belonging to the Paramyxoviridae family and is closely related to the Respiratory Syncytial Virus (RSV). The symptoms of HMPV include cough, fever, nasal congestion, and shortness of breath, and it primarily spreads through respiratory droplets when an infected person coughs or sneezes. It can also spread through touching contaminated surfaces or direct contact with infected individuals.

## Amit Shah-Led Committee Approves ₹3,027.86 Crore for Disaster Mitigation

TPN Correspondent | Delhi

A High-Level Committee (HLC), chaired by Union Home Minister Amit Shah, has sanctioned ₹3,027.86 crore for disaster mitigation projects across several states. This funding, drawn from the National Disaster Mitigation Fund (NDMF), is aimed at addressing drought, lightning, and forest fire risks. The committee includes Finance Minister Nirmala Sitharaman, Agriculture Minister Shivraj Singh Chouhan, and the Vice Chairman of NITI Aayog. ₹2,022.16 crore allocated for drought-prone districts across 12 states ₹186.78 crore earmarked for lightning safety projects in 10 states.

₹18.92 crore approved for forest fire risk management in 144 districts. The 12 drought-affected states—Andhra Pradesh, Bihar, Gujarat, Jharkhand, Karnataka, Madhya Pradesh, Maharashtra, Odisha, Rajasthan, Tamil Nadu, Telangana, and Uttar Pradesh—will receive catalytic assistance, with the central government contributing ₹1,200 crore. The lightning mitigation initiative covers Andhra Pradesh, Bihar, Chhattisgarh, Jharkhand, Madhya Pradesh, Maharashtra, Meghalaya, Odisha, Uttar Pradesh, and West Bengal.



A comprehensive forest fire risk management scheme has also been sanctioned for 19 states, including Himachal Pradesh, Kerala, Mizoram, Nagaland, and Uttarakhand, with the goal of transforming India's approach to forest fire prevention and response. These efforts align with Prime Minister Narendra Modi's vision for a disaster-resilient India. The government has significantly bolstered disaster risk reduction mechanisms, with prior approvals including ₹3,075.65 crore for urban flood mitigation, ₹150 crore for glacial lake outburst floods (GLOF) management, and ₹1,000 crore for landslide mitigation in 15 states.

# Supreme Court PIL Seeks Reforms After Maha Kumbh Stampede

## Advocate Petitions Court for Coordinated Crowd Management Efforts

TPN Correspondent | Mahakumbh

A public interest litigation (PIL) was filed in the Supreme Court on Thursday, alleging administrative failures by the Uttar Pradesh government over the recent Maha Kumbh stampede that claimed at least 30 lives and injured over 60 devotees. The petitioner, advocate Vishal Tiwari, has urged the court to direct state governments to collaborate on enhanced safety measures for religious gatherings.

Tiwari mentioned his plea before Chief Justice of India Sanjiv Khanna, requesting an urgent hearing. The CJ instructed him to submit a formal urgency letter



outlining reasons for immediate court intervention. The petition highlights critical measures, including setting up facilitation centres to provide pilgrims with essential safety guidelines and deploying small medical teams in coordination with the Uttar Pradesh government. It emphasizes the need for state collaboration to ensure secure travel for devotees and effective crowd control at one of the world's largest religious events.

The tragic incident occurred in the early hours of Wednesday when surging crowds at Prayagraj's Sangam broke past police barricades, trampling by-

standers as millions rushed toward the riverbank for the Mauni Amavasya ritual. Authorities acknowledge lapses in managing the massive gathering, bringing scrutiny to administrative preparedness.

Uttar Pradesh Chief Minister Yogi Adityanath has ordered a judicial probe into the tragedy, appointing a three-member panel led by retired judge Harsh Kumar, along with former DGP VK Gupta and retired IAS officer DK Singh. A separate police inquiry has also been initiated to investigate the cause of the stampede and potential lapses in security arrangements.

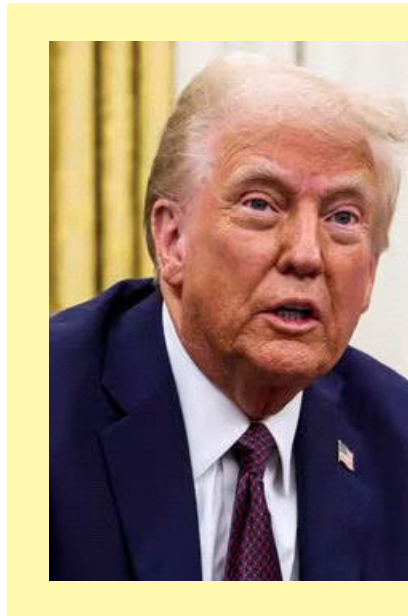
# Donald Trump Questions Tactics Behind Washington DC Plane and Helicopter Collision

## President Critiques Military Helicopter and Air Traffic Control in Social Media Post

TPN Correspondent | Washington

Donald Trump expressed strong concerns about the tragic plane crash near Washington DC, claiming that the incident "should have been prevented." In a post on his Truth Social platform, Trump questioned the actions of the military helicopter and air traffic controllers, both of which fall under his presidential oversight during his tenure.

In his post, Trump detailed his observations of the crash, explaining that the airplane was on a "perfect and routine line" toward the airport, while the helicopter flew directly at the plane for an extended period of time. He noted that the clear night sky should have made the plane easily visible, prompting the question of why the helicopter didn't adjust its course. He also criticized air traffic control for failing to provide proper guidance to the helicopter. He expressed further sorrow, stating, "What a terrible night this has been. God Bless you all!" The tragic incident, which occurred



- Trump raises doubts about the coordination of agencies involved in the crash.
- Incident involved a collision between an American Airlines jet and an Army helicopter.
- The FAA launched a search-and-rescue operation after multiple fatalities were reported.

as an American Airlines jet was preparing to land at Ronald Reagan National Airport, involved a collision with a Sikorsky H-60 (Black Hawk) helicopter. The FAA confirmed that the crash occurred around 9 pm, leading to a large search-and-rescue operation in the Potomac River. Though reports mention "multiple fatalities," details on the total number of victims

remain unclear.

The crash has led to significant disruption at the airport, with all take-offs and landings halted while authorities investigated the cause of the collision. An audio recording of the final communication between the pilot and the air traffic controller before the crash has since gone viral online.

# India Highlights Serious Investigation Into Pro-Khalistan Group Ahead of Modi's US Visit

TPN Correspondent | Delhi

Ahead of Prime Minister Narendra Modi's proposed visit to the US, the Indian government has emphasized the seriousness of its ongoing investigation into the pro-Khalistan separatist group "Sikhs For Justice" (SFJ). The group, led by US-based lawyer Gurpatwant Singh Pannun, faces over 100 cases across India, with 96 registered in states like Punjab, Delhi, and Haryana, and eight cases under investigation by the National Investigating Agency (NIA). The Delhi High Court tribunal recently upheld the five-year ban on SFJ.



Pannun himself has 104 cases registered against him. The group has been involved in several subversive activities, including threats against high-profile Indian leaders such as PM Modi, Home Minister Amit Shah, and NSA Ajit Doval. Investigations have revealed that SFJ has raised sig-

nificant funds to carry out terrorist activities aimed at destabilizing the government and promoting the creation of a "Khalistan" state. The group has also allegedly compiled a list of children of police officers and politicians abroad, which it intends to use as leverage in case its activists are targeted or tortured.

SFJ's activities have extended to circulating photographs of Indian diplomats, including Ambassador Vikram Duraiswami and former Ambassador Tranajit Singh Sandhu, making them vulnerable to attacks. Last month, the group issued a new threat against Indian Ambassador Vinay Kwatra.

The Delhi High Court tribunal, which was formed in August 2023, confirmed the extension of the SFJ's ban on January 3, 2024, with the ban set to last until July 2024. The government has also highlighted the SFJ's links with other separatist and radical elements, supporting violent extremism and militancy in Punjab. Even while the tribunal's proceedings were ongoing, SFJ continued its hostile activities, including offering a reward for information on former Indian High Commissioner to Canada Sanjay Kumar Verma, who was allegedly linked to the killing of Khalistani terrorist Hardeep Singh Nijjar in Canada.

# Elon Musk Nominated for Nobel Peace Prize 2025 for Defense of Free Speech

TPN Correspondent | United States

Billionaire entrepreneur and CEO of Tesla and SpaceX, Elon Musk, has been nominated for the Nobel Peace Prize 2025. The nomination, confirmed by European Parliament member Branko Grims, was submitted to the Norwegian Nobel Committee in recognition of Musk's significant contributions to the defense of free speech and human rights.

Grims, who shared the news in a Facebook post, emphasized Musk's efforts in advocating for the fundamental principles of free speech, particularly through his acquisition of the social media platform X (formerly known as Twitter). Musk's purchase of X was largely framed as a move to protect and promote free speech, with Musk asserting that his goal was to allow speech that aligns with legal standards. This stance on free speech has sparked both praise and controversy, but it has also positioned Musk as a significant figure in the broader debate over online expression and censorship.



In addition to his role as the head of Tesla and SpaceX, Musk is currently serving as the head of the Department of Government Efficiency (DOGE) in the new Trump administration, further solidifying his influence in both the business and political realms. His involvement in shaping policy related to government efficiency and his outspoken views on free speech have played a central role in the rationale behind his Nobel nomination.

# Syria Appoints Ahmed al-Sharaa as Interim President After Bashar al-Assad's Ouster

TPN Correspondent | Damascus

Syria's new authorities announced on Wednesday that Ahmed al-Sharaa has been appointed as the interim president following the ousting of Bashar al-Assad last month. Sharaa, leader of the Islamist group Hayat Tahrir al-Sham (HTS), was tasked with forming a transitional legislature and guiding the country through this pivotal phase.

On December 8, a swift offensive led by HTS and allied rebel factions resulted in the ousting of Assad, ending the 50-year reign of the Assad family. Following this, a transitional government was set up to steer the country until March 1, with Sharaa stepping into the presidential role during this period. State media, quoting military official Hassan Abdel Ghani, confirmed that Sharaa would represent Syria in international forums and was entrusted with forming a temporary legislative council until a permanent constitution could be established.

The Assad-era parliament was dissolved, and the 2012 constitution was suspended, marking a significant shift in Syria's governance. The announcements were made during a conference celebrating "the victory of the Syrian revolution," which was attended by Sharaa, Foreign Minister Asaad al-Shaibani, and heads of various armed factions. Abdel Ghani also revealed the dissolution of all factions involved in the removal of Assad, including the former government's military and security apparatus. The Baath party, which had been in power for decades, was also dissolved, and a new security apparatus would be formed to ensure citizens' safety and to rebuild the Syrian army.



# Canadian Report Clears India of Involvement in Hardeep Singh Nijjar's Killing

TPN Correspondent | Canada

A Canadian commission report has cleared the Indian government of any involvement in the killing of Sikh activist Hardeep Singh Nijjar, dismissing allegations made by Canadian Prime Minister Justin Trudeau in 2023. The 123-page report, released on Tuesday, concludes that there is no definitive link between India and the murder of Nijjar, a Khalistani separatist, in June 2023.

The report, titled 'Public Inquiry Into Foreign Interference in Federal Electoral Processes and Democratic Institutions', also highlighted the disinformation campaign that followed Trudeau's public accusations regarding India's potential involvement in the murder. Commissioner Marie-Josée Hogue stated that "disinformation is used as a retaliatory tactic" when states feel their interests are being challenged.

Trudeau's allegations had escalated tensions between India and Canada, with India strongly denying any involvement in the killing. The report emphasized that while the allegations sparked a disinformation campaign, no conclusive evidence connected any foreign state to Nijjar's death.

Nijjar, who was killed in a parking lot near a Gurudwara in Surrey, British Columbia, in June 2023, was a prominent supporter of the Khalistan movement, which is banned in India but has significant support within the Sikh diaspora in Canada.

The report also touched upon the expulsion of six Indian diplomats in the wake of the allegations. The legal proceedings regarding the case have been slow, with four Indian nationals arrested in connection with the murder, though the trial has been adjourned multiple times.



# Trump Signs Executive Order to Combat Antisemitism and Deport Protestors

TPN Correspondent | Washington DC

US President Donald Trump signed an executive order aimed at combating antisemitism, which includes a controversial pledge to deport non-citizen college students and others who participated in pro-Palestinian protests. The executive order, issued Wednesday, outlines "immediate action" by the Justice Department to prosecute criminal acts such as "terroristic threats, arson, vandalism, and violence against American Jews," following the surge in antisemitic incidents after the October 7, 2023, attack on Israel by Hamas.

The fact sheet accompanying the order emphasizes the growing antisemitism on US campuses and streets, spurred by the ongoing Israel-Palestinian conflict. In a strongly worded statement, Trump declared that non-citizens involved in "pro-jihadist" protests would face deportation, warning, "We will find you, and we will deport you." He further promised to cancel student visas for individuals he deemed to be Hamas sympathizers, citing a radicalized atmosphere on US college campuses.

The executive order has drawn significant criticism from rights groups and legal experts. Civil rights advocates argue that the order infringes upon the constitutional rights to free speech and political expression. Carrie DeCell, a senior attorney at the Knight First Amendment Institute at Columbia University, stated, "The First Amendment protects everyone in the United States, including foreign citizens studying at American universities." The Council on American-Islamic Relations (CAIR) also expressed concerns, warning that the order could lead to a legal battle if implemented.

Pro-Palestinian protests, triggered by the escalation of violence between Israel and Hamas, have taken place on various US college campuses, often accompanied by accusations of antisemitism. Many protesters, however, have clarified that their actions were against Israel's military tactics in Gaza, not support for Hamas. Maya Berry, executive director of the Arab American Institute, warned that conflating criticism of Israel with antisemitism could have a chilling effect on free speech in the US.



# Stock Markets See Volatile Session Amid Budget Session and Profit Booking

Domestic stock markets witnessed huge volatility today. Mixed signals from international markets, the start of the Budget session and profit-taking are the reasons for this. The indices, which started flat in the morning, swung to huge gains in the afternoon. They fell into losses again as investors took profit-taking at daily highs. They recovered somewhat in the end as buying resumed. Reality, energy and pharma shares were the main drivers of this. Overall, the Sensex gained 226 points and the Nifty gained 86 points. The Nifty has a strong resistance at 23300. If it is broken, the index may recover a little more.

The BSE Sensex, which closed at 76,532 in the previous session, opened at 76,598 today. It touched an intraday low of 76,401. It reached an intraday high of 76,962. It finally closed at 76,759, up 226 points. The NSE Nifty, which opened at 23,249 on Thursday, touched a low of 23,139 and a high of 23,322. It closed at 23,249, gaining 86 points. The Nifty Bank rose 146 points to settle at 49,311.

In the Nifty50, 35 companies gained and 15 lost. BEL, Power Grid, Hero Moto, Bharti Airtel, Cipla were the top gainers. Tata Motors, ITC Hotels, Adani Enterprises, Shriram Finance, Bajaj Finserv were the biggest losers. Auto, IT, Media, Consumer Durables, Oil & Gas indices rose today. Bank, Finance, FMCG, Pharma, Healthcare, Oil & Gas indices were in the red.



Market breadth on NSE today slightly shifted in favour of buyers. Out of 2091 stocks traded, 1549 gained and 1256 lost. Shares of 18 companies reached 52-week highs while 64 reached 52-week lows.

The rupee weakened slightly against the dollar and settled at 86.62. Wari Energies' net profit in the third quarter rose 36.2% to Rs 492 crore from Rs 361 crore. Coromandel International's net profit rose to Rs 511 crore from Rs 231 crore. HSBC has maintained a buy rating on Bajaj Finance with a target price of Rs 8900. It is noteworthy that Nomura has given a reduce rating to JSW Infra. Dabur India's net profit was recorded at Rs 516 crore. Max Healthcare's revenue grew by 35% to Rs 2281 crore from Rs 1689 crore. Wellspun Living's net profit fell by 31.7% to Rs 120 crore from Rs 176 crore. GAIL India's net profit was recorded at Rs



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3870 crore with a growth rate of 36%. Revenue was recorded at Rs 34,960 crore. It declared a dividend of Rs 6.5 per share. Adani Enterprises' net profit fell by 97% to Rs 57 crore. Despite an increase in mining and airport revenue, foreign exchange losses of Rs 296 crore were a drag. Bharat Electronics' profit rose 47% to Rs 1316 crore from Rs 893 crore.

**Dabur India Ltd.**  
Dabur is a leading FMCG company specializing in natural and Ayurvedic products. As of January 26, 2025, its stock price was ₹521.9, with a market



capitalization of ₹92,497 crore. The company has shown resilience in maintaining its market position.

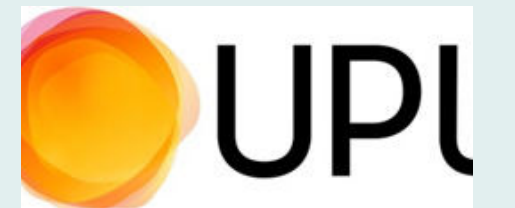
**Bharti Airtel Ltd.**  
Bharti Airtel is a major telecommunications provider in India. In a recent open market transaction, Bharti Telecom, a promoter group company, increased its stake in Bharti Airtel by 1.35% for ₹8,301 crore, bringing its total stake to 39.7%. Analysts anticipate that Bharti Airtel will continue to raise tariffs in the coming years, which could enhance its EBITDA.



**Hero MotoCorp Ltd.**  
Hero MotoCorp is the world's largest manufacturer of two-wheelers. In the quarter ending September 30, 2024, the company reported a 14% year-on-year increase in standalone profit to ₹12.04 billion, surpassing market expectations. This growth was driven by a 7% rise in sales volumes, particularly in mid-range motorcycles, and the introduction of

premium models like the "Karizma XMR." Revenue for the quarter increased by 11% to ₹104.63 billion.

**UPL Ltd.**  
UPL is a global agrochemical company specializing in crop protection solutions. As of January 30, 2025, UPL's stock price was ₹650. The company has a strong international presence and continues to focus on sustainable agricultural practices.



**Colgate-Palmolive (India) Ltd.**  
Colgate-Palmolive is a leading provider of oral care products in India. In the quarter ending September 30, 2024, the company reported a 16% increase in net profit to ₹3.95 billion, driven by strong demand for premium personal care products and expansion into rural markets. Sales grew by 10% to ₹16.09 billion during the same period.



## India's Rising Dependence on Imported Crude Oil: A Growing Concern for the Economy

India's reliance on imported crude oil has been steadily increasing, reflecting the country's rising energy demands and the gap between domestic production and consumption. This trend poses significant challenges for the Indian economy, which is already grappling with inflationary pressures and the impact of global energy prices.



Despite efforts to boost domestic production through exploration and development of new oil reserves, the country still remains heavily dependent on crude oil imports.

The growing import dependency also raises questions about the long-term sustainability of India's energy strategy. To mitigate risks and reduce the economic impact of imported oil, India has been focusing on diversification strategies such as expanding the use of renewable energy sources and promoting electric mobility. However, it will take time for these initiatives to make a significant impact on the country's overall energy consumption patterns.

As India's oil import dependency continues to rise, addressing this issue will be crucial for ensuring the nation's energy security and economic stability in the years ahead.

According to recent data from the Petroleum Planning & Analysis Cell (PPAC) of the oil ministry, India's oil import dependency surged to 88.1% in the first nine months of the current financial year. This marks an increase from 87.5% during the same period last year and 87.8% for the entire financial year 2023-24 (FY24). These figures highlight the nation's increasing dependence on foreign crude oil to meet its growing energy needs.

This growing dependency is a cause for concern as it makes India vulnerable to fluctuations in

global oil prices. Since crude oil is one of the largest import items for India, any spike in international oil prices can lead to higher import bills, thereby straining the country's current account deficit and putting pressure on the value of the rupee.

India's domestic oil production has not been able to keep up with the rapidly increasing demand for energy. As the world's third-largest oil importer, India faces the dual challenge of balancing its energy security needs while keeping costs under con-

ommend securities.

In addition, SEBI clarified that individuals engaged in purely educational activities cannot provide any direct or indirect advice or recommendations related to securities unless they are registered advisors. This is in line with SEBI's commitment to maintaining market integrity by ensuring that only qualified and registered entities provide investment advice.

One of the key provisions of the draft circular also focuses on the conduct of non-registered influencers, forbidding them from making explicit or implied claims about stock returns or performance. The idea is to prevent misleading information from reaching the public, which can unduly influence retail investors.

To combat the growing influence of "finfluencers" (financial influencers) promoting stock tips on social media under the guise of "educational purposes only," India's market regulator, the Securities and Exchange Board of India (SEBI), has introduced a draft circular. This new measure seeks to regulate the spread of unverified financial advice and reduce the risk posed by individuals with limited expertise in the stock market.

The draft circular stipulates that individuals who claim to offer financial education must refrain from using real-time stock price data from the last three months. The guideline prohibits them from discussing, displaying, or mentioning any securities, whether by name or code, if they intend to make predictions, offer advice, or rec-



SEBI has emphasized that violations of these guidelines could lead to pen-

## Adani Ports Reports 32% Growth in Net Profit for 2024-25, Expansion & Sustainability Highlighted

Adani Ports and Special Economic Zone Ltd (APSEZ) reported a remarkable 32% growth in its net profit for the first three quarters of the financial year 2024-25. The company's net profit for the period from April to December 2024 stood at Rs 8,038 crore, compared to Rs 6,089 crore during the same period in the previous year. In the October-December quarter, APSEZ's ports business also showed strong performance, with a 14% increase in net profit, reaching Rs 2,518 crore, up from Rs 2,208 crore in the year-ago quarter.

A key development for the company was the successful closure of the Gopalpur and Astro Offshore transactions, valued at over Rs 4,600 crore, during the October-December quarter. APSEZ's performance was further bolstered by a prestigious recognition from S&P Global CSA, which ranked the company among the Top 10 most sustainable global companies in the transport and infrastructure industry.

Ashwani Gupta, Whole-time Director and CEO of APSEZ, shared his enthusiasm, citing exceptional execution across three main areas: market share gains, growth in the logistics vertical, and operational efficiencies. Gupta

also highlighted the company's focus on integrated transport solutions, with the launch of a new trucking platform as part of its commitment to becoming a comprehensive Transport Utility. On the domestic front, APSEZ saw an 11% year-on-year revenue growth in its ports, coupled with a significant increase in EBITDA margin. The company also achieved a 27.2% share in India's cargo market and 45.2% in the container market. The logistics segment grew by 22%, driven by strong container and GPWIS volumes. Additionally, APSEZ expanded its international operations, with a 16% increase in revenue driven by the Astro and Tanzania operations, as well as the commencement of Vizhinjam Port's operations.

APSEZ continues to focus on expanding its marine assets and aligned with India's "Make in India" and "Atmanirbhar Bharat" initiatives, placing large orders for harbor tugs. The company's total cargo volume in the first nine months of FY25 rose by 7%, led by strong growth in containers and liquids and gas. APSEZ's strategic investments and operational efficiency are set to continue driving its expansion in both domestic and international markets.



## SEBI Draft Circular Aims to Curb Finfluencers Promoting Stock Tips on Social Media

towards safeguarding retail investors from the risks posed by unqualified individuals sharing stock tips that may not be based on solid research or expertise.

This move is part of a broader regulatory effort by SEBI to address the issue of finfluencers, who have gained prominence on social media platforms. Many of these individuals have been accused of manipulating stock prices or providing biased advice with limited understanding of the market dynamics. Last year, SEBI had already amended its norms to regulate unregistered entities offering financial advice. With this new draft circular, SEBI is reinforcing its stance against the unregulated financial content circulating online.

alties, suspension, cancellation of registration, or debarment. This is a step

# Study Reveals 4-Month-Old Babies Can Distinguish Language Sounds



A new study published in *Developmental Science* challenges previous beliefs about language development in babies, showing that infants as young as four months can distinguish sounds from languages they've never heard before. This finding provides insight into the early stages of language acquisition and could have important implications for identifying potential speech and language delays.

The research suggests that babies, even before they begin focusing on their native language, are already adept at sorting through a variety of sounds in the world around them. In the first six months of life, infants are able to differentiate between sounds from languages they've never encountered. For instance, babies raised in English-speaking households can recognize

tonal differences in Mandarin or subtle contrasts in Hindi, which can be challenging for adult English speakers.

This discovery shakes up the previous understanding that babies don't start recognizing language-specific patterns until they are between six and twelve months old. Prior to this, it was believed that infants only began to focus on their native language sounds around the age of six months through a process called *'perceptual attunement'*, where they tune in to the sounds they hear most often.

However, the new study suggests that this process begins much earlier. Babies at four months are already learning how sounds are made physically, such as the difference between a

sound produced with the lips and one made with the tongue. This early ability to recognize sound patterns may lay the foundation for later language development.

Around six months, babies begin fine-tuning their ability to focus on the sounds they encounter most frequently, particularly vowels. By the age of ten months, they become more attuned to consonants. This narrowing of focus allows them to hone in on the specific sounds that are essential for their language.

These findings not only deepen our understanding of language development but also offer an earlier window for intervention for babies at risk of speech or language delays.

## 8 Best Theme Parks in the World for an Unforgettable Adventure



From magical fairy tales to heart-racing roller coasters, the world's theme parks offer thrilling experiences for all types of adventurers. Whether you're visiting for a dedicated vacation or adding a day of fun to your travels, these top parks promise to deliver something unforgettable. Here are the eight best theme parks around the globe:

As part of the Walt Disney World Resort in Orlando, Magic Kingdom is a must-visit for Disney fans. Its iconic Cinderella Castle and attractions like "Pirates of the Caribbean" and "It's a Small World" offer a blend of nostalgia and excitement, making it one of the most visited theme parks in the world.

Tokyo Disneyland, the first Disney park outside the US, features seven themed lands including the charming "World Bazaar" and "Westernland." Unique rides like "Pooh's Hunny Hunt," which uses trackless technology, make this park an enchanting destination.

Set in Kaatsheuvel, Efteling is a fairy-tale-themed park that brings Dutch folklore to life. Visitors can stroll through the "Fairytale Forest" or experience thrilling rides like the "Baron 1898" dive coaster, all while surrounded by beautiful storybook architecture.

For car enthusiasts, Ferrari World offers a high-speed adventure with the world's fastest roller coaster, "Formula Rossa." The park also features

interactive exhibits and driving simulators, celebrating Ferrari's legendary automotive legacy.

Located on Sentosa Island, Universal Studios Singapore offers thrilling rides based on popular movies and TV shows. From the "Battlestar Galactica" dueling coasters to "Transformers: The Ride," this park provides cinematic experiences for all ages.

With attractions like "The Wizarding World of Harry Potter" and "Super Nintendo World," Universal Studios Japan brings pop culture and video game worlds to life. It's a perfect destination for movie buffs and gamers alike.

As the original Disney park, Disneyland in Anaheim offers classic attractions such as "Space Mountain" and "Haunted Mansion." This park seamlessly combines nostalgia with modern magic.

Germany's largest theme park, Europa-Park, offers a tour of Europe with 15 themed areas, each representing a different country. Highlights include the "Silver Star" coaster and the "Voleterium" flying theater.

## What It Costs To Spend A Night At The World's Only "10-Star" Hotel

The Jumeirah Burj Al Arab, often hailed as the world's only "10-star" hotel, epitomizes luxury and extravagance. Officially recognized as a 7-star hotel, the Burj Al Arab is one of Dubai's most iconic landmarks, known for its sail-shaped design and unparalleled hospitality. Completed in 1999 and designed by architect Tom Wright, the hotel stands on a man-made island, rising 321 meters above the Arabian Gulf, making it one of the tallest hotels in the world.

Since its opening, the Burj Al Arab has become a symbol of luxury, attracting global celebrities, VIPs, and elite travelers. Its stunning design features lavish interiors adorned with 24-carat gold leaf, extravagant chandeliers, and spacious duplex suites that span two floors. With only 202 suites, each featuring Hermes amenities and breathtaking views of the sea, the Burj Al Arab ensures an exclusive experience.

A stay at the Burj Al Arab is reserved for those seeking the highest level of luxury, with rates soaring to over Rs 10 lakh per night during peak seasons. Guests enjoy a royal welcome with chauffeur-driven Rolls-Royce limousines or even helicopter transfers from the airport.

The hotel offers a host of world-class amenities, including a private beach, infinity pools, and a luxurious spa that features treatments like gold facials and diamond massages. Every guest is assigned a personal butler available around the clock, ensuring that their every need is met. The staff-to-guest ratio of 8:1 guarantees unmatched service and attention to detail.

For relaxation, the Burj Al Arab boasts a 10,000-square-meter terrace with stunning views over the sea, complete with an infinity pool. Fitness enthusiasts can take advantage of a fully equipped gym and personal trainers.

Guests can indulge in gourmet dining at one of the hotel's eight exceptional restaurants, including an underwater dining experience that offers views of marine life through a massive aquarium window.

With its unmatched luxury, personalized service, and breathtaking views, the Burj Al Arab truly deserves its reputation as a "10-star" hotel.



## Bengaluru Company Seeks Chief Dating Officer for Unique Role

In a world where job titles are constantly evolving, one Bengaluru-based mentorship platform has introduced a role that has caught the attention of many – the Chief Dating Officer (CDO). Topmate, known for its coaching and mentorship services, has posted a job listing for this intriguing new position, sparking a viral reaction online.

According to Nimisha Chanda, Topmate's marketing lead, the company is looking for a candidate who understands the ins and outs of modern dating culture, rather than someone with a traditional business background. The posting humorously states, "We are looking for someone who lives and breathes dating culture. The self-proclaimed matchmaker who can decode 'ghosting,' 'breadcrumbing,' and every new dating buzzword in the book."

Unlike many corporate roles, the Chief Dating Officer doesn't require an MBA or a background in strategic planning. Instead, the company wants someone who has experience navigating the world of online dating, with a deep understanding of the dynamics that shape modern romantic relationships. Topmate's CDO will need to possess a flair for offering relationship advice, guiding others through the complexities of the dating world, and staying up-to-date with the latest trends in the

**Nimisha Chanda**  
@NimishaChanda

**Hiring Alert!**

We are looking for a Chief Dating Officer.

Are you the go-to friend for dating advice? We're hiring someone who lives and breathes dating culture.

The self-proclaimed matchmaker who can decode "ghosting," "breadcrumbing," and every new dating buzzword in the book? Well, we just swiped right on you.

**Requirements:**

1. Should have experienced at least 1 breakup, 2 situationships and 3 dates (Receipts not required, but we'll ask for the stories!)
2. Should have knowledge of all the new dating terms and be daring enough to create new ones.
3. Should have tried at least 2-3 dating apps (we're looking for hands-on experience, no catfishing allowed!)

Think you've got all the love intel we need? Submit your application here - [lnkd.in/gzvGewnb](https://lnkd.in/gzvGewnb)

PS: The best pitches will receive dates(khajoor) from the topmate team :p

realm of love and online dating.

The company's job post, which has become a hot topic of conversation, suggests that the ideal candidate should have hands-on experience with at least two to three dating apps. This may seem unusual, but it reflects the growing role that technology and digital platforms play in contemporary romantic relationships. Whether it's decoding modern dating terminology, helping others navigate virtual rela-

tionships, or offering expert advice on avoiding pitfalls like ghosting, the Chief Dating Officer will be at the forefront of managing dating culture for the platform.

Topmate's playful job listing stands out not only for its unique title but also for its unconventional approach to tackling one of the most pervasive elements of contemporary social life – modern romance. If you're an expert in swiping right, this might just be the job for you.

## Mumbai Startup Offers Unique Service for Payments With Just a Missed Call

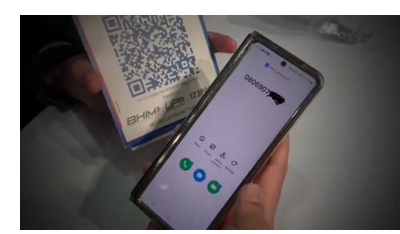
In a world where digital payments have become the norm, Unified Payments Interface (UPI) apps like PhonePe, Google Pay, and Paytm have made money transfers simpler than ever—though they do require a stable internet connection. However, a Mumbai-based startup is introducing a groundbreaking method for making payments without the need for internet connectivity: MissCallPay.

Founded by Mitesh Thakkar, MissCallPay offers users the ability to make payments by simply giving a missed call. The process is straightforward and designed to cater to users who may not have access to smartphones or a reliable internet connection.

Here's how it works: After placing the missed call, users will receive a call asking them to

input the name of the beneficiary, followed by the amount to be transferred. Finally, the transaction is completed once the user enters their UPI PIN, mimicking the standard UPI payment process.

What makes MissCallPay especially innovative is that it is compatible with basic keypad phones, expanding the reach of digital payments to those without access to smartphones or high-speed internet. The service is also free of charge, with no additional costs involved in making payments via a missed call, further simplifying access for



people across various economic backgrounds.

Mitesh Thakkar was inspired to create MissCallPay after observing the challenges faced by rural populations, where many people do not own smartphones or have regular internet access. The goal behind the service is to provide a fast, efficient, and simple solution for people in these areas to make money transactions without the usual technological barriers.

MissCallPay represents a huge step in financial inclusion, offering a user-friendly alternative to traditional digital payment methods. In regions where internet connectivity remains a challenge, this innovative solution could revolutionize how people send and receive money, making digital payments accessible to all.

# Thousands Turning Up For Kohli's Ranji Trophy Return

TPN Correspondent | New Delhi

Virat Kohli's return to domestic cricket after 12 years turned the Arun Jaitley Stadium into a carnival, with thousands of fans flocking to witness the cricketing icon in action. As Delhi faced Railways in the Ranji Trophy, what was expected to be a routine fixture transformed into a spectacle, driven by Kohli's sheer presence. Fans had gathered outside the stadium from the previous night, and each glimpse of the batting maestro was met with deafening cheers.

During the match, an interesting moment off the field caught attention when journalist Rohit Juglan revealed that Kohli's lunch choice was a simple yet special one—chilli paneer from the local DDCA canteen. The revelation quickly went viral as fans eagerly absorbed every detail about their favorite cricketer.

Sanjay Jha, a regular chef at the DDCA canteen who prepared Kohli's meal, shared in an interview that the cricketer insisted on eating from the canteen rather than ordering from outside.



"Bahar se nahi, yahi canteen se hi khaaunga (No, not from outside. I'll have lunch from the canteen)," Jha recalled. In another interview, Jha expressed his surprise and admiration for Kohli, who personally met him, requested chilli paneer, and even addressed him with respect. "He called me 'Sanjay ji.' Itna badaa aadmi ban gaya hai, lekin mera naam yaad hai usko (He has become so big, yet he remembers my name.),"

Jha said. The anticipation for Kohli's appearance exceeded all expectations. The DDCA initially estimated a crowd of around 10,000 for the match—a remarkable figure for a Ranji Trophy fixture. However, Kohli's presence drew far larger numbers, forcing officials to open additional stands to accommodate the surging crowd. The 6,000-seat Gautam Gambhir Stand, originally designated for spectators, soon proved insuffi-

cient, prompting authorities to open the 11,000-capacity Bishan Singh Bedi Stand.

"I have been involved in Delhi cricket for over 30 years, but I have never seen such excitement for a Ranji game. Kohli's popularity is truly unmatched," said DDCA secretary Ashok Sharma. Even a former India cricketer present at the venue admitted he had never witnessed such a massive turnout for a domestic match.

Adding to the logistical challenges, Prime Minister Narendra Modi's cavalcade passed by the stadium just as fans were entering, leading to heightened security measures. "The VIP movement coincided with the crowd surge, making it even more challenging. The police instructed us to open another stand to ensure smooth entry," Sharma explained.

Kohli's impact on the game extended far beyond the boundary ropes. His simple yet heartfelt gesture at the DDCA canteen and his unmatched draw among fans reinforced why he remains one of the most beloved figures in Indian cricket.



## Australia Crush Sri Lanka with 654-6 Declaration, Hosts Reeling at 44-3

Australia dominated Sri Lanka in the first Test, posting a massive 654-6 declared, thanks to Usman Khawaja's maiden double century (200) and Josh Inglis' debut ton (102). Sri Lanka crumbled to 44-3 at stumps on Day 2.

Australia's innings saw Steve Smith (141) and Khawaja put on a 266-run partnership before Smith reached 10,000 Test runs. Josh Inglis, making his debut, smashed 102 off just 90 balls, celebrating before getting dismissed in the next over. Alex Carey remained unbeaten on 46, while Mitchell Starc (19 not out) was at the crease when the declaration came.

Sri Lanka's bowling attack, led by spinners Prabath Jayasuriya and Jeffrey Vandersay (three wickets each), struggled as the visitors batted for 154 overs. Khawaja faced 352 balls, registering 16 fours and a six, celebrating his first double ton in Sri Lanka by kissing the turf.

In response, Sri Lanka lost three early wickets. Oshada Fernando (7) fell lbw to Matthew Kuhnemann, Dimuth Karunaratne (7) was caught at gully off Starc, and Angelo Mathews (8) was dismissed by Nathan Lyon.

By stumps, Dinesh Chandimal (9 not out) and Kamindu Mendis (13 not out) were battling to rebuild, with Sri Lanka trailing heavily. With Australia in a dominant position, Sri Lanka faces an uphill task on Day 3.

## International Masters League 2025 to Begin on February 22

Cricket fans are set for an exciting tournament as the International Masters League (IML) 2025 is scheduled to begin on February 22. The much-anticipated inaugural season will feature six teams—India, Australia, England, South Africa, Sri Lanka, and the West Indies—with matches kicking off at 7:30 PM IST.

The opening match will be a thrilling clash between India, led by Sachin Tendulkar, and Sri Lanka, captained by Kumar Sangakkara. Speaking ahead of the tournament, Tendulkar expressed his excitement:

"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 an intense and competitive league." Sangakkara also shared his en-

thusiasm: "The IML is a tribute to cricket's timeless charm. This is a wonderful opportunity for former

cricketers to relive old rivalries and reconnect with fans."

Broadcast and Venues The tournament will be broadcast live on Disney+ Hotstar, Colors Cineplex (SD & HD), and Colors Cineplex Superhits, ensuring global reach.

- Navi Mumbai will host the first five matches.
- Rajkot will stage the next leg of the league.
- Raipur will host the semi-finals and final.

JioStar's Rohan Lavsi, Head of Hindi Movies Business, called the IML "a reunion of greatness," promising thrilling action, expert commentary, and nostalgia.

## ICC Women's U-19 T20 World Cup 2025: India Eye Dominant Show Against England in Semis

The Indian Women's U-19 team will look to continue their dominant run as they face England in the semi-finals of the ICC Women's U-19 T20 World Cup 2025 on Friday. The Niki Prasad-led side has been in red-hot form, remaining unbeaten in the tournament.

India started their campaign with a 10-wicket thrashing of hosts Malaysia, followed by a 60-run win over Sri Lanka, an eight-wicket victory against Bangladesh, and a massive 150-run demolition of Scotland in their final Super Six match. Opener Gongadi Trisha has been in sublime form, scoring 110 off 59 balls against Scotland, including 13 fours and four sixes. Her opening partner G Kamalini also made a solid 51 off 42 balls. With scores of 4, 27, 49, 40, and 110\*, Trisha is the tournament's leading run-scorer with 230 runs at an average of 76.66, far ahead of England's top batter Davina Perrin, who has 131 runs in four games at 32.75.

India's bowling has been equally dominant. Against Scotland, they bowled them out for just 58 runs in 14 overs, with Vaishnavi Sharma (3/5), Aayushi Shukla (4/8), and Trisha (3/6) leading the attack. Vaishnavi and Aayushi have taken 12 and 10 wickets respectively, making them key threats for England. England, on the other hand, has



had an inconsistent run in the Super Six stage, winning two and losing two matches. They will be wary of India's batting firepower and bowling attack, as their own batting lineup has struggled in patches. With India in supreme form across all departments, they head into the semi-final as strong favorites. England will

need a near-perfect performance to challenge this unbeaten Indian squad.

Squads: India: Niki Prasad (c), Sanika Chalke, G Trisha, Kamalini G, Bhavika Ahire, Ishwari Awasare, Mithila Vinod, Joshitha VJ, Sonam Yadav, Parunika Sisodiya, Kesari Drithi, Aayushi Shukla, Anandita Kishor, MD Shabnam,

Vaishnavi S.

England: Abi Norgrove (c), Phoebe Brett, Olivia Brinsden, Tilly Corteen-Coleman, Trudy Johnson, Katie Jones, Charlotte Lambert, Eve O'Neill, Davina Perrin, Jemima Spence, Charlotte Stubbs, Amuruthaa Surenkumar, Prisha Thanawala, Erin Thomas, Grace Thompson.



## Hockey India Announces 32-Member Squad for FIH Pro League 2024-25 in Bhubaneswar

Hockey India has announced a 32-member Indian Men's Hockey squad for the Bhubaneswar leg of the FIH Pro League 2024-25, set to be played at the Kalinga Hockey Stadium from February 15 to 25.

Harmanpreet Singh will continue as the captain, with Hardik Singh as his deputy. India will face Spain, Germany, Ireland, and England, playing each team twice in this leg.

The squad includes first-choice goalkeeper Krishan Bahadur Pathak, alongside Suraj Karkera and Princdeep Singh. The defensive line-up features experienced players like Jarmanpreet Singh, Amit Rohidas, Sumit, Jugraj Singh, and Varun Kumar.

The midfield will be led by Hardik Singh, with support from Manpreet Singh, Vivek Sagar Prasad, Rajkumar Pal, and Nilakanta Sharma. In the attack, Abhishek, Sukhjeet Singh, Mandeep Singh, Lalit Kumar Upadhyay, and Gurjant Singh will spearhead India's goal-scoring efforts.

Youngsters Angad Bir Singh (22) and Arshdeep Singh (20) have earned their first senior team call-ups, impressing in the junior team and Hockey India League. Head Coach Craig Fulton expressed confidence in the squad, stating:

"I believe this team can win matches and play an impressive brand of hockey. I am looking forward to seeing them compete against some of the best international teams."

# Pushpa 2: The Rule Becomes Highest Ticket-Selling Film

Reloaded Version Hits OTT

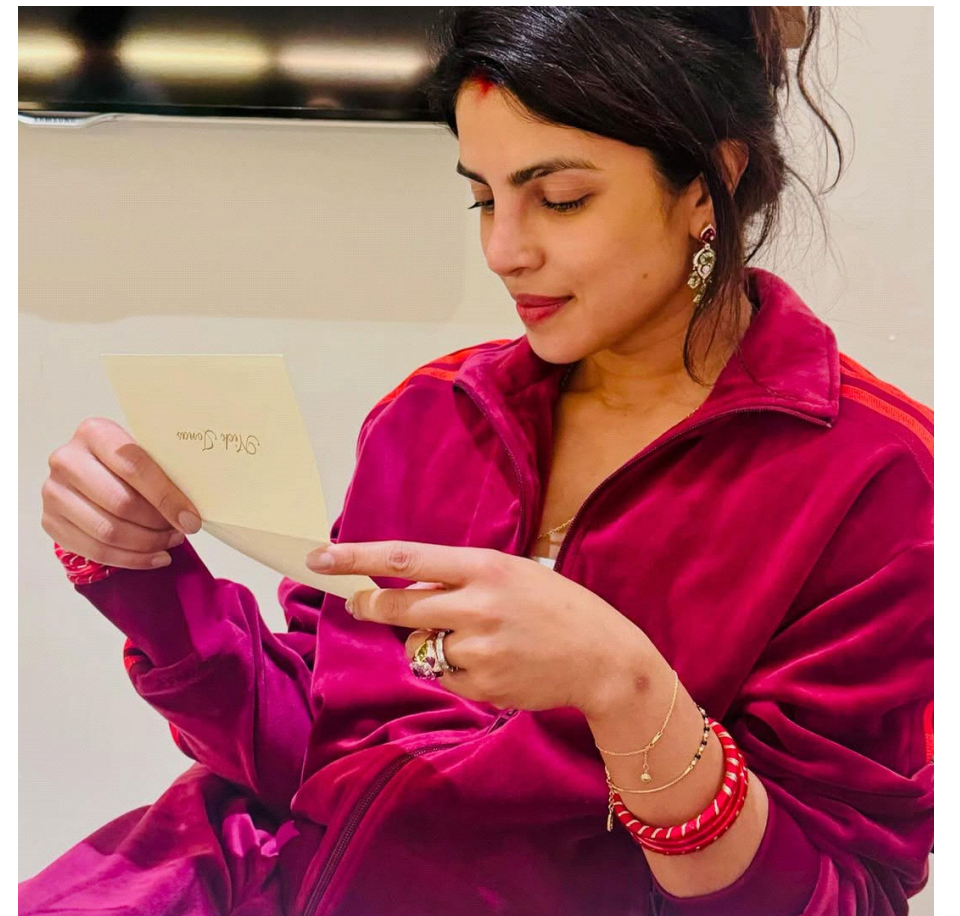
Pushpa 2: The Rule, directed by Sukumar and starring Allu Arjun and Rashmika Mandanna, has officially become the highest ticket-selling film ever, surpassing previous records. The film, which stormed the box office last year, has now sold over 20 million tickets on BookMyShow, outpacing K.G.F: Chapter 2. Ashish Saksena, COO of Cinemas at BookMyShow, highlighted the film's extraordinary success, stating, "Pushpa 2: The Rule has truly redefined cinematic milestones with over 20 million tickets sold, making it the most-watched film on BookMyShow." He also noted its massive appeal across cities like Hyderabad, Mumbai, Bengaluru, and Delhi-NCR.



The film's advance sales broke records, with 107,000 tickets sold in just one hour, surpassing Baahubali 2. Saksena emphasized that 35% of viewers experienced the film in single-screen the-

atres, reinforcing the enduring appeal of the traditional movie-going experience. Meanwhile, the Reloaded Version of Pushpa 2 dropped on Netflix today, featuring an additional 24 minutes of

footage. It is available in Telugu, Hindi, Malayalam, and Tamil. The film has so far collected ₹1,232 crore in India and ₹1,738 crore worldwide, according to Sacnilk.



## Priyanka Chopra Bags ₹30 Cr for Mahesh-Rajamouli Film?

Though not officially confirmed, reports suggest that Priyanka Chopra Jonas will play the female lead in Superstar Mahesh Babu's upcoming film, directed by SS Rajamouli. The actress is currently in Hyderabad, reportedly preparing for the film. According to the latest buzz, the makers have finalized a ₹30 crore remuneration for her role.

Priyanka, who started her career in Bollywood before achieving global fame, initially demanded a higher fee, but negotiations led to the final figure. While ₹30 crore might seem steep, it's hardly a concern for the producers, given Rajamouli's track record of delivering massive blockbusters.

With Rajamouli at the helm, the film carries immense commercial potential even before its release. His ability to steer projects from inception to global recognition ensures strong pre-release business, making such deals viable.

Touted as an African adventure, the film aims to bring in international actors, and Priyanka's presence enhances its appeal both in India and overseas. Given her selective approach to roles in recent years, her inclusion has already generated significant buzz.

For a film of this scale, Priyanka's ₹30 crore deal is seen as a strategic investment rather than an expense.



## Shahid Kapoor Praises Deva Co-Star Pooja Hegde

Shahid Kapoor, currently promoting his upcoming film Deva, lauded his co-star Pooja Hegde, acknowledging her hard work and independent rise in the industry.

Speaking at a promotional event, Shahid said, "She has worked hard to be where she is. Not everyone can make it on their own, and I appreciate that about her. She also has a charming way of dancing, which I enjoy."

Directed by Rosshan Andrews, Deva features Shahid Kapoor as a police officer and Pooja Hegde as investigative journalist Diya, with Pavail Gulati in a key role. The film's trailer and Bhasad Macha soundtrack have already received a positive response.

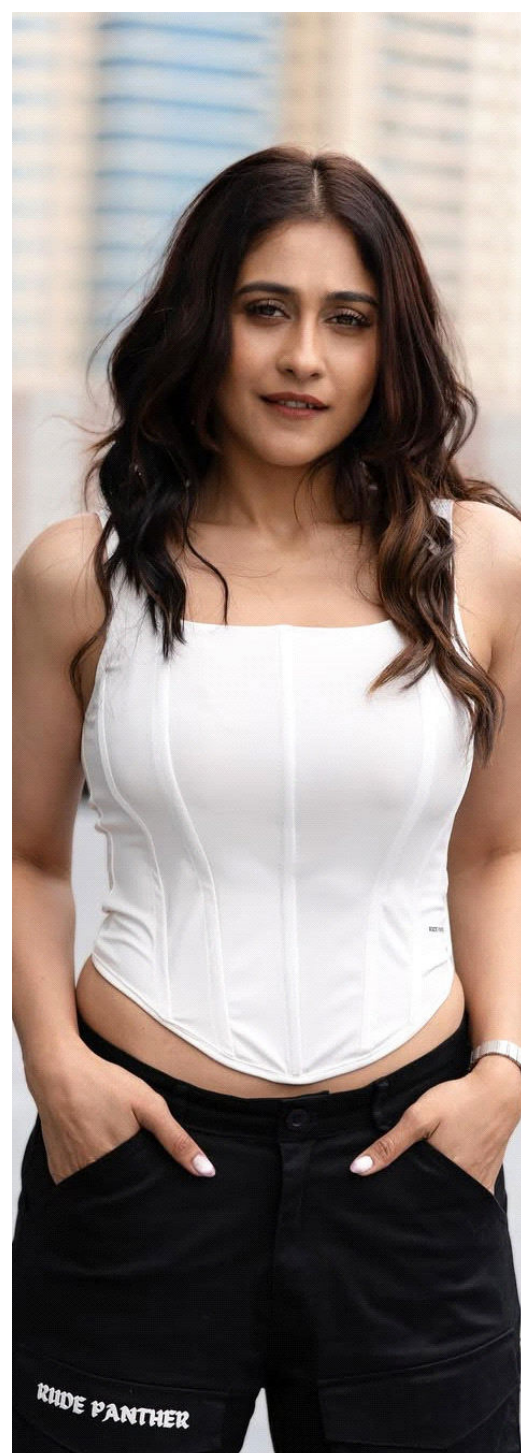
Apart from Deva, Shahid Kapoor will star in Arjun Ustara, directed by Vishal Bhardwaj, alongside Triptii Dimri and Randeep Hooda. Produced by Sajid Nadiadwala, the action thriller is set for a December 5, 2025 release.

## South vs North – Regina Adds Her Voice!

Regina Cassandra, who is gearing up for the release of Vidaamuyarchi, has shared her thoughts on Bollywood's evolving approach toward South actors. During a recent interview, she reflected on the struggles South actors once faced in securing roles in Hindi cinema.

"Earlier, Bollywood rarely welcomed South actors, but now, they actively seek them to expand their films' reach to a larger audience. The scenario has completely changed post-pandemic," Regina stated. She also revealed that she has personally not faced such challenges and has recently signed a Bollywood film.

Regina plays a key role in Vidaamuyarchi, directed by Magizh Thirumeni and starring Ajith and Trisha. The film is set to release on February 6, 2025.



## 'Thandel' Censor Report

A 152-Minute Love Saga with Emotional Depth

Director Chandoo Mondeti, fresh off the success of Karthikeya 2, is set to captivate audiences once again with Thandel, starring Naga Chaitanya and Sai Pallavi. Backed by Geetha Arts, with Bunny Vasu as the producer and Allu Aravind presenting, the film has now cleared censorship with a U/A certificate.



With a runtime of 152 minutes, including ads and titles, Thandel promises a gripping love story infused with intense emotions. Inspired by real-life events, Chandoo Mondeti has crafted a narrative that blends romance with patriotism, complemented by a dramatic sea storm sequence that adds to the cinematic spectacle.

The chemistry between Naga Chaitanya and Sai Pallavi is expected to be a major highlight, making the emotional journey

even more compelling. Adding to the film's appeal is Devi Sri Prasad's music, with tracks like Bujji Thalli, Shiva Shakti, and Hilessa already winning hearts. His background score is set to amplify the film's impact. With strong buzz and high expectations, Thandel is all set for a grand release on February 7.

## Hrithik Roshan Honoured at Joy Awards 2025

Alongside Morgan Freeman, Matthew McConaughey



Hrithik Roshan was recently honoured at the Joy Awards 2025 in Riyadh, Saudi Arabia, marking his 25-year journey in the film industry. Sharing the stage with Hollywood icons Morgan Freeman and Matthew McConaughey, the Bollywood star called the moment "overwhelming and humbling."

Expressing his gratitude, Hrithik wrote on Instagram, "What a joy it was to be at the Joy Awards 2025 in the presence of some of the best talents from across the globe! Thank you Turki Alalshikh for

having me be a part of this celebration of global entertainment and cinema."

A video snippet from the event showed Freeman and McConaughey acknowledging their honours before Hrithik took the stage. The actor, visibly moved, said, "This doesn't make sense. Me holding an award amid such great legends—it's truly humbling."

The event featured several international stars, including Shradha Kapoor, Amanda Seyfried, Hans Zimmer, Anthony Hopkins, Cuba Gooding Jr., Christina Aguilera, Andrea Bocelli, Michael Bublé, Guy Ritchie, Mike Flanagan, and Martin Lawrence.

On the work front, Hrithik was last seen in Fighter alongside Deepika Padukone. He also appeared in The Roshans, a Netflix documentary showcasing his family's journey in cinema.