



Published from : Hyderabad - Vijayawada

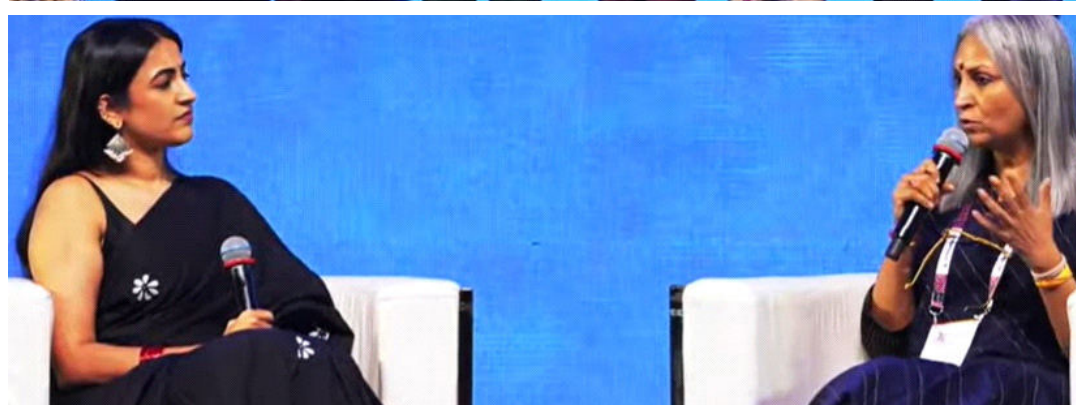
Sunday, 5th January, 2025 | 12 Pages

Hyderabad Offers Unlimited Opportunities for Entrepreneurs

CM Revanth Reddy at APTA Global Business Conference



TPN Correspondent Hyderabad, Jan 5



At the APTA Global Business Conference, Chief Minister of Telangana, Mr. Revanth Reddy, assured entrepreneurs from all backgrounds, including those settling in Hyderabad from other regions, that they would have access to

unlimited opportunities in business, movies, and politics. His remarks were made while addressing a large audience of entrepreneurs and business leaders from across the world.

- CM Revanth Reddy emphasizes Hyderabad as a hub for diverse investment opportunities.
- Bondada Raghavendra Rao urges young entrepreneurs to explore renewable energy sector.
- Niharika Konidala discusses challenges faced by startup films in the industry.

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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 |

No Cases of HMPV Reported in Telangana, Confirms DPH

Public urged to follow precautions as a safeguard against respiratory infections

TPN Correspondent, Telangana : The Director of Public Health (DPH), Dr. B. Ravinder Naik, has assured the public that there is no cause for alarm regarding reports of Human Metapneumovirus (HMPV) cases from China. In an advisory issued on Saturday, the DPH confirmed that no HMPV cases have been reported in Telangana so far.

Dr. Naik emphasized that the Health Department has analyzed data on respiratory infections in Telangana, finding no significant increase in such infections in December 2024 compared to the same period in 2023. The state's health officials are closely monitoring the situation in collaboration with the Ministry of Health and Family Welfare (MOHFW), New Delhi. "HMPV is similar to other respiratory viruses that cause common cold and flu-like symptoms during the winter season, particularly among younger and older populations. While the situation is under control, people are urged to follow precautions to safeguard against respiratory infections," Dr. Naik stated.

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KLIS is Telangana's Lifeline; Critics Owe an Apology: KTR

- KTR called KLIS the lifeline of Telangana, transforming the state into a green paradise.
- HMWS&SB to draw 20 TMC of water from KLIS for Hyderabad's water needs.
- Critics of KLIS owe an apology for false allegations and doubts.
- BRS leader accuses Congress Over Price Hikes and 'Strange Taxes'

TPN Correspondent, Hyderabad : BRS Working President K T Rama Rao (KTR) hailed KLIS as a transformative project addressing Telangana's irrigation and drinking water needs. "Despite venom spewed against it, Kaleshwaram is quenching Telangana's thirst. The propaganda that it wouldn't work has been proven baseless as it turned the state into a green paradise," KTR said.

Highlighting HMWS&SB's decision to draw 20 TMC of water from KLIS for Hyderabad, KTR underlined the project's critical role in ensuring water security. Referring to Mallanna Sagar, he remarked, "Even though there were hunger strikes against Mallanna Sagar, today it is a boon for the city's thirst."

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AR Srinivas Appointed Director of Telangana Vigilance Department

Srinivas to lead the vigilance and enforcement department until 2027.

TPN Correspondent, Telangana : Retired Indian Police Service (IPS) officer AR Srinivas was appointed as the new director of the Telangana vigilance and enforcement (V&E) department on January 3. He will head the department until 2027, or until the need ceases, as per a government order.

The director of vigilance & enforcement plays a crucial role in ensuring transparency and accountability within government departments. This includes overseeing investigations, implementing anti-corruption measures, and ensuring that administrative operations comply with legal standards.

Srinivas brings with him extensive experience and expertise, positioning him to make a significant contribution to strengthening administrative vigilance and enforcement mechanisms in the state.



Allu Arjun Submits Bail Bond in Nampally Court Amid Fan Frenzy

Actor complies with court orders in Sandhya Theater stampede case

TPN Correspondent, Hyderabad: Popular cinema actor Allu Arjun appeared at the Nampally court on Saturday to comply with the conditions of his regular bail granted in the Sandhya Theater stampede case. Accompanied by his uncle Chandrasekhar Reddy, the actor submitted signed bail bond documents to the judge before heading back to his residence. The news of Allu Arjun's presence at the court drew a large crowd of fans, many of whom eagerly attempted to take photos with the actor. However, the police maintained strict control, preventing fans from disrupting the proceedings.

The Nampally court had granted Allu Arjun conditional regular bail on Friday, stipulating that two sureties of Rs. 50,000 each be furnished. The court also directed him not to influence witnesses or make any comments that could affect the case.

Additionally, it mandated that the actor

appear in person at the Chikkadapally police station every Sunday for the next two months.

The case stems from the tragic stampede incident during the premiere show of Pushpa 2 at Sandhya Theater, where a woman named Revathi lost her life, and her son, Sreetej, sustained serious injuries. The incident led to the police registering a case against Allu Arjun. Following his remand by the Nampally court, the actor was briefly sent to Cherlapally Jail before securing interim bail from the High Court. Despite these legal challenges, Allu Arjun and the Pushpa 2 team have extended financial assistance to the victims. The actor provided Rs. 1 crore to Revathi's family, while director Sukumar and the producers contributed Rs. 50 lakhs each. Meanwhile, Sreetej continues to receive treatment at KIMS Hospital, with doctors reporting gradual recovery.





Critics Owe an Apology: KTR

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Demanding accountability, KTR called on critics to apologize for spreading false allegations. "Even if they spend not just a thousand crores but a lakh crores, they can't erase the identity of Telangana! They can't change the mark KCR has made on the hearts of four crore people," he asserted, lauding Chief Minister K Chandrashekar Rao's vision.

Switching focus to Congress-led governments, KTR slammed their policies as anti-people. He pointed out the 15% hike in RTC ticket prices in Karnataka and the "toilet tax" in Himachal Pradesh as glaring failures. "The Congress Guarantees are nothing but scams," he stated, accusing the party of deceiving voters and burdening them with financial hardships.

"When the foundation of their campaign is a lie, the result is a daily circus of broken promises and anti-people decisions," KTR said, urging citizens to see through such deceitful tactics.

Opportunities for Entrepreneurs

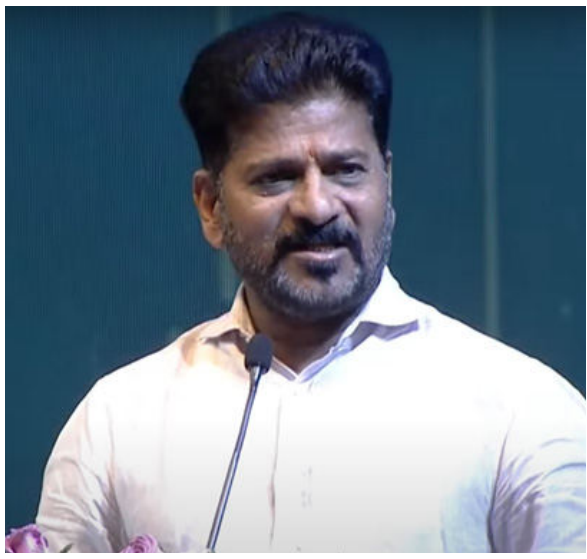
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Prominent leaders express support for AP-TA's efforts in fostering a thriving business environment.

The Government of Telangana and our party are committed to supporting all entrepreneurs, whether they come from nearby or distant places, including from the USA," said CM Revanth Reddy. "Hyderabad is an open hub for investments in sectors like IT, Pharma, and upcoming projects like the Musi River Front. The doors are wide open for all businesspeople."

The conference, which witnessed a grand start, saw the participation of nearly 1,000 delegates from around the globe, all entrepreneurs working across various industries. The conference focused on specific business categories, with dedicated sessions for different sectors.

Mr. Bondada Raghavendra Rao, Chairman of Bondada Group, addressed the renewable energy sector, emphasizing its future importance. "The demand for renewable energy is skyrocketing, and there is vast potential for growth in this sector. With skilled manpower and management, numerous renewable energy projects can be undertaken," said Mr. Rao, urging young entrepreneurs to explore this promising field. Discussions also took place on sectors such as real estate, construction, healthcare, and women's empowerment.



Confirms DPH

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Precautionary Measures

The DPH recommended the following precautions:

- Cover mouth and nose with a handkerchief or tissue while coughing or sneezing.
- Wash hands frequently with soap, water, or alcohol-based sanitizers.
- Maintain more than an arm's length from individuals showing flu symptoms.
- Avoid public places if experiencing fever, cough, or sneezing.
- Drink plenty of water, eat nutritious food, and ensure adequate ventilation.
- Stay home and limit contact with others when unwell.

Actions to Avoid

- Shaking hands and close contact with sick individuals.
- Reusing tissues or handkerchiefs.
- Frequently touching the face.
- Spitting in public places.
- Self-medicating without consulting a physician.

The Health Department has urged citizens to remain vigilant but reassured them that Telangana is well-prepared to address any potential outbreak.

Ponnam Prabhakar Criticizes Kavitha's Claims of Supporting BCs

If BRS is committed, let them empower BCs with key party positions.



TPN Correspondent, Hyderabad: Telangana Backward Classes Welfare Minister Ponnam Prabhakar has ridiculed BRS MLC K. Kavitha's call for 42% reservations for Backward Classes (BCs) in local bodies, questioning the party's sincerity

toward BC welfare. Prabhakar accused Kavitha of hypocrisy, pointing out that her father, BRS chief and Telangana Chief Minister K. Chandrasekhar Rao (KCR), expelled prominent BC lead-

er Eatala Rajender from the party. He criticized the BRS for failing to empower BCs politically, highlighting the absence of a BC deputy chief minister during the party's two terms in office.

"If the BRS is truly committed to BC welfare, KCR should allocate two of the three key party positions—president, leader of the opposition, and working president—to BC leaders, instead of reserving them for family members," Prabhakar said.

He also accused the previous BRS government of reducing BC reservations during panchayat elections and withholding data from the Samagra Kutumba Survey that could have benefitted the community.

Congress MP Chamala Kiran Kumar Reddy joined the criticism, asserting that Kavitha lacks the "moral authority" to champion BC rights. He contrasted BRS's record with Congress's history of appointing BC leaders to significant roles, including the TPCC president position currently held by a BC leader.

Reddy suggested that Kavitha should protest at KCR's farmhouse, holding him accountable for what he termed "neglect of BCs' political empowerment."

The remarks come amid heightened political rhetoric over BC welfare as Telangana gears up for upcoming elections.

Mobile Science Lab Launched for TG Government School Students

"FLOW lab will bridge the gap between students and advanced technologies," says IT Minister Sridhar Babu.



TPN Correspondent, Hyderabad: A state-of-the-art mobile science lab, Futuristic Lab on Wheels (FLOW), aimed at introducing government school students in Telangana to emerging technologies, was inaugurated by IT and Industries Minister D. Sridhar Babu in Hyderabad.

The initiative seeks to bridge the gap between students and advanced technologies, fostering creativity and innovation among young learners. Speaking at the event, Minister Sridhar Babu emphasized the lab's significance in equipping students with exposure to cutting-edge technologies

crucial for their future. He urged district collectors and education officials to ensure the lab reaches all corners of the state effectively.

FLOW: Driving Technological Awareness

The FLOW vehicle is equipped with modern technologies such as the Internet of Things (IoT), Virtual Reality (VR), Robotics, 3D Printing, and Machine Learning. Over the next 45 days, the lab will travel across all 33 districts of Telangana, aiming to ignite interest in technological advancements among students.

Part of Kalam Inspiration Yatra-33



Developed in collaboration with the Vande Mataram Foundation and the Telangana Innovation Cell, the project has received \$100,000 in financial backing from Salesforce India. The initiative is part of the Kalam Inspiration Yatra-33, aimed at sparking curiosity and enthusiasm for modern technology.

Minister Sridhar Babu lauded the effort, highlighting that future phases will focus on providing hands-on experiences with these technologies. "This is a significant step towards shaping a tech-savvy generation that can actively contribute to our state's growth," he added.

Telugu Language at Risk of Disappearing: Kishan Reddy

Only 30% of the spoken language remains Telugu; we must act to preserve it, says Union Minister



TPN Correspondent, Hyderabad: Union Minister Kishan Reddy raised alarm over the diminishing presence of the Telugu language, revealing that only 30 percent of spoken Telugu remains pure, with the rest being replaced by English words. Speaking at the World Telugu Federation conference in Hyderabad, he emphasized the urgent need to preserve and promote Telugu through both spoken and written mediums.

"Telugu is disappearing without us knowing it," he said, urging families to encourage children to read children's literature in Telugu regularly. He called for the popularization of Telugu as a medium of instruction and governance.

Highlighting steps to preserve the language, Kishan Reddy advocated for introducing Telugu as the primary medium of instruc-

tion at the primary level. He also emphasized the need for conducting official affairs and court proceedings in Telugu, including arguments, counter-arguments, and judgments. Additionally, he suggested mandating Telugu for movie titles and expanding Telugu content on platforms like Wikipedia and in the digital sector.

He also stressed implementing the new education policy introduced by the central government, which supports regional languages, and called for adult participation in preserving and promoting Telugu.

Reddy highlighted the growing availability of Telugu stories and articles in audio formats and suggested leveraging the digital sector to consolidate and safeguard the language for future generations. "The responsibility to protect the mother tongue lies with all of us," he concluded.



One Killed, Eight Injured in Explosion at Premier Explosives in Yadadri Bhongir

Authorities investigate the cause of the industrial accident amid concerns over safety protocols.

TPN Correspondent, Yadadri Bhongir: A powerful explosion at Premier Explosives in Peddakandukur village, Yadagirigutta mandal, claimed one life and left eight others injured on Saturday morning. The incident, which occurred at a facility manufacturing industrial explosives and detonators, led to the collapse of a building on-site. The injured were immediately transported to a hospital in Bhuvanagiri for urgent medical attention. Among them, two workers, Kanakayya and Prakash, were reported to be in critical condition. Tragically, Kanakayya succumbed to his injuries during treatment. Emergency protocols were promptly activated, with the company management sounding an emergency siren following the blast. Police and emergency services swiftly reached the scene and began an investigation into the cause of the explosion. This is not the first accident at the facility; a previous explosion also resulted in the loss of a worker's life, raising concerns over safety measures at the plant. Authorities have assured a thorough probe to determine the exact circumstances that led to the tragic incident.

FGG Urges Telangana CM to Restrict Rythu Bharosa Benefits to 5 Acres

TPN Correspondent, Telangana: The Forum for Good Governance (FGG) has appealed to Telangana Chief Minister A. Revanth Reddy to limit the Rythu Bharosa crop input assistance to agricultural lands under cultivation, restricting it to a maximum of five acres. In a letter dated January 3, FGG President M. Padmanabha Reddy highlighted that the scheme, intended to assist farmers with purchasing seeds, fertilizers, and pesticides, should exclude fallow lands, landlords, and income taxpayers. He also called for compensation to be extended to tenant farmers, who are often overlooked. Reddy pointed out that several states, including Himachal Pradesh and Karnataka, have curtailed certain welfare schemes due to the financial strain they impose. He cautioned against Telangana's growing dependence on loans, stating, "Taking loans to repay loans has become the order of the day." He questioned the sustainability of allocating a significant portion of the budget to farming, potentially at the cost of other developmental works. Referring to Reserve Bank of India (RBI) reports, Reddy emphasized that welfare schemes dominate state expenditures, leaving insufficient resources for developmental initiatives.

BRS Government Wasted ₹22,000 Crores on Rythu Bandhu: Minister Seethakka

Congress focuses on genuine farmers and women's empowerment



to supporting only genuine farmers through the scheme, ensuring transparency and fairness."

Seethakka also took a jibe at the BRS government for its token gestures towards women. "The previous government bragged about giving women one saree a year. In contrast, the Congress government is prioritizing women's development, which is making the BRS uncomfortable and prompting baseless allegations."

Reiterating Chief Minister Revanth Reddy's vision, Seethakka stated, "CM Revanth firmly believes that the state will progress only when women are empowered. He is actively encouraging women to lead the way in development."

The minister urged the people to support the Congress government's efforts to bring genuine change for farmers and women across Telangana.

TPN Correspondent, Telangana : Minister Seethakka has criticized the previous BRS government, accusing it of wasting ₹22,000 crores of public funds under the Rythu Bandhu scheme. Speaking at an event, she alleged that the scheme was riddled with irregularities and benefitted even non-Telanga-

na landowners. "They gave Rythu Bandhu to Assamese individuals owning thousands of acres, while genuine farmers were neglected," she said. Highlighting the Congress government's approach, she added, "Our government is committed

Rakesh Reddy Criticizes Congress Government

TPN Correspondent, Hyderabad : BRS leader Enugula Rakesh Reddy launched a scathing attack on the Congress-led Telangana government, alleging that its so-called "job calendar" is devoid of any actual job recruitment. Speaking to the media, he sarcastically compared the calendar to regional delicacies, stating, "Even if there's no Mysore in Mysore bajji, there's at least bajji. Even if there's no Bombay in Bombay ravva, there's still ravva. But there's no job in this job calendar."

Rakesh Reddy claimed the Congress government's previous job calendar was filled with festival dates, pabbas, and almanacs, but lacked concrete recruitment plans. He pointed out that while the 2024 calendar included dates for Sank-



Criticizing Chief Minister Revanth Reddy, Rakesh Reddy said, "Despite promising to emulate Chandrababu Naidu's governance in Andhra Pradesh, where a detailed job calendar was released, Revanth Reddy has failed to fulfill similar promises in Telangana." He noted that other states, including Tamil Nadu and Bihar, have announced job calendars with specific recruitment dates, while Telangana lags behind.

He also accused the Congress government of celebrating its power rather than addressing unemployment. Rakesh Reddy urged the government to include job announcements in its calendar, emphasizing the dire need to prioritize youth employment over political optics.

ranti, Ugadi, and Diwali, it failed to deliver on employment promises. He satirically remarked that the 2025 calendar, so far, is "empty," suggesting no progress has been made.

Rajagopal Reddy Accuses CM Revanth of Leniency Towards KCR and KTR

TPN Correspondent, Nalgonda: Munugode MLA Komatireddy Rajagopal Reddy made sharp remarks against Chief Minister Revanth Reddy, accusing him of being overly lenient towards political opponents, including KCR, KTR, and Jagadish Reddy. Speaking during a tour of his constituency, Rajagopal Reddy stated, "If it were up to me, I would have put them in jail." He criticized the Congress-led government for not taking stricter actions against leaders of the previous regime.

While interacting with the media, Rajagopal Reddy clarified that

his government refrains from engaging in partisan activities, emphasizing a balanced approach to governance. He expressed disappointment with the current administration's perceived generosity towards its rivals.

During his tour, the MLA inaugurated a dialysis center at the Community Health Center in Marriguda, Nalgonda district. The facility, set up at a cost of approximately ₹70 lakh, is the first of its kind in the district. Rajagopal Reddy thanked the state government for its efforts and announced that additional medical equipment



required for the hospital will be sanctioned soon. The MLA also laid the foundation stone for various developmental projects across the Munugode constituency, reiterating his commitment to improving healthcare and infrastructure for local residents.

Road Safety Awareness Drive in Telangana



TPN Correspondent, Hyderabad: As part of the National Road Safety Month celebrations, Telangana is set to intensify its efforts to raise road safety awareness across villages, schools, and public spaces. Transport Minister Ponnampalapati Prabhakar, during a video conference with district collectors and key officials, outlined a comprehensive action plan to reduce road accidents and enhance public safety.

The month-long initiative, starting January 1 and concluding on January 31, will involve various departments, including the transport, education, police, and public works sectors. Minister Prabhakar highlighted that approximately 20 people lose their lives daily in road accidents in Telangana, with overspeeding, drunken driving, and mobile usage while driving contributing to 80% of these incidents.

Key Directives and Initiatives:

- 1. Traffic Awareness Programs in Schools:** Establish traffic awareness parks in schools. Organize drawing, essay-writing, and quiz competitions on road safety for students. Conduct awareness rallies involving schoolchildren.
- 2. Identification of Accident-Prone Zones:**

Recognize black spots in districts and install proper signboards.

Promote awareness about traffic regulations at key junctions.

3. District-Level Campaigns: Host seminars, workshops, and awareness campaigns involving local leaders, MLAs, MPs, and prominent figures.

Use print and electronic media for outreach.

4. Enforcement and Monitoring: Implement stringent checks on overspeeding, drunk driving, and mobile usage while driving.

Promote helmet and seatbelt usage

5. Public Engagement and Infrastructure: Organize rallies with bikers wearing helmets.

Set up health camps for drivers and road safety awareness boards at bus stands and toll plazas.

Minister Prabhakar emphasized coordinated efforts among all departments to reduce accidents and improve public safety. The meeting was attended by Special Chief Secretary Vikas Raj, district collectors, SPs, municipal commissioners, and other officials.

Awareness Conference for Sugarcane Farmers



ry, he assured farmers that steps are being taken to reopen it and boost the local sugarcane economy.

"Our government is determined to revive the factory. Farmers should actively participate in sugarcane cultivation without doubts or misconceptions," Sudarshan Reddy said. He highlighted the need for 6 lakh metric tons of sugarcane annually to sustain factory operations and promised to complete necessary repairs within two months.

The MLA also indicated that if required, the factory might be relocated to ensure its functionality. He urged the central government to extend its cooperation for the successful reopening of the factory.

TPN Correspondent, Nizamabad: Bodhan MLA Sudarshan Reddy addressed sugarcane farmers during an awareness conference, emphasizing the Congress government's commitment to reviving the Nizam Sugar Factory. Criticizing the BRS government for neglecting the facto-

This move is expected to provide economic relief to sugarcane farmers and contribute to the agricultural growth of the region. Farmers were encouraged to engage actively in sugarcane cultivation to meet the factory's requirements and benefit from the government's initiative.

KCR Fulfills Dream of Housing for Poor: MLA Jagadish Reddy



TPN Correspondent, Suryapet: Suryapet BRS MLA Jagadish Reddy stated that Chief Minister K. Chandrashekar Rao (KCR) has realized the dream of homeownership for the poor in Telangana. MLA Jagadish Reddy oversaw the allocation of house numbers to beneficiaries of double-bedroom houses through a transparent draw method at the Suryapet district headquarters.

Speaking on the occasion, Jagadish Reddy emphasized that the distribution process was conduct-

ed fairly and only the truly eligible poor were allotted houses. He explained that delays in allotment were caused by the Assembly and MP election codes and other administrative tasks.

The MLA assured that no irregularities would be tolerated in the Suryapet constituency, particularly in matters affecting peace and public welfare. "I will not allow any disturbance to peace and will ensure fairness in all processes," he said.

Jagadish Reddy congratulated the beneficiaries and encouraged them to prepare for a joyful transition into their new homes. "Best wishes to everyone who has received house numbers. Let us celebrate moving into our homes in a festive atmosphere," he added.

The double-bedroom housing scheme is a flagship initiative of the Telangana government, aimed at providing secure and dignified housing for economically disadvantaged families.



Congress Committed to Kamareddy Declaration: VH



TPN Correspondent, Hyderabad: Senior Congress leader and former MP V. Hanumantha Rao (VH) reaffirmed the party's commitment to the Kamareddy Declaration, emphasizing its dedication to the welfare of weaker sections and inclusive development. Addressing the media at Gandhi Bhavan, VH highlighted the Congress government's sincerity in increasing reservations for Backward Classes (BCs) in local bodies from 34% to 42%.

Criticizing the BRS party, VH stated, "BRS has no moral authority to criticize Congress, though it may criticize BJP." He reminded that Congress has historically championed the cause of BCs, appointing BC leaders to key positions like the PCC presidency.

VH accused KCR's regime of suppressing democratic spaces, citing the removal of Dharna Chowk. "The Dharna Chowk that we fought for has now been taken over by BRS," he said. He attributed the public's disillusionment with BRS to its re-branding from TRS and questioned why BRS leaders, including KCR's daughter Kavitha, failed to disclose the findings of the state's comprehensive family survey.

Dismissing BRS's claims of support for BCs as "hypocritical," VH reiterated Congress's focus on governance and development. He assured that CM Revanthy Reddy's government would cater to all sections of society and continue strengthening public administration.

"Congress has made remarkable strides in governance, and our commitment to the Kamareddy Declaration exemplifies our dedication to inclusive growth," VH concluded.

Telangana's Young India Skills University Announces 3 Courses

TPN Correspondent, Hyderabad: The Telangana government has introduced three new courses at the Young India Skills University (YISU) aimed at enhancing employability and skill development.

The courses include:

- Endoscopy Technician (6-month course) in partnership with AIG Hospitals, Hyderabad.
- Prototyping Specialist (2-month course) in collaboration with T Works (Telangana Prototyping Works).
- Medical Coding Specialist (2-month course) offered in partnership with KIMS Hospitals, Hyderabad.

These job-ready courses are designed to meet the growing demand for skilled professionals in the medical and prototyping sectors. University officials highlighted that these programs offer significant employment potential.

Admissions for these courses will begin in the third week of January 2025. Interested candidates can visit the official YISU website for further details regarding course structure, eligibility, and application procedures. Courses aimed at skill development and job readiness in collaboration with leading medical institutions.



Raja Singh Urges Ayyappa Devotees to Avoid Mosque Visits

TPN Correspondent, Hyderabad: BJP MLA from Goshamahala, Raja Singh, has advised Ayyappa devotees visiting Sabarimala in Kerala to refrain from visiting mosques during their pilgrimage.



Addressing reporters in Hyderabad on Friday, Singh emphasized that devotees should adhere strictly to the rules of 'Ayyappa Deeksha.' He claimed that visiting the Vavar mosque would render devotees impure and alleged that encouraging such visits is part of a conspiracy.

Singh also urged the Chief Ministers of Telangana and Andhra Pradesh, A. Revanthy Reddy and N. Chandrababu Naidu, respectively, to approach the Kerala government for 10 acres of land to construct accommodation facilities for pilgrims.

The MLA's comments have drawn attention amid ongoing discussions about the traditions and practices associated with the Sabarimala pilgrimage.

Passports to Be Issued Faster, Says Regional Passport Officer Snehaja

- Appointment period reduced to 6-8 days.
- 9.02 lakh applications processed in 2024.
- Attestation and apostille facilities now available at Hyderabad RPO for Telugu states.
- Special program for resolving passport-related issues conducted every Thursday.

TPN Correspondent, Hyderabad : Regional Passport Officer Snehaja announced that the process of issuing passports will be expedited, with the appointment period now reduced to just 6-8 days, compared to 22 days in 2023. Speaking at a media conference on Friday, she highlighted the collaboration between the police and postal departments in achieving this milestone.



While services at POPSK centers are provided within a week.

Snehaja revealed that in 2024, the Hyderabad Regional Office processed 9.02 lakh applications, including passport issuance and police clearance services. With the operation of 5 Passport Seva Kendras (PSK) and 14 Post Office Passport Seva Kendras (POPSK) across the state, an average of 4,200 applications are processed daily. Additionally, general appointments in Nizamabad are now available on the next working day,

while services at POPSK centers are provided within a week.

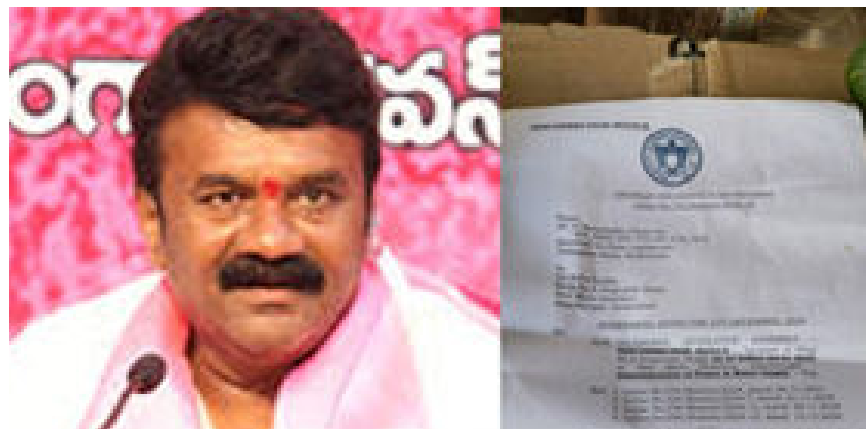
The official also noted that Warangal has seen the highest number of applications, with more than 130 per day, while 90 appli-

cations are received at other centers. Tatkal passports are being issued within 1-3 working days, and general passports within 5-7 working days, excluding police verification time.

To address public concerns, a special program is held every Thursday in Hyderabad, where over 30,000 people directly raised their issues last year, and more than 10,000 email complaints were resolved. Furthermore, a mobile passport service van has been deployed for added convenience.

Attestation and apostille services are now available at the Hyderabad Regional Passport Office for the people of Telangana and Andhra Pradesh. Snehaja affirmed that the office will continue to improve its services and performance in 2025.

Notices Issued to Residents of MLA Quarters



TPN Correspondent, Hyderabad: The Assembly Secretary has issued notices to the residents of the MLA Quarters in Hyderabad's Adarsh Nagar, directing them to vacate the premises. The Assembly authorities assured that sitting MLAs will be allocated quarters at the MLA Quarters in Hyderguda.

Minister Sridhar Babu, and former MP Anjani Kumar Yadav. Additionally, shops operating within the quarters were also issued notices to vacate.

The notices were served to several individuals, including former minister Talsani Srinivas Yadav,

The move is part of an effort to reorganize accommodations for current MLAs while addressing unauthorized usage of the premises. Further actions are expected as per the directives of the Assembly Secretariat.

Monginis Bakery Factory Outlet Found Breaching Food



TPN Correspondent, Hyderabad: Food Safety Officials conducted inspections at the Monginis Bakery factory outlet in Machabollaram, Alwal, which supplies bakery products to Andhra Pradesh and Telangana. The inspection revealed alarming hygiene violations, including the presence of rats and cockroaches in areas where cakes were being prepared.

Officials found expired ingredients such as coconut powder, kesar syrup, vanilla flavor syrup, and pineapple syrup being used in the production process. Additionally, unhygienic practices were observed, including the use of unclean refrigerators and plastic drums for cake preparation.

The bakery has been issued notices for violating food safety regulations. The authorities seized expired ingredients and highlighted the negligence of the management, which reportedly continued operations despite previous complaints of food poisoning. Local residents recalled incidents where consuming stale pastries from the bakery had led to hospitalizations.

With inadequate facilities and poor sanitation, the kitchen area was found infested with pests, raising serious concerns about public health and safety. The Food Safety Department has warned the bakery management of strict action if necessary improvements are not made immediately.

IndiGo Flight to Vizag Makes Emergency Landing in Hyderabad



TPN Correspondent, Hyderabad : An IndiGo flight traveling from Mumbai to Visakhapatnam was forced to make an emergency landing at Rajiv Gandhi International Airport in Hyderabad on the morning of January 4. The flight, carrying 144 passengers, encountered a technical issue while en route. Thanks to the pilot's quick identification of the problem, the aircraft was diverted to Hyderabad and landed safely without incident.

This incident comes amid rising global concerns over air travel safety, following a recent crash in South Korea that claimed 179 lives. Additionally, over 100 flights at Delhi's Indira Gandhi International Airport were delayed due to dense fog and low visibility on the same day.

IndiGo assured passengers that safety remains a top priority and that the crew's swift actions were instrumental in preventing a potential crisis.

HYDRAA Commissioner to Address Public Grievances on January 6



TPN Correspondent, Hyderabad: In a pioneering move, the Hyderabad Disaster Response and Asset Monitoring and Protection Agency (HYDRAA) has announced its decision to take complaints directly from the public. HYDRAA Commissioner A.V. Ranganath will personally address grievances at the agency's headquarters, Buddha Bhavan, on January 6, between 10:30 am and 2:00 pm.

Citizens can submit their issues directly to the commissioner, and the agency has assured that all complaints will be resolved systematically within 10 days, avoiding legal complications. Priority will be given to complaints regarding the encroachment of ponds, lakes, and drains, reflecting HYDRAA's commitment to preserving Hyderabad's natural resources.

In addition, the government is set to establish a HYDRAA police station in Hyderabad, with an inauguration expected before Sankranti. A government order (GO) regarding this initiative is anticipated on Sunday.

Once operational, HYDRAA plans to host public grievance sessions every Monday. Since its inception in July 2024, the agency has received over 5,000 complaints, demonstrating its role in addressing urban challenges effectively.

State Revenue Falls Short of Needs: CM Revanth Reddy

Employees' cooperation is vital to overcoming revenue challenges.



ency and efficiency. "My government has been trying to fix the system since coming to power, but it will take time to overcome these economic challenges," he said.

The Chief Minister stressed the need for employee collaboration to increase revenue and assured them of addressing their concerns. "Employees' cooperation is required to raise government revenue. We are ready to resolve their problems through discussions, not protests," he said, accusing certain groups of instigating unrest for political motives.

Reddy also reiterated his commitment to regularizing outsourcing and contract employees, acknowledging the government's current financial constraints. "We will not take any harsh decisions that cause trouble for employees. Their role is crucial in ensuring the government meets its revenue goals," he added.

The Chief Minister also emphasized his government's intention to increase monthly revenue by ₹4,000 crore and ensure welfare schemes reach genuine beneficiaries. He assured employees that grievances would be addressed without jeopardizing their interests, urging them to work together for the state's progress.

CM asks IIT Hyderabad for report on Polavaram impact on Telangana

In relative news Chief Minister A Revanth Reddy on Saturday instructed IIT Hyderabad to prepare a comprehensive report on the impact of Andhra Pradesh's Polavaram project on Telangana. The Chief Minister emphasized the need to assess the project's effects on areas such as Bhadrachalam temple and other vulnerable regions.

Chairing a meeting on irrigation projects at the Secretariat, CM Reddy directed that the report be completed within a month. He also called for appointing a special officer to coordinate with the IIT Hyderabad team for the study.

The meeting also discussed the Godavari-Banakacherla project recently initiated by Andhra Pradesh, which proposes interlinking the Godavari and Krishna rivers. Officials informed the CM that the project, designed to utilize floodwaters, lacked necessary permissions.

In response, CM Reddy asked officials to communicate Telangana's objections to Andhra Pradesh's Chief Secretary and instructed letters to be sent to the Godavari River Management Board and the Union Ministry of Jal Shakti to protect Telangana's interests.

TPN Correspondent, Telangana: Telangana Chief Minister Revanth Reddy disclosed that the state is grappling with a significant revenue shortfall, generating ₹18,500 crore per month instead of the required ₹30,000 crore. He emphasized that at least ₹22,500 crore is necessary to cover the state's

"minimum needs," leaving a gap of ₹4,000 crore.

Blaming the previous Bharat Rashtra Samithi (BRS) government for what he termed a decade of administrative corruption, Reddy said his government is working to restore transpar-

Central Team Visits Nagarjuna Sagar Dam for Safety Inspection



TPN Correspondent, Telangana: A team of officials from the Central Water Commission and the National Dam Safety Authority conducted a safety inspection at Nagarjuna Sagar Dam on Saturday.

The visit was part of a routine exercise aimed at assessing the dam's structural integrity and operational efficiency. Officials emphasized that such checks are common, particularly to review preparations for works planned during the upcoming working season.

The last safety inspection at Nagarjuna Sagar Dam was conducted in February 2024, they added.

Minister Ponnam Unveils Poster for Veerabhadra Swamy Brahmotsavams



TPN Correspondent, Hyderabad: Minister Ponnam Prabhakar unveiled the poster for the upcoming Brahmotsavams (Jathara) at the Sri Veerabhadra Swamy Temple in Kottakonda, Bhimadevarapalli Mandal, Hanumakonda District. The event will take place from January 10 to 18.

The unveiling ceremony was attended by the temple Executive Officer and priests.

Minister Ponnam Prabhakar highlighted that the festivities will coincide with the Sankranti festival and will include the celebrations of Sri Bhadrakali along with the Veerabhadra Swamy Jathara at Kottakonda.

He assured that the government has completed all necessary arrangements for the event. As a local legislator, he invited the public to participate in the grand celebrations, emphasizing the importance of community involvement in the cultural and spiritual festivities.

CM Revanth Offers Chadar at Ajmer Dargah

Invited to Attend Sacred Ceremony at Yadagirigutta



TPN Correspondent, Telangana: Telangana Chief Minister Revanth Reddy presented a Chadar on behalf of the state government at the Ajmer Dargah, accompanied by Minister Konda Surekha, Minister Sridhar Babu, Minister Chinnareddy, Wakf Board Chair-

man Ajmatulla, Muslim religious leaders, and minority leaders.

In a separate event, Minister Konda Surekha, along with the Principal Secretary of the Department of Endowments Shailaja Ramayyar, invited CM Revanth Reddy to the



Sri Sudarshana Lakshmi Narasimha Divya Swarna Vimana Gopuram Maha Kumbhabhishekam ceremony to be held at Yadagirigutta. The invitation was extended by the temple executive officer and priests.

The sacred ceremony will take place from February 19 to 23 at Yadagirigutta, where the highly anticipated Maha Kumbhabhishekam of the Divya Vimana Swarna Gopuram will be held, marking an important spiritual event for devotees.

Controversial Remarks by Bairi Naresh on Hindu



TPN Correspondent, Telangana: Bairi Naresh, an atheist and social activist, has once again stirred controversy with his remarks targeting Hindu deities. Previously, he made contentious comments about Lord Rama and Lord Ayyappa, which led to protests by Hindu social activists and Ayyappa devotees in Warangal. In response to the outrage, the police filed multiple cases and arrested him.

In a recent speech, Naresh once again made derogatory comments about Hindu deities and also insulted a specific community. A video of his remarks has gone viral on social media, attracting significant backlash from netizens. Many are calling for police action and expressing concerns that such behavior is becoming a trend, influenced by films and certain individuals. Social media users have urged authorities to take measures to curb such provocative actions.

Naresh's ongoing remarks have sparked widespread anger, with calls for greater accountability to prevent such incidents from escalating further.

Integrated Education Employees Continue Hunger Strike

TPN Correspondent, Adilabad: Employees of the Integrated Education Department in the newly formed district centers of united Adilabad are continuing their relay hunger strikes, demanding that Chief Minister Revanth Reddy honor the promises made to them. They are calling for the immediate implementation of job security and the promised pay scale.

The employees have expressed their frustration, recalling that CM Revanth Reddy had assured them before the Congress government took office that their issues would be resolved swiftly, even before his first cup of tea. However, since the government assumed power, they feel their concerns have been ignored.

In response, the employees have issued



an ultimatum to the government, stating that they will continue their hunger strike until their demands are met. They have made it clear that they will not back down until their requests for job security and fair compensation are addressed by the authorities. The situation is ongoing, and the employees are determined to make their voices heard.

New Vande Bharat Express Between Sec and Visakha

TPN Correspondent, Hyderabad: A new Vande Bharat Express will soon begin operations between Secunderabad and Visakhapatnam. The 20-coach Vande Bharat train is ready to operate on the Secunderabad-Visakhapatnam route. The trial run for the train has already been completed, with the train traveling from Visakhapatnam to Srikakulam Road and returning to reach Visakhapatnam in the evening, as confirmed by the Indian Railways. The train will consist of 18 AC chair car coaches along with 2 economy class coaches.



The demand for the Vande Bharat Express on the Secunderabad-Visakhapatnam route has been high among passengers. A Vande Bharat Express, with 20 saffron-colored coaches, is already prepared for ser-

vice. The new train is expected to replace the existing 16-coach Vande Bharat Express that currently runs from Visakhapatnam to Secunderabad in the morning. The introduction of the new train is anticipated to meet the increasing demand and improve connectivity between the two cities.

Reaffirming India's Unity During the Festive Christmas Season

Celebrating Christmas with Unity

In 2023, Prime Minister Narendra Modi achieved a historic first by hosting a Christmas celebration at his official residence, acknowledging the significant contributions of the Christian community in areas such as healthcare, education, social service, and the armed forces. This was followed by another milestone: Modi became the first Indian Prime Minister to accept an invitation from the Catholic Bishops' Conference of India (CBCI) to be the chief guest at their annual Christmas celebration. These gestures highlighted his commitment to fostering unity among India's diverse religious communities.

Additionally, BJP President JP Nadda's visit to the CBCI headquarters on Christmas Day emphasized the party's efforts to engage with the Christian leadership in a positive manner. These events not only marked a shift in the political engagement of the BJP with the Christian community but also symbolized an effort to bridge divides and promote harmony.

Opposition Criticism and Misinformation Campaigns

Despite these moves towards inclusivity, members of the opposition bloc, known as INDIA, along with their associated activist groups, continue to criticize PM Modi and the BJP's approach to India's minority communities. They often target not only the Prime Minister but also leaders of minority communities who refuse to align with their narratives. In particular, the CBCI leadership has come under fire for inviting the Prime Minister, despite the ongoing vilification campaigns against him.

Some critics expected the bishops to adopt a more conditional stance when inviting Modi or raise specific political issues during the Christmas event. However, Christmas, as a celebration, transcends political agendas.



It is a time for unity and goodwill, a sentiment that the CBCI emphasized by focusing on the spirit of the season rather than political divisions.

Modi's Vision of Inclusivity

Since taking office in 2014, Prime Minister Modi has consistently advocated for "Sabka Saath, Sabka Vikas, Sabka Vishwas, Sabka Prayas" – a mantra aimed at ensuring development and unity for all Indians. This vision has been especially evident in the northeastern states, where the Modi government has launched initiatives such as the "Act East" policy, leading to significant investments in infrastructure and connectivity. These policies have transformed the region, which is home to a large Christian population, especially in states like Nagaland, Mizoram, and Meghalaya.

The government's efforts in the northeast, where it has invested over Rs 5 lakh crore, are a testament to its commitment to development for all citizens, irrespective of their re-

ligious or ethnic backgrounds. The region, which has seen significant improvements in various sectors, is now largely governed by the National Democratic Alliance (NDA), with BJP electoral successes in states with Christian majorities.

Peace and Stability in the Northeast

Under Modi's leadership, the government has made significant strides in curbing insurgency movements across the northeast, a region that faced turmoil for decades. By prioritizing peace through dialogue and consensus-building, the government has brought much-needed stability to the region. In Manipur, where ethnic tensions have sometimes been misrepresented as religious conflicts, the Modi government has faced undue criticism. However, it has remained focused on restoring peace, a stance supported by figures like Cardinal Oswald Gracias, an advisor to Pope Francis, who urged for a peaceful resolution to the tensions in the state.

Addressing Religious Tensions and Misinformation

One of the ongoing points of contention has been the criticism surrounding the Waqf Bill, with some accusing the Modi government of favoring particular religious groups. However, these claims fail to recognize the government's stance on safeguarding property rights and promoting transparency. For example, the BJP has voiced support for the Christian community in Kerala regarding the state's Waqf Board, which has sought to claim land from Latin Catholic families.

Moreover, the Modi administration amended the Foreign Contribution Regulation Act (FCRA) in 2020 to ensure greater accountability in how NGOs use foreign funds. This led to the cancellation of thousands of NGO registrations for misuse of funds. Despite these efforts, the opposition continues to misrepresent the government's actions as anti-Christian.

The Debate on Religious Conversions

Another point of contention has been the issue of religious conversions. The Modi government supports laws that prevent forced conversions, emphasizing that any conversion should be voluntary. These laws, which are consistent with the Constitution, aim to protect vulnerable groups, including minorities, Scheduled Castes, and Scheduled Tribes. The government has reaffirmed that everyone has the constitutional right to convert, as long as it is done freely and without coercion.

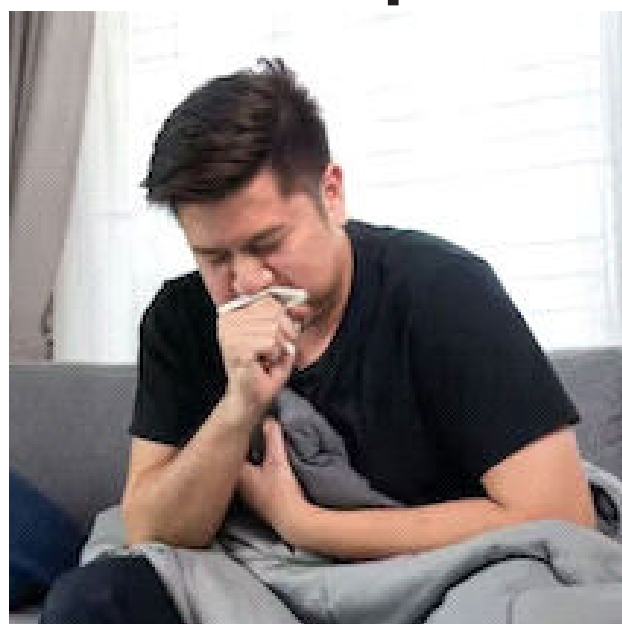
Good Governance and Christmas Celebrations

December 25th, the birth anniversary of Atal Bihari Vajpayee, the first BJP Prime Minister and a founding member of the party, is also celebrated as Good Governance Day. This is a voluntary event that commemorates Vajpayee's contributions to nation-building. The BJP's participation in the celebrations alongside Christmas demonstrates its commitment to celebrating both governance and religious diversity.

While critics continue to target the Modi government's approach to India's religious minorities, these attacks often stem from the opposition's inability to challenge the BJP's widespread support across various communities. PM Modi's leadership has garnered trust from a diverse cross-section of Indian citizens, including religious minorities, as demonstrated by recent elections. The government's all-inclusive policies reflect India's vibrant democracy, which continues to thrive despite attempts to create divisions. As India celebrates Christmas and looks toward the future, the need for unity and mutual respect across all communities remains paramount.

Understanding the Rising Threat of HMPV: A Common Man's Perspective

Human Metapneumovirus (HMPV) is a respiratory virus that is causing growing concern due to its increasing prevalence worldwide. Unlike more widely publicized viruses such as Covid-19, HMPV has not garnered significant public attention. However, it poses serious health risks, ranging from mild cold-like symptoms to severe conditions like pneumonia. This article aims to provide an understanding of HMPV from a common man's perspective, discussing its effects on public health and its potential impact on national security.



HMPV primarily affects the respiratory system, with symptoms that can mimic the common cold, such as a runny nose, cough, and sore throat. However, in some cases, the infection can progress to more severe illnesses like bronchitis or pneumonia, particularly in vulnerable populations such as the elderly, young children, and individuals with weakened immune systems. In these cases, the virus can result in hospitalization and, in extreme instances, death.

While HMPV primarily targets the civilian population, its impact extends beyond just health concerns. The virus can significantly strain healthcare systems, particularly during peak infection periods. Hospitals, already burdened with routine cases, can become overwhelmed by the influx of HMPV patients, leading to resource shortages and a reduced ability to handle other medical emergencies. This strain on healthcare services can also affect the workforce, as a significant number of individuals may fall ill or require quarantine, leading to disruptions in various sectors of society, including transportation, education, and essential services.

In terms of national security, the indirect effects of HMPV cannot be overlooked. A widespread out-

break could reduce the availability of personnel, both in civilian and military sectors, as many individuals may be affected by the virus. This could have a ripple effect on security operations and preparedness, as well as delay critical tasks that depend on a functioning workforce. Therefore, ensuring public health resilience and preparedness is not just a matter of health policy but one that can impact national security and stability.

Preventive measures, such as hand hygiene, wearing masks, and avoiding close contact with sick individuals, are essential in reducing the spread of HMPV. Staying informed and taking basic precautions can help minimize the impact of the virus. Furthermore, urging policymakers to prioritize public health by strengthening healthcare systems and allocating resources to combat emerging infectious threats like HMPV is crucial for the well-being of society and the security of the nation.

Why Bangladesh could become India's new Pakistan

As Bangladesh approaches a period of political uncertainty, India seems to have decided not to engage deeply with the current interim government. The situation has become more complicated with the country's interim prime minister, Nobel Laureate Mohammad Yunus, making statements about delaying elections. Yunus suggested that elections may take place toward the end of 2025 or early 2026, which is seen as a response to the ongoing political turmoil.



In an attempt to adjust the electoral process, Yunus has also proposed lowering the voting age from 18 to 17 years. While the move is intended to involve more youth in the democratic process, it would result in significant delays as new electoral rolls would need to be created, further pushing back the election timeline. The delay could also give agitating youth, particularly students involved in the recent protests, ample time to organize and potentially form their own political party.

The student-led protests, sparked by widespread dissatisfaction with the current political system, have shown a strong desire to dismantle the existing order. However, the protestors remain unclear about what should replace it or how to implement these changes. The situation reached a critical point on December 31, when some student leaders of the July uprising threatened to declare a "Second Republic," a move that would challenge the legitimacy of the current government. This declaration would nullify the existing constitution and undermine the legitimacy of key state institutions, including the judiciary.

The unrest in Bangladesh highlights a broader issue of political instability, with factions vying for power and influence in the face of a delayed electoral process. If the situation continues to deteriorate, it could lead to greater chaos, leaving the country in a state of uncertainty, with long-term implications for its political future. The proposed changes, especially lowering the voting age, may only exacerbate existing tensions and further delay resolution.

Some People Trying To Disturb Peace In Name Of Caste Politics: PM Modi

TPN Correspondent New Delhi
JANUARY.05

Prime Minister Narendra Modi, while inaugurating the Grameen Bharat Mahotsav 2025, emphasized the need to protect peace and harmony in rural India, stressing that certain individuals are attempting to disturb the social fabric by invoking caste politics. He called for a collective effort to thwart such divisive tactics and preserve the unity that has been the foundation of rural life.

Addressing the audience, the Prime Minister expressed his confidence that India's villages will play a pivotal role in realizing the vision of a "Viksit Bharat" (Developed India) by 2047. Modi noted that rural areas are crucial to India's progress and that the government's efforts since 2014 have focused on enhancing rural development, improving infrastructure, and addressing socio-economic issues.

Without naming specific individuals or groups, Modi pointed out that caste-based politics is being used to sow division and unrest in rural areas. He stressed the importance of working together to strengthen the peaceful and harmonious legacy that villages have long upheld.

Modi also reflected on the significant strides made in reducing poverty in rural India. Citing a State Bank of India (SBI) research report, the Prime Minister highlighted that poverty in rural areas had decreased dramatically, from 26% in 2012 to below 5% today, a testament to the government's sustained efforts in improving the livelihoods



of rural populations.

Through schemes aimed at rural empowerment, infrastructure development, and better access to healthcare and education, Modi asserted that the government is committed to ensuring that India's villages are at the forefront of national development. He reiterated that as the country looks toward

its centenary of independence in 2047, the rural population will be crucial in shaping India's future growth. The Grameen Bharat Mahotsav, a celebration of rural India's progress, marked another occasion for the Prime Minister to reiterate his vision for an inclusive, harmonious, and prosperous India, where every community, including those in rural regions, thrives.

Instead Of Creating Infra In Delhi, Kejriwal Built 'Sheesh Mahal': Amit Shah



TPN Correspondent
Rajasthan, Jan 05

The Vande Bharat Sleeper Train has achieved a significant milestone by reaching a peak speed of 180 km/h during its trial runs, which were conducted over the last three days. These trials are part of the ongoing process to evaluate the train for official certification by the Railway Safety Commissioner.

Union Railway Minister Ashwini Vaishnaw shared a video on Friday showcasing the Vande Bharat sleeper train achieving the peak speed of 180 km/h during multiple trials. The trials are expected to continue until the end of the month.

One of the key moments in the trial was a 30-km-long run between Kota and Laban in Bundi district of Rajasthan on Thursday. In a video posted by the minister, the water level in a glass placed next to a mobile phone remained perfectly static despite the high speed of the train.

In addition to this, the Ministry of Railways reported that a 40-km-long trial run between Rohal Khurd and Kota on January 1 saw the train reach 180 km/h. On the Kota-Nagda and Rohal Khurd-Chau Mahla sections, the train achieved speeds of 170 km/h and 160 km/h, respectively.

Trial Runs to Continue Until Month's End

The trials, supervised by the Research, Design & Standards Organization (RDSO) in Lucknow, will continue throughout January. Once completed, the Vande Bharat sleeper train will undergo a final evaluation by the Railway Safety Commissioner at its maximum speed. The official certification will follow, enabling the train to be inducted into regular service across the country.

Key Features of the Vande Bharat Sleeper Train

The Vande Bharat Sleeper Train is designed with modern amenities, including automatic doors, ultra-comfortable berths, on-board Wi-Fi, and an aircraft-like design. Currently, 136 Vande Bharat trains are in service across India, primarily for medium and short-distance travel.



Bhopal Gas Tragedy Waste Disposal: Cops File Cases Against Protestors

Protests erupt in Pithampur as 337 tonnes of toxic waste linked to the Bhopal gas tragedy are transported for disposal.

TPN Correspondent
Dhar, Jan 05

Madhya Pradesh police have filed five cases against protesters in Pithampur, Dhar district, who opposed the disposal of 337 tonnes of toxic waste associated with the Bhopal gas tragedy. The protests intensified after the waste reached Ramky Enviro company, where the incineration was planned.

The protests led to authorities imposing prohibitory orders under section 163 of the Bharatiya Nagarik Suraksha Sanhita (BNSS), which bans assemblies of 50 or more people around the Ramky Enviro premises. Superintendent of Police (SP) Manoj Kumar Singh confirmed that the police registered five separate cases late Friday night for disrupting public peace. Some cases were filed against identified individuals, while others were registered against unnamed protesters.

By Saturday morning, the situation in Pithampur had returned to normal, with all industrial establishments operating as usual. The protests included a march by 500-600 people to the Ramky Group's Industrial Waste Management facility, but police successfully dispersed the crowd. During the protests, two individuals attempted self-immolation but were stopped by onlookers and subsequently admitted to a local hospital.



Sourav Ganguly's Daughter Narrowly Escapes as Bus Hits Her Car

TPN Correspondent
Kolkata, Jan 05

Prominent cricketer and former BCCI President Sourav Ganguly's daughter, Sana Ganguly, was involved in a road accident when a bus rammed into her car. The incident occurred on Friday in the Diamond Harbour area of Kolkata. According to police, while Sana's car sustained damage in the collision, she remained unharmed. At the time of the accident, the car was being driven by

Ganguly's driver, and Sana was seated in the front passenger seat. The police further reported that the bus driver fled the scene without stopping after the collision at Behala Chowrasta. Sana, along with the driver, pursued the bus for a short distance before intercepting it. Upon receiving information about the incident, police arrived at the location and detained the bus driver. Officials also clarified that Sana Ganguly has not yet filed an official complaint regarding the incident.

2 Soldiers Die, 2 Injured As Army Vehicle Falls Into Gorge In J&K

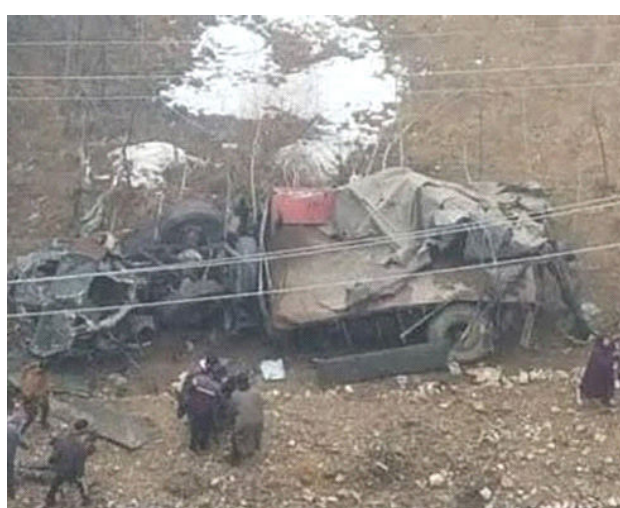
TPN Correspondent
Srinagar, Jan 05

Two soldiers died and two others were injured after an Army truck skidded off the road and plunged into a gorge in Jammu and Kashmir's Bandipora district on Saturday.

Officials said the accident occurred near the SK Payen area, and the injured soldiers have been rushed to a hospital for treatment.

In a similar incident last month, five soldiers died and five others were injured after the truck they were traveling in plunged into a 300-foot gorge in Jammu and Kashmir's Poonch.

"All ranks of #WhiteKnightCorps extend their deepest condolences on the tragic loss of five brave soldiers in a vehicle accident during operational duty in the #Poonch sector," the Army's White Knight Corps had written on X. Many leaders had expressed sorrow over



the incident, including Jammu and Kashmir Chief Minister Omar Abdullah. Congress leader Rahul Gandhi said, "I pay my heartfelt tribute to the martyrs and hope for the speedy recovery of the injured soldiers. My deepest condolences to the bereaved families."



BJP's First List For Delhi Polls In, Parvesh Verma To Fight Arvind Kejriwal

TPN Correspondent
New Delhi, Jan 05

The BJP has released the first list of its candidates for the upcoming Assembly elections in Delhi. The party has unveiled the names of candidates who will contest 29 out of the total 70 seats in the national capital.

The Aam Aadmi Party (AAP) has already released the names of all its candidates for the elections scheduled in February. In a significant development, former BJP MP Parvesh Sahib Singh Verma will challenge former Delhi Chief Minister and AAP convenor Arvind Kejriwal for the New Delhi seat.

"I thank my party's top leadership... I hope to live up to the trust the party has shown in me... During COVID-19, when Delhi needed Oxygen, Arvind Kejriwal Ji was distributing 'free bottles on every bottle'... There are many tasks in Delhi like cleaning the Yamuna and curbing pollution. When BJP forms the government, we will address these issues," Verma said.

In another notable move, former Delhi Transport Minister Kailash Gehlot, once a close aide of Kejriwal, joined the BJP months before the elections and will be contesting from Bijwasan.

Ramesh Bidhuri, the former BJP MP from South Delhi, will contest from the Kalkaji constituency against Delhi Chief Minister Atishi. Bidhuri, who was not given a ticket for the 2024 Lok Sabha elections, said, "I thank the BJP leadership for trusting me to reclaim the Kalkaji assembly seat. Delhi is suffering under Arvind Kejriwal, and the people of Kalkaji have faced 'AAPda' under Chief Minister Atishi."

Arvinder Singh Lovely, a former Congress minister in Sheila Dikshit's cabinet, joined BJP last year and will contest from Gandhinagar in east Delhi.

The Aam Aadmi Party has dominated the Delhi Assembly elections since 2015, securing significant victories, while the BJP has consistently won all seven Delhi Lok Sabha seats since 2014.

In a twist, Delhi BJP chief Virendra Sachdeva will not be contesting the upcoming Assembly elections, as confirmed by sources.

India Stresses Importance of Skilled Professional Movement Amid H-1B Visa Debate

India has reaffirmed the importance of the movement of skilled professionals between India and the United States, highlighting how it benefits both countries economically and technologically. This comes as the debate over the H-1B visa program intensifies, with prominent figures like President-elect Donald Trump and tech billionaire Elon Musk voicing their support for the program.

Elon Musk recently defended the H-1B visa system on social media, crediting it for enabling the success of companies like SpaceX and Tesla. "The reason I'm in America along with so many critical people who built SpaceX, Tesla, and hundreds of other companies that made America strong is because of H1B," Musk stated. He further expressed his commitment to defending the program, saying, "I will go to war on this issue the likes of which you cannot possibly comprehend."

The H-1B visa debate has revealed differing opinions among Trump's allies. While some view the program as essential for the U.S. tech industry, others see it as a threat to American jobs. Despite earlier attempts to restrict visa access through an executive order, Trump has expressed continued support for the H-1B program, recognizing its value to the U.S. economy.

India's foreign ministry spokesperson,



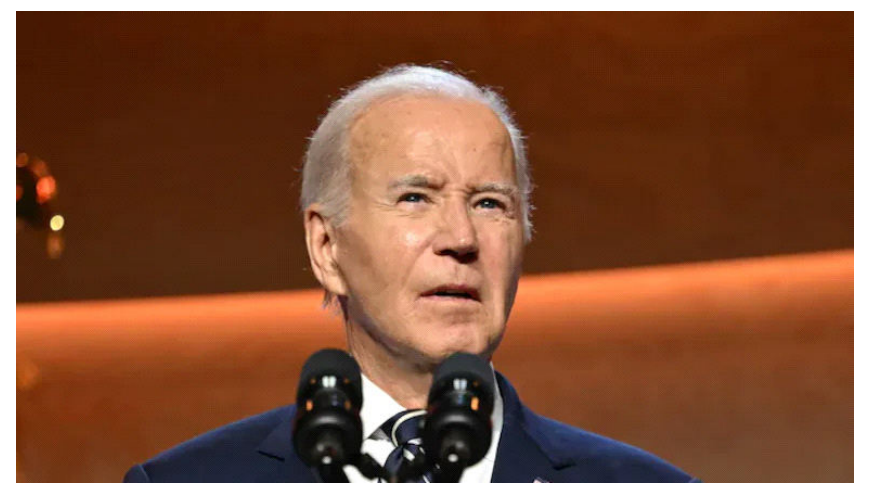
Randhir Jaiswal, underscored the significance of the mobility of skilled professionals, calling it a key component of the strong and growing economic and technological partnership between India and the U.S. He emphasized that both nations benefit from the technical expertise provided by these professionals, with each leveraging their strengths for mutual growth.

India received around 78% of the 265,777 H-1B visas issued by the U.S. in fiscal year 2023, demonstrating the essential role

Indian professionals play in the U.S. tech industry. As India and the U.S. continue to strengthen their ties, the exchange of skilled workers remains a cornerstone of their economic relationship.

This collaboration is reflected in the broader trends of increasing bilateral trade, with U.S.-India trade growing by 7.65%, reaching USD 129 billion in 2022-23. The movement of skilled professionals between the two countries remains pivotal for further deepening their economic ties.

"Risk For National Security": Joe Biden Blocks US Steel Sale To Japan's Nippon



President Joe Biden has blocked a controversial \$14.9 billion acquisition in which Japan's Nippon Steel sought to buy US Steel, citing the need to protect domestic industry and national security. The decision, made just weeks before Biden's term concludes, follows a deadlock within the Committee on Foreign Investment in the United States (CFIUS) over whether the deal posed a threat to US security.

Biden emphasized that the acquisition would place a key American steel producer under foreign control, creating risks to national security and vital supply chains. "I am taking action to block this deal," Biden stated, highlighting the importance of safeguarding the US steel industry. His move was met with support from the United Steelworkers (USW) union, which praised the president's commitment to maintaining a strong domestic manufacturing sector.

However, both Nippon Steel and US Steel expressed disappointment, calling the decision a "political" one and accusing the administration of violating due process. The companies insisted that the deal posed no credible security threat and criticized the process as being politically motivated. They also warned that the decision could deter future investments from US allies.

The Japanese government, reacting to the news, expressed "regret" over the decision, with Industry Minister Yoji Muto describing it as "incomprehensible." US Steel's stock price dropped by 6.5% following the announcement.

Biden's decision, which reflects his broader strategy of protecting American manufacturing, comes amid increasing tensions over foreign trade practices, particularly with China. The president had previously emphasized the need for a robust domestic steel industry to ensure national security, noting his efforts to bolster the sector through tariffs and subsidies.

The move highlights the ongoing political and economic challenges surrounding US trade and investment policies, as Biden balances domestic economic concerns with international relations, particularly with key allies like Japan.

Americans Unhappy: Trump On Flags Flying At Half-Mast During Inauguration



Donald Trump voiced his displeasure on Friday regarding the lowering of US flags to half-mast following the death of former President Jimmy Carter, asserting that "no American can be happy" about it. The decision to honor Carter, who passed away on Sunday at the age of 100, was made by President Joe Biden, who ordered flags to be lowered for 30 days at federal buildings and grounds. This gesture is a customary way to commemorate the late president as he is laid to rest during a state funeral next week.

For Trump, this act poses an awkward juxtaposition as he prepares for his inauguration on January 20. The image of the nation in mourning, with flags at half-mast, will coincide with his return to the White House after a tumultuous first term. Trump expressed his frustration with the situation in a post on his Truth Social platform, stating, "Nobody wants to see this, and no American can be happy about it." In his message, the Republican also leveled an unsubstantiated accusation at Democrats, claiming they were "giddy" about the optics of flags at half-mast during his inauguration. Trump went on to say, "They don't love our country, they only think about themselves," though he did not specify who he was referring to.



China Calls HMPV Outbreak 'Winter Occurrence', India Says 'Don't Panic'

Countries neighboring China are closely monitoring the situation, with Hong Kong reporting a few cases of HMPV.

The spread of Human Metapneumovirus (HMPV), a respiratory illness with flu-like symptoms, has raised global health concerns, particularly after reports emerged of a rising number of cases in China. HMPV, discovered in 2001, is similar to COVID-19 in its symptoms, leading to comparisons with the pandemic that started five years ago. Social media platforms have shown videos and images of individuals wearing masks in Chinese hospitals, sparking worries among the public.

Addressing the concerns, China's foreign ministry spokesperson Mao Ning reassured both citizens and tourists on Friday, saying, "Respiratory infections tend to peak during the winter season," and emphasized that "It is safe to travel in China."

In India, which was severely affected by the COVID-19 pandemic, the Directorate General of Health Services (DGHS) official Dr. Atul Goel urged people not to panic over the spread of HMPV in China. Dr. Goel

explained, "Metapneumovirus is like any other respiratory virus, causing common cold-like symptoms. While it can be more serious for the very young or the elderly, there is no need for undue concern."

He further clarified that there had been no substantial increase in respiratory infections within India in December 2024, and no significant outbreaks had been reported by Indian institutions. While the World Health Organization (WHO) has not issued an official statement regarding the HMPV outbreak, and no emergency has been declared by either WHO or the Chinese government, neighboring countries such as Hong Kong are on high alert and monitoring the situation closely.

According to the US Centre for Disease Control (CDC), HMPV is a respiratory virus that affects people of all age groups, though it poses a greater risk to young children, the elderly, and those with weakened immune systems. Common symptoms include cough, fever, nasal congestion, and shortness of breath. In severe cases, it can lead to conditions like bronchitis or pneumonia.

Netherlands Reveals 425,000 Suspected Nazi Collaborators, Sparks Debate

The Netherlands has released the names of 425,000 individuals suspected of collaborating with Nazi Germany during World War II, igniting a debate on privacy versus transparency. This move comes as part of the "War in Court" project, following the expiration of a law on New Year's Day that previously restricted public access to the archive. The names of the suspected collaborators, mostly Dutch citizens, are now available online, offering greater public insight into the

nation's wartime past.

The archive, containing nearly 32 million pages, provides detailed records on individuals who worked in various capacities with the German occupiers during the war. The names are searchable along with birth dates and locations, although accessing specific details about their actions requires submitting a request. This project was made possible with the help of the Huygens Institute, which digitized

the archive, previously accessible only at the Dutch National Archives in The Hague.

While the release of this archive aims to foster transparency, it has drawn criticism from both the descendants of the accused and the families of wartime victims. Some fear that this public access could reopen old wounds and stigmatize individuals linked to this dark chapter of Dutch history.

Imran Khan Rejects Exile Offer, Vows to Stay in Pakistan



Imran Khan, Pakistan's jailed former prime minister, revealed that he was offered the opportunity to go into exile for three years, but he declined, asserting his commitment to staying in Pakistan. The 72-year-old former cricketer-turned-politician made the claim during an interaction with media at Rawalpindi's Adiala Jail, where he has been incarcerated since August 2023.

Khan stated, "I was offered the opportunity of a three-year exile while I was in Attock Jail, but I will live and die in Pakistan." Despite being imprisoned, Khan emphasized his unwavering resolve to remain in his homeland, rejecting the option of exile.

The former prime minister also disclosed that he had been "indirectly approached" with a proposal to be transferred to his Bani Gala residence in Islamabad. However, he reiterated his refusal, making it clear that he would not entertain discussions about his personal situation until his detained supporters and leaders were released.

In a post on social media platform X (formerly Twitter), Khan further clarified his position: "My stance is clear: release my detained workers and leaders first. Only then will I consider discussing my personal situation."

Khan's bold statements come amid ongoing political turmoil in Pakistan, with his party, Pakistan Tehreek-e-Insaf (PTI), facing a crackdown by the government. Many of his supporters and key party leaders have been arrested, and Khan's refusal to leave the country underscores his resolve to continue his political struggle.

Hindustan Unilever in Talks to Acquire Minimalist for Rs 3,000 Crore

Hindustan Unilever Limited (HUL), one of India's leading FMCG companies, is reportedly in advanced discussions to acquire Jaipur-based skincare startup Minimalist for approximately Rs 3,000 crore (\$350 million), according to a Moneycontrol report. This potential acquisition comes nearly three years after Minimalist raised Rs 110 crore (\$15 million) from Unilever Ventures, the venture investment arm of Unilever.

If the deal is finalised, it would represent a significant leap in Minimalist's valuation, which has surged from around Rs 630 crore (\$75 million) to Rs 3,000 crore (\$350 million) in just three years. This dramatic increase in value is attributed to Minimalist's rapid revenue growth and consistent profitability. The acquisition would not only provide HUL with a strong foothold in the fast-growing skincare market but also add a direct-to-consumer brand to its portfolio.

Minimalist, which is known for its minimalist approach to skincare, has been gaining popularity among consumers for its simple and effective products. The brand's appeal to a younger, digital-savvy audience has contributed to its success, positioning it well in a competitive market.



HUL has stated that it will make appropriate disclosures regarding any material developments related to this acquisition under applicable laws. The potential deal highlights HUL's growing interest in the beauty and skincare segment, which has seen increasing demand for more natural and transparent products.

This acquisition, if concluded, will be one of the largest in the direct-to-consumer skincare space and reflects the growing trend of FMCG companies expanding their portfolios to include digital-first, consumer-centric brands. Investors and market watchers are keenly awaiting further details as discussions progress.

India's Current Account Deficit to Remain Elevated in FY26 Amid Global Trade Challenges

India's current account deficit (CAD) is expected to remain elevated in FY26, largely due to the impact of stringent global trade policies, according to a report by JM Financial. The country's trade balance has been under pressure, with imports consistently surpassing exports, leading to a widening deficit. The report suggests that sluggish exports, exacerbated by global supply chain realignments, will keep the CAD high in the coming years.

In particular, the report highlights the potential effects of US President-elect Donald Trump's trade policies, which are expected to disrupt global supply chains. India is predicted to face greater adverse impacts on its exports compared to imports, leading to a situation where exports will trail imports well into 2025. This scenario could result in a trade deficit that continues to put pressure on the country's current account balance.

In November 2024, India's trade deficit surged to USD 37 billion, much higher than the monthly average of USD 23.5 billion recorded between April and October 2024. This widening gap is attributed to the changing dynamics of global trade, which could further affect India's export performance in the near future.

The report projects a CAD of around 1.5-1.6% of GDP for FY25, with the figure expected to stabilize at approximately 1.4-1.5% in FY26, depending on the direction of Trump's trade policies. This persistent deficit is expected to put downward pressure on the Indian rupee (INR), potentially leading to currency depreciation.



However, there is some positive news in the report. Fiscal consolidation efforts are expected to keep bond yields in check, with the government likely to meet its FY26 fiscal deficit target of 4.5%. Despite a slowdown in capital expenditure (capex) during FY25, particularly due to the election period, the government's focus on reducing debt-to-GDP levels may help stabilize the economy. The report forecasts bond yields to average 6.5% in 2025, providing some stability in the financial markets.

Overall, while India's widening CAD and trade imbalances pose significant challenges, fiscal discipline and stable bond yields offer some relief in the years ahead.

HDFC Bank Sees Deposit Growth Outpace Loan Growth in Q3 FY2025

HDFC Bank reported that its deposits grew at a faster rate than loans during the quarter ending December 31, 2024, marking a notable shift in its financial performance. According to the Mumbai-based bank, deposits increased by 4.2% to ₹24.53 trillion (\$286.03 billion), although this growth rate slowed compared to the 5.1% rise seen in the July-September quarter.

The growth in low-cost deposits, comprising current and savings accounts, was more modest, rising by 1.1% in the period. On the other hand, the bank's gross

advances, which reflect loans sanctioned and disbursed, rose by 0.9% to ₹25.43 trillion. This was a slowdown from the previous quarter's sequential growth of 1.3%.

HDFC Bank, the largest private lender in India by assets, is still benefiting from its merger with its parent company, HDFC, which was completed in July 2023. The merger significantly increased the bank's loan portfolio, though it brought a relatively smaller increase in deposits. The larger pool of loans has contributed to the bank's dominance in the Indian banking sector, but its deposit base has not grown

at the same pace.

Despite the slower growth in loans and deposits, HDFC Bank remains a leading player in the Indian financial market. The bank's ability to generate low-cost deposits and manage its loan portfolio will be key to sustaining its growth trajectory in the coming quarters. The slowdown in deposit and loan growth could reflect broader economic trends or market conditions, but the bank's solid financial foundation positions it well for the future.



Vedanta Ltd's Zinc Production Declines 2% in Q3 FY2024-25, Aluminium Output Up

Vedanta Limited, a leading mining and metals company, reported a 2% drop in its zinc production in India during the October to December quarter of the financial year 2024-25. Zinc production in this period totaled 265,000 tonnes, down from 271,000 tonnes in the same quarter last year, as per the company's exchange filing.



Despite this decline in zinc output, Vedanta's total aluminium production saw a 3% year-on-year increase, reaching 614,000 tonnes in Q3 FY2024-25, compared to 599,000 tonnes in the same period in the previous year. The rise in aluminium production is part of a broader positive trend, with total aluminium output rising 3% to 1.82 million tonnes for the nine months ending December 2024, compared to 1.77 million tonnes in the previous year.

Vedanta operates two primary aluminium production plants—one in Jharsuguda and the other under the Bharat Aluminium Company Ltd (BALCO) subsidiary.

The company also saw growth in its mined metal production, which rose 1% to 784,000 tonnes in the December quarter, compared to 780,000 tonnes in the same period the

previous year. This growth was attributed to improved mined metal grades and mill recovery, which contributed to the best-ever 9-month mined metal production, according to Vedanta.

In other key production segments, Vedanta's Zinc International business saw a 12% growth year-on-year in the quarter, while its oil and gas production decreased by 19%. The company's iron ore segment reported a 10% year-on-year growth, though sales declined by 8%. Finished steel production fell by 3% to 329,000 tonnes, compared to 341,000 tonnes in the same quarter of the previous year. Power sales also dropped significantly, by 21%, to 3.2 billion units.

Despite the mixed results across its various production segments, Vedanta's share price rose by 1.8%, closing at ₹457.90, up from ₹449.80 at the previous market close.

Indians' Consumption of Pulses and Cereals Declines by 5% as Spending Patterns Shift

Indian households have experienced a marked change in their spending habits over the past 12 years, according to a recent analysis by the State Bank of India (SBI). The shift reflects broader economic and social changes, with a clear trend of decreasing focus on food-related expenditures in favor of non-food items. This evolving spending pattern is influencing consumption across various sectors, with food items such as pulses and cereals seeing a notable decline in consumption.



The SBI analysis reveals a worrying trend in the consumption of essential food items, with both pulses and cereals experiencing a significant drop in demand. Over the past decade, consumption in both rural and urban areas has decreased by more than 5 percent. This decline is attributed to a variety of factors, including changing dietary preferences, urbanization, and increased disposable incomes that encourage more varied food choices.

Cereals and pulses have traditionally been staples in the Indian diet, providing an essential source of carbohydrates and protein. However, in recent years, there has been a gradual shift in consumer preferences toward more processed and packaged food options, which are perceived as more convenient and modern. The increasing availability of ready-to-eat meals, fast food, and international cuisines has further driven this shift.

Additionally, with rising incomes and changing lifestyles, Indians are spending more on non-food items, such as electronics, clothing, and entertainment, leaving less room in their budgets for staple food products. The shift is especially noticeable in urban areas, where disposable incomes are higher, and where the influence of global food trends

is more pronounced. Meanwhile, rural areas have also seen a reduction in cereal and pulse consumption, though this shift is attributed to factors such as rising prices and a reduction in agricultural productivity.

The drop in cereal and pulse consumption has raised concerns about nutritional imbalances in the average Indian diet. Pulses, in particular, are a key source of protein for many households, especially in rural areas where vegetarian diets are more common. The decline in their consumption could have long-term health implications, leading to deficiencies in vital nutrients for a significant portion of the population.

The report underscores the importance of understanding these consumption patterns, especially as India continues to urbanize and its middle class grows. Policymakers will need to consider these changes to ensure food security and promote healthier eating habits across the nation. In particular, addressing the affordability and accessibility of nutritious food options will be crucial to meeting the needs of India's diverse population in the coming years.

New Just-in-Time App Helps Smokers Stay on Track to Quit

Quitting smoking is one of the toughest challenges faced by millions of people worldwide. Nicotine addiction often leads to withdrawal symptoms, making it difficult for smokers to stay smoke-free. While many smokers successfully quit for a time, the temptation to relapse remains high, with up to 75% of people returning to smoking within the first year of quitting.

Now, there's some promising news for those struggling with this ongoing battle. Researchers at the University of Bristol have developed the first-ever "just-in-time" intervention app aimed at helping smokers prevent relapse. This innovative app uses personalized reminders to deliver support right when it's needed most. Imagine a scenario where your smartwatch vibrates and flashes a message like, "Remember why you wanted to quit," just as you're about to reach for a cigarette. These timely nudges can act as a powerful

reminder to stay on track and resist the urge to smoke.

The app is designed to intervene precisely when smokers are most vulnerable, providing real-time support at moments of temptation. By reinforcing the reasons for quitting and offering immediate coping strategies, the app works to interrupt the automatic behavior of smoking and remind users of their commitment to a healthier life.

Smoking remains one of the leading causes of preventable disease and death, so finding innovative solutions to help smokers stay quit is crucial. With the introduction of this "just-in-time" intervention app, smokers have a new tool in their fight to break free from nicotine addiction. The app's personalized approach provides a unique form of support, which could make all the difference in helping smokers achieve long-term success in their quit journey.



RRM-TD, India's First Space Robotic Arm, In Action Onboard POEM4

ISRO showcases the precision of India's first space robotic arm in its first operational mission aboard POEM4.

The Indian Space Research Organisation (ISRO) has unveiled its first space robotic arm, RRM-TD, aboard the POEM4 platform.



A short video released by ISRO captures the robotic arm's precise movements and various operational stages as it works in space. The video begins with the robotic arm being unlocked and lifted from its base position, followed by its intricate movement, which includes "Arm manipulation with 7 actuators." This demonstrates the arm's ability to perform complex tasks. The footage then highlights "POEM deck imaging operation" and "positioning using visual serving," a technique that uses visual data to guide the robot's motion. The arm's sequence concludes as it returns to its base, locking back into position.

ISRO described the milestone as "a proud #MakeInIndia achievement in space robotics," emphasizing the arm's precision and functionality. This demonstration aboard the POEM4 mission marks a significant step in India's

space exploration capabilities.

The POEM4 mission, part of the PSLV-C60 SpaDeX mission, utilizes the fourth stage of the Polar Satellite Launch Vehicle (PSLV) to create a specialized platform for scientific experiments in space. The PS4-Orbital Experiment Module (POEM) enables scientists to carry out microgravity experiments for up to three months, advancing new technologies for future space missions.

The mission also carries biological experiments into space for the first time on an Indian-made rocket. The PSLV will conduct three biological experiments involving living cells, a challenging task due to the harsh space environment. Special life support systems are employed to sustain the organisms, and data is collected remotely, contributing to significant advancements in space research.

Canadian Student Breaks Jaw After Biting Into Jawbreaker Candy

A 19-year-old Canadian college student, Javeria Wasim, has been left with a fractured jaw and a new understanding of why jawbreaker candies live up to their name. After purchasing a giant jawbreaker while shopping with a friend, Wasim bit into the candy, only to experience excruciating pain and significant dental damage. What seemed like a fun treat turned into a nightmare when her jaw cracked under the pressure.



Wasim and her friend had picked out one of the largest jawbreakers available, joking with the shop owner about whether they could actually bite into it. "We got a giant one, the biggest size they had," Wasim shared. The shopkeeper confirmed that biting into it was possible, but little did they know that the candy's reputation as a "jawbreaker" was about to become a harsh reality.

As soon as Wasim bit into the gumball-sized candy, she felt a sharp pain in her jaw. Her friend noticed that her front tooth had chipped, and another was loose. Realizing the situation was more serious than just a dental issue, the pair called an ambulance. After being rushed to the hospital, X-rays and a CT scan revealed that Wasim had suffered two fractures in her jaw.

"I bit into it and only made a hole, and my jaw

started to hurt. My friend looked over and said my tooth was chipped. It hurt bad, I was crying a lot when the ambulance came and everything was blurry," Wasim recalled.

The 19-year-old was unable to open her mouth, and the next day, she underwent surgery to repair the damage. The procedure lasted about an hour, during which her jaw was repositioned and a bar was inserted on her gums, wiring her mouth shut for the next six weeks. Wasim will be on an all-liquid diet during this recovery period.

This traumatic experience has left Wasim shaken, and she now says she may never eat another candy again.

Zhang Yazhou Breaks World Record by Slicing 41 Cucumbers with Playing Cards in One Minute



Cucumbers are commonly known for their role in salads, detox waters, and sandwiches, but they've now found their place in the record books, thanks to Zhang Yazhou from China. Zhang has set a new Guinness World Record for slicing cucumbers in an extraordinary way—using playing cards. That's right, with no knife in sight, Zhang sliced through 41 cucumbers in just one minute, using only his card-throwing skills.

Known for his impressive ability to throw cards with precision, Zhang's recent achievement earned him a spot in the Guinness World Records. In a video shared by Guinness World Records on Instagram, Zhang is seen standing at a distance from a row of cucumbers, each suspended on a stand. With each flick of his wrist, a card slices through a cucumber, splitting it perfectly in half. The video includes slow-motion shots that highlight the sharp accu-

racy of his throws, making the whole feat look like something straight out of a martial arts action movie.

The record-breaking attempt wasn't something Zhang achieved overnight. According to Guinness World Records, it took him 20 days of practice to perfect his card-throwing technique before he was able to break the record. His dedication paid off when he successfully sliced through 41 cucumbers, earning him the title for the most cucumbers cut by playing cards in one minute.

"Most cucumbers cut by throwing playing cards in one minute, 41 by Zhang Yazhou," reads the caption of the Guinness World Records' post, commemorating his achievement. This unique and skillful accomplishment shows that the art of throwing playing cards isn't just for magic tricks—it's now officially a world record!

Bird-Inspired Wing Design Could Boost Performance of Aeroplanes, Claims Study

The flight dynamics of birds have sparked innovative research aimed at enhancing aeroplane wings. Featherlike flaps, designed to mimic the covert feathers found on bird wings, have shown the potential to significantly improve lift, reduce drag, and prevent stalls. These advancements could lead to more efficient and safer aircraft, particularly during challenging maneuvers like landings or flights in turbulent conditions. The research highlights promising applications for both commercial and specialized aviation.



Research Findings A study published in the Proceedings of the National Academy of Sciences explored the effects of lightweight, bird-inspired flaps on model airplane wings. The researchers tested the flaps in a wind tunnel and discovered that they improved airflow around the wings, boosting lift by up to 45% and reducing drag by 31%. Unlike traditional manual wing flaps controlled by pilots, these bird-like components adjust automatically in response to high angles of attack, a condition that often leads to sudden loss of lift.

Improved Aircraft Stability Tests on remote-controlled aircraft showed that these feather-inspired flaps enhance flight stability, especially in gusty weather or during takeoff and landing on short runways. This design could be a game-changer in aviation, offering improved performance in situations where precision and efficiency are crucial.

Expert Insights Aimy Wissa, an engineer at Princeton University, explained to Science News Explores that

the design of these flaps operates without mechanical controls, responding naturally to aerodynamic changes. The use of multiple rows of flaps across the wing—rather than just at the front or rear—ensures a consistent airflow and prevents high-pressure air from disrupting lift at critical points.

By borrowing ideas from bird flight, engineers aim to create aircraft that perform more smoothly and reliably in demanding conditions. These developments demonstrate the exciting potential of bio-inspired technologies to advance the future of aviation.



Rishabh Pant Hits 5,000 Runs Milestone With Explosive Knock Against Australia

Swashbuckling Indian wicketkeeper-batter Rishabh Pant reached a significant milestone in his cricket career, crossing the 5,000-run mark in international cricket during the ongoing Border-Gavaskar Trophy against Australia in Sydney. Pant achieved this feat with a blistering knock of 61 runs off just 33 balls in India's second innings. This innings was a display of his aggressive batting, as he smashed six fours and four sixes, maintaining a remarkable strike rate of 184.85. Pant had earlier contributed 40 runs in 98 balls during India's first innings, demonstrating both patience and flair.

This performance brought Pant's career total to 5,028 runs across all formats of international cricket, with an impressive average of 33.97. His 150 matches for India include seven centuries and 23 fifties, with Test cricket being his strongest format. In 43 Test matches, Pant has accumulated 2,948 runs at an average of 42.11, including six centuries, with a best score of 159*. In One Day International

als (ODIs), he has scored 871 runs at an average of 33.50, while in T20Is, he has made 1,209 runs at a strike rate of 127.26.

Pant's rapid-fire 61 in the second innings came when India needed quick runs. Despite a shaky start and a struggling top order, which saw Virat Kohli continue his issues with deliveries outside the off-stump, Pant's knock provided some entertainment and aggression. Ravindra Jadeja and Jasprit Bumrah also chipped in, but India ended the day at 141/6, with Jadeja (8*) and Washington Sundar (6*) still at the crease.

In the first innings, India had struggled to 185 all out, with Boland's (4/31) fiery bowling leading the charge for Australia. India's bowlers responded well, however, reducing Australia to just 181 runs in their first innings, with Prasidh Krishna and Mohammed Siraj taking three wickets each.

Jude Bellingham Rescues 10-Man Real Madrid with Stoppage Time Winner at Valencia

Jude Bellingham delivered a dramatic stoppage-time winner to secure Real Madrid a 2-1 victory at Valencia on Friday, lifting them to the top of La Liga. Despite missing a penalty earlier in the match and being reduced to 10 men after Vinicius Junior's red card, Madrid mounted a superb comeback to claim all three points.

The game began with Valencia taking the lead in the 27th minute, as Huro Duro capitalized on a rebound to give the hosts a 1-0 advantage. Madrid struggled to find their rhythm, and things got worse when Bellingham missed a penalty after being brought down in the box. His low shot hit the post, and despite some controversy over Valencia's goalkeeper Stole Dimitrievski being off his line, the miss left Madrid trailing.

The match then took another turn when Vinicius was sent off for shoving Dimitrievski in retaliation for a challenge in the box. With Madrid down to 10 men and trailing, the odds seemed stacked against them. However, they fought back and equalized in the 85th minute when Bellingham provided the assist for 39-year-old Luka Modric, who calmly finished to level the score.

In the dying moments of the game, Bellingham pounced on a defensive error from Valencia, with Dimitri Foulquier's poor pass putting Hugo Guillamon under pressure. Bellingham seized the opportunity, intercepting the pass and finishing confidently to give Madrid a 2-1 victory.



Head coach Carlo Ancelotti praised Bellingham for his resilience after missing the penalty, calling his performance extraordinary. "It gave him extra motivation," Ancelotti said. "The goal was a reward for the effort he put in."

Vinicius, who was disappointed by his red card, thanked his teammates for securing the win, saying "Sorry and thanks team" on social media. Despite Valencia's best efforts, including a late strike from Luis Rioja that hit the post, they remain in the relegation zone, four points from safety.

Stood Down from SCG Test Because Runs Weren't Coming from My Bat

India captain Rohit Sharma clarified his decision to step aside from the crucial SCG Test, explaining that it was motivated by his lack of form and the team's pressing needs. Speaking during the lunch break on Day 2, Rohit said, "The conversation with the coach and selector was simple—runs weren't coming from my bat, and form was missing. This is an important match, and we need players in form. I felt it was the right decision to tell the coach and selector that I should step aside for the team's benefit."

Rohit's self-assessment came after India's disheartening loss in Melbourne, where a batting collapse handed the hosts a 2-1 series lead. Rohit, who struggled with scores of 3 and 9 in the game, acknowledged that his form wasn't helping the team's cause. Rohit emphasized that his decision wasn't about giving up on the game but a temporary step back to prioritize the team's success. "This isn't a retirement decision. It's just about recognizing the present situation. Things can change in cricket; I believe in myself, but I also need to be realistic about where I stand," he explained. The skipper reflected on the challenges of stepping away: "It was very, very tough. I've come so far to play and win games for my team. But some-



times, you have to put the team's needs above your own. That's what makes a team—you play for the collective good, not just for yourself." Rohit assured fans that he remains committed to the game and confident in his ability to return stronger. "This is a temporary phase. Cricket teaches us that every day is a new opportunity. I trust things will turn around for me." He also dismissed external criticism, saying, "People with mics, laptops, or pens can't dictate our careers. I've played this game long enough to understand what's best for me and my team. The decision to step down was mine and made with maturity." Rohit's decision underscores the importance of self-awareness and prioritizing the team's goals over personal milestones, a testament to his leadership and commitment to Indian cricket.

AC Milan Defeat Juventus 2-1 to Set Up Super Cup Final with Inter Milan

AC Milan staged a thrilling comeback to beat Juventus 2-1 on Friday, securing their place in the Italian Super Cup final against city rivals Inter Milan. The match, held in Riyadh, saw new AC Milan coach Sergio Conceicao lead his team to victory in his first game in charge, after replacing Paulo Fonseca earlier this week.

Juventus took the lead in the 21st minute, thanks to a clinical strike from Kenan Yildiz. The goal came after poor defending from Theo Hernandez, who allowed the Turkish midfielder to fire past Milan goalkeeper Mike Maignan. Despite Juventus' early advantage, AC Milan bounced back



in the second half.

Christian Pulisic leveled the score for Milan in the 71st minute, converting a pen-

alty with confidence. Just four minutes later, Juventus' Federico Gatti, under pressure from the Milan attack, accidentally turned the ball into his own net, giving Milan a 2-1 lead.

The victory sets up an exciting Super Cup final on Monday, where AC Milan will face off against Inter Milan, who defeated Atalanta 2-0 on Thursday. Inter's dominant performance was led by Dutch international Denzel Dumfries, who scored both goals for the defending champions.

AC Milan will now aim to win their eighth Italian Super Cup title, and their first since 2016, when they take on Inter in what promises to be a highly anticipated clash.

Chahal, Dhanashree Spark Divorce Rumours After Instagram Unfollow

Actor-choreographer Dhanashree Verma and cricketer Yuzvendra Chahal have recently sparked divorce rumours after they unfollowed each other on Instagram and deleted all pictures together. The couple, who tied the knot on December 11, 2020, have been at the center of media attention with sources confirming the couple's separation. While Yuzvendra Chahal deleted all photos with his wife, Dhanashree removed him from her followers but left the pictures intact. According to sources close to the couple, the divorce rumours are indeed true, with the divorce being seen as "inevitable" though the exact reasons be-



hind the split remain unclear. "It's only a matter of time before it becomes official," the sources stated.

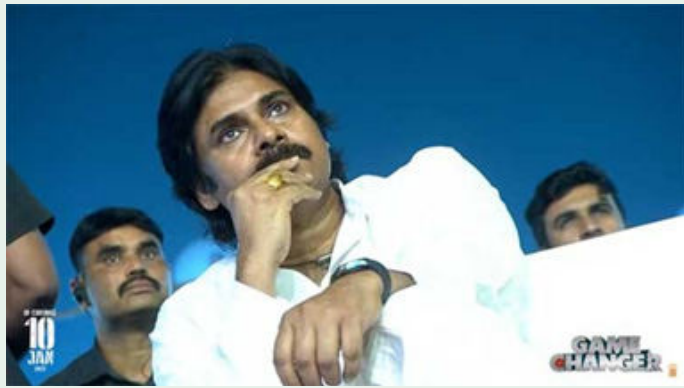
The rumours began circulating in 2023 after Dhanashree removed 'Chahal' from her Instagram name, coinciding with a cryptic Instagram story by Yuzvendra that read, "New life loading." At the time, the cricketer had dismissed the divorce speculations, urging fans not to believe or spread such rumours.

Dhanashree and Yuzvendra's love story began during the lockdown, when Yuzvendra, frustrated with the lack of cricket matches, approached Dhanashree to learn dance after seeing her videos on social media. Dhanashree, who used to teach dance, agreed to take him on as a student, marking the beginning of their relationship.



Pawan Kalyan Graces Ram Charan's Game Changer Pre-Release Event, Expresses Gratitude To Cinema Legends

The pre-release event of Ram Charan's much-anticipated film *Game Changer* was held in a grand fashion this evening in Rajahmundry, attracting a massive crowd and extensive arrangements. The event was graced by none other than Andhra Pradesh's Deputy Chief Minister Pawan Kalyan, who attended as the chief guest.



Pawan Kalyan began his speech by expressing his sincere gratitude to the fans who attended the event, acknowledging their presence from various parts of Andhra Pradesh. He also took a moment to pay tribute to several iconic figures in Indian cinema, including Raghupathi Venkayya Naidu, Dada Saheb Phalke, Satyajit Ray, BN Reddy, and Nagi Reddy, emphasizing that it is crucial to never forget one's roots, regardless of how far one goes in life.

The deputy chief minister also paid his respects to Tollywood legends like N.T. Rama Rao (NTR), Krishna, Shoban Babu, and Akkineni Nageswara Rao (ANR) for their immense contributions to Telugu cinema. He spoke fondly of his brother, Megastar Chiranjeevi, calling him the foundation for every actor, including himself and Ram Charan. Pawan Kalyan expressed deep thanks to the Andhra Pradesh Chief Minister Chandrababu Naidu, Home Minister Anitha, and the police department for their support and cooperation, which made the event possible.

Pawan Kalyan shared personal memories, revealing how he watched director

Shankar's *Gentleman* and *Premikudu* in Chennai during his early days, even before considering a career in acting. He credited Shankar for inspiring countless actors and filmmakers to aspire for pan-India success through his socially relevant films and powerful storytelling.

The Janasena party leader also took the opportunity to acknowledge film producer Dil Raju's support. He revealed how Dil Raju's *Vakeel Saab* played a significant role in helping his political party, Janasena, through a period of financial difficulty.

Talking about Ram Charan, Pawan Kalyan expressed a deep brotherly bond with him, highlighting their close relationship. He praised Charan's performance in *Rangasthalam*, stating that the actor truly deserved the Best Actor award for his role in the film. Pawan Kalyan expressed his hope that Charan would win the award soon, marking another milestone in his illustrious career.

The event was a celebration of not only Ram Charan's upcoming film but also of the rich legacy and continued growth of Telugu cinema.

Game Changer Trailer Breaks Records, Sets New Milestone

Global star Ram Charan's upcoming movie *Game Changer* is creating waves even before its release, with its trailer breaking records across platforms. Released on Friday, the trailer has already amassed 180 million views in multiple languages by Saturday and continues to trend on YouTube. It has surpassed the trailer records of *Pushpa 2* and *Devara* in just 16 hours.

Directed by star filmmaker Shankar, *Game Changer* took nearly four years to complete. The film stars Kiara Advani as the lead op-

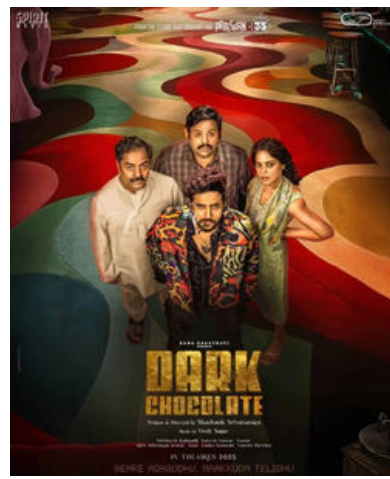
posite Ram Charan, with Dil Raju and Sirish producing it. With a massive budget and soaring expectations, *Game Changer* is set to release worldwide as a Sankranthi special on January 10.

The trailer, which has garnered significant attention, is currently trending on social media, with a promotional post from the makers also going viral. The movie will be available in Telugu, Tamil, Malayalam, Hindi, and Kannada languages, further adding to the excitement among fans and movie enthusiasts alike.



Rana Daggubati Presents Dark Chocolate: A Stylish and Intense New Thriller

Rana Daggubati, known for his dynamic roles in the industry, is set to present an exciting new project, *Dark Chocolate*. This marks the third collaboration between Spirit Media and Waltair Productions, following the success of their previous ventures, *Pareshan* and *35 Chinna Katha Kaadu*. With *Dark Chocolate* the production house aims to bring an intriguing and intense narrative to the screen.



Directed by Shashank Srivastava, *Dark Chocolate* stars Viswadev Rachakonda and Bindhu Madhavi in the lead roles. The film's first look, unveiled today, has already caught the attention of audiences. In the poster, Viswadev Rachakonda is seen in a stylish new avatar, a stark contrast to his previous role in *35 Chinna Katha Kaadu* where he sported a rustic look. This shift in his appearance hints at a more polished and intense character in *Dark Chocolate*.

The first look is filled with suspense and mystery. Viswadev and Bindhu are both shown gazing directly into a surveillance camera, their expressions filled with intensity and intrigue. This visual, combined with the cryptic quote Genre Adagodhu, Maakkuda Telidhu (meaning "Don't know the genre, nor do we"), adds to the enigmatic aura of the film, leaving viewers eager to learn more about the plot.

The title *Dark Chocolate* suggests a mix of flavors—sweet, bitter, and complex—much like the characters and story that are yet to unfold. The film promises a thrilling journey, with its intense and suspenseful atmosphere making it a highly anticipated release for 2025. With the backing of renowned figures like Rana Daggubati and the talent of Viswadev and Bindhu, *Dark Chocolate* is set to make waves in the world of cinema.

Dilruba Teaser: Kiran Abbavaram's Journey of Love, Pain, and Rage

Young actor Kiran Abbavaram is all set to captivate audiences with his upcoming film *Dilruba*, which promises a blend of romance, emotion, and action. Following the success of his previous projects, the teaser for *Dilruba* was recently unveiled, raising expectations and generating considerable buzz. The teaser opens with Kiran's voiceover, where he reflects on his love life, sharing the heart-wrenching experience of his relationship with Maggie and the counseling sessions he had with friends King and John.



At first, the film adopts a quirky and light-hearted tone, depicting Kiran's character as someone navigating the ups and downs of love. However, everything changes when Anjali, played by Rukshar Dhillon, enters his life. The chemistry between Kiran and Rukshar is undeniable, with their romantic moments bringing a refreshing and captivating energy to the screen. Kiran Abbavaram's stylish appearance and swag-filled attitude add to the charm, enhancing his character's appeal.

What stands out in the teaser is the emotional depth of Kiran's character. The music, composed by Sam CS, plays a pivotal role in conveying his emotional journey. The powerful score amplifies the transitions

from love to rage and pain, making the teaser even more compelling. With such intense and engaging moments, it's clear that **Dilruba** is set to be another successful venture for Kiran Abbavaram, who continues to rise as one of the most promising young actors in Telugu cinema.

Directed by debutant Viswa Karun, *Dilruba* is a romantic action entertainer that blends love, emotion, and action, making it an exciting prospect for audiences. Rukshar Dhillon stars opposite Kiran as the female lead, promising a strong and dynamic on-screen pairing. Produced by Ravi, Jojo Jose, Rakesh Reddy, and Saregama under the banners of Sivam Celluloids and Yoodlee Films, *Dilruba* is slated for a worldwide release in February 2025. With its engaging storyline and intense emotions, the film is sure to be a treat for moviegoers.

Aghathiyaa Teaser: The Epic Battle Between Angels and Devils

Actor Jiiva, widely known among Telugu audiences, is gearing up for his upcoming film *Aghathiyaa*, a unique blend of fantasy, adventure, and horror thriller. Directed by Pa Vijay and produced by Vels Film International, the film also stars Arjun Sarja and Raashii Khanna in prominent roles. The highly anticipated teaser was recently unveiled, giving viewers a glimpse of the eerie, thrilling journey that awaits them.



The teaser introduces a mysterious island and an ominous, abandoned bungalow, setting the stage for the film's spine-chilling narrative. Set in the 1940s, *Aghathiyaa* revolves around a series of strange and unexplained events that occurred during British rule. Raashii's character initially believes there's no connection between the past and present, but Jiiva's character is convinced otherwise, sensing a deeper, ominous link. The teaser leaves the audience questioning: What transpired during the British era? Is Arjun Sarja's character an ally or a foe? And how are the past events tied to present-day occurrences? The movie promises to explore the epic battle between Angels and Devils, with both forces locked in a struggle that will transcend time.

From the teaser, it's clear that *Aghathiyaa* is more than just a typical horror or thriller. The film delves deep into the emotional realms of fear, guilt, and unresolved vengeance, creating a narrative that is

both gripping and emotionally charged. The connection between the past and the present emerges as a pivotal theme, propelling the plot forward and hinting at a monumental mystery that the characters must solve.

The teaser raises the stakes with its high production values, offering stunning visuals and an immersive atmosphere. With cinematography by Dipak Kumar Padhy and music composed by the legendary Yuwan Shankar Raja, *Aghathiyaa* promises to deliver an unforgettable cinematic experience. The film is slated for release on January 31st, and it is sure to captivate audiences with its intriguing blend of mystery and suspense.

Daaku Maharaaj Trailer to Be Released Tomorrow at the USA Pre-Release Event

Senior actor Nandamuri Balakrishna's upcoming action drama *Daaku Maharaaj* is all set to hit theaters on January 12, 2025, as a festive treat for the Sankranthi season. Directed by Bobby, the film has already generated considerable buzz, especially following the release of the controversial Dabidi Dabidi song featuring Bollywood actress Urvashi Rautela, which has only fueled excitement for the film.

In the latest development, it has been confirmed that the theatrical trailer of *Daaku Maharaaj* will be launched tomorrow at the USA pre-release event. The trailer is scheduled to go live at 8:39 AM IST, offering fans a closer look at the film's plot and setting the stage for the action-packed drama that Balakrishna fans are eagerly anticipating.

Daaku Maharaaj promises to be an engaging action drama with a gripping storyline. The trailer is expected to give viewers a glimpse

of the characters and the intriguing narrative that unfolds in the movie. Alongside Balakrishna, the film features Bollywood actor Bobby Deol, Shraddha Srinath, Pragya Jaiswal, and Chandini Chowdary in pivotal roles, making it an exciting ensemble cast.

Produced by Naga Vamsi under the banner of Sithara Entertainments, the film has music composed by the talented Thaman, further adding to the anticipation surrounding its release. As fans await the trailer's drop, the excitement for *Daaku Maharaaj* continues to build, with many looking forward to its high-octane action sequences, powerful performances, and compelling storyline.

With its theatrical release just around the corner, *Daaku Maharaaj* is expected to make a big splash this Sankranthi, drawing audiences to theaters for an unforgettable cinematic experience.

