



### 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

# CM Revanth Reddy Outlines Key Welfare Initiatives

**CM Revanth Reddy Shares Welfare Plans for Farmers and Workers**  
**Rs. 12,000 Annual Support for Agricultural Laborers Announced**  
**Loan Waivers and Free Services: Key Initiatives Launched**  
**Congress Party Reaffirms Commitment to Election Promises**



**TPN correspondent, Hyderabad, Jan 9:** Chief Minister Revanth Reddy, at the PAC (Political Affairs Committee) meeting held at Gandhi Bhavan, discussed several initiatives and welfare schemes launched by the Telangana government. During the meeting, Reddy conveyed that the state government had passed a unanimous resolution in the Assembly to honor former Prime Minister Manmohan Singh with the Bharat Ratna, acknowledging his contributions during the formation of Telangana. He also highlighted the recent naming of a newly constructed

flyover in the old town after Manmohan Singh. Reddy mentioned that from January 26, the government would introduce farmer assurance schemes, providing Rs. 12,000 per year to agricultural laborer families. Other welfare initiatives include the distribution of new ration cards and a commitment to filling 55,143 government vacancies in the first year itself. The government has also waived off loans amounting to Rs. 21,000 crores and allocated Rs. 54,000 crores for farmer welfare. As part of the on-

going support, cylinders are being provided for Rs. 500, 200 units of free electricity are being granted, and women are offered free travel on RTC buses. So far, the government has paid Rs. 4,000 crores to RTC.

Reddy assured that local body elections would be held soon and emphasized the importance of Congress workers taking these welfare programs to the people.

In his speech, TPCC President Mahesh Kumar Goud echoed similar sentiments, stressing that the Congress party would remain committed to fulfilling the promises made to the public before the Assembly elections. He also expressed satisfaction over the efforts being made to implement the six guarantees, which have been positively received by the public.

Goud condemned recent comments made by BJP leaders, particularly Amit Shah's remarks about Dr. B.R. Ambedkar, which were met with protests across the nation. He reaffirmed the party's commitment to schemes like loan waivers, farmer assurance, and financial bonuses for farmers in Telangana.

# KTR's Lawyer Request Denied by HC

**Court Denies KTR's Petition to Quash Case**  
**KTR's Lawyers Refuse to Attend ACB Inquiry**  
**Court Imposes Conditions for Lawyer's Presence**  
**Reference to Avinash Reddy's Case in HC Ruling**



**TPN correspondent, Hyderabad, Jan 9:** In a setback for Telangana Minister K.T. Rama Rao (KTR), the Hyderabad High Court has denied his request to have a lawyer accompany him during the ongoing investigation into the Formula E Car Race case. KTR had previously filed a petition seeking to quash the case, but the court rejected the petition. Subsequently, his lawyers refused to attend the Anti-Corruption Bureau (ACB) inquiry with him, prompting KTR to approach the court once again.

The court ruled that KTR would not be allowed to sit with his lawyer during the investigation. It directed KTR to submit the names of three lawyers, who could remain at a distance during the ACB proceedings. The court's ruling was based on a similar order in the case of Avinash Reddy, related to the Y.S. Viveka murder investigation, where the CBI also did not permit a lawyer to sit alongside the accused during questioning.

KTR's legal team had sought permission for his lawyer to be present during the investigation, citing legal rights. However, the court's ruling reinforces the principle that lawyers cannot directly accompany accused individuals during interrogation by investigative agencies, as seen in previous legal precedents.

The case continues to unfold, and KTR's legal team has expressed intentions to follow the court's instructions while exploring other legal options.

# Telangana Government Raises Concerns Over Polavaram and Banakacharla Projects



**TPN correspondent, Hyderabad, Jan 9:** The Telangana government has raised strong objections to the ongoing Polavaram and Banakacharla projects in Andhra Pradesh. Authorities highlighted that Polavaram has led to floods in Bhadradi Kothagudem, particularly during the 2022 floods, when 27 lakh cusecs of water inundated the area. They also pointed out that the Banakacharla project lacks necessary permissions. Telangana Chief Minister Revanth Reddy has directed officials to communicate these concerns to Andhra Pradesh's Chief Secretary and, if needed, send letters to the Godavari Board and the Ministry of Jal Shakti. The Telangana government has demanded that construction on Banakacharla be halted until water rights issues are resolved.

# United Breweries Stops Kingfisher Beer Supply to Telangana

**UBL Cites Unpaid Dues of Rs. 900 Crore as Key Reason for Suspension**

**Kingfisher Brand's Dominance in Telangana Beer Market Faces Disruption**



**TPN correspondent, Telangana, Jan 9:** In a significant development, United Breweries Limited (UBL) has announced the cessation of Kingfisher beer supplies to Telangana due to non-payment of dues by the Telangana State Beverage Corporation Limited (TSBCL). UBL revealed that Telangana's decision to increase beer prices without raising the base price paid to manufacturers has resulted in considerable financial losses. The company also cited outstanding dues of Rs. 900 crore from the state, which have further exacerbated the situation.

According to a letter submitted to SEBI, UBL stated that the basic beer price has not been revised since 2019, contributing to mounting losses. The company clarified that, due to unpaid bills, it will no longer supply Kingfisher and other brands, including Kingfisher Strong, Ultra, and Ultra Max. The decision comes amid reports that Kingfisher accounts for 60-70% of beer sales in Telangana.

# IAS Officer Aravind Kumar Admits to Following KTR's Orders in Formula E Car Race Case



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# Minister Jupally Opposes 33% Beer Price Increase



**TPN correspondent, Telangana, Jan 9:** Telangana Minister Jupally Krishna Rao has expressed concerns over United Breweries' (UB) proposal to increase beer prices by 33%. He warned that

such an increase would place a significant burden on consumers. To address the matter, a committee comprising a retired judge has been formed to assess the proposed price hike. Minister

**Committee Formed to Evaluate Price Hike Impact**  
**Minister Highlights Telangana's Lower Beer Prices**  
**UB's Proposed Price Increase Sparks Concerns**

ter Krishna Rao assured that a decision would be made after reviewing the committee's report.

Highlighting the economic situation, Krishna Rao noted that the previous BRS government left the state with debts amounting to Rs. 8 lakh crore, including Rs. 40,000 crore in pending bills, with Rs. 2,500 crore owed by the Excise Department. Since the new government took office, Rs. 1,139 crore of these dues have

been paid off.

The minister emphasized that the beer prices in Telangana are lower compared to neighboring states, with a bottle of UB beer priced at Rs. 150, compared to Rs. 190 in Karnataka, Rs. 180 in Andhra Pradesh, and Rs. 150 in Tamil Nadu. He assured that the government will continue to ensure affordable prices for consumers, resisting any pressures from UB to hike the prices.



### IAS Officer Aravind Kumar Admits to Following KTR's Orders in Formula E Car Race Case

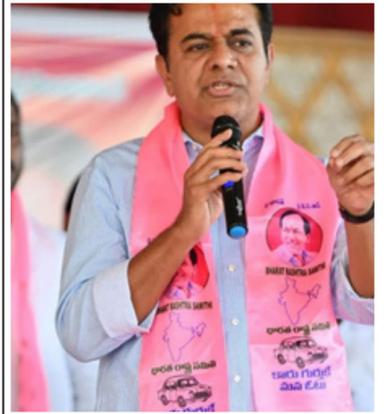
TPN correspondent, Hyderabad, Jan 9: The Anti-Corruption Bureau (ACB) interrogated IAS officer Aravind Kumar in connection with the Formula E Car Race case, particularly regarding the illegal transfer of funds. During the questioning, Aravind Kumar's statement was recorded about the cash transfers to a foreign company, raising questions about the decision-making process behind the transactions, including the lack of approvals from the RBI and the Ministry of Finance. Aravind Kumar confessed that the funds were released only after orders from Telangana Minister K.T. Rama Rao (KTR). The ACB further questioned him about the absence of financial department permissions, cabinet approvals, and RBI clearance for the transfers, as well as the bank's role in facilitating the cash movement. Investigators also delved into the terms of agreements with sponsors and the cancellation of the Formula E race for 2024.

### Government to Support Women's Groups in Setting Up Solar Plants: Deputy CM Bhatti Vikramarka

TPN correspondent, Telangana, Jan 9: Deputy Chief Minister Bhatti Vikramarka announced that the government would provide financial assistance to self-help groups for setting up solar power plants. During a video conference with Ministers Konda Surekha and Dhanasari Seethakka, Bhatti discussed the progress of the initiative, focusing on the role of women's groups in promoting renewable energy. He mentioned that the state plans to announce a new energy policy on January 9, aimed at expanding renewable energy production. The Indira Mahila Shakti Self-Help Group Federation in Telangana has set a target to produce at least 4,000 MW of solar power. Bhatti urged officials and bankers to collaborate in facilitating loans for the necessary equipment purchases. The initiative



aims to promote rural development, women's empowerment, and the growth of renewable energy resources in the state.



### KTR Dismisses Legal Case, Vows to Fight for Farmers and Telangana's Interests

TPN correspondent, Telangana, Jan 9: K.T. Rama Rao (KTR) dismissed the case filed against him as insignificant, referring to it as a "trivial case" and asserting that no one should fear it. He compared the situation to the struggles faced by his father, KCR, when the party was founded in 2001, stating that the challenges then were much more significant. KTR emphasized that the current issue posed no real problem for him and reassured that his legal team would handle the case.

He criticized the opposition, particularly Congress, for making false promises to the people of Telangana, citing the claim of providing ₹2500 to 90 lakh people. KTR assured that the BRS would continue to fight for farmers' issues, especially for the full implementation of farmer loan waivers, and that they would pursue the case to the Supreme Court if necessary. He further outlined plans for strengthening the party through the formation of committees at various levels and training sessions for party workers to continue fighting for Telangana's development and interests.

## Beer Supply Disruption: Harish Rao Responds

#### Harish Rao Queries UBL's Move to Halt Beer Sales Is the Disruption a Strategy to Boost Local Brands? Rao Criticizes Payment Priorities Behind Beer Supply Cut

TPN correspondent, Telangana, Jan 9: United Breweries Limited (UBL) recently announced the suspension of Kingfisher and Heineken beer supplies to Telangana, citing unpaid dues from the Telangana State Beverages Corporation (TSBC). This decision has raised questions from BRS MLA Harish Rao, who criticized the move and speculated whether it could be an effort to promote local beer brands

such as Boom Boob Beer and Biryani Beer. Harish Rao pointed out that UBL's decision to halt the supply of these premium beer brands might be linked to the payment delays by the Telangana government. He questioned whether the disruption in sales was due to a selective payment policy and whether the situation was caused by special

priorities given to certain bills. The MLA noted that the BRS government traditionally cleared bills based on seniority, raising doubts over the government's handling of the issue. UBL has justified its decision, citing increasing losses due to the failure to raise prices for the last two years despite repeated requests. The company has expressed its intention to suspend supplies until the price issue is addressed.



### Telangana Health Scheme Services to Halt Over Pending Payments

TPN correspondent, Telangana, Jan 9: Telangana's network hospitals have announced they will suspend Health Scheme services from January 10 due to unpaid dues. The hospitals have been facing severe financial strain as the state government has not cleared payments for over a year. The Telangana Health Scheme Network Hospitals Association (THANA) claims more than ₹1,000 crores are pending, including dues for government employee and journalist health schemes. The hospitals warned that if the payments are not cleared by January 10, they will stop providing services. While the health department states that ₹820 crore has been released in the past year, the hospitals argue the delays make it unsustainable to continue. The government claims ₹40 crore was paid last week and denies dues exceed ₹400 crore.



## PAC Meeting Discusses Key Issues and Future Plans



TPN correspondent, Telangana, Jan 9: A crucial PAC meeting was held at Gandhi Bhavan, where a wide range of political and policy matters were discussed. The meeting lasted for two and a half hours and was attended by key leaders, including Government Advisor Shabbir Ali, Minister Sridhar Babu, and Congress leaders KC Venugopal and Mallikarjuna Kharge.

One of the main topics of discussion was the controversial comments made by Amit Shah in Parliament regarding Dr. B.R. Ambedkar. The Congress party leaders, including KC Venugopal, condemned

the remarks and announced plans to hold a Samvidan Bachao rally later this month, with Mallikarjuna Kharge and Rahul Gandhi set to participate.

In line with improving governance, KC Venugopal suggested that the government should work closely with the people, proposing monthly Praja Darbars for ministers to connect with the public at the district level. He also called for regular PAC meetings, recommending one every month until the new committee is formed.

Addressing government initiatives, Venugopal praised the Telangana government's focus on farmers, with a report showing Rs. 50,000 crores spent in the past year. He emphasized the government's commitment to fulfilling election promises, including providing investment assistance to farmers from January 26.

Venugopal also acknowledged the government's decision on the caste census, suggesting the formation of village, mandal, district, and state-level committees to strengthen the party's structure and enhance its outreach. He affirmed that key posts and responsibilities would soon be assigned to party workers.

### Minister Seethakka Announces ₹2,600 Crore for Rural Roads Development



TPN correspondent, Telangana, Jan 9: Minister Seethakka emphasized that the lack of proper road infrastructure has been a major reason for the backwardness of villages. Following instructions from the Chief Minister, she shared that roads are being constructed from every residence to the village panchayat, from there to the mandal and district headquarters. A total of ₹2,600 crore is being allocated for the construction of rural roads, with ₹1,600 crore earmarked specifically for road improvements. The aim is to enhance the roads' capacity to accommodate vehicles weighing up to 30 metric tons.

Seethakka instructed rural engineers to ensure precise road construction estimates and avoid altering them arbitrarily. She noted that structures built during the Kakatiya and Mokshagundam Visvesvarayya eras have withstood time, and similarly, rural engineers must ensure that the roads they construct last for generations. Contractors failing to perform will be blacklisted, and action will be taken against officials approving substandard work. The Minister concluded by stressing that rural roads should shine as brightly as those in urban areas, with the Rural Engineering Department responsible for this task.

## TGPSC Delays New Job Notifications Until May 1

TPN correspondent, Telangana, Jan 9: The Telangana State Public Service Commission (TGPSC) has announced disappointing news for job seekers in the state. TGPSC stated that there will be no new job notifications in the near future, with announcements for new vacancies expected only after May 1.

According to TGPSC, it has requested the state government to provide details of available job vacancies by March 31. Following this, the commission will review the vacancies and release job notifications from May 1. Recruitment for these positions is expected to be completed within six to eight months after the notifications are issued.

Additionally, TGPSC has released the preliminary key for the Group-3 ex-

ams and announced that objections will be accepted until January 12. The primary key for Group-2 exams is also expected to be released within the next two days. TGPSC Chairman Bura Venkatesham assured that efforts are being made to ensure the timely release of exam results as per the schedule.



## Supreme Court Collegium Recommends Key Judicial Transfers

TPN correspondent, Telangana, Jan 9: The Supreme Court Collegium has recommended significant transfers within the judicial system, including the relocation of Telangana High Court Chief Justice (CJ) Alok Aradhe to the Bombay High Court as its Chief Justice. Justice Sujay Pal Tatalika will succeed him as the Chief Justice of the Telangana High Court. Alongside this transfer, the Collegium has also recommended the move of Justice Devendra Kumar Upadhyay from the Bombay High Court to the Delhi High Court.

These recommendations are now subject to approval by the central government and, upon their approval, will be forwarded to President Draupadi Murmu for final authorization. After this, the appointment orders will be issued, and the judg-

es will assume their new responsibilities. Justice Alok Aradhe has been serving as the Chief Justice of the Telangana High Court since July 2023. He has held this position for 18 months. Additionally, the Collegium has recommended the promotion of Justice K. Vinod Chandran, the Chief Justice of the Patna High Court, to the Supreme Court. Justice Chandran, with extensive judicial experience, was appointed as a judge of the Kerala High Court in 2011 and became the Chief Justice of Patna High Court in 2023.



## BJP Leader Bandi Sanjay Visits Injured Congress Youth Worker's Family, Condemns Attack

TPN correspondent, Hyderabad, Jan 9: Union Minister of State for Home Affairs Bandi Sanjay visited the family of Nanduraj, a Dalit BJP worker injured in an attack at the BJP state office. Sanjay inquired about Nanduraj's health and was informed that he had suffered a head injury and received treatment. After meeting with the family in the Bahadur Pura area of Old City, Sanjay discussed the details of the incident and wished for Nanduraj's speedy recovery.

Sanjay strongly condemned the attack, accusing Congress leaders of inciting violence and using iron rods, stones, and sticks to assault BJP workers in broad daylight. He criticized the police for being passive during the incident and suggested that the Congress government was indirectly supporting such attacks. The BJP leader also questioned the role of the government and police forces in fostering such violence, asserting that the state and law enforcement should be responsible for protecting citizens, not enabling attacks.



## Harish Rao Accuses Opponents of Filing Case Against KTR for Political Diversion



TPN correspondent, Hyderabad, Jan 9: Telangana Minister Harish Rao accused the opposition of filing cases against K.T. Rama Rao (KTR) for political diversion. He stated that issues like the LGC elections and promises of farmer welfare were being used to divert attention, with the opposition using such tactics to create distractions. Rao criticized the opposition for making promises they won't keep, comparing them to the Andhra Pradesh government that is delivering on promises to women.

Harish Rao also emphasized that whenever KTR has been questioned, cases have been filed against him. He reassured that despite the legal battles, the BRS party would continue to support KTR and stand by the party's values, especially with regard to the issues concerning farmers in LGC. He added that if false statements continued to be made, the BRS would pursue legal action.

## Minister Ponnam Prabhakar Inspects Ameerpet CHC



TPN correspondent, Hyderabad, Jan 9: Minister Ponnam Prabhakar visited the Ameerpet Community Health Center (CHC) in Hyderabad to review its facilities. During the visit, he interacted with doctors, patients, and their families to understand their concerns. He examined the daily outpatient cases, emergency situations, and monthly delivery statistics.

He also inspected the gynecology department, pharmacy room, lab, and medical OP, while personally checking blood pressure. Addressing the concerns, the minister ensured there was no shortage of medications, highlighting that BP, sugar, fever, and cold medicines were most frequent-

ly used. He also reviewed the biomedical waste area and addressed issues regarding unpaid salaries for sanitation staff, which were resolved immediately through discussions with higher health department officials.

Additionally, he proposed adding 50 more beds to the 50-bed hospital, as locals requested, and discussed providing a lift facility through the SDF funds. Efforts to ensure 24-hour electricity, 108 ambulances, and 10 dialysis beds were also part of the improvements. Minister Prabhakar assured that the government is committed to healthcare reforms and providing free medicines.

## Balka Suman Accuses BJP MP of Quid Pro Quo with Congress



TPN correspondent, Telangana, Jan 9: BRS leader and former MLA Balka Suman has accused BJP MP CM Ramesh of engaging in a quid pro quo arrangement by donating Rs. 30 crore in electoral bonds to the Congress party. Suman's remarks came in response to allegations that the Formula E-Race company, Greenco, had given electoral bonds to BRS in return for favors, suggesting similar quid pro quo arrange-

ments.

On social media, Suman questioned whether there was anything wrong with CM Ramesh's bond donation, highlighting the political connections involved. He speculated that Prime Minister Narendra Modi might have helped Revanth Reddy rise to the position of Chief Minister through the donations made by Ramesh. Suman also hinted at a deeper, yet undisclosed, political arrangement between Modi and Revanth Reddy, suggesting that there was more to their relationship than what meets the eye.

Suman further criticized CM Revanth Reddy, accusing him of betraying Modi's interests and benefiting Modi's close associate, Adani. He claimed that while Revanth Reddy "praises" Modi, he simultaneously rolls out the red carpet for Adani in Telangana.

## Etala Rajender Criticizes Revanth Reddy Over BJP Office Attack

TPN correspondent, Telangana, Jan 9: BJP MP Etala Rajender has demanded that the Telangana government take responsibility for the attack on the BJP office by Youth Congress members and called for Chief Minister Revanth Reddy to apologize. He accused the Congress high command of promoting trivial activities to boost Revanth Reddy's image.

Speaking to the media, Rajender remarked that there is a growing sentiment of disrespect towards CM Revanth Reddy in every corner of Telangana. He asserted that the government has faced significant opposition in a short span of time, with people already protesting against Congress rule. Rajender criticized the police for their passive role during the attack on the BJP office.

Additionally, Rajender slammed Revanth Reddy for his conduct during a recent event, alleging that the CM used abusive language while attending the inauguration of the Aranghar flyover with Owaisi brothers by his side. He pointed out that the BRS had previously criticized Prime Minister Modi and the BJP, and warned that Congress would pay the price for such actions.



## Tatikonda Rajayya Criticizes Allegations Against KTR, Calls Them Baseless



TPN correspondent, Telangana, Jan 9: Former MLA from Station Ghanpur, Tatikonda Rajayya, lashed out at the allegations against Telangana Minister K.T. Rama Rao (KTR), calling them baseless and politically motivated. He claimed that the cases filed against KTR were an attempt to silence the voice that fights for the people's rights. Rajayya accused Revanth Reddy of trying to malign KTR by bringing up false charges while failing to deliver on the promises made by the Congress party.

He emphasized that KTR, who played a key role in transforming Hyderabad into a globally recognized city, is being targeted due to his efforts to challenge the Congress government. Rajayya also defended KTR's role in the Formula E Car Race, stating that there was no corruption involved and that these efforts were part of bringing global recognition to Hyderabad. Furthermore, Rajayya asserted that despite the diversionary tactics of the opposition, the Bharat Rashtra Samithi (BRS) party would continue to fight for the people's issues and hold the Congress accountable for its unfulfilled promises.

## Minister Konda Surekha Condemns Ramesh Bidhuri's Remarks on Priyanka Gandhi, Calls for Apology

TPN correspondent, Telangana, Jan 9: Telangana's Minister for Forests, Environment, and Endowments, Smt. Konda Surekha, strongly criticized BJP leader Ramesh Bidhuri's comments on Congress senior leader Priyanka Gandhi, deeming them "completely unacceptable."

In a press note released on Wednesday, the minister Surekha emphasized the importance of maintaining respect and dignity for women in the political sphere. Konda Surekha called on the BJP leadership to address the issue, issue a public apology to Priyanka Gandhi, and educate party members on the cultural significance of

respecting women. Highlighting the sacrifices made by Priyanka Gandhi's family for the nation, the minister stressed the need for fostering a respectful political discourse that upholds the values of dignity and honor for all women.



## Pargi MLA Accuses KTR of Neglecting Constituency, Predicts Congress Victory

TPN correspondent, Telangana, Jan 9: Pargi MLA Ram Mohan Reddy criticized Telangana Minister K.T. Rama Rao (KTR) for neglecting his constituency and using corrupt practices to divert state funds. Reddy claimed that KTR's actions in his own constituencies like Gajwel, Sircilla, and Siddipet have drained the state's finances. He also took a dig at KTR for criticizing Chief Minister Revanth Reddy, despite KTR's own failure to address issues like ration card distribution



in areas like Pargi. Reddy emphasized that Congress would emerge victorious in the upcoming local body elections, even in BRS strongholds. He claimed that Congress workers and the public would not allow KTR to step out in public if he continued his political rhetoric against Revanth Reddy. Ram Mohan Reddy concluded by asserting that Congress would stand with the people, providing them with benefits like ration cards and quality rice.

## Sridhar Reddy Accuses Revanth Reddy Govt of Betraying Farmers

TPN correspondent, Telangana, Jan 9: Kisan Morcha State President Sridhar Reddy has accused the Revanth Reddy-led government of completely betraying farmers. He stated that the government has failed to fulfill its promises, particularly regarding the full implementation of farmer loan waivers.

Reddy criticized Revanth Reddy for making false statements

about the loan waiver, asserting that Kisan Morcha is ready to discuss this issue on behalf of the farmers. He further stated that Revanth Reddy is continuing the anti-farmer policies of the previous KCR government. Questioning the failure of the government's promises, particularly the "Warangal Declaration," Sridhar Reddy pointed out that the Minister for Agriculture was wasting time with empty words.

He announced that Kisan Morcha will hold protests and submit memorandums to the Tahsildars in Mandal centers on January 10th against anti-farmer policies. Reddy warned that if these policies are not addressed, they will continue their fight alongside farmers. He also promised that after Sankranti, Kisan Morcha will step up its struggle in stages for the rights of farmers.



## JD Lakshminarayana Criticizes ACB Notices to KTR, Questions Clarity



**TPN correspondent, Telangana, Jan 9:** Former CBI director JD Lakshminarayana has raised concerns about the clarity of notices issued by the ACB to KTR in the Formula E-car racing case. Lakshminarayana pointed out that notices typically specify the section under which they are issued, but the notices given to KTR lacked such details. He compared them to letters, not formal investigation notices.

He further criticized the ACB for issuing notices under Section 160 of the CrPC, which is typically used to summon witnesses, not accused individuals. According to Lakshminarayana, if any document needs to be taken, a notice under Section 94 (formerly Section 91) should be issued, but this was not the case with KTR's notice.

### Former ACB Chief Poornachandra Rao Talks Investigation

Former ACB chief Poornachandra Rao emphasized that the investigation into the Formula E-racing case is ongoing and that the financial irregularities ("funds golmaal") will be revealed. Rao noted that KTR's claim of giving money could be addressed during the investigation, and he would not require a lawyer. He warned that any attempt to offer money during the investigation would constitute a crime.

Rao also stated that the ACB would only register a case after thoroughly examining the evidence and that inconsistent answers from KTR during the investigation could lead to arrest.

## Young Man Commits Suicide in Madhapur OYO Room

**TPN correspondent, Hyderabad, Jan 9:** Vamsi Krishna Reddy (25) was found dead in a room at Sri Nirvana Inn, an OYO hotel located in Arunodaya Colony, Peace Area, Madhapur. Police confirmed that he had hanged himself, suspecting financial difficulties as the reason behind the tragic incident.



The Madhapur Police have registered a case and moved the body to a hospital for postmortem. An investigation is underway to gather more details about the circumstances leading to the suicide. Authorities have urged anyone with relevant information to come forward.

## HMPV Virus Not as Contagious or Dangerous as COVID-19: Gandhi Hospital Official

**TPN correspondent, Secunderabad Jan 9:** The HMPV (Human Metapneumovirus) virus is neither as contagious nor as dangerous as COVID-19, assured Dr. Sunil Kumar, Deputy Superintendent of Gandhi Hospital. Speaking to the media, he emphasized that no fatalities due to the virus have been reported in the country so far.

Dr. Kumar stated that the hospital has taken precautionary measures in line with government directives, including the preparation of 40 ventilation beds and two isolation wards. He highlighted that common symptoms of the virus include a persistent dry cough, high fever, cold, and fatigue.

"When such symptoms appear, it is sufficient to consult a doctor, take prescribed medicines, wear a mask, and stay at home," he said. He added that hospitalization might not be necessary in most cases.

The Deputy Superintendent also advised extra caution for vulnerable groups, such as the elderly and young children, urging them to take additional precautions to avoid exposure to the virus.

Dr. Kumar reiterated the importance of following medical guidance and adhering to basic hygiene measures to prevent the spread of the virus. Gandhi Hospital continues to monitor the situation and remains prepared to handle any potential cases.

## CM Revanth Invited to Ainavolu Brahmotsavam

**TPN correspondent, Hyderabad, Jan 9:** Forest, Environment, and Endowment Minister Smt. Konda Surekha extended a formal invitation to Chief Minister Revanth Reddy for the upcoming Ainavolu Mallikarjuna Swamy Brahmotsavam, set to commence on January 13. During the meeting in Hyderabad, Minister Surekha, along with temple officials, presented the invitation on behalf of the Endowment Department. The temple staff offered the Lord's prasadam and felicitated the Chief Minister with sacred clothing, while priests bestowed Vedic blessings. The grandeur, historical significance, and fame of the Ainavolu Mallanna Brahmotsavam were explained to the Chief Minister by the temple staff and priests.



Earlier, Vardhannapet MLA KR Nagaraju, TES-AB Chairman Marneni Ravinder Rao, and temple EO Addanki Nageshwar Rao met Minister Surekha at her Jubilee Hills residence to invite her to the festival. The staff offered prasadam and felicitated the Minister with a

shawl, while priests rendered Vedic blessings. Minister Surekha reviewed the arrangements for the festival, emphasizing the need for coordination among departments, including Endowment, Police, Electricity, Panchayat Raj, R&B, and Fire Services. She instructed

officials to ensure smooth facilities for devotees. The Brahmotsavam will continue grandly until Ugadi.

Temple EO Addanki Nageshwar Rao, AEO Kiran Kumar, and temple priests were present.

## Minister Ponnamb Prabhakar Reviews Road Safety Measures at Black Spots in Hyderabad



**TPN correspondent, Hyderabad, Jan 9:** During the National Road Safety Month, Transport and BC Welfare Minister Ponnamb Prabhakar visited SR Nagar to assess black spots where frequent road accidents occur. The minister held discussions with police, traffic, and transport department officials to understand the causes of these accidents. To improve road safety, the minister suggested installing digital boards at accident-prone areas and marking zebra crossings more clearly. He emphasized identifying black spots across the state and taking action to reduce road accidents to zero.

The Minister also urged all departments to organize events for National Road Safety Month, which runs from January 1 to 31. He highlighted measures being taken to control traffic and reduce congestion in Hyderabad. District Collector Anudeep Durashetti and other senior officials attended the event.

## Unidentified Body Found in Durgam Lake, Madhapur

**TPN correspondent, Hyderabad, Jan 9:** The body of an unidentified person was discovered at the boating point of Durgam Lake in Madhapur on Tuesday. The Lake Police retrieved the body and informed the Madhapur Police, who have registered a case and initiated an investigation.

Authorities are working to ascertain the identity of the deceased and the circumstances surrounding the death. Efforts are underway to gather more details, and the police have appealed to the public for any information that may assist in the investigation. Further updates are awaited as the case progresses.

## Hyderabad Commissioner Investigates Complaints on Turkayanjal Lake Waterlogging

**TPN correspondent, Hyderabad, Jan 9:** Hyderabad Commissioner Ranganath visited Turkayanjal Lake to address recent complaints filed with Hyderabad Praja Vani. Local residents had raised concerns about agricultural lands and houses being flooded due to the closure of the lake's sluice gates, which led to water accumulation. During his visit, the Commissioner assessed the situation on-site and stated that discussions would be held with irrigation engineers and revenue officials. He also mentioned plans to collaborate with engineering experts from IIT, BITS Pilani, and JNTU to study the issue.



Ranganath assured that, using NRSC images and village maps, the Full Tank Level (FTL) of the lake would be scientifically determined within the next two to three months. He confirmed that unbiased actions would

be taken. He also noted complaints about the expansion of FTL in certain lakes and the entry of sewage into Turkayanjal Lake, which residents reported as not draining properly. Ranganath pledged to investigate the details and determine the FTL of the lake through scientific methods.

## Special Stamp Exhibition "Anantagiri PEX" Held in Vikarabad

**TPN correspondent, Hyderabad, Jan 9:** The Postal Department organized a special stamp exhibition, "Anantagiri PEX," for the first time in Vikarabad district at the Municipal Club Function Hall. The three-day event aims to educate the public, especially students, about the significance of stamps in showcasing India's culture, history, and traditions.



Over 2,000 stamps, including rare collections from 70 countries, were displayed. The exhibition, valued at ₹30-40 lakhs, highlighted themes such as wildlife and tourism. Retired railway employee and national gold medalist MV Prasad shared insights on stamp collection, while quiz, essay writing, and creative competitions engaged students.

Assistant Superintendent Vishnu Jyoti noted that the event benefits both students and tourists in Anantagiri. Deputy Superintendent Srinivas Reddy emphasized the importance of creating awareness about stamps and their historical value.

The event, inaugurated by the District Collector, has attracted over 2,000 students so far and will continue for three days.

## Scam in PMO's Name Busted

### Fraudulent Claims of PMO Ties Over ₹100 Crore Embezzled Accused Nabbed in Bhubaneswar IT Raids in AP and Telangana

**TPN correspondent, Hyderabad, Jan 9:** In a shocking case, Odisha police recently arrested two individuals accused of defrauding industrialists and businessmen by impersonating family members of Indian Prime Minister Narendra Modi's personal secretary, PK Mishra. The accused, Hansita Abhilipsa (38) and her accomplice Anil Kumar Mohanty, allegedly amassed over ₹100 crore through fraudulent schemes.

The duo reportedly claimed to be PK Mishra's daughter and son-in-

law, luring victims with promises of central government contracts. Investigations revealed that they led a lavish lifestyle, owning luxury cars and villas, while remaining undetected for an extended period.

Based on complaints from victims, Odisha police apprehended the accused in Bhubaneswar and subjected them to intensive questioning. Following their confessions, Income Tax (IT) officials launched simultaneous searches at four locations in Andhra



Pradesh and Telangana, targeting assets and networks linked to the fraud.

Authorities are continuing their probe to uncover further details

about the scam and identify other potential accomplices. The case has highlighted the need for increased vigilance against fraudulent activities exploiting political and bureaucratic connections.

## Two Held with 9 kg of Ganja at ISL College in Hyderabad



**TPN correspondent, Hyderabad, Jan 9:** The Commissioner's Task Force (Southeast Zone) and Bandlaguda police apprehended two individuals at ISL College, Sadath Nagar Road, on January 8 for possession of 9 kg of ganja. The accused, Chandan Majhi (36) and Bijay Takri (51), both natives of Odisha, were caught while attempting to sell the contraband.

Police investigations revealed that Bijay Takri procured the ganja for ₹15,000 from a supplier named Bholu in Odisha on January 2. He traveled to Hyderabad on January 4 and collaborated with his friend Majhi, who resides in the city. Acting on a tip-off, the authorities seized two packets, each containing 4.5 kg of ganja, valued at ₹2,94,000.

While Majhi and Takri are in custody, efforts are ongoing to locate their supplier, who remains absconding. Authorities are continuing their investigation into the case.

## Fire Breaks Out at Hyderabad Restaurants, Highlights City's Rising Fire Incidents



**TPN correspondent, Hyderabad, Jan 9:** Fire at Krishna Kitchen, Madhapur A fire broke out at Krishna Kitchen restaurant near Madhapur D-Mart on January 8. Firefighters rushed to the scene and successfully contained the flames. Fortunately, no casualties were reported, but furniture worth lakhs was destroyed. Unconfirmed reports suggest a possible gas cylinder explosion as the cause, though investigations are ongoing.

**Fire at Minerva Grand, Himayathnagar** Earlier, a fire erupted at Minerva Grand restaurant in Himayathnagar due to oil residues in chimneys igniting. The incident, which appeared severe from the outside, caused no injuries or significant kitchen damage, as the flames were quickly extinguished.

**Hyderabad's Fire Incidents in 2024** Hyderabad recorded 2,500 fire accidents in 2024, while Telangana saw 7,600 incidents leading to over 200 fatalities and ₹822 crore in property losses. Common causes include negligence, faulty wiring, and improper storage of flammable materials. Fire officials emphasized the need for safety protocols like emergency exits and fire extinguishers, which many buildings lack. These incidents highlight the importance of adhering to fire safety measures to prevent further tragedies in the city.

## Gangula Slams Congress for Filing Cases Against KTR

**TPN correspondent, Hyderabad, Jan 9:** Karimnagar MLA and former Minister Gangula Kamalakar has criticized the Congress government for filing cases against BRS Working President KTR, alleging political vendetta. Kamalakar made these remarks while laying the foundation stone for various development projects in Karimnagar on January 8.

He accused the Congress of creating panic by filing cases against BRS leaders, but assured that there was no reason to fear, regardless of how many cases are filed. Kamalakar expressed confidence in the judicial system and stated that he believed KTR would be vindicated in the Formula E race case, referring to the accusations as baseless. The former Minister further claimed that KTR's efforts in promoting the Formula E race had helped elevate the brand image of Telangana. Kamalakar also accused the BJP and Congress of conspiring to weaken the BRS party. He affirmed his unwavering support for KTR and emphasized that the party would remain strong despite such political maneuvers.



The event also saw the participation of Mayor Sunil Rao, BRS city president Challa Harishankar, and several local corporators.

# Kukatpally Metro Station Renamed to Omni Hospital Kukatpally Metro Station

**TPN correspondent, Hyderabad, Jan 9:** Kukatpally Metro Station has officially been renamed to Omni Hospital Kukatpally Metro Station, announced Metrorail Managing Director KVB Reddy. The name change was revealed during a special event attended by RBS Suryanarayana Reddy, Chairman of Incarn Sanstha and Omni Hospital, along with other prominent officials.

In addition to the name change, a health package for Metrorail passengers was launched at a cost of Rs. 399, which includes services such



as ECG, Chest X-ray, CBP, RBS, and doctor consultations. Special discounts at Omni Hospital will also be available for Metrorail passengers and workers.

The initiative is part of a collaboration between Omni Hospital and Metrorail to promote health awareness among commuters. Metrorail officials, including COO Sudhir, Chief Strategy Officer Murali, and others, participated in the event, which was attended by hospital and Metro staff.

## Ganja Worth Rs. 1.89 Crores Burnt in Khammam District



**TPN correspondent, Khammam, Jan 9:** A significant seizure of 757 kg of ganja, valued at Rs. 1.89 crores, was destroyed in Khammam district today. The burning event took

place at AWM Consulting Limited in Gopalpet village of Tallada mandal.

Khammam Excise Deputy Commissioner Janardhan Reddy, along with SHOs Nagendar Reddy and Venugopal Reddy from Khammam 2, Vaira, and Singareni Excise Police Stations, and Assistant Commissioner G. Ganesh, oversaw the destruction of the illicit substance. This ganja had been seized across 71 cases in the district's excise police stations.

The burning marks a significant step in the fight against drug-related crime in the region. Authorities continue to take action to curb the illegal trade of ganja in Khammam and surrounding areas.

## Indiramma Houses for the Poor: MLA Payam Venkateswarlu

**TPN correspondent, Pinapaka, Jan 9:** In a firm effort to provide homes for the underprivileged, Pinapaka MLA Payam Venkateswarlu has reassured the public that Chief Minister Revanth Reddy is committed to delivering Indiramma houses to every homeless individual in the state. Speaking during the ground-breaking ceremony of an Indiramma model house at the MPDO office in Manuguru, Bhadradi Kothagudem district, Payam emphasized that the CM's resolve to help the poor will not be undermined by middlemen or deceitful practices.

He noted that the previous Congress government under Y.S. Rajasekhara Reddy laid the foundation for the Indiramma housing scheme, and now, under Chief Minister Revanth Reddy's leadership, efforts continue to expand the program. He mentioned that 3,500 Indiramma houses are being constructed in the Pinapaka constituency, with an additional 1,000 homes to be allocated by Minister



Ponguleti. Payam further urged the public to avoid falling prey to middlemen, emphasizing that anyone attempting to deceive beneficiaries should report it directly to him.

The MLA stressed his personal responsibility in ensuring that the poor, especially those without land or homes, are provided with secure housing.

## Atrocity in Nizampet: Younger Brother Sets Elder Brother on Fire

**TPN correspondent, Khammam, Jan 9:** A shocking incident occurred in Nizampet, Khammam, when a younger brother poured petrol on his sleeping sibling and set him on fire. The victim, identified as Stalin, had reportedly been arguing with his brother, Bhanu Prasad, over his alcohol consumption. Stalin sustained serious injuries and is currently undergoing treatment in the hospital. The police have registered a case and are investigating the matter. The motive behind the attack is still being examined as authorities continue to gather details.



## Man Dies by Suicide After Bank Staff's Loan Harassment



**TPN correspondent, Asifabad, Jan 9:** A 35-year-old man, Karam Santosh, from Shivpur village in Sirpur (T) mandal of Kumerambheem Asifabad district, tragically died by suicide after being harassed by bank staff for not repaying his loan.

Santosh had borrowed money from the District Co-operative Society Bank, but was reportedly subjected to repeated threats and harassment by bank employees.

Devastated by the ongoing pressure, Santosh consumed insecticide, leading to his death. His family members have lodged a formal complaint with the police, accusing the bank staff of contributing to his distress. The police have registered a case and are investigating the matter. Santosh's family is left mourning the loss of their loved one.

Authorities are looking into the allegations, while the community grieves the tragic incident.

## TGPSC Releases Primary Key for Group-3 Exam



**TPN correspondent, Hyderabad, Jan 9:** The Telangana State Public Service Commission (TGPSC) has released the primary key for the Group-3 exam, providing an important update for candidates. The key was made available on Wednesday evening and can be accessed through the personal login of candidates.

TGPSC officials stated that the key will remain accessible until January 12. Candidates have been advised to raise any objections in English only. The Group-3 exams were held on November 15 and 16, with approximately 50% of the registered candidates appearing for the exam.

This release marks a crucial step in the evaluation process for the Group-3 recruitment.

## Man Arrested for Growing Marijuana Plants at Home

**TPN correspondent, Siddipet, Jan 9:** Police have arrested Mohammed Shabbir from Narsayapalli village in Maddur mandal, Siddipet district, for cultivating marijuana plants at his home. The arrest followed information that Shabbir had been growing marijuana in an abandoned area behind his house for several years.

According to SI Sheikh Mahbub, Shabbir dried the leaves from the plants and sold them to laborers from Bihar for profit. Upon receiving a tip-off, police conducted a search of Shabbir's property with the help of task force officers, during which marijuana plants and other evidence were found. Authorities seized 38 grams of marijuana, two marijuana plants, and a cellphone from the accused. A case has been registered, and Shabbir was remanded into custody. ASI Vijay Kumar, Head Constable Janardhan, and other officers were involved in the operation.





## Indian Cricket in 2025: Key Areas for Improvement and What Needs to Be Left Behind

As India heads into 2025, the performance of the men's cricket team in 2024 has been a mixed bag, offering both successes and significant lessons. The year saw India become T20I World Champions after 17 years and dominate the format, with 24 wins out of 26 games. However, the year also marked historic lows in Test and ODI cricket, exposing vulnerabilities that the team must address as it moves forward.

The most glaring statistic from 2024 is India's failure to secure a win in ODI cricket for the first time in 45 years. India played just three ODIs, but this still marks a disappointing chapter for a team usually dominant in the format. In Test cricket, India's performance was equally underwhelming, losing 0-3 to Australia at home, a historic blow. This loss was not just about being beaten but about not being "in the contest," as former captain Anjum Chopra noted. This is a sentiment that sums up India's forgettable performances in both formats throughout 2024.

Looking ahead to 2025, there are key areas that need urgent attention. One such concern is India's batting struggles against spin, especially left-arm spinners. Whether in Sri Lanka or against New Zealand, India has struggled to deal with quality spin, often crumbling under pressure. The ODI series against Sri Lanka exposed this weakness sharply, with spinners taking nine out of ten wickets in one match. The challenge lies not only in technical deficiencies but also in how Indian batters prepare. There is a belief that T20 cricket has compromised their ability to handle spin, given that batters are

more focused on aggressive shot-making than on technique.

The solution may lie in domestic cricket, where pitches that favor spin could help Indian batters improve their game. For this to happen, there must be a stronger push for star players to play in the Ranji Trophy, especially when out of form. Rather than relying on net sessions, playing in competitive domestic games would help them hone their skills against quality spinners.

In the bowling department, India remains overly dependent on Jasprit Bumrah. While Bumrah's impact is undeniable, the team must ensure it isn't reliant on him alone. With fast-bowling depth being an issue, new talents like Harshit Rana, Akash Deep, and Prasad Krishna should be given ample opportunities. This would not only reduce Bumrah's workload but also strengthen India's fast-bowling arsenal for future challenges.

Finally, one of the most pressing issues is the leaking of information from the dressing room. Indian cricket needs to move beyond internal rifts making headlines. The focus should be on performance, not publicized conflicts. Professionalism demands that internal matters stay private, and the leaks must be stopped.

In sum, Indian cricket must shed outdated practices, adopt a more disciplined approach, and focus on building a balanced team. The year 2025 offers an opportunity for reflection and growth—if India can address these challenges head-on.

## Milan's Smoking Ban: A Step Toward a Healthier, Smoke-Free Future?

Milan has set a bold precedent for New Year's resolutions by enforcing a strict smoking ban in public spaces. As the clock struck midnight, signaling the start of a new year, cigarettes, once a symbol of rebellion and style, were officially cast into the shadows of the fashion capital of Italy. With smoking now banned in public spaces, Milan's new law has sent a clear message: it's time to break up with cigarettes for good.

For years, Italy remained somewhat resistant to the global health shift, with smoking continuing to be a popular habit, particularly among younger adults. While many other countries, including the US, saw dramatic declines in smoking among younger populations over the last decade, Italy held on to its smoking culture longer. A 2011-2022 National Health Interview Survey in the US revealed a notable decrease in smoking among adults under 40, especially among those with higher incomes. Milan's move represents a significant change, pushing the city toward healthier air and improved public health.

Milan's reasons for implementing the ban are rooted in the city's efforts to combat air pollution. Cigarette smoke is responsible for approximately 7% of emissions in the city and its surrounding suburbs. With a significant portion of Italy's population—about a quarter—still smoking, the ban addresses a critical health issue. However, while the ban may be a step in the right direction, it raises questions about personal agency and individual freedoms. Smokers are well aware of the health risks as-

sociated with smoking, yet breaking free from the addiction remains a challenge for many.

Historically, smoking was once linked to style, rebellion, and even genius. Cultural icons like Van Gogh and Edward Munch were often depicted with cigarettes, and smoking was marketed as a glamorous, seductive act, especially for women defying social norms. Smoking was once seen as an accessory to elegance and sophistication, with gods and goddesses in ancient cultures also depicted smoking in art. However, these glamorous associations have waned as health concerns over smoking have become impossible to ignore.

The Milan smoking ban also sheds light on the paradox of smoking as a symbol of wealth and sophistication. Studies show that 80% of smokers globally come from low and middle-income backgrounds, yet smoking has long been associated with status and style among the elite. By making Milan's streets smoke-free, the city sends a message to the world's wealthy: health, not indulgence, is now the ultimate luxury.

While bans like Milan's may curb smoking in public, they also raise questions about the loss of personal agency. Is it the government's role to dictate such choices, or should individuals have the freedom to choose their own habits? As Milan leads the charge toward a smoke-free future, it opens the door to a broader discussion about public health, personal freedom, and the changing tides of societal norms.



## India's GDP Growth to Fall to 6.4% in 2024-25: What Does it Mean for the Economy?



India's economic growth is expected to decelerate to a four-year low of 6.4 percent in 2024-25, according to the First Advance Estimates of GDP. This is a sharp decline from the 8.2 percent growth recorded in 2023-24, signaling a slowdown in the nation's economic activity. While it was widely anticipated that growth would moderate this year, the scale of this moderation has raised significant attention.

The decline in growth is largely attributed to various global and domestic factors. The impact of rising inflation, geopolitical uncertainties, and tightening monetary policies has affected consumer demand and business activity. However, the official estimate from the National Statistics Office (NSO) suggests a more nuanced picture, projecting a modest acceleration in the second half of the fiscal year.

According to the NSO, growth in the second half of 2024-25 is expected to improve to 6.7 percent, up from 6 percent in the first half of the year. This projection indicates that the economy may experience a broad-based recovery, with positive contributions across key sectors including agriculture, industry, and services. Agriculture is expected to benefit from favorable weather

conditions, boosting output and supporting rural demand. The industrial sector is likely to see growth due to government-led infrastructure projects and stronger manufacturing activity. Services, particularly digital and financial services, are also projected to perform well, driven by increased demand from both domestic and global markets.

Despite the expected recovery in the latter half of the fiscal year, the overall economic growth in 2024-25 will still fall below the previous year's robust performance. The slowdown in growth is in line with global trends, as many advanced economies have also faced challenges such as higher interest rates and sluggish demand.

Analysts expect that the moderation in India's GDP growth will not drastically alter the country's long-term growth trajectory, as the economy remains one of the fastest-growing in the world. However, policymakers will need to closely monitor trends and continue implementing measures to boost consumer and business confidence. India's resilience in the face of external shocks and its robust structural reforms will play a key role in determining how well it navigates this period of slower growth.

## The Role of Paranoia in Fueling Extremism: How Demonizing the Right Amplifies Divisions

In modern politics, the divide between the so-called "left" and "right" often appears increasingly irrelevant. The terms, which originate from the seating arrangements during the French Estates-General, have long outlived their usefulness in today's complex political landscape. Yet, these labels continue to be weaponized, often by those on the left, to amplify fears and stoke division. A particularly troubling aspect of this approach is how the left, by demonizing right-wing parties, individuals, and groups, inadvertently fuels paranoia, exacerbates cycles of extremism, and undermines the very democratic values they seek to protect.

One of the primary ways this dynamic plays out is through the vilification of right-wing movements. By portraying these factions as dangerous and threatening to democracy, left-leaning media and politicians amplify the fear of their opponents, painting them as existential threats. This not only escalates tensions between opposing political ideologies but also distorts public perception, making moderation and reasoned debate more difficult. In many cases, this demonization leads to the justification of extreme measures that may undermine democratic processes, such as calls for censorship or increased government surveillance.

Recent events, particularly in the United States, France, and the United Kingdom, have shown how these tactics can contribute to a polarized society. In the US, for example, the left's portrayal of right-wing factions as an



imminent danger to the nation intensified during the run-up to the 2020 elections. Media outlets, politicians, and activists aligned with the left stoked fears about the potential rise of authoritarianism under right-wing leadership, leading to increased public hostility and division. The same pattern can be observed in France, where anti-far-right protests often depict the right-wing as a threat to national values, creating a polarized political climate.

While it is essential to confront the dangerous ideologies that can arise from extreme political movements, the demonization of entire political groups often has unintended consequences. Instead of fostering productive dialogue, it can drive more individuals toward radicalization and extremism. When people feel labeled or persecuted, they may become more entrenched in their beliefs, retreating into ideological echo chambers and further deepening the societal divide.

# PM Modi, CM Chandra Babu, And Deputy CM Pawan Shine in Visakhapatnam Roadshow

TPN Correspondent  
Visakhapatnam, Jan 09

Prime Minister Narendra Modi, along with Andhra Pradesh Chief Minister N Chandrababu Naidu and his deputy Pawan Kalyan, participated in a vibrant roadshow in Visakhapatnam on Wednesday, garnering enthusiastic support from the public. As the leaders traveled in an open vehicle, crowds gathered along the route, showering flowers and cheering them on.

The roadshow, which began at the Sampath Vinayak Temple, traversed through various parts of the port city, with the streets adorned with flags from the TDP, BJP, and Janasena. The procession culminated at the Andhra University engineering college grounds, where a public meeting was scheduled.

Upon arriving at the event venue, Prime Minister Modi was set to virtually lay the foundation for several significant development projects in the region. Among the key initiatives was the launch of NTPC's integrated green hydrogen



hub at Pudimadaka in Anakapalli district, aimed at bolstering sustainable energy efforts. Additionally, a bulk drug park in Nakkapalli is also part of the development agenda, which is expected to enhance the pharmaceutical sector.

In addition to these projects, sev-

eral railway initiatives were also on the cards, signaling an effort to boost infrastructure and connectivity in the region. The public's enthusiasm reflected the importance of these projects, which are expected to have a positive economic impact on Andhra Pradesh.

The roadshow and the scheduled events underscored the collaborative efforts between the central government and local leadership to push forward with ambitious plans for the state's development, creating a buzz of excitement among the citizens.

# Stalin to Launch Distribution of Pongal Gift Hampers



TPN Correspondent  
Chennai, Jan 09

Tamil Nadu Chief Minister M.K. Stalin will kick off the distribution of Pongal gift hampers on Thursday at a ration shop in Saidapet, Chennai. The hampers will then be distributed through ration shops across the state to ration cardholders. Each hamper will include essential festival items such as one kg of raw rice, sugar, tamarind, sugarcane, Rs 1,000 in cash, and 21 other items.

To streamline distribution and minimize overcrowding, the government is considering transferring the cash component directly to beneficiaries' bank accounts. If any issues arise with bank transfers, the cash will be handed out traditionally at ration shops, with special tokens provided to recipients.

Additionally, the state government has allocated Rs 100 crore for the production of 1.77 crore dhosis and an equal number of sarees. This marks a significant increase from last year, with an additional 77 lakh dhosis and 53 lakh sarees being produced. These will be distributed to ration cardholders and recipients of the Old Age Pension Scheme. Cotton yarn will be used for production in the 2024-25 cycle, with plans to introduce polyester yarn in the 2025-26 cycle, benefiting 63,000 power looms across the state.

In addition to the hampers, Tamil Nadu State Transport Corporation (TNSTC) will operate 15,000 special buses between January 10 and 13 to accommodate travelers heading home for the holidays. Out of these, 12,000 buses will depart from Chennai to various destinations, supplementing the 2,092 daily buses already in operation. Special buses will be available from Termini such as Kilambakkam, Koyambedu, and Madhavaram.

To prevent exploitation by private bus operators charging excessive fares, the Tamil Nadu Transport Department has deployed 30 inspection teams to conduct statewide checks, imposing penalties and seizing buses where violations occur.

As the Pongal holidays approach, trains from Chennai to southern districts are fully booked, and bus reservations have already surpassed 75,000, with numbers expected to rise. Public holidays will be observed from January 14 to 16, creating a six-day break including the weekend.

# India Must Do Frontier Work In AI, Overcome Investment Barrier: Satya Nadella

TPN Correspondent  
New Delhi, Jan 09

India has the potential to lead in frontier artificial intelligence (AI) research and development, particularly in areas such as Indic languages and industry transformation, Microsoft Chairman and CEO Satya Nadella stated during his second day of the Microsoft India AI Tour. Nadella emphasized that India should not be limited by current perceptions of frontier AI work, as the next major breakthrough in the field could drastically change its direction.

In a discussion with key industry figures, including Abhishek Singh, the additional secretary in the IT ministry, Nadella pointed out that the frontier of AI is still evolving, and India is well-positioned to contribute significantly to this evolution. "There's no reason why India can't do frontier work," he said. However, he cautioned that achieving such breakthroughs requires substantial investment, a significant entry barrier for many countries. According to Nadella, India has a robust academic and research base, with strong mathematics and algorithms teams at institutions such as Microsoft Research.

Nadella further explained that AI research is capital-intensive, and for India to compete at the frontier, it must make smart, strategic decisions.

# Maharashtra CM Fadnavis Orders SIT Probe into Fake Birth Certificates Scam

TPN Correspondent  
Delhi, Jan 09

Maharashtra Chief Minister Devendra Fadnavis has ordered a Special Investigation Team (SIT) inquiry into the serious allegations made by BJP leader Kirit Somaiya regarding the issuance of fake birth certificates to illegal Bangladeshi immigrants in Malegaon.

The SIT, headed by the Deputy Inspector General (DIG) of Nashik, will comprise officers from the district administration, along with members of the local police force. The team has been tasked with thoroughly investigating the matter and submitting a detailed report, which will include recommendations on how to address and prevent such fraudulent activities in the future. This development comes after Somaiya claimed that a scam had taken place, with approximately 1,000 individuals in Malegaon misrepresenting themselves as Bangladeshi Rohingyas in order to obtain official birth certificates.

According to Somaiya's allegations, these individuals allegedly approached the local Tehsildar's office in Malegaon, misrepresented their identities, and suc-



cessfully procured birth certificates. In response to the claims, the Nashik Collector and the Nashik Municipal Corporation have initiated a comprehensive review of the situation to verify the authenticity of the documents issued and identify any potential illegal activities linked to the scam.

The Maharashtra Home Department has confirmed that the SIT will investigate the issue thoroughly and identify the root causes of such fraudulent practices. Additionally, the inquiry

will examine the role of the local administration in enabling or overlooking these irregularities, with a focus on taking necessary corrective actions. The allegations have raised serious concerns regarding the integrity of administrative processes and the potential security risks posed by the issuance of fake documents to illegal immigrants. The state government is committed to addressing the issue promptly, ensuring that measures are put in place to curb such incidents and protect the welfare of the citizens.

# Lower GDP forecast: Mayawati urges Centre to focus on public welfare, shun narrow politics

TPN Correspondent  
New Delhi, Jan 09

Bahujan Samaj Party (BSP) chief Mayawati on Wednesday called on the Centre to place national and public welfare above "narrow politics" following a revision of the GDP growth forecast for the current fiscal. Her comments came as the Indian rupee dropped to a record low of 85.83 against the US dollar, and the GDP growth rate was downgraded to 6.4% for 2024-25, marking the lowest figure in four years.

Addressing the economic challenges facing the country, Mayawati pointed out that while the poor may not directly feel the impact of the falling rupee in the global market, they are certainly unhappy with the situation. She stressed that the govern-



ment should acknowledge the concerns of the public and work towards measures that prioritize their welfare.

"The poor may not have a direct connection with the falling value of the rupee, but they are certainly impacted emotionally by the economic uncertainty," Mayawati remarked. She urged the gov-

ernment to set aside political differences and focus on addressing the broader national issues that affect the public's well-being.

The BSP chief also emphasized the importance of taking decisive action to stabilize the economy and protect vulnerable populations from the adverse effects of the downturn.



# UP Govt to Reclaim Land Taken Under Waqf Pretext: CM Adityanath

TPN Correspondent  
Uttar Pradesh, Jan 09

Uttar Pradesh Chief Minister Yogi Adityanath on Wednesday announced that his government would reclaim every inch of land that has been taken under the pretext of waqf. Speaking at the 'Maha Kumbh Mahasammelan' organized by a private news channel, Adityanath voiced his strong opposition to the Waqf Board and highlighted his government's efforts to amend the Waqf Act to reclaim "occupied" land.

Describing the Sanatan Dharma as the oldest and most revered culture in the world, Adityanath emphasized its unparalleled significance. He stated, "I inherit a legacy that spans thousands of years, with its cultural and spiritual events equally ancient. The tradition of Sanatan is higher than the sky and beyond comparison." The Chief Minister underlined that the philosophy of Sanatan Dharma surpasses all other religions and sects in both history and influence.

On the issue of the Waqf Board, he took a sharp stance, saying, "It is hard to tell whether it is a Waqf Board or a board of land mafias." Adityanath's remarks were directed at the alleged misuse of land by individuals connected to the Waqf Board, with the Chief Minister asserting that his government would take stringent action to address the issue.

The Uttar Pradesh government has been actively investigating cases of land encroachment and misuse of waqf properties.

# All hell will break out': Trump's deadline for Hamas to release hostages

US President-elect Donald Trump has issued a stark warning that "all hell will break out in the Middle East" if hostages held by Hamas in Gaza are not released by January 20, the day of his inauguration. Speaking at a press conference at his Mar-a-Lago estate in Florida, Trump said that the situation would not bode well for Hamas or anyone else involved. "It will not be good for Hamas and it will not be good, frankly, for anyone. All hell will break out," he added, emphasizing that the October 7, 2023, attack by Hamas on Israel should never have happened.

Trump's comments came as he voiced his support for efforts to secure the release of the hostages and to negotiate a ceasefire between Israel and Hamas. His appointed special envoy to the Middle East, Steve Witkoff, expressed optimism regarding ongoing negotiations, claiming that progress was being made. Witkoff stated, "It's the president, his reputation, the things that he has said that are driving this negotiation, and so hopefully it'll all work out and we'll save some lives."

Despite this optimism, a senior official from the Biden administration adopted a more cautious approach. The official



told CNN that the negotiations remained difficult, with no clear outcome in sight. Although Witkoff's comments suggested that a deal might be struck before Trump's inauguration, the official warned that the talks were still far from resolution. This tension reflects the complexity and challenges of the ongoing negotiations, with

multiple parties involved and varying perspectives on the situation. As the deadline for Trump's inauguration approaches, the situation in Gaza and the broader Middle East remains fraught with uncertainty, and the fate of the hostages continues to be a central issue in global diplomacy.

## 'There isn't a snowball chance in hell': Justin Trudeau on Canada becoming a US state



Canadian Prime Minister Justin Trudeau responded strongly to US President-elect Donald Trump's threat to use "economic force" to merge Canada into the United States, firmly rejecting the idea. On X (formerly Twitter), Trudeau wrote, "There isn't a snowball's chance in hell that Canada would become part of the United States," emphasizing that both nations benefit from their strong trading and security ties.

Trudeau's remarks were echoed by Canada's Foreign Minister, Melanie Joly, who asserted that Canada would "never back down" in the face of threats from Trump. Joly criticized Trump's comments, accusing him of displaying a "complete lack of understanding" of Canada and reaffirming that the country's economy and people are strong enough to resist any external pressure.

Trump's remarks, made at a press conference in his Mar-a-Lago estate, came after Trudeau's announcement that he would step down as leader of the Liberal Party and prime minister. Trump suggested that eliminating the "artificially drawn line" between Canada and the US could benefit national security, claiming that merging the countries would improve both economies and security. He also criticized Canada's military spending, stating that Canada relies heavily on the US military and should contribute more to defense spending.

While Trump ruled out using military force to bring Canada into the US, he hinted at using "economic force" to achieve his goal. This is not the first time Trump has discussed making Canada the "51st US state" or threatened tariffs on Canadian goods unless the country took stronger measures to secure its borders. Trudeau's government has already promised to implement stricter border security measures, but it has also warned that it would consider imposing counter-tariffs if Trump follows through on his threats.

Canada and the US maintain a trillion-dollar trade relationship, with goods and services worth C\$3.6 billion (\$2.5 billion) crossing the border daily. Experts suggest that if Trump were to act on his threats, Canada's economy could face significant challenges.



## Bangladesh Revokes Passports of Sheikh Hasina and 95 Others

In a significant move, Bangladesh's interim government has revoked the passports of ousted Prime Minister Sheikh Hasina, along with 95 other individuals, citing their alleged involvement in enforced disappearances and killings during a violent incident in July.

At a press briefing on Tuesday, Abul Kalam Azad Majumder, the Deputy Press Secretary to the Chief Adviser, confirmed that the Passports Department had officially cancelled the travel documents of 22 individuals linked to enforced disappearances. Additionally, the passports of 75 other people, including former Prime Minister Sheikh Hasina, were revoked due to their suspected roles in the deadly events of July.

The decision to revoke the passports has stirred political controversy in the country, especially since Sheikh Hasina remains a central figure in Bangladesh's political landscape. While the interim government asserts that these actions are part of an ongoing investigation into the alleged crimes, critics argue that the move could further escalate the political tensions in the country.

The incident in July, which involved widespread protests and clashes, led to numerous deaths and injuries. The government has been under scrutiny for its handling of the situation, with allegations of extrajudicial actions being leveled against political figures and law enforcement. The revocation of passports is seen as a strong measure to hold those responsible accountable, but it also raises concerns about the potential for further political destabilization.

## 'No Plans To Allow Pakistan Army In Bangladesh': Yunus'

Shafikul Alam, the Press Secretary of Bangladesh's interim government advisor Muhammad Yunus, addressed rumors of growing ties with Pakistan and denied any plans to allow the Pakistan army to operate in Bangladesh.

Alam stated that Bangladesh is committed to maintaining good relations with all SAARC (South Asian Association for Regional Cooperation) nations and is focused on the revival of the regional body. He emphasized that there are no such plans under consideration to allow the Pakistan army to operate within Bangladesh, refuting any speculation about deepening military ties between the two countries.

The statement comes amidst ongoing concerns regarding the potential shift in Bangladesh's foreign policy under Yunus, who has previously been involved in discussions with both regional and global powers. While Yunus has made strides in fostering diplomatic engagement, Alam's remarks clarify that the interim government's stance remains neutral with a primary focus on strengthening regional cooperation rather than deepening military alliances.



Alam also shed light on Bangladesh's broader diplomatic agenda, reiterating that the country is looking to improve relationships with all neighboring countries, including India, while prioritizing the revival of SAARC, a platform designed to enhance regional collaboration and development.

The comments by Yunus' aide come at a time when South Asian geopolitics remain fluid, with various nations rethinking their strategic alignments. Bangladesh, traditionally viewed as an ally of India, has been careful in its diplomatic positioning, balancing relationships between regional powers.

In conclusion, Bangladesh's interim government has dismissed any notions of aligning with Pakistan in a military context, stressing its commitment to regional stability and cooperation, as well as its focus on enhancing relations with all countries within the SAARC framework.

## 'Gulf Of Mexico' Name Globally Recognised: Mexico President Claudia Sheinbaum

Mexican President Claudia Sheinbaum fired back at U.S. President-elect Donald Trump's controversial suggestion to rename the Gulf of Mexico as the "Gulf of America." Trump made the remarks on Tuesday, advocating for the name change, but Sheinbaum swiftly dismissed the idea, reaffirming that the name "Gulf of Mexico" is internationally recognized.

In her response, Sheinbaum humorously suggested that Trump might be living in the past. "I think they told President-elect Trump wrong, they told him Felipe Calderon is still president," Sheinbaum said, referring to the former Mexican leader who served from 2006 to 2012. "But no, in Mexico the people are in charge," Sheinbaum added, asserting the sovereignty of her country over its names and territories.



During a press conference, Sheinbaum also took the opportunity to display a map of Mexico's historical boundaries, which once included parts of what is now the United States. "Mexican America, that sounds nice," she quipped, emphasizing Mexico's longstanding cultural and geographical ties to the region.

Sheinbaum's comments underscore the tension surrounding the Gulf of Mexico's name and Mexico's enduring pride in its national identity. While Trump's suggestion appears to have been more symbolic than serious, it sparked an immediate and defiant response from Mexican leadership, further adding to the complex relationship between the two countries. The Mexican President's remarks also underline her administration's focus on asserting Mexican sovereignty and standing firm against any perceived encroachments on the country's legacy.

## Lebanon Set to Vote: Who's In The Frame To Become Lebanon's Next President?

Lebanon's parliament will convene on Thursday in an attempt to elect a new head of state, a position that has been vacant since Michel Aoun's term ended in October 2022. The country's sectarian power-sharing system mandates that the president be a Maronite Christian. While there are multiple candidates vying for the post, the current focus is on three prominent figures: General Joseph Aoun, Jihad Azour, and Elias Al-Baysari.

Joseph Aoun  
General Joseph Aoun, 60, has served as the commander of the Lebanese army since 2017. He led the military during a severe financial crisis and the collapse of Lebanon's banking system in 2019. Under his command, the Lebanese army continued to receive U.S. aid, which was crucial in curbing Hezbollah's influence, as Wash-



ington considers the group a terrorist organization. Aoun's candidacy is reportedly backed by the U.S., but his path to the presidency is uncertain, with opposition from Lebanon's two largest Christian parties

and a refusal of support from Hezbollah. Additionally, constitutional hurdles would need to be overcome, as the constitution prohibits serving officials from becoming president.

Jihad Azour  
Jihad Azour, 58, served as Lebanon's finance minister from 2005 to 2008 and is currently the Director of the Middle East and Central Asia Department at the International Monetary Fund (IMF). He gained significant support in the 2023 presidential race, with both the Lebanese Forces and Free Patriotic Movement backing him. Despite this, Hezbollah and its allies opposed Azour, favoring Suleiman Frangieh instead. Azour has described his candidacy as a call for unity, aiming to bridge divides and overcome Lebanon's political crisis.

# Markets End on a Volatile Note: Nifty and Sensex Close with Minor Losses Amid Global Uncertainty

Domestic stock market indices witnessed sharp fluctuations on Wednesday. They ended with slight losses. Despite negative signals from international markets, the markets started in profit. However, they gradually fell as bulls took charge. They recovered from daily losses as bulls started buying in the last hour. Healthcare and pharma shares became key losers. However, with the support of heavyweights, the Sensex closed at 78,148 and the Nifty at 23,688. The weakness of the rupee continues.



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The BSE Sensex, which closed at 78,199 in the previous session, started at 78,319 today. It touched an intraday low of 78,319. It reached an intraday high of 77,486. It finally closed at 78,148 with a loss of 50 points. The NSE Nifty, which opened at 23,746 on Wednesday, touched a low of 23,496 and a high of 23,751. It closed at 23,688, down 18 points. The Bank Nifty fell 367 points to settle at 49,835.

In the Nifty50, 22 companies gained while 28 lost. ONGC, ITC, Asian Paints, Dr. Reddy's, TCS were the top gainers. Apollo Hospitals, Trent, Ultratech Sem, Shriram Finance, Bajaj Auto were the top losers. Today, all sectoral indices, except FMCG, IT, and oil and gas, were in the red. Consumer durables, healthcare, pharma, media, and finance were the biggest losers.

Market breadth turned in favour of sellers on the NSE today. Out of 2914 shares traded, only 952 gained. 1865 lost. 54 shares hit 52-week highs. 73 hit 52-week lows.

SEBI approves Dr. Agarwal's Healthcare IPO plans. Rupee weakens 13 paise to settle at 85.85 against dollar. Swiggy shares fall for fourth straight day. Transformer and Rectifiers Q3 net profit rises to Rs 55 crore from Rs 15.6 crore. HSBC expects Bharti Airtel dividend to double in 2025 and quadruple in 2027. Afcon Infrastructure gets order worth Rs 1084 crore from DRDO. Hyundai Motor India launches new variants. Suven Life shares rose 11% after a clinical trial of a cognitive disorder drug showed progress. United Breweries shares fell 4% after beer supplies to Telangana were suspended. Quadrant Future Tech IPO received a response of 39.56 times on the second day itself in the afternoon. Paytm

shares fell 7% as UPI's market share did not increase in December.

## 1. SRF Ltd (SRF)

SRF Ltd is a diversified chemical company with a presence in fluorochemicals, technical textiles, packaging films, and industrial chemicals. It has a strong foothold in specialty chemicals, driven by the growing demand in pharmaceuticals, agrochemicals, and refrigerants. Leadership in specialty chemicals and refrigerant gases. Robust export presence, particularly in Europe and the U.S. Capex plans in specialty chemicals to drive future growth. The specialty chemicals segment is expected to drive growth, with increasing demand from pharma and agrochemical sectors. The



packaging film business is seeing stable demand.

## 2. Oil and Natural Gas Corporation (ONGC)

ONGC is India's largest oil and gas exploration company. It contributes over 70% of India's crude oil production and a significant portion of natural gas. Monopoly in oil and gas exploration in India. Global crude oil prices positively impact earnings. Strong cash flow and dividend history. ONGC is investing in renewable energy projects to diversify its portfolio. However, its core business remains tied to global crude prices, which makes it sensitive to geopolitical risks.



## 3. SBI Cards and Payment Services (SBI Cards)

SBI Cards is the second-largest credit card issuer in India, with a market share of about 20%. It offers a wide range of credit cards catering to retail and corporate clients. Backed by SBI's extensive network. Strong growth in credit card usage and digital payments. Low NPA levels compared to peers. With the rise in digital payments and e-commerce transactions, SBI Cards is well-positioned to benefit from India's growing consumption story.



## 4. Alkem Laboratories

Alkem Laboratories is one of India's leading pharmaceutical companies, focusing on branded generics, active pharmaceutical ingredients (APIs), and over-the-counter (OTC) products. Strong presence in the domestic market with leading brands like Clavam and Taxim-O. Export-driven growth in the U.S. and Europe. Focus on chronic therapies like cardiology and diabetes. Alkem is poised to benefit from increased healthcare spending in India. Its focus on R&D and expanding its product portfolio will drive long-term growth.



## 5. Anant Raj Ltd

Anant Raj Ltd is a leading player in the real estate sector, focusing on residential, commercial, and IT parks primarily in North India, especially in Delhi NCR. Strong presence in Delhi NCR. Focus on commercial real estate and IT parks, which are high-demand segments. Land bank holdings for future projects. With a growing demand for commercial spaces and housing projects in the NCR region, Anant Raj is expected to benefit from urbanization trends.



## Modi-Govt Looks to New Economic Playbook as Risks Mount for Ambitious Aims

India's policymakers are grappling with the effects of a deepening economic slowdown as global challenges and weakening domestic confidence threaten the country's momentum after an impressive year of growth. On Tuesday, India's economic forecast for the fiscal year ending in March was revised to 6.4%, marking the slowest growth in four years. This update comes as a significant reduction from earlier projections, driven by a dip in investment and sluggish performance in the manufacturing sector.

The downgrade follows a series of disappointing economic indicators and a sharp slowdown in corporate earnings during the latter half of 2024. These developments have raised concerns among investors, who are reevaluating the country's economic prospects. The revision highlights the growing pressures on India's



economy, with global conditions and domestic challenges taking a toll on growth expectations.

India's economy had been a standout performer in the region last year, boasting strong growth that outpaced many of its global counterparts. However, the current slowdown underscores the difficulties the country faces in maintaining its growth trajectory, especially as key sectors like manufacturing and investment continue to falter. Analysts attribute the slowdown to a combination of external factors, such as weakening global demand, and

domestic issues, including reduced investor confidence and a lag in corporate earnings growth.

With the slowdown threatening to dampen the once-optimistic outlook, policymakers will now focus on measures to boost economic activity, while closely monitoring global developments. As India continues to navigate these economic challenges, the path ahead remains uncertain, with a heightened need for policy interventions and strategic investments to reverse the downward trend.

## SBI Projects India's GDP Growth at 6.3% for FY25 Amid Economic Slowdown

The State Bank of India (SBI) has revised India's GDP growth forecast for FY25 to 6.3%, with a "downward bias" due to multiple economic challenges impacting growth. This projection is slightly below the National Statistical Office's (NSO) latest estimate of 6.4% for the current fiscal year, which marks the lowest growth in four years.



is set to increase by nearly Rs 35,000 compared to FY23.

The bank noted that while overall economic expansion is expected to face headwinds due to challenges such as weak investment, sluggish manufacturing, and global uncertainties, the rise in per capita income indicates that individual economic well-being may improve in the coming fiscal year.

Despite the expected slowdown in real GDP growth, SBI highlighted that India's per capita nominal GDP is anticipated to rise significantly in FY25. This positive outlook comes despite the deceleration in real GDP growth and near-stagnant nominal GDP growth. According to SBI, the per capita nominal GDP

This reflects a complex economic situation where slower overall growth contrasts with an increase in income per person. As the country navigates through these uncertain times, analysts will be closely watching how these dynamics unfold in FY25.

## Markets End Lower Amid Weak GDP Growth Projections; HDFC, ICICI Bank Drag

Equity benchmarks Sensex and Nifty ended on a subdued note on Wednesday, marking a volatile session as investors adopted a cautious stance ahead of the upcoming earnings season. A bleak economic growth forecast for the fiscal year 2024-25, coupled with continued foreign fund outflows and mixed global market signals, dampened market sentiment.



included Adani Ports, UltraTech Cement, Larsen & Toubro, Sun Pharma, HDFC Bank, ICICI Bank, NTPC, and State Bank of India. On the flip side, TCS, Reliance Industries, ITC, Asian Paints, HCL Technologies, and Maruti Suzuki managed to close in the green.

Foreign Institutional Investors (FIIs) continued their selling spree, offloading equities worth Rs 1,491.46 crore on Tuesday, as per exchange data.

The Sensex closed at 78,148.49, down by 50.62 points or 0.06%, after earlier dipping by 712.32 points to a low of 77,486.79. The Nifty ended the day at 23,688.95, shedding 18.95 points or 0.08%.

The markets saw heightened volatility due to a slowdown in economic growth projections and investor caution ahead of Q3 earnings reports. However, key stocks such as Tata Consultancy Services (TCS) and Reliance Industries showed resilience, limiting the extent of the market decline. Despite this, the outlook remained subdued, as concerns over rising US bond yields and the possibility of fewer rate cuts by the Federal Reserve weighed on investor sentiment.

Asian markets displayed mixed results, with Seoul and Shanghai ending on a positive note, while Tokyo and Hong Kong finished lower. In the European markets, indices were trading in the green, although US markets ended lower on Tuesday.

Global oil prices saw a slight increase, with Brent crude rising by 0.79% to USD 77.66 per barrel.

India's GDP growth rate is projected to slow to a four-year low of 6.4% for FY25, primarily due to weak performances in the manufacturing and services sectors. This would mark the lowest growth since the Covid-induced contraction in FY21, further adding to the market's caution.

Among the 30 Sensex stocks, major laggards

## EY India Proposes Key Tax Reforms in Union Budget 2025-26 to Ease Burden on Taxpayers

Ernst & Young India (EY India) has recommended several tax reforms in its pre-budget suggestions for the Union Budget 2025-26, aimed at providing relief to taxpayers and simplifying the taxation system. The firm advocates for an increase in the basic exemption limit under the new tax regime from Rs 3 lakhs to Rs 5 lakhs and a reduction in tax rates to benefit common taxpayers.



Leader at EY India, suggested that while a full review of the direct tax code may take time, the upcoming budget could mark the beginning of its implementation. He also emphasized the need for reducing personal income tax rates for lower-income groups to stimulate demand and provide much-needed relief.

Further, EY India called for extending the tax deferral benefit on Employee Stock Option Plans (ESOPs) to all employers, allowing tax payment at the sale stage. The firm anticipates significant reforms to streamline the tax system, improve taxpayer services, reduce litigation,

and enhance compliance.

With over Rs 31 trillion locked in income tax litigation as of FY 2023-24, EY India recommended measures to reduce the backlog of tax disputes and prevent further ones. It also urged the government to introduce more attractive options like safe harbours to prevent tax disputes.

EY India also suggested removing the cap on the set-off of house property losses against other income heads and recommended increasing the house rent allowance (HRA) exemption to 50% for tier-2 cities like Pune, Bengaluru, and Hyderabad, which would provide tax parity with metro cities.

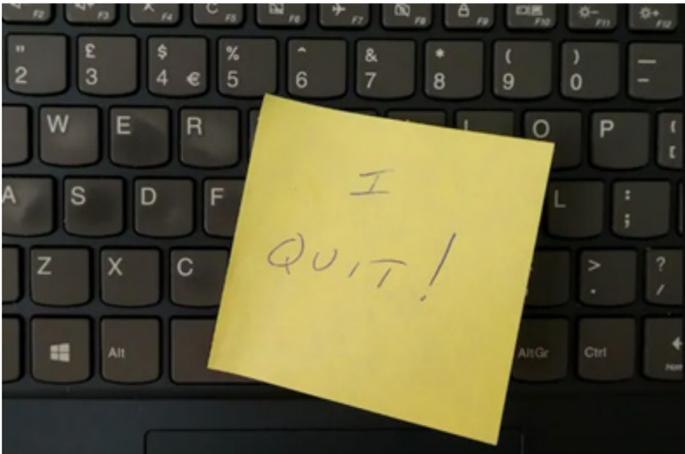
Lastly, the budget should offer clarity on the taxation of cryptocurrencies and non-fungible tokens (NFTs), as well as address capital gains anomalies, including the reduction of holding periods for certain assets.

Additionally, EY India proposes deferring tax deduction at source (TDS) on provident fund (PF) interest above Rs 2.5 lakhs until the withdrawal stage, to ease the compliance burden on individuals. In the previous budget, the government had undertaken some rationalization of TDS rates, and EY India recommends further simplification by categorizing TDS rates into 3-4 broad categories with lower rates and a negative list.

Sameer Gupta, National Tax

## Frozen Salary' Resignation Letter From Delhi Techie Sparks Laughter Online

A resignation email from an employee has recently gone viral on social media, capturing the attention of many for its humorous take on stagnant salaries. The email, shared by Delhi-based entrepreneur Rishabh Singh, co-founder of EngineerHub, quickly gained traction after being posted Singh called it "one of the finest reasons for resignation."



The employee, who had worked diligently for two years, expressed frustration over a lack of salary increments. In the resignation email, they wrote, "After two wonderful years of dedication and hard work, it seems my salary has remained as frozen as my hopes for an increment. I really wanted to Pre-book iQOO 13 at just 51,999 on 5th December, but with this salary, it's not possible."

The letter humorously highlights how the employee feels their career growth is stunted due to financial constraints, with the inability to buy the latest iQOO phone being a metaphor for the stagnation in their professional life. The employee added, "I'm worried how will my career move fast, if I don't have enough salary to buy fastest phone in India? Therefore, I've decided it's time to seek opportunities where growth isn't just a buzzword."

The resignation notice concluded with the employee's intent to leave on December 4, 2024, and their promise to ensure a smooth transition before their departure.

Social media users quickly responded with a mix of humor and support, with some expressing their own frustrations regarding salary stagnation. Many were impressed by the wit and creativity of the employee's letter. However, some speculated that the resignation could be part of a marketing strategy by iQOO, a smartphone brand, to promote their latest phone model.

One user joked, "Better give him that phone and keep him." Others referred to the letter as a "subtle promotion" or "marketing email" for the phone brand. Regardless of the speculation, the email's lighthearted tone and honest message have resonated with many, making it a viral sensation.

## McAfee unveils 'world's first' AI-powered Deepfake Detector



McAfee, a global leader in cybersecurity, has unveiled its latest innovation, the McAfee Deepfake Detector, designed to combat the growing threats posed by AI-generated videos, deepfakes, and AI-driven scams. As deepfakes and misinformation continue to rise, McAfee's new tool is part of its broader suite of AI-powered products aimed at ensuring online safety and promoting transparency in digital content.

The McAfee Deepfake Detector utilizes advanced artificial intelligence algorithms to identify and flag AI-generated media, helping users discern whether videos are authentic or manipulated. According to the company, the tool has been developed in collaboration with leading Original Equipment Manufacturers (OEMs), making it one of the most powerful deepfake detection tools available to consumers in India.

Pratim Mukherjee, Senior Director of Engineering at McAfee, emphasized the importance of this tool in today's digital age. "While not all AI-generated content is created with malicious

intent, the ability to discern whether a video is real or fake enables consumers to make smarter and more informed decisions," Mukherjee stated. As deepfakes and AI scams become increasingly sophisticated, McAfee's tool aims to equip users with the necessary resources to identify fraudulent content, enhancing online security.

Additionally, McAfee has introduced its Smart AI Hub, a comprehensive platform offering a variety of interactive AI tools and educational resources. This hub is designed to help users learn how to identify and avoid AI-based scams, empowering them with the knowledge to navigate an increasingly complex online landscape.

As artificial intelligence continues to evolve, tools like McAfee's Deepfake Detector are critical in protecting individuals from the risks associated with manipulated content. McAfee's efforts demonstrate a commitment to fostering digital safety and raising awareness about the growing influence of AI in everyday life.

## Strange Law in San Francisco: Cleaning Your Car With Underwear Could Lead to a Fine



Laws around the world can sometimes be so peculiar that they leave people both puzzled and amused. In San Francisco, California, one such unusual law states that it is illegal to clean your car with underwear, and violators could be fined for this act. This strange regulation is outlined in Section 694 of the city's legal code, which sets specific rules regarding cleaning materials.

The law is part of a broader set of guidelines governing the use of cleaning cloths, stipulating that any cloth used for cleaning—whether it be for clothes, bedding, or even a vehicle—must meet certain cleanliness standards. According to the regulation, no individual or company is allowed to sell or offer for sale any rag or cloth intended for cleaning purposes unless it has been properly cleaned by boiling it in a solution containing at least 5% caustic soda for a minimum of 40 minutes. The law was established to ensure the sanitary use of cleaning materials and to protect public health.

While this law may seem particularly bizarre, it is just one of many strange and peculiar regulations enforced in San Francisco. Over the years, the city has become known for its quirky legal codes, ranging from bizarre parking laws to rules governing the use of public spaces. However, these regulations, while odd, are enforced to maintain cleanliness and order, even if they do seem out of place in modern society.

This particular law against using underwear as a cleaning cloth may raise eyebrows, but it serves as a reminder of how legal codes can evolve to address unique societal needs. Despite the oddity, it highlights the importance of following established guidelines for cleanliness, even when it comes to something as simple as washing a car.

So, next time you're in San Francisco, remember to leave your underwear for its intended use and keep it away from your car cleaning routine. Otherwise, you might just find yourself facing a fine!

## Spiders Detect Smells Through Leg Hairs, Claims New Study

Recent research has uncovered a fascinating new discovery: spiders utilize specialized hairs on their legs to detect airborne scents, offering new insights into the sensory world of these arachnids. This breakthrough resolves a longstanding mystery about how spiders, which lack antennae like insects, can sense odours such as pheromones. The study highlights how male spiders employ these olfactory hairs to detect sex pheromones emitted by females, enabling them to find potential mates through chemical signals.



to pheromone puffs, confirming their ability to detect and respond to chemical signals. This discovery indicates that spiders have a level of olfactory sensitivity comparable to that of insects, underscoring their advanced chemical detection capabilities.

### Implications for Spider Sensory Evolution

The study also examined 19 other spider species and found that most male spiders possessed wall-pore sensilla, suggesting this trait evolved multiple times across species. However, some more primitive spider species were found to lack these sensory structures. The next phase of research will focus on how female spiders detect pheromones, the specific chemicals involved, and the evolutionary significance of these olfactory mechanisms in spiders.

This groundbreaking research enhances our understanding of the complex sensory systems spiders use to navigate their environment and find mates.

### The Discovery of Olfactory Sensilla

A study published in the Proceedings of the National Academy of Sciences revealed that wall-pore sensilla, microscopic sensory hairs, are present on the upper legs of male wasp spiders (*Argiope bruennichi*). These structures play a crucial role in detecting pheromones, a key component in mating behaviour. High-resolution electron microscopy showed that these sensilla were found in large numbers on adult males, but were absent in females and juvenile males. This targeted distribution

suggests their primary role in mate detection. The study also confirmed that these olfactory sensilla were previously overlooked in spiders.

### How Spiders Respond to Pheromones

In experiments, researchers tested the sensitivity of these sensilla to pheromone compounds, revealing remarkable sensitivity even to minuscule amounts, such as 20 nanograms. The sensilla consistently showed neuronal responses when exposed

## Apple's iPhone SE 4 Expected to Launch by April

Apple's much-anticipated fourth-generation iPhone SE is set to receive a major update this year, although the launch timeline may not align with previous rumors. While earlier speculation suggested that the iPhone SE 4 and the 11th-generation iPad would debut alongside iOS 18.3 in January, renowned tech analyst Mark Gurman of Bloomberg has refuted this claim. Instead, Gurman has provided a more refined timeline for the iPhone SE 4's release, indicating that the device is likely to launch by April if all goes as planned.

The iPhone SE 4 is expected to be a significant upgrade over the previous model, the iPhone SE (2022), which was introduced in March of that year. Apple typically releases its SE models during March or April, and Gurman's latest post on X (formerly Twitter) reinforces this tradition. He confirmed that the iPhone SE 4, along with new iPad models, will come equipped with iOS 18.3.

These updates would bring new features and enhancements, particularly aimed at improving the overall user experience across Apple's ecosystem.

Although Apple is yet to officially confirm the exact specifications of the iPhone SE 4, rumors suggest that it will feature a larger display, potentially a 6.1-inch screen, along with improvements to its camera and processing power. The SE line has long been a favorite for users seeking an affordable iPhone with many of the features of its higher-end counterparts, and the iPhone SE 4 is expected to continue this trend.

As Apple fans eagerly await the official announcement, it appears that the launch window for the iPhone SE 4 will likely fall within the first quarter of 2024, marking another exciting milestone in Apple's product lineup.



## Jasprit Bumrah Sets New Record, Becomes World's No. 1 Test Bowler

Indian fast bowler Jasprit Bumrah has reached a new milestone in his career, breaking his own rating-point record and securing the top spot in the ICC Test Bowler Rankings. The latest rankings, released on Wednesday, show Bumrah with a career-best rating of 908 points, further cementing his status as one of the best in the world.

This achievement comes after Bumrah previously set a record for the highest-ever ICC rankings rating for an Indian bowler at 907 points before the fifth and final Test against Australia. His latest success has come thanks to his impressive performance in the ongoing series, particularly his two-wicket haul in the first innings of the Sydney Test, which pushed his rating up by a single point.

Bumrah's rise to the top spot marks a significant accomplishment in his career, as he has consistently been among the world's best fast bowlers in recent years. His ability to bowl in various conditions and deliver match-winning performances for India has made him a key figure in the team. With his extraordinary pace and skill, Bumrah has made a lasting impact on the game, proving to be a force to reckon with in the longest format of cricket.



Bumrah's journey to the top has not been without challenges. He has had to overcome injury setbacks, including a recent spell of back spasms during the Sydney Test, but has always shown resilience in bouncing back to perform at his best. His success reflects his hard work, determination, and exceptional talent, and he continues to be an inspiration for aspiring cricketers around the world.

As India's pace spearhead, Bumrah remains a critical player in the team's strategy. His consistency and ability to perform under pressure have made him a key player in India's success on the international stage. With this career-best ranking, Jasprit Bumrah continues to solidify his place as one of the best Test bowlers in the world.

## New Zealand Clinch 2-0 Lead with 113-Run Victory in 2nd ODI Against Sri Lanka

New Zealand secured a dominant 113-run victory over Sri Lanka in the second ODI, taking a commanding 2-0 lead in the three-match series at Seddon Park in Hamilton on January 8, 2025. With this win, New Zealand has an unassailable advantage in the series and will be aiming to complete a clean sweep in the final ODI.

The match, initially reduced to 37 overs per side due to a rain delay, saw New Zealand bat first. They posted a competitive total of 255/9, with contributions from Rachin Ravindra and Mark Chapman. Both players scored valuable half-centuries, providing a solid foundation for New Zealand's total. Despite a hat-trick from Sri Lanka's Maheesh Theekshana, who finished with remarkable bowling figures of 4/44, New Zealand managed to recover and post a total that would prove difficult for Sri Lanka to chase.

In response, Sri Lanka struggled throughout their innings. Only Kamindu Mendis provided any resistance, scoring a decent knock, but it was not enough as Sri Lanka were bowled out for just 142 runs. The Sri Lankan batsmen could not handle the pressure, with Matt Henry and Jacob Duffy leading the attack for New Zealand, putting in stellar performances with the ball.



The New Zealand team displayed great discipline both with the bat and the ball, ensuring they extended their lead in the series. With a 2-0 advantage, they now look forward to wrapping up the series in the final match, while Sri Lanka will aim to regroup and avoid a series whitewash.

The standout performances of the day included Rachin Ravindra's 60 and Mark Chapman's 54 for New Zealand, while Maheesh Theekshana's hat-trick was a highlight in a losing effort for Sri Lanka. With both teams now looking ahead to the final ODI, New Zealand will be keen to maintain their momentum and finish the series on a high.

## 29th All India Federation Cup Carrom Tournament: Janardhan Reddy and Pooja Shine on Final Day

The 29th All India Federation Cup Carrom Tournament 2024-2025 came to a thrilling conclusion on 8th January 2025, at the Nellore Club in Nellore. Organized by the All India Carrom Federation with support from the Andhra State Carrom Association, Nellore District Carrom Association, and Nellore Club, this four-day mega event saw intense competition and major upsets in both men's and women's categories.

The final day of the tournament delivered some of the most exciting matches, with unseeded players stunning the top contenders. In a shocking turn of events, World Cup Champion K Srinivas from PSPB was defeated by Sandeep Dive of Jain Irrigation. In another surprise, V Khazima of PSPB lost to Mantashah Iqbal from Uttar Pradesh.

The men's singles final saw an exhilarating performance from Janardhan Reddy (Andhra), who upset the top-seeded Prashanth More (RBI) in a thrilling semifinal. Reddy then went on to clinch the men's singles title by defeating Sandeep Dive (Jain Irrigation) in straight sets. The final scores were 25-06, 25-08, as Reddy demonstrated exceptional skill and precision, claiming his victory in dominant fashion.

In the women's singles, 14-year-old V Pooja from Puducherry made history by becoming the youngest-ever winner of the Federation Cup. Pooja defeated former National Champion Ilavazhaki from PSPB in straight sets, 25-13, 24-10, to claim her first Women's Singles title. Her stunning victory marked a significant milestone in her career and made her a rising star in the world of carrom.

The Men's Doubles final saw a victorious pairing of Zaheer Pasha and Prashanth More (RBI), who triumphed over Vikas Harish Dharia and Pankaj Ashok Pawar (Mah) in a thrilling match. Meanwhile, in the Women's Doubles semifinals, M Khazima and V Mitra (PSPB) emerged as winners, while B Sobikha and S Preeta Princy (Tamil Nadu) were runners-up.

**The results of the key events were as follows:**

**Men's Singles Final**  
Janardhan Reddy (Andhra) bt Sandeep Dive (Jain Irrigation): 25-06, 25-08

**Men's Singles Positions**  
Winner: Janardhan Reddy (Andhra)  
Runner-up: Sandeep Dive (Jain Irrigation)  
Third: K Srinivas (PSPB)  
Fourth: Prashanth More (RBI)

**Women's Singles Final**  
V Pooja (Puducherry) bt Ilavazhaki (PSPB): 25-13, 24-10

**Women's Singles Positions**  
Winner: V Pooja (Puducherry)  
Runner-up: Ilavazhaki (PSPB)  
Third: Kajal Kumari (PSPB)  
Fourth: V Mitra (PSPB)

**Men's Doubles Final**  
Winners: Zaheer Pasha & Prashanth More (RBI)  
Runners-up: Vikas Harish Dharia & Pankaj Ashok Pawar (Mah)  
Third: Raheem Kareem Khan & Abhijith Tripankar (Jain Irrigation)  
Fourth: Sandeep Dive & Zaid Ahmed Farooque (Jain Irrigation)

**Women's Doubles Semifinals**  
Winner: M Khazima & V Mitra (PSPB)  
Runner-up: B Sobikha & S Preeta Princy (Tamil Nadu)  
Third: Rashmi Kumari & Ilavazhaki (PSPB)  
Fourth: K Nagajyothi & Neelam Godakhe (CCSCSB)

The event concluded on a high note with new champions emerging across various categories. The tournament not only showcased the growing talent in the sport but also highlighted the excitement and skill that carrom brings to the sporting community.

We request that this be published in your esteemed publication to further promote the sport of carrom.  
T. Praveen Kumar  
Convenor, Media Committee  
All India Carrom Federation  
Sk Abdul Jaleel  
Organizing Secretary & General Secretary  
Andhra Carrom Association

## HS Prannoy and Tanisha Crasto Shine at Malaysian Open 2025

Indian badminton star HS Prannoy made a successful comeback to the court as he won his opening match at the Malaysian Open 2025 in Kuala Lumpur on Wednesday. Prannoy defeated Canada's Brian Yang in a thrilling encounter, winning 21-12, 17-21, 21-15. The match lasted one hour and 29 minutes, marking a triumphant start to the year for the Indian shuttler.

In the mixed doubles category, the pair of Tanisha Crasto and Dhruv Kapila also had a strong start, clinching victory over South Korea's Ko Sung-hyun and Eom Hye-won. The Indian duo won 21-13, 21-14 in straight games, completing the match in just 30 minutes.

Malvika Bansod also impressed in the women's singles event, securing a confident win over Malay-



sia's Goh Jin Wei with scores of 15-21, 21-16.

On the other hand, ace shuttler Lakshya Sen suffered a setback in his Malaysia Open 2025 campaign, losing to Chinese Taipei's Chi Yu-Jen in straight games. Sen, ranked 12th in the world, fell 14-21, 7-21 to the world No. 32 shuttler in his men's singles round of 32 match, marking the first meeting between the two players.

In women's doubles, Commonwealth Games bronze medalists Treesa Jolly and Gayatri Gopichand won their round of 32 match against Thailand's Ornnicha Jongsathapornpan and Sukitta Suwachai with a comfortable 21-10, 21-10 victory. They will next face the world No. 4 pair of Zhang Shuxian and Jia Yifan of China.

## Australia Celebrates Border-Gavaskar Trophy Victory with a Night of Cheers

Australia celebrated a hard-fought 3-1 series victory over India in the Border-Gavaskar Trophy 2024/25 with a night of spirited celebrations. The triumph marked their first series win over India in a decade, and the Australian team showed no hesitation in embracing the achievement, with players indulging in a few drinks to mark the historic win.

Beau Webster, the debutant who played a crucial role in securing the victory, shared details of the celebrations the morning after. Webster, who was brought in as a replacement for the out-of-form Mitchell Marsh, was instrumental in Australia's victory. He not only top-scored in the first innings but also remained unbeaten on 39 off 34 balls in the second innings. His performance was capped off with a dramatic winning boundary, which Web-



ster spoke about with great emotion.

In an interview with the Sydney Morning Herald, Webster described how he and Travis Head, the tormentor-in-chief of India throughout the series, were particularly enthusiastic during the celebrations. "Trav's always good for a night out," Webster said. "Me and him were going relatively hard on the beers." Despite feeling "rough" the next morning, Webster fondly recalled the enjoyable night spent with his

teammates at the SCG members bar. "It was a really good night sitting in your whites talking with the lads all things life. It was really special."

Webster was quick to mention that he had no intention of letting Head hit the winning runs. When only four runs were needed and with one ball remaining, Webster made it clear that he would either hit the boundary or get out himself, ensuring his place in history. "How many chances do you get to hit the winning runs for your country, let alone in the fifth and deciding Test?" he said.

Now, with the Border-Gavaskar Trophy behind them, Australia sets its sights on the World Test Championship (WTC) 2025 final, where they will face South Africa at Lord's in June.



## Game Changer's EPIQ Poster Is Truly Epic

With only a few days left until its highly anticipated release, Game Changer, the political drama starring Ram Charan and directed by Shankar, has captured the attention of fans across the nation. Produced by Dil Raju, this pan-India film is poised to make waves not only in Telugu cinema but also in Bollywood, with Kiara Advani playing the female lead.

Today, the filmmakers revealed an electrifying new poster, marking the EPIQ release scheduled for January 10. The poster showcases Ram Charan in a gripping, larger-than-life scene: dressed in a black vest and lungi, he is hanging from a helicopter in midair. This high-octane image has generated intense excitement, with the caption reading, "The power will echo all around you," hinting at the film's larger-than-life scale.

In Game Changer, Ram Charan will be seen in a dual role as a father and son. His characters include an IAS officer, IPS officer, and a political leader, offering a diverse and powerful portrayal of authority and leadership. Fans are eager to witness his dynamic performance in these multifaceted roles, especially under the visionary direction of Shankar, known for his epic storytelling and cinematic grandeur.

Thaman, the renowned composer, has created the music for this ambitious project, and his compositions are expected to enhance the film's already epic narrative. Game Changer also features an ensemble cast including SJ

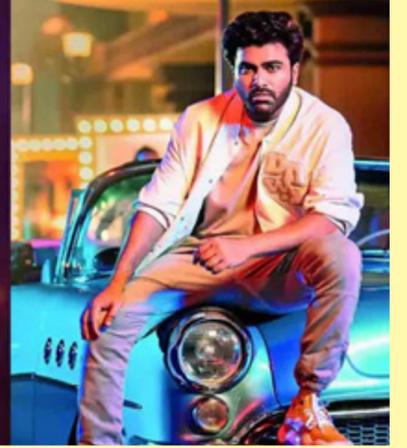


Suryah, Anjali, Srikanth, Naveen Chandra, Sunil, Jayaram, Samuthirakani, and others in crucial roles, ensuring a captivating experience from start to finish.

As the countdown to the release begins, fans can hardly wait to see this political drama unfold, with the promise of gripping action, emotional depth, and a powerful story led by Ram Charan's stellar performances. Game Changer is set to be a true cinematic spectacle, and the EPIQ poster only adds to the growing anticipation surrounding the film's launch.

## Sharwa 37 Title Unveiling: Nandamuri & Konidela Heroes Set to Grace the Event

Tollywood actor Sharwanand is back with another project, Sharwa 37, which continues his streak of films regardless of past successes or failures. After a successful outing last year, Sharwanand's latest film is generating a lot of buzz. Directed by Ram Abbaraju, known for the hit film Samajavaragamana, this movie marks a significant step in the actor's career.



The movie stars two leading ladies: Samyukta and the emerging talent Sakshi Vaidya. The first look featuring Sakshi Vaidya alongside Sharwanand has already been unveiled, capturing the attention of fans and the film industry alike. Recently, the film's team revealed plans to launch the official title along with the first look of Sharwa 37. This exciting event will take place on January 14, with Nandamuri hero and Konidela hero gracing the occasion as chief guests. While their identities remain under wraps, fans eagerly await the big reveal.

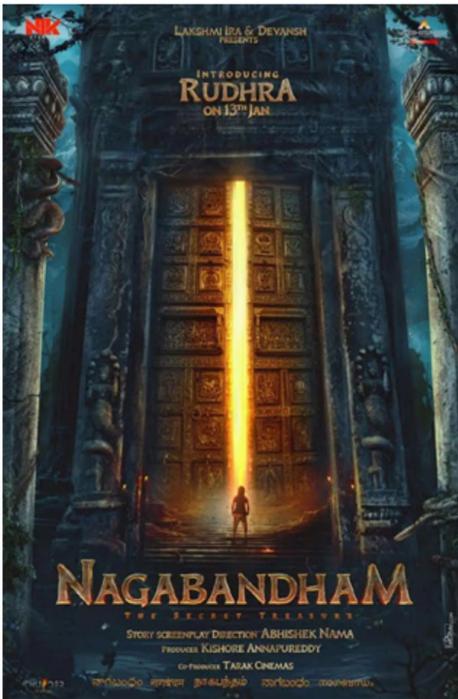
Industry buzz suggests that the film might be titled Nari Nari Naduma Murari, a name pre-

viously used by Balakrishna for his own film. The title has stirred up curiosity, as it could pay homage to the classic while offering a fresh take in Sharwanand's style.

Sharwa 37 is produced by Anil Sunkara and Ramabrahram Sunkara under the banners of AK Entertainments and Adventures International Private Limited. The film features music by Vishal Chandrasekhar, further adding to the anticipation for the movie. Fans are excited to see Sharwanand in a new avatar, and the film's team is hopeful that this movie will capture the audience's hearts. With a mix of fresh talent and experienced hands behind the scenes, Sharwa 37 is one to watch out for in 2025.

## Nagabandham Pre-Look Unveiled: A Spiritual Adventure with Secrets and Magic

Abhishek Nama, who made a strong directorial debut with Devil, is returning to the director's chair for his second venture, Nagabandham. This grand-scale film is produced under the banner of Abhishek Pictures, in association with NIK Studios, and produced by Kishore Annapureddy. The movie, with the tagline "The Secret Treasure," promises to be a captivating Pan-India adventure filled with magic, mystery, and spiritual undertones.



The first glimpse of the film comes in the form of a spiritual pre-look poster, which has intrigued audiences. It shows Virat Karnna, known for his role in Peddha Kapu, standing in front of a massive, ancient temple door. The faint glow emanating from within the door hints at the secrets and challenges that the protagonist, Rudhra, will face. The character of Rudhra will be introduced on January 13, coinciding with the Sankranti festival, adding excitement to the film's launch.

Virat Karnna takes on a challenging role in his second movie, marking a significant step in his career. The previously released introductory video showcased an enchanting world full of wonder, featuring massive visuals and a captivating score that has

left audiences spellbound. The movie's story revolves around the Nagabandham, a mystical adventure focused on the treasure hidden within 108 Vishnu temples across India.

The film's crew includes Soundar Rajan S, who handles the cinematography, and Abhe, who composes the music. The movie also stars talented actresses Nabha Natesh and Iswarya Menon in pivotal roles, ensuring a well-rounded cast for this universally appealing subject.

Nagabandham promises to take audiences on a thrilling journey filled with ancient secrets, magical elements, and spiritual mysteries, making it one of the most awaited films of the year. Fans eagerly anticipate more updates as the movie progresses with its production in Hyderabad.

## Yash's Birthday Treat: 'Toxic' Glimpse Leaves Fans Divided

Kannada rocking star Yash, who gained pan-India fame with the massive success of the "KGF" series, has been the center of attention ever since. His rise to fame made fans eagerly anticipate his next project, wondering what kind of film he would choose to build on his newfound stardom. The big question has now been answered with the announcement of his upcoming film \*Toxic\*, directed by Malayalam filmmaker Geethu Mohandas.

As Yash's birthday approached, the makers of \*Toxic\* decided to release a glimpse from the film as a special treat for his fans. This glimpse was met with much excitement, as it promised a new version of Yash. In the teaser, fans got a chance to witness a fresh side of the actor, with a romance-centric angle and some captivating visuals. The film's music also garnered attention, setting the stage for an interesting cinematic experience.

However, while the glimpse was intended to be a birthday surprise, the reactions were somewhat mixed. Fans, who had high expectations following the grand success of \*KGF\*, seemed to have antici-



pated something bigger. There was a lot of hype surrounding \*Toxic\*, but some of the comments indicated that the glimpse failed to meet the sky-high expectations. Though the teaser was visually appealing and well-crafted, many fans felt that there was something missing, and they left comments expressing disappointment.

While \*Toxic\* definitely caught atten-

tion and sparked curiosity with its first glimpse, it remains to be seen if it will live up to the expectations that Yash's earlier success has created. The excitement is real, but whether the film can replicate the magic of \*KGF\* or carve out a new path for the actor will only be known when the movie officially releases. Until then, fans continue to anticipate more details about this intriguing new project.

## 'Pushpa 2' Set for Re-release with Extra 20 Minutes of Footage for Sankranti

Allu Arjun's blockbuster film Pushpa 2 is set to make a triumphant return to theaters for Sankranti, and this time, fans will get even more content. The makers of the film have officially announced that they will be adding 20 extra minutes of footage, which includes new scenes, to the movie, enhancing the experience for audiences. The re-release is scheduled for January 11, 2025, just in time for the festival.

Pushpa 2 has already made waves at the box office, achieving incredible success and breaking numerous records since its initial release. While Baahubali 2 recently surpassed Pushpa 2 to become the second-highest-grossing film in Indian cinema history, the thirst for Pushpa Raj's character remains unquenched, and the movie's momentum shows no signs of slowing down.

The addition of fresh content will surely excite Pushpa fans, who have been eagerly awaiting any updates or extensions to the storyline. The announcement of



the 20-minute addition has already sent waves of excitement through the fanbase, as they can look forward to new moments featuring Allu Arjun's iconic portrayal of Pushpa Raj. The film's original success, combined with this new footage, promises to make the re-release even more appealing for audiences.

The decision to add extra scenes and extend the film's length indicates the immense popularity and lasting appeal of Pushpa 2, with the film continuing to dominate the box office. The move has also stirred surprise among other filmmakers, as Pushpa 2 continues to set trends and raise the bar for the industry.

With Pushpa 2 now returning to theaters with added content, fans and moviegoers can look forward to a fresh experience of the action-packed drama. As Sankranti approaches, the film is sure to make a significant impact on audiences, reinforcing its place as one of the most talked-about and successful movies in recent times.