



**Weather Forecast**

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

# KCR Still Arrogant Even After Defeat

## - CM



“Come to the Assembly if You Have Guts”

“BRS is Like an Expired ₹1000 Note”

Congress Government is Delivering on Promises

TPN Correspondent

Hyderabad, Feb 01 : Telangana Chief Minister A. Revanth Reddy launched a scathing attack on BRS leader and former CM K. Chandrashekar Rao (KCR), criticizing him for continuing to make political statements despite being rejected by the people. Speaking at the anniversary celebrations of Mogilidda Government High School in Ranga Reddy district, Revanth Reddy accused KCR of arrogance, stating that even after being confined to his farmhouse following his defeat, he still refuses to acknowledge the people's verdict. He criticized KCR for making political comments from his farmhouse and said that if he had the courage, he should come to the Assembly and speak directly.

Revanth Reddy accused KCR of mismanaging Telangana's finances, alleging that he swallowed the state's surplus budget like a pig's beak devouring food. He said BRS lost the last Assembly elections due to its lies and could not even secure a single seat in Parliament. He mocked KCR's reliance on social media, stating that getting likes on social media is meaningless and likened his popularity to that of TikTok celebrity Rakhi Sawant.

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# KCR BREAKS SILENCE

## Says He'll Hit Back Hard at Political Opponents at Right Time



“State on the Brink of Financial Collapse”

“Government Will Struggle to Pay Salaries Soon”

“Land Prices Crash, Real Estate in Crisis”

“People Were Deceived by Congress' False Promises”

“BRS Will Fight to Bring Down the Government”

“Public Wants BRS Back in Power”



TPN Correspondent | Zaheerabad

Former Telangana Chief Minister and Bharat Rashtra Samithi (BRS) chief K. Chandrasekhar Rao (KCR) has launched a sharp attack on the Congress government, alleging that Telangana is on the verge of financial collapse. Addressing a gathering of BRS leaders and activists from Zaheerabad constituency at his Erravelli farmhouse in Gajwel, KCR warned that the government's mismanagement was pushing the state towards a crisis.

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## CM Lays Foundation Stone for New Osmania Hospital



TPN Correspondent Hyderabad, Feb 01 : Chief Minister A. Revanth Reddy laid the foundation stone for the new Osmania Hospital at Goshamahal Police Grounds on Friday. The hospital is being developed to enhance healthcare services in the state with world-class facilities. Deputy Chief Minister Bhatti Vikramarka, along with ministers Komatireddy Venkat Reddy, Damodara Rajanarasimha, and several Congress leaders, participated in the ceremony.

World-Class Facilities Planned

Locals Oppose Construction

Protests Lead to Detentions

facilities. With the foundation stone laid, construction is expected to gain momentum in the coming months.

However, the Goshamahal Parirakshan Samiti has opposed the hospital's construction, arguing that it will create difficulties for local residents. The group has urged the government to reconsider its decision and relocate the project to a different site. Protests were held on the day of the foundation stone ceremony, with demonstrators calling for a bandh. Several protesters were detained by the police.

Despite the opposition, the government remains committed to the project, emphasizing its importance in strengthening Telangana's healthcare infrastructure.

The upcoming hospital will have 2,000 beds and 30 specialized departments, offering comprehensive medical services. It will be built on a 26.30-acre site and will provide super-specialty healthcare

## SC Classification Sparks Controversy in T-Congress

- Sampath Kumar Warns of Action Against Opponents
- Gaddam Vivek's Meeting Sparks Controversy
- Mandakrishna Madiga Calls for Massive Protest
- Madiga Community Accuses Congress of Betrayal
- CM Revanth Reddy's Stand Under Question
- MRPS Prepares for February 7 Agitation

TPN - Pardhu

Hyderabad, Feb 01 : The issue of Scheduled Caste (SC) classification is causing internal turmoil within the Telangana Congress. Recently, Chenur MLA Gaddam Vivek organized the "Malala Simha Garjana" meeting at Secunderabad Parade Ground, leading to strong reactions from AICC Secretary and former MLA Sampath Kumar. He warned that strict action would be taken against those opposing the classification.

Sampath Kumar asserted that the

Congress party has always supported SC classification. He recalled that Chief Minister Revanth Reddy had backed the issue when he was the PCC president and reiterated his support in the Assembly. He revealed that a formal complaint had been lodged with the PCC against Gaddam Vivek. However, he expressed anger that even a single meeting on the issue was drawing severe criticism, questioning why such opposition was being faced.



Madiga's Fight for Justice - Mandakrishna Madiga

MRPS National President Mandakrishna Madiga announced a large-scale protest meeting in Hyderabad on February 7 under the banner "Lakhs of Drums, Thousand Voices", in support of SC classification. He asserted that the demand for classification was a just and moral struggle, and

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## Speaker Must Specify Decision Time: SC

SC Seeks Speaker's Timeline

Kaushik Reddy's Petition Heard

Delay in Disqualification Decision



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## BJP Greenlights District President Elections in Telangana

BJP Approves District Elections

Nominations Open Tomorrow

Final List on Monday, 11 Districts on Hold



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# Gaddar's Legacy and Educational Growth Focus

- Honoring Gaddar's Spirit
- Education for Telangana's Future
- Gaddar's Legacy Lives On
- Mogilidda School's Bright Future



TPN Correspondent Hyderabad, Feb 01 : In a heartfelt speech at the Gaddar Jayanti Sabha, Telangana Chief Minister Revanth Reddy highlighted the legacy of revolutionary poet Gaddar, stressing that his spirit lives on in the hearts of the people. CM Revanth Reddy emphasized Gaddar's powerful voice in society, noting that the poet's influence and struggle had inspired countless individuals. He expressed the government's commitment to immortalizing Gaddar's contributions by officially observing both his birth and death anniversaries.



The Chief Minister shared that the responsibility of establishing the Gaddar Award has been entrusted to Bhatti Vikramarka, and plans are in place to build a Gaddar memorial on Knuckles Road. Revanth also addressed concerns about the central government, criticizing it for its lack of recognition for Telangana's contributions, such as fewer Padma awards being proposed for the state compared to neighboring ones.

In the same speech, CM Revanth Reddy touched upon the significance of Osmania University, revealing that a Dalit has been appointed as the YS Chancellor, a historic first.

He stressed that the government is committed to preserving and promoting ideological diversity and ensuring equality in every aspect of governance.

Furthermore, CM Revanth participated in the 150th-anniversary celebration of the Mogilidda Government High School in Faruknagar Mandal, Rangareddy district. In his address, he praised the school for producing notable figures like Burgula Ramakrishna Rao, Marri Chenna Reddy, and Professor Haragopal. To mark the occasion, the Chief Minister announced the sanction of Rs 10 crore for the construction of an Advanced Technology Center (ATC), a new school building, a library, and other essential infrastructure for the village.

MLCs Patnam Mahender Reddy, Prof. Kodandaram, local MLA Veerlapalli Shankar, and others were present at the event.

# Rs. 2700 Cr Osmania Hospital Plans Announced - Minister Damodaran

TPN Correspondent Hyderabad, Feb 01 : Minister Damodaran Rajanarsimha announced that the construction of the new Osmania Hospital will be completed within the next two and a half years. Speaking at the foundation stone-laying ceremony held at Hyderabad's Goshamahal Police Ground, Chief Minister Revanth Reddy laid the cornerstone for the hospital's new building.



remote areas. Minister Rajanarsimha highlighted that the hospital will be

built with state-of-the-art facilities, adhering to international standards, at a cost of Rs. 2,700 crore. The new facility aims to provide comprehensive healthcare services to all, ensuring no one is turned away due to lack of resources.

The CM emphasized the importance of improving healthcare for the poor and stressed the government's commitment to fulfilling this vision. The event was attended by the Deputy CM and other ministers, marking a significant step in enhancing medical infrastructure in the state.

The upgraded Osmania Hospital will offer services across 40 departments, catering to all medical needs, particularly for underprivileged patients from

# KTR Hits Out at Congress for Neglecting Towns & Promises



- KTR Calls Out Congress for Failing Telangana's Development
- KTR Defends BRS Progress, Slams Congress for False Claims
- KTR Attacks Congress on Towns, Ration Cards & Development

TPN Correspondent Hyderabad, Feb 01 : BRS Working President Kalvakuntla Taraka Rama Rao (KTR) took a satirical jab at Congress while attending a municipal chairperson felicitation program at Telangana Bhavan. In his speech, KTR highlighted the stark contrast between the development under the BRS government and the stagnation seen during the united state era. He mocked Congress by recalling how municipalities in the united state were neglected, describing them as "dirty cesspools" where "Baldiyas meant Khaya, Piya, Chaldiya."

KTR praised the leadership of Chief Minister K. Chandrashekar Rao (KCR) for focusing on comprehensive town development after the formation of the BRS government. He emphasized that, under KCR's direction, Telangana's towns had transformed into model towns through

consistent reforms, funding, and monitoring, leading to multiple national awards in the past decade. He said the development wasn't a result of "dialogues" but of sustained effort and planning.

The BRS leader also criticized Congress for halting progress in towns after they assumed power. He alleged that the Congress administration had stunted development and caused a decline in property values. KTR also pointed out Congress' failure to pay staff salaries in Nalgonda, despite their promises of progress.

Further, KTR addressed the issue of ration cards, accusing Congress of lying about their distribution and claiming that the BRS government had already provided 6.5 lakh new ration cards. He challenged Congress leaders to clarify their claims, referencing Bhatti Vikramarka's involvement in the distribution process. KTR concluded by criticizing Congress for not fulfilling its promises to Telangana, accusing them of dishonesty and neglect.

# 'Raitu Bharosa' Halted: Bandi Sanjay Calls for EC Intervention

TPN Correspondent Hyderabad, Feb 01 : Union Minister Bandi Sanjay has strongly criticized the Telangana government for halting the 'Raitu Bharosa' scheme during the election code period, urging that it should not be stopped under any circumstances. Speaking to the media, Sanjay pointed out that the scheme, which began on January 26, was already in motion before the election code was enforced. He argued that since it is an ongoing initiative, it should not be withheld from farmers, emphasizing that elections are only relevant for graduates and teachers.

Sanjay also questioned why the government has not yet provided the 'Raitu Bharosa' funds to 65 lakh eligi-

ble farmers, despite 70 lakh farmers being eligible. He accused the government of collecting the funds for an entire year without disbursing them. He further demanded that new ration cards be issued to all eligible families, with a focus on households rather than individual members for selection.

Highlighting the ongoing issues with government welfare programs, Sanjay called for an all-party meeting and offered to write to the Election Commission on behalf of the BJP to resolve the matter. He also criticized the government's selective distribution of benefits, claiming that the exclusion of 9.8 lakh agricultural laborers from receiving their due payments was unjust.

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# KCR BREAKS SILENCE

## "State Will Struggle to Pay Salaries in 4 Months"

KCR accused the Congress government of reckless financial handling, citing a ₹13,000 crore revenue decline, as reported by the CAG. He warned that if this trend continues, the government would face difficulties in paying salaries within the next four months. He also pointed out the deteriorating real estate sector, stating that land prices had crashed and the overall economic environment was suffering. "The state has been swallowed by a big snake in Kailash. This is a lesson for Telangana," he remarked.

## "Congress Facing Growing Public Resentment"

Despite being targeted by political rivals for over a year, KCR had maintained silence. However, he now declared that the Congress government had amassed large-scale public dissatisfaction within just one year of its rule. He pointed to a social media poll conducted by the Congress itself, where thousands of respondents chose 'farmhouse rule' over 'Praja

Palana rule.' Stating that there was mounting pressure from within the BRS to expose the government's failures, he announced plans for a large public meeting at the end of February. "Let's show the Congress government a mirror," he told party workers.

## "Congress Government Has No Direction"

KCR criticized the ruling dispensation, highlighting stagnation in irrigation projects, declining real estate, and poor conditions in residential schools. He claimed the government lacked direction and was failing in all sectors. Calling upon BRS cadres to prepare for mass movements, KCR urged them to focus on key irrigation projects, including Palamuru-Rangareddy, Kaleshwaram, Basaveshwara, and Sangameshwara. "The true face of the Congress government will be exposed in the coming days," he declared. Senior BRS leaders, including T. Harish Rao, K. Manik Rao, V. Sunitha Laxma Reddy, Chinta Prabhakar, A. Jeevan Reddy, and others, were present at the meeting.

## SC Classification Sparks Controversy in T-Congress

those opposing it were acting out of selfish interests.

Mandakrishna Madiga accused two influential Mala families in Telangana's Congress leadership of obstructing SC classification. He questioned Chief Minister Revanth Reddy's inconsistency, recalling how he had welcomed SC classification in the Assembly following a Supreme Court ruling, but was now seemingly backtracking.

## Madiga Community's Outrage - Threat of Intensified Protest

Mandakrishna Madiga warned that the Congress government's negligence on SC classification had pushed the Madiga community into a desperate situation. He demanded a clear stance from the government, cautioning that failure to do so would escalate their agitation.

Internal differences within the Telangana Congress over SC classification are becoming evident. While the party officially claims to support it, conflicts among its leaders are surfacing. With the upcoming large-scale protest in February, tensions are expected to rise, further intensifying the political dispute over SC classification in the state.

# KCR Still Arrogant Even After Defeat - CM

He further remarked that BRS is now equivalent to an expired ₹1000 note, which is completely useless except in jail.

Revanth Reddy asserted that all sections of society are happy under Congress rule, unlike during KCR's tenure. He highlighted the successful implementation of various schemes, including Rythu Bharosa for farmers, fee reimbursement for students, free electricity for farmers, free bus travel for women, ₹500 gas cyl-

inders, and the recruitment of 50,000 jobs for the youth. He also criticized the BRS government's failure in education, pointing out that teacher recruitments were neglected, and universities were treated as rehabilitation centers for political appointees. He emphasized that under his government, 11,000 teacher posts were filled, the DSC recruitment process was completed within 55 days, Vice Chancellors were appointed to neglected universities, the retirement age of professors

was increased to 65 years, 21,000 teachers were promoted, and 35,000 teachers were transferred without any controversy.

Revanth Reddy questioned whether KCR, who has lost touch with the people, still has the strength to fight politically. He challenged him to face the Assembly and debate if he has the courage. With Telangana politics heating up, Revanth Reddy's strong remarks signal an intensifying battle between Congress and BRS.

## Speaker Must Specify Decision Time: SC

TPN Correspondent Hyderabad, Feb 01 : The Supreme Court on Wednesday directed the Telangana Assembly Speaker to specify the time required to decide on the disqualification of MLAs who defected from the Bharat Rashtra Samithi (BRS) to the Congress. The court was hearing a petition filed by BRS leader and Huzurabad MLA Padi Kaushik Reddy.

A bench comprising Justices B.R. Gavai and George Mias heard the matter. Kaushik Reddy's lawyer informed the court that despite a Telangana High Court order in March last year directing the Speaker to decide on

the disqualification within four months, no action had been taken.

Senior advocate Mukul Rohatgi, representing the Assembly Secretary, stated that notices had already been issued to the MLAs involved. He also cited previous Supreme Court rulings, which emphasize that Speakers must give MLAs adequate time before making a decision on disqualification.

The bench instructed Rohatgi to consult the Speaker and inform the court about the time required for a decision. The next hearing has been scheduled for next week.

## BJP Greenlights District President Elections in Telangana

TPN Correspondent Hyderabad, Feb 01 : The BJP high command has approved the election process for district presidents in Telangana, aiming to strengthen the party ahead of the upcoming panchayat elections. Aspirants can file nominations starting tomorrow, with the final announcement of district presidents scheduled for Monday. However, the high command has kept 11 districts on hold.

State Party Incharge Sunil Bansal, Election Observers Aravinda Menon, and Telangana BJP President G. Kishan Reddy discussed the decision with the central

leadership. The party had earlier launched a membership registration and active membership drive but faced delays in completing the election process.

Following the party's traditional structure, elections are conducted from booth to national level, with state presidents chosen before the national president. While Kishan Reddy currently leads Telangana BJP, discussions are ongoing about appointing a BC leader or reinstating former president Bandi Sanjay. Analysts suggest this decision will significantly impact the party's future in the state.

## MP Arvind Accuses MLC Kavitha of Involvement in Kerala Liquor Scam



**TPN Correspondent**  
**Nizamabad, Feb 01 :** Nizamabad MP Dharmapuri Arvind has once again stirred controversy with his claims regarding BRS MLC Kalvakuntla Kavitha. Arvind alleged that Kavitha had a role in the Kerala liquor scam, stating that political leaders in Kerala had mentioned her involvement. In a tweet, he shared a video and commented, "It seems that the flag of our liquor fame has flown in Kerala too. I don't understand Malayalam. If anyone understands, please inform me," implying Kavitha's connection to the scandal.

The controversy deepened following recent comments from Kerala opposition leader VD Satheesan in the Kerala Assembly. Satheesan accused Kavitha of being involved in the issuance of a liquor license to the Oasis company in Kerala, alleging that she had consulted with Kerala government officials on the matter. Kavitha, who was recently granted bail in connection with the Delhi liquor scam case, now finds her name embroiled in yet another liquor-related controversy, sparking political debates in both Kerala and Telangana.

## Thatikonda Rajaiah Criticizes CM Revanth Reddy on SC Classification Delay



**TPN Correspondent**  
**Hyderabad, Feb 01 :** BRS leader and former MLA Thatikonda Rajaiah has raised concerns about the Congress government's failure to implement the SC classification, a promise made by CM Revanth Reddy. Speaking to the media on Friday, Rajaiah questioned why the Congress government has not followed through on the commitment despite Prime Minister Modi's earlier promise to implement it within 100 days. He accused Congress leaders Mallikarjuna Kharge and Koppula Raju of obstructing the classification process in Telangana.

Rajaiah further claimed that CM Revanth Reddy was stalling the implementation due to fears of losing his position, alleging that the CM is bowing to pressure from certain influential groups, including the Malalas. He criticized the Congress government for its failure in various sectors and predicted that the party would lose in upcoming elections, with KCR set to retain the Chief Minister's position.

The controversy comes after the Supreme Court approved the classification of SC and ST reservations, allowing state governments to sub-categorize these reservations for admissions to educational institutions and government jobs. The court's 6:1 verdict emphasized the need for classification to address the backwardness of specific SC groups, granting state governments the flexibility to implement the policy.

## Minister Komatireddy Challenges KCR to Attend Assembly Sessions

**TPN Correspondent**  
**Hyderabad, Feb 01 :** Minister Komatireddy Venkata Reddy has sharply criticized Telangana Chief Minister K. Chandrashekar Rao (KCR), accusing him of failing as the opposition leader and of being inactive during crucial times. Speaking to the media, Komatireddy likened KCR's inaction to that of the mythical character Kumbhakarna, claiming KCR has been "sleeping in the farmhouse" while evading responsibility.



The minister expressed satisfaction that KCR responded to his challenge, claiming that KCR had no role in the creation of Telangana. According to

Komatireddy, the state's formation was the result of sacrifices made by individuals like himself and was

# Bhatti Vikramarka Announces Solar Power Initiative for Women

### Empowering Women Through Education Investing in Women's Future Education and Empowerment in Focus

**TPN Correspondent**  
**Hyderabad, Feb 01 :** Deputy Chief Minister Bhatti Vikramarka Mallu emphasized the Telangana government's commitment to focusing on education and health sectors, announcing that the government is ready to allocate substantial funds for their development. Speaking as the chief guest at the Annual Day celebration of St. Francis Women's Degree College in Begumpet, the Deputy CM highlighted the role of education in building human resources and positioning Telangana as a global leader.

Bhatti Vikramarka shared plans to construct Young India Integrated Schools, each covering 20 to 25 acres with an investment of Rs 200 crore per school. So far, 60 schools have been sanctioned. He further emphasized the critical role of women's education, stating that educating women benefits not only the individuals but also their families and society as a whole.

The government is also focusing on women's empowerment through various initiatives. Under the Mahalakshmi scheme, free RTC travel for

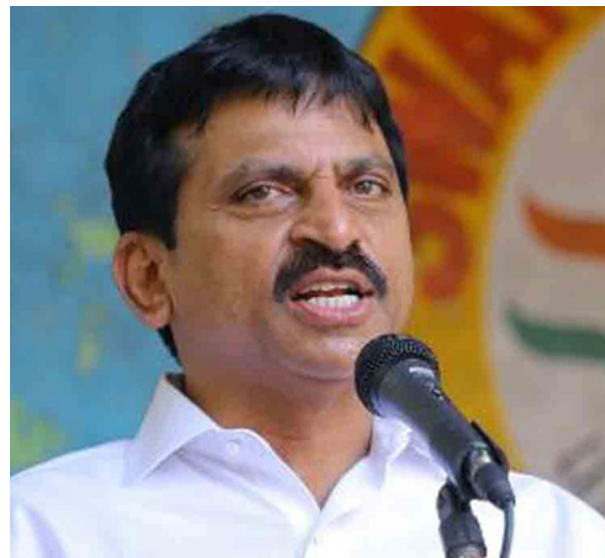


women has been provided, enabling easier access to education and employment. The government aims to transform women into entrepreneurs by involving self-help groups in generating 1,000 MW of solar power. To support this, bank linkages and buy-back arrangements for power gen-

erated by SHGs are being implemented.

The Deputy CM also announced that the government intends to transform one crore women in the state into crorepatris over the next five years, with an interest-free loan scheme worth Rs 20,000 crore annually.

## Minister Ponguleti Criticizes KCR's Disrespect for Public Verdict



**TPN Correspondent**  
**Hyderabad, Feb 01 :** Minister Ponguleti Srinivasa Reddy has sharply criticized Telangana Chief Minister K. Chandrashekar Rao (KCR) for disrespecting the public's verdict and failing to engage with the people. Responding to KCR's recent remarks, Ponguleti questioned whether KCR would continue his rhetoric from the comfort of his farmhouse or actually step out and address public concerns. He accused KCR of being silent for 13 months, even amid natural calamities like floods, and not consulting the public on important issues.

Ponguleti also took issue with KCR's comment that the people voted for Congress out of greed, calling it an insult to the four crore people of Telangana. He claimed that KCR had shown no respect for the public's decision and had failed to acknowledge his defeat or express gratitude to the people who had supported him for ten years.

The Minister further criticized KCR for making grandiose statements at BRS meetings in Nalgonda and Karimnagar without any real action or follow-through. He remarked that KCR's behavior, which he described as that of a "gunman" or "bird lord," was an attempt to assert his presence while avoiding accountability. Ponguleti emphasized that KCR, who has never faced the assembly as the opposition leader, had no credibility in his claims.

## Harish Rao Blames CM Revanth Reddy for Deteriorating Construction Sector

**TPN Correspondent**  
**Hyderabad, Feb 01 :** Former Minister Harish Rao has accused CM Revanth Reddy and the Congress government of severely damaging the construction sector in Hyderabad. Speaking after meeting with key leaders at KCR's farmhouse in Erravelli, Harish Rao pointed out that under the Congress rule, builders, along with farmers, weavers, and auto drivers, are facing immense hardships, with some even resorting to suicide.



ly impacted the sector, including the deterioration of law and order, lack of public trust, and inconsistent decisions such as double announcements regarding Musi, Pharma City, and Metro corridors. Rao added that the forced collection of building permits and the demolition of houses with permits by the HYDRA agency further exacerbated the problem. He concluded that the Congress government's failure in infrastructure development and lack of new investments have had a major negative impact on the real estate sector over the past 14 months.

The former minister also highlighted various issues that have negative-

## Jagga Reddy Accuses KCR of Ruining Real Estate



**TPN Correspondent**  
**Hyderabad, Feb 01 :** Former Sanjareddy MLA Jagga Reddy has accused Telangana Chief Minister K. Chandrashekar Rao (KCR) of ruining the real estate sector. Reddy claimed that KCR's decisions, coupled with

actions taken by Prime Minister Narendra Modi, led to the collapse of the real estate market before the 2023 assembly elections.

Reddy further criticized KCR for not attending the assembly, despite his experience, and noted that even the Speaker had urged the opposition leader to be present. He questioned KCR's leadership, suggesting that the Chief Minister's actions did not align with his words, comparing KCR to a "wind blowing in the wind," implying inconsistency and lack of tangible results.

Reddy's comments added to the growing political tension surrounding KCR's governance and his approach to addressing key issues in the state.

## Minister Tummala Advocates Support Price for Quality Crops

**TPN Correspondent**  
**Hyderabad, Feb 01 :** Agriculture Minister Tummala Nageswara Rao has directed officials to ensure that farmers receive a support price for high-quality crops. During a review meeting on marketing issues, Minister Tummala addressed concerns raised on social media regarding the support price. He ordered the Marketing Director and district officials to ensure farmers can secure the best price for their produce and prevent losses during buying and selling.

Minister Tummala emphasized the importance of providing a support

price for crops meeting quality standards and instructed special teams to visit agricultural markets across the state. He also highlighted the state's network of rice purchasing centers, rice processing centers, and soybean purchasing centers, urging farmers to make use of these facilities.

In addition, Tummala encouraged farmers to store crops in Mark Fed godowns and adopt modern farming practices with the help of agricultural mechanization schemes. He expressed his confidence that the state would lead in oil farm cultivation, ensuring that all eligible farmers would receive the support they need.

# Kavitha Calls Out Telangana CM for Politicizing Water Issues

**Kavitha Slams Congress Over Water Management**  
**BRS Leader Demands Transparency in Water Projects**  
**Telangana Jagruti Calls for Action on Irrigation Issues**  
**Kaleshwaram Project at Center of Political Debate**

TPN Correspondent

Hyderabad, Feb 01 : On January 31, Bharat Rashtra Samiti (BRS) MLC Kalvakuntla Kavitha accused Telangana Chief Minister Revanth Reddy and the Congress government of engaging in "dirty politics" over water issues. Addressing a round table meeting titled 'Neellu - Nijalu' at the Somajiguda Press Club, Kavitha demanded that the government stop manipulating water politics and "tell the truth" to the public.

Kavitha, who heads Telangana Jagruti, defended the Kaleshwaram irrigation project, describing it as "a wonderful project in the world" and criticized the current administration for not utilizing it effectively. She commended the efforts of former Chief Minister K Chandrasekhara Reddy (KCR), stating that 1.4 crore acres were irrigated during BRS's governance.

The meeting, which included intellectuals, retired



engineers, and public representatives, led to several resolutions. They urged the state government to write to the Union Government for an apex council meeting to discuss the Bankacherla Project, which they claim was proposed "illegally" by Andhra Pradesh. Resolutions also called for the restoration of the Medigadda Barrage, full utilization of Kaleshwaram Project Link-1, allocation of at least Rs 20,000 crore in the upcoming budget for irrigation projects, and transferring complete control of the Nagarjuna Sagar Project to Telangana.

# Mrs. India 2024 Sushma Muppidi Meets Telangana Governor



TPN Correspondent

Hyderabad, Feb 01 : Smt. Muppidi Sushma, crowned Mrs. India 2024, met Telangana Governor Jishnu Dev Verma at the Raj Bhavan on Friday morning. The Governor expressed pride in Sushma, a native of Telangana, and directed his office to invite her to all official government functions, recognizing her as an inspiration to women.

During the interaction, Sushma, who is also the handloom brand ambassador for Telangana, shared her emotional response to the Governor's invitation. She discussed her achievement of winning the award for the best cultural dress, which sparked a conversation about handlooms with the

Governor. Sushma also revealed her upcoming participation in the Mrs. World competition in Paris next month.

Originally from Chirala in Bapatla district, Andhra Pradesh, Sushma completed her education in Guntur and Vijayawada. After moving to Telangana post-marriage, she transitioned from a software career to the fashion industry. The daughter-in-law of retired IPS officer Muppidi Venkat Reddy and mother of two, Sushma considers herself a role model for celebrities like Samantha and Priyanka Chopra. Her hometown of Chirala celebrates her achievement, proudly referring to her as an "MP" for her Mrs. India title.

# BRS Corporators Protest at GHMC Office

- Demand Action Against Congress Members



TPN Correspondent

Hyderabad, Feb 01 : BRS party corporators staged a protest in front of the GHMC office on Friday, decriing Mayor Gadwala Vijayalakshmi's actions during a recent governing council meeting. The mayor had suspended BRS corporators, leading to their forcible removal by marshals.

Subsequently, the police arrested the protesting corporators and dispersed them to various police stations across the city. The corporators claimed they were not allowed to discuss

public issues, and the budget was passed without any debate, calling it a mockery of democracy. The BRS corporators demanded action against Congress members who allegedly attacked them. After the protest, they met with the GHMC commissioner to submit a memorandum. Corporators Muddham Narasimha Yadav, Avula Ravinder Reddy, Mandadi Srinivasa Rao, Vijayashanti, and Satish Goud emphasized that their fight for public issues would continue, vowing to expose Congress policies at the grassroots level.

# CM Suggests Desh Pandey Foundation Adopt College

TPN Correspondent

Hyderabad, Feb 01 : Chief Minister Revanth Reddy met with members of the Desh Pandey Foundation on Friday, suggesting they extend their efforts to the Kasturba Girls' Schools across the state and adopt the Government Women's Degree College in Mahabubnagar.

The foundation, seeking government support to expand their initiatives aimed at improving social and economic conditions in rural areas, also plans to offer English training and skill enhancement for students in government schools.

After hearing the foundation's proposals, CM Revanth Reddy advised them to focus on these specific educational institutions. The foundation members welcomed the CM's suggestions.

Present at the meeting were Ministers Komatireddy Venkata Reddy and Sridhar Babu, CM Special Secretary Ajith Reddy, and foundation members including Gururaj Desh Pandey, Jaya Sri Desh Pandey, Raju Reddy, and G. Anil.



# GHMC Demolishes Encroachments at Nallakunta Vegetable Market

TPN Correspondent

Hyderabad, Feb 01 : The Greater Hyderabad Municipal Corporation (GHMC) carried out demolitions of illegal encroachments at the Nallakunta vegetable market near Shankarmath on Friday, January 31. The action targeted numerous vegetable, fruit, and flower stalls encroaching on the footpaths, following several complaints from locals about traffic jams in the area. The market road connects Fever Hospital and Vidyanagar main road to Sundarayya Vignana Kendram.

The demolitions were carried out by GHMC's enforcement wing in collaboration with local police. A few days prior, temporary shops beside and opposite Sundarayya Vignana Kendram were also razed. GHMC officials overseeing the operation stated that no notice was required for hawkers who had illegally occupied footpaths and roads. While some officials claimed vendors had been warned three days in advance, the hawkers,



who have operated in the market for decades, said they had received no prior notice.

One vendor stated, "There are 120 temporary stalls, and hundreds of families depend on these businesses." The hawkers protested, chanting "CM down, down," but their efforts had little effect on the authorities. They called on the government to provide an alternative location for their businesses.

The GHMC plans to widen the Nallakunta market road from 60 feet to 80 feet to help alleviate traffic congestion, providing an alternative route to the Vidyanagar main road. Local support for the vendors was minimal, largely due to high vegetable prices in the market.

# Road Safety Awareness Stressed by Minister Ponnam Prabhakar

TPN Correspondent

Hyderabad, Feb 01 : State Transport and BC Welfare Minister Ponnam Prabhakar emphasized the importance of following traffic rules as a social responsibility during the Vakadhan program held on Friday, January 31, from Necklace Road to Plaza at HMDA Grounds, NTR Marg. The Minister participated in the flag hoisting ceremony and the Vagathan rally, calling for collective efforts to improve road safety. Minister Prabhakar highlighted that road safety is crucial for saving lives and that it should be a priority for everyone. He said that the Tel-



angana government has taken significant steps in creating awareness about road safety, including introducing it as a subject to prevent road accidents. The initiative, which began on January 1 with a helmet-wearing campaign led by the Chief Minister, has already reached over 15 lakh students across 33 districts.

The Minister also mentioned

that the government is identifying and addressing accident-prone areas, known as "black spots," to reduce road accidents. He urged the public to follow traffic rules to safeguard their own lives and those of others, warning that strict action will be taken against violators, including the cancellation of driving licenses. State Transport Commissioner Surendra Mohan

shared that 10 lakh people participated in the National Road Safety Month 2025, which was celebrated enthusiastically across the state. He also cited alarming national and state statistics, with 26,000 accidents in Telangana alone in 2024. To combat this, the state has launched the Safe Drivers Program and is setting up Traffic Children Awareness Parks in schools. The program saw participation from several notable figures, including Rajya Sabha member Anil Kumar Yadav, MLC Balmuri Venkat, and District Collector Anudeep Durisetty, among others.

# Deputy CM Bhatti Vikramarka Honors Gaddar on 76th Birth Anniversary



TPN Correspondent

Hyderabad, Feb 01 : Deputy Chief Minister Bhatti Vikramarka marked the 76th birth anniversary of revolutionary poet Gaddar at Rabindra Bharti, emphasizing the importance of Gaddar's ideology in shaping Telangana's future. He announced that the entire state cabinet is committed to honoring Gaddar's legacy through decisions that reflect his values.

Bhatti praised Gaddar's belief in Indian democracy, stating that awarding him the Padma Award would uphold democratic principles. In line with Gaddar's vision, the government has established the Young India Integrated Residential School to promote education for all, and the Gaddar Foundation to preserve and share his ideas with future generations.

The Deputy CM also highlighted Gaddar's role in the Telangana movement, noting that the state owes much of its formation to his efforts. Despite the central government's denial of the Padma Award, Bhatti vowed to raise Gaddar's honor and continue his welfare-driven initiatives for an equal society.

# Daughters Live with Mother's Body for Eight Days

TPN Correspondent

Hyderabad, Feb 01 : In a deeply disturbing incident, two daughters in Varasiguda, Hyderabad, spent eight days living with their mother's dead body due to financial constraints that prevented them from affording a cremation. The mother, Lalitha, had passed away from a heart attack. The daughters, unable to pay for the funeral, sought help from the local MLA after a week. Upon his advice, they informed the

police about the tragic situation. The police arrived at the scene, registered a case, and initiated an investigation. They are also making arrangements for the woman's cremation. The incident has highlighted the severe financial hardships that some families face when dealing with the death of a loved one.

This incident follows a similar case in Meerpet, where a man named Gurumur-

thy kept his wife's body at home for days after brutally killing her. The case, which has shocked the local community, is being investigated by Rachakonda Police, with the Police Commissioner expressing his disbelief at the brutality of the act. These two grim incidents underscore the growing concern over such tragedies despite ongoing awareness programs by the police. The rising number of such incidents is raising alarms in the city.

## Kasturba Gandhi Degree College Students Achieve Guinness World Record



**TPN Correspondent**  
**Hyderabad, Feb 01** : In a remarkable achievement, 120 students from Kasturba Gandhi Women's Degree College, Maredpally, participated in the Republic Day celebrations in the Delhi, where they set a Guinness World Record. Led by NCC Major Dr. Jayasudha, along with Team Directors Sridhar and Nagarjuna, the students performed a Lambadi dance at India Gate as part of the 'Jayathi Jaya Mama' program.

The students, who had traveled to Delhi on December 26, returned on January 27 after the successful performance. On January 30, the college management, including Chairman Narvottam Reddy, Secretary Fahimuddin, Treasurer Suresh Kumar, Principal Dr. Rajshri, and NCC Major Dr. Jayasudha, gathered at the college to congratulate the students for their extraordinary accomplishment and to celebrate the recognition from the Guinness Book of Records.

## BC Commission Pushes for OBC Inclusion in Central List



**TPN Correspondent**  
**Hyderabad, Feb 01** : The State Backward Classes (BC) Commission, headed by Chairman Niranjan, met with Transport and BC Welfare Minister Ponnampal Prabhakar at the Secretariat to discuss crucial issues concerning the welfare of backward communities. The meeting followed a joint district visit by the BC Commission, which examined various concerns related to the name change of several castes. One of the major topics of discussion was the inclusion of 40 castes currently not listed in the Central OBC list. The commission decided to send a proposal to both the Central and State Governments once again, urging for the inclusion of these communities in the Central OBC list.

Further deliberations were planned with the Commission for the Advancement of BCs to address some key issues raised during the discussions. Minister Prabhakar emphasized the importance of supporting backward classes and ensuring that their welfare is prioritized. The meeting was attended by Principal Secretary of the Backward Classes Welfare Department Sridhar, Member Secretary Bala Mayadevi, and other key officials, highlighting the government's commitment to addressing the concerns of the BC communities in the state.

## Minister Seethakka Advocates for Tribal Traditions



**TPN Correspondent**  
**Adilabad, Feb 01** : Minister Seethakka recently emphasized the need to preserve the unique culture and traditions of the tribal community during her speech at the Nagoba Darbar. She highlighted the importance of joint families in tribal society, noting that the collective approach to tasks ensures security and unity. Seethakka praised the significance of Nagoba's worship system, urging devotees to maintain the traditional methods of worship and to avoid altering the customs.

She also expressed her commitment to addressing the issues facing Adilabad district, emphasizing the international nature of tribal relations and the importance of preserving tribal bonds and language. Reflecting on the historical heritage, she mentioned the Gondwana kingdom, noting that the tribals lived with dignity and pride.

Minister Seethakka highlighted the unique aspects of tribal life, including the absence of dowry systems in marriages and the importance of protecting these cultural traditions. She urged the community not to be intimidated by external influences, comparing those who abandon their traditions to a jackal intimidated by a tiger. Her speech called for collective efforts to safeguard and promote the rich tribal heritage for future generations.

## Scout Better Creates 70 AI Jobs in Nizamabad

**TPN Correspondent**  
**Nizamabad, Feb 01** : Scout Better, a rapidly growing American-Indian AI startup, has partnered with the Telangana government's ITE&C department and Telangana Academy of Skills and Knowledge (TASK) to provide skill training and employment opportunities to local youth. Headquartered in San Francisco, the company has recently set up its second branch in Nizamabad's IT Hub center.



Following a specialized training program, Scout Better has selected 70 youth to join its workforce. On Friday, TASK CEO

and selection. Sinha emphasized the importance of establishing the company in Nizamabad, noting that the AI sector is poised to be a global driving force. He praised the efforts of company representatives Rakshit and Raghav for providing local youth with opportunities in the tech industry. TASK representatives and Scout Better's senior team also participated in the event.

## Minister Jupally Inspects Excise Academy

**TPN Correspondent**  
**Hyderabad, Feb 01** : Minister of Prohibition and Excise Jupally conducted a surprise inspection at the Excise Academy in Bandlaguda. During the visit, officials briefed the minister on the academy's operations. Jupally toured the facility, gaining insights into the functioning of various departments.



training, and facilities.

The minister interacted with 129 female trainee constables currently undergoing training at the academy. He inquired about the quality of food, water, and the overall services provided at the academy. The trainees shared their experiences regarding the training sessions, physical

Addressing the constables, Minister Jupally praised their hard work and dedication, emphasizing the challenges they overcame to secure their positions despite stiff

competition. He urged them to make the most of the opportunities provided by the government and strive for higher achievements in their careers.

The minister also stressed the importance of drug control for societal well-being, advising the trainees to remain vigilant against the sale and transportation of marijuana, illegal liquor, and drugs. He emphasized their role in protecting the youth from these harmful substances. Jupally was accompanied by Excise Department Principal Secretary Syed Ali Murtaza Rizvi and Commissioner Chevuru Harikiran.

## Farmers in Adilabad Facing Losses as CCI Reduces Cotton Prices

**TPN Correspondent**  
**Adilabad, Feb 01** : Farmers in Adilabad district are facing significant losses due to the management of the Cotton Corporation of India (CCI), a central government organization that is meant to support farmers. The CCI, instead of fulfilling its role as a support entity, is behaving like a corporate body, leading to financial hardships for farmers.

During the monsoon season, cotton was cultivated on four lakh acres in the district, yielding 40 lakh quintals. Cotton purchase centers were set up at nine market yards, and the central government had announced a support price of Rs. 4521 per quintal. However, the CCI has been reducing the purchase price by Rs. 100, citing poor crop quality, despite farmers asserting that they are selling quality crops.

This situation has left farmers with no choice but to sell their crops at a loss to CCI. The lack of attention from both CCI and marketing department officials has worsened the crisis. Local district officials are urging the government to step in and ensure that cotton is purchased at the promised support price to protect farmers from further financial damage.



## Young Farmer Commits Suicide in Siddipet District



**TPN Correspondent**  
**Siddipet, Feb 01** : A young farmer, Nalusani Rajireddy (45), from Rebarthi village in Maddur mandal, tragically took his own life on Thursday night. The incident, which came to light on Friday, occurred under the Maddur mandal police station limits. According to Head Constable Nagi Reddy, Rajireddy had been battling a neurological disease for several years, which could not be cured despite hospitalization.

Frustrated by his ongoing health struggles and the inability to find relief, Rajireddy reportedly hung himself from a tree near his farm while his family members were asleep. His wife, Latha, lodged a complaint with the police, who have registered a case and are investigating the matter. The body has been sent to a government hospital for postmortem.

Rajireddy leaves behind his wife and two sons. The tragic incident highlights the mental and emotional toll that ongoing health issues and financial pressures continue to have on farmers in the region. Local authorities are urging more support for farmers facing similar struggles.

## Teacher Strangles Student in Nalgonda School After Brutal Beating

**TPN Correspondent**  
**Nalgonda, Feb 01** : A horrific incident has emerged from the Telangana Minority Residential Boys School in Nalgonda, where several teachers allegedly brutalized students. The children, including those from Class 7, were beaten with sticks and wires until they bled. The victims reportedly begged their teachers, even pleading, "kiss your legs," to stop the assault, but their cries were ignored. Disturbingly, one teacher allegedly strangled a student even after he begged for mercy.



The students, traumatized by the violence, later reported the incident to 'Disha,' a women's helpline. Following complaints, the parents of the children arrived at the school and confronted Principal Venu Go-

pal. He admitted that the incident was a mistake and apologized to the parents for the abuse.

Among the teachers involved in the assault were Jyoti Babu, an English teacher, and Syed Baba, a Physics teacher. It was also revealed that such beatings were not limited to Class 7 but extended to Class 6 as well. The principal stated that the CCTV cameras at the school were not working, but he assured a thorough investigation into the matter to prevent further harm to students.

## Four Telugu Women Missing at Kumbh Mela in Prayagraj

**TPN Correspondent**  
**Prayagraj, Feb 01** : Four women from Telangana have gone missing during the ongoing Kumbh Mela in Prayagraj. Two of the missing women, Anugula Buchavva and Bellapu Sattava Kalleda, are from Bellal village in Kadem mandal, Nirmal district. The women, both over fifty-five years old, had arrived at the Kumbh Mela on January 29.

According to their family members, the women were part of a group of six who

had planned to take a dip at the Prayagraj bathing ghats. While four members traveled by auto, the other two were left behind due to a traffic jam after the first auto departed. The women have been missing since around 6 pm on Wednesday.

The family members are devastated by the disappearance and have urged the state government and local authorities to act swiftly in locating the missing women and ensuring their safe return.



## Why the Union Budget Should Prioritize Aerospace for India's Growth

India's economy has made significant strides in the last decade, moving from the 10th-largest by GDP in 2014 to the fifth-largest today. Much of this success can be attributed to the country's infrastructure development, job creation, and the growing middle class. The aviation and aerospace sectors have played a pivotal role in this transformation, contributing to an increase in GDP from 3% in 2014 to 7% in 2024. This growth can be credited to factors like a rise in operational airports, a booming domestic passenger base, and the successful privatisation of Air India.

Looking ahead, India aims to become the world's third-largest economy, overtaking Japan and Germany in the next few years. To reach this goal, the aviation and aerospace sectors could provide a critical boost—potentially accelerating the timeline to fiscal 2027. This is a sector that can revolutionize both airline travel and aerospace manufacturing, maintenance, repair, and operations (MRO), and the time to double down on these areas is now.

### The Economic Potential of Aerospace

The aerospace sector offers high multiplier effects on GDP. Industry research indicates that investments in aviation and aerospace generate a return of over Rs 3,100 crore for every Rs 1,000 crore invested. This growth leads to an increase in both direct and indirect employment opportunities, with a job multiplier of six. Looking at China's success story—where the

number of civilian aircraft grew from 850 to 8,000 over the past 30 years—India's aerospace sector is poised for similar growth. Currently, India has around 800 planes with over 1,700 more on order by 2028. By 2027, India's GDP will grow by \$1 trillion, and aviation infrastructure will be crucial to harness this growth.

### Policy Reforms and Investment

The Indian government can further unlock the sector's potential with policy changes, such as introducing government-backed credit guarantee schemes to help regional airlines reduce leasing costs. The focus should be on making airlines a more affordable option for millions of Indians, directly competing with rail and road travel. The number of civilian aircraft in India has doubled in the past decade, and with continued growth, India will soon extend its aviation network to 220 airports, reinforcing its position as the third-largest air passenger market globally.

### Making India a Global Aerospace Hub

India has seen notable progress in aerospace manufacturing, with global companies like GE Aerospace investing in facilities that supply parts for major aircraft engines. However, India needs to climb higher in the aerospace manufacturing value chain. Revisiting performance-linked incentives (PLIs), similar to those in the drone manufacturing sector, could attract aircraft manufacturers to set up facto-

ries in India, fulfilling Prime Minister Modi's vision for a self-reliant aerospace sector.

### MRO Sector Growth

The MRO (maintenance, repair, and overhaul) sector, the second-highest cost for airlines after fuel, offers another massive opportunity for India. Currently, most MRO work is done in countries like Singapore and Malaysia. However, the government has made strides to boost domestic MRO capabilities, with tax incentives and the establishment of MRO hubs. By 2028, India aims to meet 90% of its domestic MRO needs, positioning itself as a key player in this lucrative industry.

### Skilling the Workforce

To support this aerospace boom, India needs a skilled workforce. As demand grows, the government must focus on large-scale training initiatives for engineers and workers to meet the demands of the aerospace sector. For example, GE Aerospace has trained over 5,000 people in precision manufacturing in Pune over the last decade.

In conclusion, the Union Budget should seize this golden opportunity to invest in the aerospace sector, which promises significant economic and job growth while positioning India as a global player in both services and manufacturing. The time is ripe for India to bet on aerospace as a transformative driver of its economic future.



## Economic Survey 2024-25: Growth Strong, But Wage and Employment Gap Remains a Concern

The Economic Survey 2024-25 highlights a strong economic growth trajectory, projecting a real GDP growth of 7% for FY25. However, the Survey also underscores the widening gap between corporate earnings, job creation, and wage growth, posing a potential threat to long-term economic sustainability.

While corporate profits have surged by 22.3% in FY24, employment in these firms increased by a mere 1.5%. Employee expenses only rose by 13%, a slowdown compared to 17% in FY23. This indicates that companies are more focused on cost-cutting rather than expanding their workforce, which is a key issue for the broader economy. Despite this, private investment activity has shown positive signs, with resource mobilization from primary markets reaching Rs 11.1 lakh crore between April and December 2024, marking a 5% increase from the previous year. The number of IPOs surged 32.1%, with capital raised almost tripling from Rs 53,023 crore in 2023 to Rs 1,53,987 crore in 2024. However, India's corporate bond market remains underdeveloped compared to global standards, accounting for only 18% of GDP, which is far behind South Korea's 80% and China's 36%.

While the Economic Survey 2024-25 acknowledges private capital revival, it highlights the persistent wage stagnation problem. Nominal wages have risen by around 5-7% annually in agriculture and non-agriculture sectors, but inflation-adjusted wage growth has remained below 2%. This stagnant wage growth, combined with limited employment expansion, results in sluggish demand growth, as workers' purchasing power remains constrained. Despite rising corporate profits, real wage growth remains stagnant, contributing to a growing disconnect between economic growth and living standards.

The Survey also discusses the concept of "enlightened self-interest" for businesses, encouraging them to raise wages to boost consumption and support corporate revenues.

## The Maha Kumbh Tragedy: A Fatal Glimpse into the Dark Side of Blind Faith and Governance



On the occasion of Mauni Amavasya, thirty pilgrims tragically lost their lives during the Maha Kumbh, as they were crushed in a stampede. This calamity occurred just days after the Union Home Minister, accompanied by Uttar Pradesh's Chief Minister and Baba Ramdev, participated in the grand Kumbh rituals, showcasing the event for political and religious purposes. However, this tragedy quickly punctured the BJP-led government's self-congratulatory narrative, revealing the flaws in managing such large gatherings and exposing the dangerous intersection of faith, politics, and governance.

Despite the tragic loss of life, the Ut-

tar Pradesh government attempted to downplay the incident, framing it as an unfortunate but inevitable consequence of large-scale religious gatherings. A judicial inquiry was promptly announced, but the tragedy was glossed over with no significant accountability. This attempt to sidestep responsibility is hardly surprising, as it fits a pattern of evading blame and shifting focus to avoid addressing systemic failures.

Perhaps more troubling is the argument propagated by a section of the saffron ecosystem, which tries to divert attention from the tragedy by emphasizing the triumph of faith. According to this view, the Kumbh must be celebrated, not

overshadowed by the death of a few pilgrims. This perspective echoes a dangerous regressive mindset, reminiscent of a bygone era of fatalism, where faith was placed above all else, and inaction was justified by divine will.

The excessive glorification of "faith" has been manipulated for political gain, distracting the public from pressing issues such as inequality, corruption, and governance failures. This argument, which seeks to justify the loss of life in the name of religious celebration, diminishes the importance of political accountability. Such rhetoric diminishes the sanctity of human life, fostering a dangerous national insensitivity.

## The Growing Disenchantment of India's Middle Class with the Government

For months now, I have been observing a growing sense of disenchantment within India's middle class, the very demographic that propelled Narendra Modi and the BJP to power. While the middle class lacks the electoral weight to swing outcomes on its own, it was once Modi's core constituency. Despite unmet promises over the past two terms, this group held firm in its support. However, that may now be changing.

In recent weeks, I have sensed a deeper shift, one that goes beyond frustration over inflation or high taxation. There's an underlying concern that the government is failing to deliver on the broader promise of India's global ascent. When the BJP first came to power a decade ago, many educated Indians believed the country was on the cusp of greatness. The idea of the "Indian century" was alive; we were poised to be a dominant global power, both politically and economically. There were high hopes that foreign investment would flood into India, the rupee would stabilize, and the world would respect the Indian passport.



Yet, nearly all of these expectations have been shattered. The rupee has not strengthened but has weakened considerably. From a value of Rs 59 to the dollar under the UPA government, it now hovers around Rs 86-87. The Indian passport, once a symbol of rising global stature, has fallen in rank, and it's more difficult than ever for Indians to secure visas to Schengen countries or the United States. Instead of becoming a trusted partner to the US, India now finds itself at odds with Washington, as President Trump has expressed dissatisfaction with India's tariffs and warned of retaliatory measures.

# PM Modi: No Foreign Interference Before Budget Session for First Time Since 2014

## Focus on Development, Women's Empowerment, and Economic Growth

- No external interference before the Budget Session for the first time since 2014
- Focus on innovation, inclusion, and investment in economic growth
- Session will strengthen 'Viksit Bharat' and future leadership

TPN Correspondent | Delhi

Prime Minister Narendra Modi took a swipe at the Opposition while addressing the media ahead of the Budget Session of Parliament, stating that for the first time since 2014, no foreign forces have attempted to create disturbances before a session. He remarked that it had become a trend for external elements to "ignite a fire" before key parliamentary proceedings, often with support from within the country

"Since 2014, this is the first Parliament session where no 'videshi chingari' (foreign interference) has been seen," PM Modi said, alluding to past disruptions triggered by external reports and allegations, including the controversy surrounding the US-based short-seller Hindenburg. The remark also comes weeks after Hindenburg announced its closure

### Budget Session Highlights

The Budget Session began today with President Droupadi Murmu addressing a joint sitting of the Lok Sabha and Rajya Sabha. Finance Minister Nirmala Sitharaman is set to table the Economic



Survey today and present the Union Budget tomorrow

PM Modi outlined that this session would emphasize women's empowerment, economic reforms, and investments to drive India's growth forward. He underscored that historic bills and amendments would be discussed, advancing the 'Viksit Bharat' (Developed India) model

### Empowering India's Youth

Emphasizing India's young demographic, PM Modi stated that citizens in the 20-25 age group will be the biggest beneficiaries of 'Viksit Bharat'. He noted that by the time they turn 50, they will be leading the country's policymaking efforts

"This session is a golden opportunity for young MPs, who will witness India's transformative journey. Our efforts today will be a gift for the future generation," he added, calling for collective action in shaping India's growth trajectory.



## Shubhanshu Shukla: The Indian Astronaut Who Will Pilot Axiom-4 To Space

TPN Correspondent | Delhi

First Indian on a Private Space Mission – Shubhanshu Shukla will pilot Axiom Mission 4 (Ax-4) to the ISS. Experienced Combat Pilot – Over 2,000 flight hours on multiple aircraft, including MiG-21 and Su-30 MKI. Training Across Continents – Trained in Russia, India, and selected for ISRO's Gaganyaan mission.

Indian Air Force (IAF) Group Captain Shubhanshu Shukla has been selected as the pilot for Axiom Mission 4 (Ax-4), NASA announced on Thursday. With this, he will become the first Indian astronaut to travel to the International Space Station (ISS) on a private mission. The mission, a collaboration between NASA and ISRO, is scheduled for spring 2025 and will launch from Kennedy Space Center in Florida aboard a SpaceX Dragon spacecraft. The crew will spend up to 14 days in space, conducting scientific experiments, outreach programs, and commercial activities in microgravity

Who is Shubhanshu Shukla?

Born on October 10, 1985, in Lucknow, Uttar Pradesh, Shubhanshu Shukla is a highly decorated pilot and one of India's most promising astronauts. He graduated from the National Defence Academy (NDA) in 2005 and was commissioned into the fighter stream of the Indian Air Force in June 2006. Over the years, he has flown a variety of aircraft, including An-32, Jaguar, Hawk, MiG-21, MiG-29, and Su-30 MKI, accumulating over 2,000 hours of flying experience

In 2019, he was selected for the Indian astronaut program through the Institute of Aerospace Medicine (IAM), and in 2021, he completed basic spaceflight training at the Gagarin Cosmonaut Training Center in Russia. Upon returning to India, he continued training at ISRO's Astronaut Training Facility in Bengaluru. He was promoted to group captain in 2024, just before being selected for Axiom Mission 4

Second Indian to Fly to Space

With this mission, Shubhanshu Shukla will become the second Indian to travel to space, following Rakesh Sharma, who flew aboard the Salyut 7 space station in 1984. His selection for Axiom Mission 4 is also seen as a major step toward his potential role in ISRO's Gaganyaan mission, which aims to send India's first astronauts into space aboard an indigenous spacecraft

Shukla is the youngest of three siblings and the first in his family to join the armed forces. He is married to Kamna Shubha Shukla, a dentist, and has remained committed to advancing India's space ambitions. His upcoming mission will be a landmark moment in Indian space history, paving the way for future astronaut collaborations between ISRO and global space agencies

## "India's GDP Growth At 6.3-6.8%, Inflation To Stay Under Control"

TPN Correspondent | Delhi

The Indian economy is projected to expand at a growth rate of 6.3% to 6.8% in the financial year 2025-26 (FY26), according to the Economic Survey 2024-25 presented in Parliament by Finance Minister Nirmala Sitharaman. The survey, released ahead of the Union Budget, highlights strong domestic economic fundamentals, declining unemployment, and stable inflation as key factors underpinning this growth forecast.

The Economic Survey states that the domestic economy remains robust, supported by a strong external account, calibrated fiscal consolidation, and stable private consumption. These factors are expected to drive growth within the projected range, although the 6.3%-6.8% forecast marks the lowest growth rate since the COVID-19 pandemic year of 2020-21, when India experienced a negative growth of 5.8%. In contrast, India's GDP growth rates for 2021-22, 2022-23, and 2023-24 were 9.7%, 7%, and 8.2%, respectively.

The survey also points out that rupee depreciation in 2024 was largely driven by a strong US dollar amid geopolitical tensions and uncertainties surrounding the US election. Additionally, it warns that a significant market correction in 2025 could have adverse effects, particularly due to the increased participation of new retail investors.



Sitharaman is scheduled to present the Union Budget 2025-26 on Saturday, and the survey has outlined several key highlights:

- Food inflation is expected to ease in Q4 FY25 due to the seasonal drop in vegetable prices and Kharif harvest arrivals.
- India's economic prospects for FY26 are balanced, with challenges arising from elevated geopolitical and trade uncertainties.
- Managing global challenges will require strategic policy management and strengthening of domestic fundamentals.
- To boost global competitiveness, India needs to implement grassroots-level structural reforms and deregulation.
- The risk of inflation from higher commodity prices is limited for FY26, but geopolitical tensions remain a concern.
- The survey also raises concerns about the potential misuse of AI technologies due to the lack of an appropriate governance framework.
- It highlights that the Insolvency and Bankruptcy Code has been successful in encouraging early distress resolution.

## Myanmar Military Extends State of Emergency Amid Ongoing Crisis



TPN Correspondent | Myanmar

Emergency Extended for Six More Months – Military junta justifies move citing the need for stability. Civil War Ongoing – The country remains embroiled in conflict since the 2021 coup. Election Plans Criticized – Critics label the military's election plans as a sham.

In a state media announcement made Friday, Myanmar's ruling military junta declared the extension of the state of emergency for another six months, just a day before the fourth anniversary of the 2021 coup that overthrew the elected government of Nobel laureate Aung San Suu Kyi. The extension comes amid the ongoing civil war and the junta's plan to hold elections this year, which critics argue are designed to entrench the military's power under the guise of democracy.

State-run Myanmar Digital News cited the need for "stability and peace" to ensure the success of the planned general election, claiming more tasks were required before the vote could be held fairly. However, the military's control over the country and the mounting violence have led many to believe that the planned election will be nothing more than a "sham", aimed at legitimizing the junta's rule and maintaining its grip on power

## Looking For Justice, RG Kar Victim's Parents Call On West Bengal Governor

TPN Correspondent | Kolkata

Victim's Parents Meet Governor – Request intervention from President Murmu and Home Minister Amit Shah. Supreme Court Plea Withdrawn – Parents granted liberty to file a fresh petition. Convict Sentenced to Life Imprisonment – Calls for the death penalty and reinvestigation intensify.

The parents of the RG Kar Medical College and Hospital rape and murder

victim have approached West Bengal Governor CV Ananda Bose, urging him to take up their case with President Droupadi Murmu and Union Home Minister Amit Shah. The family, still seeking justice, submitted a formal representation detailing their grievances. The Governor assured them of support, emphasizing that "humanity stands with them" and that justice shall prevail

Meanwhile, the victim's parents have

withdrawn their plea before the Supreme Court, which sought a fresh investigation into the case. The plea was initially filed as an Intervention Application (IA) in the suo motu case registered by the Supreme Court in August 2024, shortly after the tragic incident. However, during Thursday's hearing, a Bench of Chief Justice of India Sanjiv Khanna and Justice Sanjay Kumar noted that a similar case was already before the Calcutta High Court.



# White House Offers Buyouts to Federal Employees Opposed to In-Person Work

## Trump Administration Moves to End COVID-19 Remote Work Policies

- Federal employees must return to in-person work
- Workers can resign with pay and benefits
- Deadline – Offer expires February 6, 2025

TPN Correspondent | Washington

In a sweeping move to eliminate COVID-19-era remote work policies, the White House has introduced a buyout offer for federal employees unwilling to return to office. The plan, part of President Donald Trump's directives, could lead to the departure of thousands of government workers, reshaping the federal workforce.

Currently, only 6% of the federal workforce—which includes over 2 million employees—works in-person full-time. The administration estimates that 5% to 10% of employees may take the buyout, impacting hundreds of thousands of positions.

### How the Buyout Works

According to the Office of Personnel Management (OPM), employees who opt for the buyout will receive administrative leave



with pay and benefits. The resignation process is simple, requiring employees to reply to an official government email with the word "Resign" in the body of their message.

Certain groups, including military personnel, postal workers, immigration enforcement officials, and national security employees, are exempt from the program.

### Trump's Workforce Overhaul

- This move aligns with President Trump's push for federal workforce reforms, including:
- Mandatory in-person work for government employees
- Greater accountability for senior officials
- A merit-based hiring process

With a February 6 deadline, the White House is signaling a rapid transition in federal employment policies, setting the stage for a reshaped post-pandemic government workforce.



## Travel Vlogger Drew Binsky Misses Mahakumbh Mela After 19-Hour Traffic Ordeal

TPN Correspondent | Mahakumbh

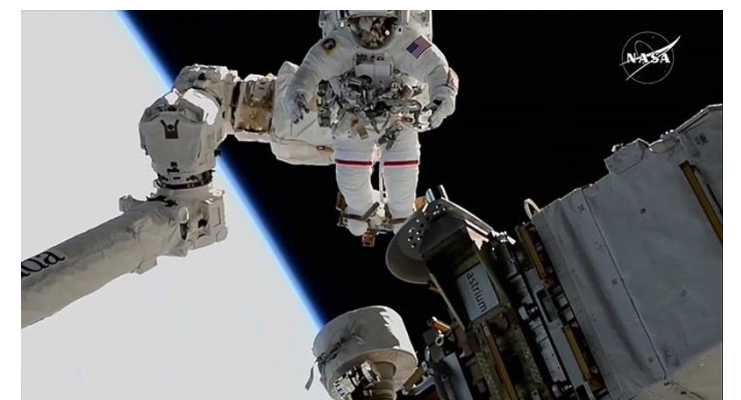
Trapped in Traffic – Binsky stuck 21 km from Mahakumbh, unable to attend. Exhausting Travel Experience – Police checkpoints, smog, and chaos hampered his journey. Missed Opportunity – Vlogger reflects on the once-in-a-lifetime event missed, with 144 years until the next.

US-based travel vlogger Drew Binsky recently shared his disappointment over missing the Mahakumbh Mela, one of the world's largest human gatherings, despite months of meticulous planning. In a heartfelt social media post, Binsky recounted his 19-hour ordeal stuck in bumper-to-bumper traffic, just 21 kilometers away from the sacred event in Prayagraj.

Describing the situation as "complete chaos," Binsky explained the roadblocks, police checkpoints, and smog that made his journey almost impossible. He even contemplated walking the remaining distance but ultimately spent the night in his car, unable to reach the site.

This was a particularly frustrating experience for Binsky, as it was the first time since starting his travel vlogging journey in 2017 that he failed to capture a story. Reflecting on the rarity of the Mahakumbh Mela, which only takes place once every 12 years and will not occur again for another 144 years, Binsky expressed his disappointment.

Despite the setback, Binsky shared plans to head to Beirut, hoping to reflect on his travels and move forward from the experience.



## Sunita Williams Breaks Spacewalking Record During 92nd US Spacewalk

TPN Correspondent | Washington DC

Historic Spacewalk – Sunita Williams breaks total spacewalking time record. Spacewalk Duration – Expected to last about six and a half hours. Controversy Stirs – Elon Musk comments on delayed return of astronauts.

On January 30, 2025, NASA astronaut Sunita "Sunni" Williams set a new milestone in space exploration by breaking the total spacewalking time record previously held by Peggy Whitson. The achievement was announced during Expedition 72, as Williams spent several hours outside the International Space Station (ISS) to maintain hardware and collect surface samples for analysis. This spacewalk, which began at 8 am EST, was the 92nd US spacewalk. Williams, donning a red-striped space suit, was joined by Butch Wilmore on his fifth spacewalk. Despite the challenging nature of the spacewalk, it was a momentous occasion for Williams, who had already completed nine spacewalks. Controversy surrounding delayed astronaut returns emerged after Elon Musk made comments about the astronauts, including Williams and Wilmore, being "stranded" on the ISS due to delays in their Boeing Starliner capsule. Despite the confusion, the astronauts' safety was never in jeopardy, and their return to Earth was scheduled for March 2025.



## Ukraine Receives Largest Swedish Defense Package Worth USD 1.23 Billion

TPN Correspondent | Kyiv

On January 31, 2025, Ukrainian President Volodymyr Zelenskyy expressed his gratitude towards Sweden for providing the 18th and largest defense aid package to Ukraine. The Swedish defense package, totaling 13.5 billion SEK (approximately USD 1.23 billion), is set to significantly bolster Ukraine's military capabilities, particularly in strengthening its defense and long-range capabilities.

In a post shared on X, Zelenskyy thanked Swedish Prime Minister Ulf Kristersson, the Swedish Government, and the Swedish people for their continued support. He emphasized that this substantial military aid would directly address Ukraine's urgent defense needs. The President stated, "We deeply appreciate that this military aid meets the urgent needs of the Ukrainian army and significantly contributes to strengthening our defense capabilities. Its reinforcement of our long-range capabilities and investments in weapons production in Ukraine are invaluable."

Zelenskyy also stressed the importance of collective strength in the face of ongoing threats, particularly from Russia. He noted that the support provided by Sweden helps solidify Ukraine's defenses, ensuring peace through strength. "We must all remember that threats like Russia's do not stop on their own; they advance only until the line where they are met with strength. That is why we must continue to strengthen this line together—from the Black Sea to the Baltic—to ensure peace and protect lives," Zelenskyy concluded.

Along with thanking Sweden for the defense package, Zelenskyy also shared updates on the tragic situation in Sumy, a city in north-eastern Ukraine. He reported that a residential building was destroyed following a Russian Shahed drone strike, resulting in the deaths of nine people and injuries to thirteen others, including a child. Zelenskyy extended his condolences to the victims' families and assured that those injured were receiving medical assistance.

## Israeli Hostages Freed from Gaza: Netanyahu Welcomes Their Return



TPN Correspondent | Jerusalem

Israeli Prime Minister Benjamin Netanyahu has welcomed the safe return of three Israeli citizens who were released from captivity in Gaza on Thursday. The hostages—Agam Berger (19), Arbel Yehud (29), and Gadi Moses (80)—were freed after lengthy negotiations with Hamas. Netanyahu, expressing relief and gratitude, said, "Agam, Arbel, Gadi — welcome home. The entire State of Israel embraces you, as do my wife Sara and I."

Netanyahu credited the success of the release to the "heroic soldiers" of Israel and the country's determined stance during the negotiations. He emphasized the significance of Israel's position in ensuring the safe return of its citizens. "This release was achieved, first of all, thanks to our heroic soldiers, and it was also achieved thanks to the steadfast and determined stand that we took during the negotiations," he added.

Despite the relief surrounding their return, Netanyahu was vocal in his criticism of how Hamas conducted the release. He condemned the chaotic scenes witnessed during the handover process, which he described as shocking.

## Imran Khan Writes Letter to Pakistan's Chief Justice on Electoral & Human Rights Violations



TPN Correspondent | Islamabad

Former Pakistan Prime Minister Imran Khan has written a 349-page letter to Pakistan's Chief Justice Yahya Afridi and Justice Aminuddin, addressing serious concerns over electoral fraud, human rights violations, and the arrests of Pakistan Tehreek-e-Insaf (PTI) members. The letter includes reports of alleged election rigging, the detention of PTI workers, and widespread human rights abuses, particularly around November 26, 2024.

In his letter, Khan claims that numerous PTI workers were arrested between November 24 and 27 of last year, with some hospital records being sealed and altered to cover up the facts. He also accused the judiciary of failing to deliver justice, despite multiple petitions highlighting electoral malpractice and human rights violations over the past 18 months. Khan asserted that PTI members have faced extrajudicial killings and forced disappearances under the current regime.

Khan criticized the government for coming to power through "electoral fraud and historic rigging," while accusing them of severe oppression against PTI, including demolishing party offices and subjecting leaders to brutal torture. He also recounted his own arrest on May 9, 2023, which he described as unlawful, and claimed the authorities deliberately aired the event to incite public outrage.

## PTI Rejects PM Sharif's Offer for Talks Amid Political Tensions



TPN Correspondent | Pakistan

Pakistan's opposition party, the Pakistan Tehreek-e-Insaf (PTI), has rejected an offer from Prime Minister Shehbaz Sharif to resume talks and form a parliamentary committee to address the political conflict between the two sides. In an interview on Geo News' Capital Talk, Omar Ayub, a senior PTI leader, emphasized that the party's demands for the release of "political prisoners" remained firm, and it would not

engage in further discussions without addressing these key issues.

Meanwhile, Senator Irfan Siddiqui, a spokesperson for the government's committee, criticized PTI's refusal to engage, accusing them of adopting a "non-democratic" approach. He argued that the PTI had lost a significant opportunity to resolve its grievances through dialogue.

Earlier, PM Sharif had expressed

willingness to resume talks with PTI, recalling previous efforts to address election-related concerns, particularly regarding the elections of 2018 and 2024. However, PTI had cancelled a scheduled meeting in late January, leaving the negotiation process in limbo.

As tensions remain high, the political impasse in Pakistan continues, with PTI's refusal to re-engage further complicating the national dialogue.



## Stock Markets End Volatile Session with Modest Gains Amid Budget Session & Profit Booking



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

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

In the Nifty50, 35 companies gained and 15 lost. BEL, Power Grid, Hero Moto, Bharti Airtel, Cipla were the top gainers. Tata Motors, ITC Hotels, Adani Enterprises, Shriram Finance, Bajaj Finserv were the biggest losers. Auto, IT, Media, Consumer Durables,

Oil & Gas indices rose today. Bank, Finance, FMCG, Pharma, Healthcare, Oil & Gas indices were in the red.

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



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The rupee weakened slightly against the dollar and settled at 86.62. Wari Energies' net profit in the third quarter rose 36.2% to Rs 492 crore from Rs 361 crore. Coromandel International's net profit rose to Rs 511 crore from Rs 231 crore. HSBC has maintained a buy rating on Bajaj Finance with a target price of Rs 8900. It is noteworthy that Nomura has given a reduce rating to JSW Infra. Dabur India's net profit was recorded at Rs 516 crore. Max Healthcare's revenue grew by 35% to Rs 2281 crore from Rs 1689 crore. Welspun Living's net profit fell by 31.7% to Rs 120 crore from Rs 176 crore. GAIL India's net profit was recorded at Rs 3870 crore with a growth rate of 36%. Revenue was recorded at Rs 34,960 crore. It declared a dividend of Rs 6.5 per share. Adani Enterprises' net profit fell by 97% to Rs 57 crore. Despite an increase in mining and airport revenue, foreign exchange losses of Rs 296 crore were a drag. Bharat Electronics' profit rose 47% to Rs 1316 crore from Rs 893 crore.

## India's GDP Growth Projected Between 6.3% and 6.8% in FY26

India's GDP growth is projected to range between 6.3% and 6.8% for the financial year 2026, as per the Economic Survey 2025 presented in Parliament on Friday. This marks the second consecutive year of sub-7% growth for the country. According to the first advance estimates released by the Central Statistics Office ahead of the Union Budget 2025, India's GDP and Gross Value Added (GVA) are expected to grow by 6.4% in FY25.

While these projections reflect a steady pace of growth, the country faces challenges in sustaining high economic momentum amid global uncertainties, domestic demand pressures, and inflationary concerns. The subdued growth estimates signal that India may be transitioning to a phase of more moderate expansion after the post-pandemic recovery years.



The projected growth for FY26 reflects continued resilience in sectors such as agriculture, manufacturing, and services. However, the survey highlights concerns about the slowdown in private investments, rising input costs, and sluggish wage growth, all of which could limit the growth potential. Despite these challenges, there is optimism regarding the government's fiscal stimulus measures, infrastructure spending, and policy reforms,

which are expected to support economic activities.

The government is also focusing on revitalizing key sectors like MSMEs, infrastructure, and manufacturing to boost employment and consumption. However, sustaining economic expansion will depend on the resolution of several underlying structural issues, including wage stagnation, the quality of job creation, and improving the ease of doing business.

In conclusion, while India's economic outlook for FY25 and FY26 remains positive, there are risks that could temper growth. Policymakers are likely to continue pushing for reforms and investments to address these challenges and boost the country's long-term growth trajectory.

## India's Global Manufacturing Share Rises, Still Far Behind China: Economic Survey 2024-25

India's share of global manufacturing stands at 2.8%, significantly lower than China's 28.8%, according to the Economic Survey 2024-25. Despite this disparity, the survey notes that India's manufacturing contribution to the global economy is gradually expanding, offering substantial potential for further growth. This presents a unique opportunity for India to enhance the role of the industrial sector in its overall economic development.

The survey highlights that while India's manufacturing sector is growing, it still lags far behind China, which dominates the global manufacturing landscape. This gap indicates room for India to ramp up its industrial output, potentially improving its share in global

manufacturing and boosting its GDP contribution in comparison to other countries.

India's manufacturing growth has been supported by initiatives like "Make in India," aimed at fostering domestic manufacturing and attracting foreign direct investment (FDI). However, despite these efforts, India faces challenges such as infrastructure deficits, bureaucratic hurdles, and high labor costs that hinder its competitiveness on the global stage.

The Economic Survey emphasizes the importance of addressing these issues to realize the full potential of India's manufacturing sector. Enhancing the ease of doing business, improving infrastructure, and focus-



ing on skill development could drive further industrial expansion and increase India's global market share.

The survey also points out that India has made strides in sectors like electronics, textiles, and automotive manufacturing. Nevertheless, it is still far from achieving a manufacturing ecosystem comparable to China's, which benefits from economies of scale, established supply chains, and advanced technological

capabilities.

In conclusion, while India's manufacturing sector shows promise and is poised for growth, it needs sustained policy support, infrastructure improvement, and strategic investments to significantly increase its global share. This would not only boost India's economic stature but also provide the necessary push for more robust industrial growth in the coming years.

## Key Highlights from India's Economic Survey 2024-25: Growth Prospects and Emerging Trends

Union Finance Minister Nirmala Sitharaman presented the Economic Survey 2024-25 in Parliament on January 31, 2025, offering an in-depth analysis of India's economic performance and projections for the coming fiscal year. The survey outlines several macroeconomic trends, providing valuable insights into key sectors and offering a glimpse of the government's economic agenda ahead of the Union Budget 2025.



ecosystem. India accounts for 28% of the world's STEM workforce, further bolstering its reputation as a talent powerhouse.

### Self-Employment on the Rise: A Shift Toward Entrepreneurship

A significant trend highlighted in the survey is the rise of self-employment in India's workforce. The proportion of self-employed individuals increased from 52.2% in 2017-18 to 58.4% in 2023-24, reflecting growing entrepreneurial activity and a preference for flexible work arrangements. This shift is especially noticeable among rural women, where the percentage of 'own account workers/employers' has risen sharply, indicating a shift towards independence and entrepreneurship.

### Climate Action Challenges: Funding Shortfalls and Revised Targets

The survey also underscores concerns about climate action, particularly the lack of adequate funding from developed countries. With the new financial package from COP29 failing to inspire optimism, India may need to rework its climate targets. The report stresses

the importance of domestic resources in addressing climate change, which could impact the country's sustainable development goals.

### Economic Outlook for Investors

For investors, the Economic Survey offers valuable guidance. The forecast for steady GDP growth, coupled with a focus on manufacturing, infrastructure, and digital transformation (particularly AI and SME growth), presents long-term opportunities. The survey's emphasis on these sectors will help wealth managers develop long-duration investment strategies targeting emerging trends in innovation and infrastructure, while maintaining a balanced view of risks and rewards. In conclusion, the Economic Survey provides a comprehensive look at India's evolving economic landscape, highlighting growth opportunities and potential challenges. As the country prepares for the Union Budget 2025, the insights provided by the survey are critical for understanding the government's fiscal approach in the year ahead.

## FM Sitharaman Set to Present Record-Eighth Consecutive Budget Amid Slowing Economy



Finance Minister Nirmala Sitharaman is set to make history by presenting her eighth consecutive Union Budget for the fiscal year 2025-26 on Saturday. This landmark moment comes at a crucial time as India faces an economic slowdown, making the upcoming budget a significant focus for both the government and the public.

Expected to introduce measures aimed at boosting consumption and promoting growth, the budget is likely to include relief in the form of income tax relaxation for the middle class. These provisions could help revitalize spending and provide much-needed support to households grappling with inflation and economic uncertainty. With the Indian economy showing signs of slowing down, the government is keen to implement strategies that stimulate demand and foster growth across sectors. Analysts predict that the

budget will prioritize sectors such as manufacturing, infrastructure, and technology, with a special focus on creating jobs and addressing fiscal challenges.

For those interested in following the presentation of the budget live, there will be options for streaming, allowing citizens to tune in and understand how the government's plans will shape the nation's economic landscape for the coming year.

As Finance Minister Sitharaman prepares to present the budget, her speech will be closely watched for any significant changes in fiscal policy, tax reforms, and measures aimed at alleviating the economic stress experienced by the middle class. The government's strategy to address these challenges will play a vital role in determining the economic trajectory for India in 2025 and beyond.

## Apple Shares Surge After Positive Sales Outlook for Next Quarter

Apple's stock saw a notable increase in after-market trading on Thursday following the company's optimistic forecast for the upcoming quarter. Executives at the tech giant projected higher sales than analysts had anticipated, hinting at a potential recovery in iPhone sales, fueled by the introduction of new artificial intelligence features.

During their earnings call, Apple executives revealed they expect sales for the next quarter to grow in the low- to mid-single digits. When adjusted for the anticipated 2.5 percentage point impact of foreign exchange fluctuations, this forecast suggests a growth rate that exceeds Wall Street's projections. Analysts had predicted a 5% rise, estimating a total of \$95.3 billion in sales for the quarter ending in March. The company's forecast appears poised to surpass these expectations, providing a positive outlook for the tech sector as a whole.

Apple's ability to incorporate artificial intelligence features into its devices has garnered attention as a key factor in boosting demand, particularly for the iPhone. As the company continues to expand its AI-driven capabilities, investors are hopeful that these innovations will stimulate sales growth despite broader economic challenges. This positive sentiment is reflected in the market response, as Apple's



shares rose in after-hours trading, signaling confidence in the company's future prospects.

The forecasted growth, coupled with the potential for a rebound in iPhone sales, points to a more resilient Apple heading into the spring. With AI at the forefront of its strategy, Apple is positioning itself to capture consumer interest and maintain its leadership in the tech industry. Analysts and investors will be closely monitoring the company's performance in the coming months to gauge the success of its AI initiatives and the impact on its sales trajectory.

## Need A \$1 Massage In China? Better Own An iPhone, Porsche Or Luxury Bags

A massage parlour in Shenzhen, China, has caused a stir with a unique promotional offer: an 80-minute full-body detox treatment for just 9 yuan, or \$1. While the deal seems too good to pass up, there's a catch—only women who meet specific, high-end criteria are eligible for the offer.

According to a report by the South China Morning Post, the parlour's promotion is limited to women who meet at least one of 27 conditions, including owning luxury property, driving high-end cars like Audi or Porsche, or working for major tech companies such as Tencent or Huawei. Other criteria include carrying designer luggage, having residency in Hong Kong or Macau, or having traveled to Europe or the United States. The parlour also targets social media influencers with over 500,000 followers, as well as professionals like doctors and bankers.

In a message shared by the parlour, it stated, "If you do not meet the conditions, keep working hard in 2025!" The business defended its controversial offer, claiming it was meant to inspire self-improvement and not merely provide personal gratification.



Despite the exclusivity, the parlour has already received over 100 orders through its app, although one anonymous customer reported that the detox service itself felt no different from a typical massage. This has led to mixed reactions from the public, with some questioning the discriminatory nature of the promotion.

The parlour's selective approach has sparked concerns that it may be violating China's Consumer Rights Protection Law, which ensures fair trade practices for all

consumers. Critics have also pointed out that those meeting the lavish criteria are unlikely to be motivated by the low price, raising doubts about the sincerity of the offer.

This isn't the first instance of exclusivity in China drawing criticism. In August 2024, a swimming club in Jiangsu province only allowed women under 45 with high IQs and specific personal qualities to join, further fueling debates about discrimination and the societal implications of such policies.



## The Hidden Dangers of Microplastics: How They Impact Our Health

Microplastics are tiny plastic particles less than 5 millimeters in size, created by the breakdown of larger plastic items, synthetic fibers, and industrial processes. These particles are now pervasive in our environment, contaminating water, food, and even the air we breathe. Due to their small size, microplastics can easily enter the human body through ingestion, inhalation, or skin contact. Recent research indicates that microplastics may carry toxic chemicals, heavy metals, and harmful pathogens, posing significant health risks. Here's a look at how microplastics can affect the human body.

### 1. Digestive System Damage

Microplastics consumed through food and water can accumulate in the digestive system, causing inflammation, disrupting the gut microbiome, and impairing nutrient absorption. Over time, this can lead to digestive issues and metabolic problems.

### 2. Toxic Chemical Exposure

Microplastics often contain harmful additives such as bisphenol A (BPA), phthalates, and flame retardants, which are known endocrine disruptors. These chemicals can interfere with hormone regulation, potentially leading to reproductive issues, developmental disorders, and metabolic imbalances.

### 3. Cellular Damage and DNA Alteration

Studies show that microplastics can penetrate cells and induce oxidative stress, damaging cell membranes and DNA. This damage increases the risk of chronic diseases like cancer, neurodegenerative disorders, and accelerated aging.

### 4. Respiratory Issues

Inhaled microplastics can cause respiratory irritation and inflammation. Prolonged exposure may lead to asthma, lung fibrosis, and even a higher risk of lung cancer due to plastic particles accumulating in lung tissue.

### 5. Brain and Nervous System Effects

Some studies suggest that microplastics may cross the blood-brain barrier, leading to cognitive decline, memory loss, and an increased risk of neurological conditions such as Alzheimer's and Parkinson's disease.

### 6. Immune System Disruption

Microplastic exposure can lead to chronic inflammation and weaken the immune system, making individuals more susceptible to infections, autoimmune diseases, and allergic reactions.

### 7. Reproductive Health Problems

Endocrine-disrupting chemicals in microplastics may affect reproductive hormones, causing fertility issues, menstrual irregularities, and developmental problems in unborn children.

### 8. Cardiovascular Risks

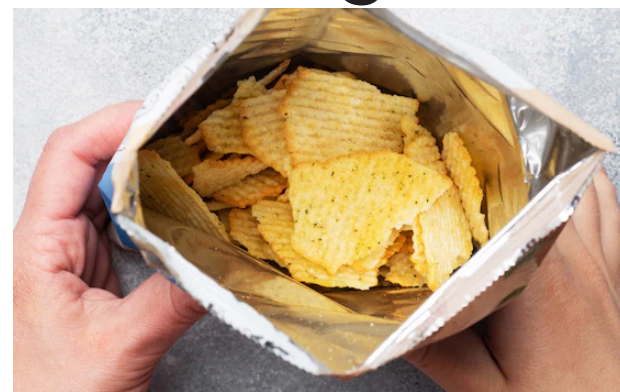
Microplastics in the bloodstream could increase the risk of cardiovascular diseases, promoting inflammation and oxidative stress in blood vessels, potentially leading to hypertension and heart disease.

Given the potential risks, minimizing plastic use, filtering water, and choosing natural materials over synthetics are steps we can take to reduce exposure and protect our health.

## FDA Classifies Lay's Classic Potato Chips Recall as Highest Risk Level

The US Food and Drug Administration (FDA) has classified the recall of Lay's Classic Potato Chips as a Class 1 recall, the highest level of health hazard. This decision follows concerns about "undeclared milk" in certain bags of chips, which can pose serious health risks to individuals with milk allergies or severe milk sensitivities. Frito-Lay, the manufacturer, announced the voluntary recall in December, affecting approximately 6,000 bags of 13 oz. Lay's Classic Potato Chips.

The affected chips, labeled with a "guaranteed fresh" date of February 11, 2025, were sold in select retail stores and e-commerce platforms in Oregon and Washington. Consumers may have purchased these products as early as November 3, 2024. Frito-Lay stated that the recall was initiated after a consumer contact-



removed from store shelves and the marketplace.

The FDA's decision to categorize the recall as a Class 1 reflects the significant health risk associated with the product. A Class 1 recall is issued when there is a reasonable probability that exposure to the violative product could cause serious adverse health consequences or even death. In this case, the undeclared milk poses a critical danger to consumers with milk allergies.

ed the company to report the issue. The company stressed that the presence of undeclared milk could lead to severe or life-threatening allergic reactions for those sensitive to milk.

Frito-Lay also clarified that no other flavors, sizes, or products in the Lay's line are part of this recall, and as of now, no allergic reactions have been reported. The company assured that the recalled bags have already been

Frito-Lay emphasized that the recall, which was fully coordinated with the FDA, was limited to just two states, Oregon and Washington. The company continues to work with the FDA to ensure consumer safety and proper disposal of the affected product.



## Mount Taranaki Maunga In New Zealand Is Now A Living Entity

In a groundbreaking move, the New Zealand government has granted Mount Taranaki, now officially known as Taranaki Maunga, the legal rights of a human being. This historic decision aligns with a growing global movement that seeks to honor the cultural and spiritual significance of natural landmarks, particularly within indigenous communities. Under this new legal status, Taranaki Maunga is considered a living entity, a concept rooted deeply in Māori beliefs, where all elements of nature—humans, animals, plants, and even mountains—are interconnected.

Taranaki Maunga joins a select group of natural features in New Zealand to be granted individual status, including the Whanganui River and Te

Urewera National Park. This recognition elevates Taranaki Maunga from a geological feature to a cultural entity that deserves both respect and legal protection. The decision is part of an ongoing effort to acknowledge and respect indigenous traditions, while also fostering environmental conservation.

Māori people view Taranaki Maunga as an ancestral and spiritual entity. The granting of legal personhood allows the mountain to be defended and nurtured, with Māori iwi (tribes) and the New Zealand government working together to ensure its well-being. This agreement also includes reparations for the Māori communities in the Taranaki region, acknowledging the historical injustices they faced during colonization,

including the extensive confiscation of their ancestral lands.

Minister Paul Goldsmith emphasized the importance of recognizing past wrongs to foster a brighter future for the iwi and their aspirations. In a related move, the government also renamed the mountain from its colonial name, Mt. Egerton, back to its Māori title, \*Te Papa-Kura-o-Taranaki\*, meaning "the highly regarded and treasured land of Taranaki." The new law now refers to the mountain as \*Te Kahui Tupua\*, recognizing it as an indivisible whole.

Taranaki, New Zealand's second-highest mountain, is a dormant stratovolcano and a popular tourist destination known for snow activities and hiking.

## Sachin Tendulkar to Receive BCCI Lifetime Achievement Award



Mumbai, Jan 30: Indian cricketing legend Sachin Tendulkar will be honored with the BCCI's Lifetime Achievement Award at the Board's annual gala on Saturday. The award, instituted in 1994 in honor of India's first Test captain, Col. C.K. Nayudu, recognizes outstanding contributions to Indian cricket. Tendulkar will be the 31st recipient of this prestigious honor. A record-holder across formats, Tendulkar played 664 international matches, including 200 Tests and 463 ODIs, the highest by any player in cricket history. He remains the leading run-scorer in both formats, amassing 15,921 Test runs and 18,426 ODI runs. His one and only T20I appearance remains a unique trivia in his illustrious career. Tendulkar was a key part of India's historic 2011 World Cup-winning team, featuring in six World Cups. His career spanned

over two decades, debuting as a 16-year-old in 1989 against Pakistan and retiring in 2013 after an emotional farewell at the Wankhede Stadium. His batting genius inspired generations—from his maiden Test hundred at Perth (1992) to the 'Desert Storm' century in Sharjah (1998) and his near-match-winning effort against Pakistan in Chennai (1999). His tears of joy after India's 2011 World Cup victory were shared by a billion fans. Considered the greatest batter of his era, Tendulkar's impact transcended cricket, making him a symbol of Indian excellence. While Indian cricket has seen many stars, none have commanded the same unadulterated love and respect as the 'Master Blaster'. As he receives this prestigious honor, it is Indian cricket that remains indebted to him for his 24 years of unparalleled service.

## India Clinch T20I Series with 15-Run Victory Over England



India defeated England by 15 runs in the fourth T20I on Friday, sealing the five-match series with an unassailable 3-1 lead. The match saw a stunning comeback from the hosts, led by Hardik Pandya (53) and Shivam Dube (53), who powered India to a competitive total of 181/9 after an early collapse. Invited to bat first, India struggled at 12/3, but an 87-run partnership between Pandya (53 off 30 balls) and Dube (53 off 34 balls) rescued the innings. Saqib Mahmood (3/35) was England's standout bowler, while India's lower order contributed crucial runs to push the score past 180. **Bowlers Seal Victory for India** Defending 181, India's spin attack took charge as Ravi Bishnoi (3/28) and Varun Chakravarthy (2/28) troubled England's middle order. Concussion substitute Harshit Rana (3/33) also made an impact,

restricting the visitors to 166 all out in 19.4 overs. Despite Harry Brook's fighting 51 and Ben Duckett's 39, England fell short as wickets tumbled under pressure. **Series Decider Not Needed** With India now leading 3-1, the fifth T20I will be a mere formality. This win solidifies India's dominance, with key performances from both the batting and bowling units. **Brief Scores:**

- India:** 181/9 in 20 overs (Hardik Pandya 53, Shivam Dube 53; Saqib Mahmood 3/35)
- England:** 166 all out in 19.4 overs (Harry Brook 51, Ben Duckett 39; Ravi Bishnoi 3/28, Harshit Rana 3/33)

With this series victory, India continues its strong form in the shortest format, building momentum ahead of future tournaments.

## ICC Unveils Champions Trophy 2025 Campaign Featuring MS Dhoni

The International Cricket Council (ICC) has launched the official campaign for the Men's Champions Trophy 2025, emphasizing the 'all or nothing' format, where every match is a must-win encounter. With the world's top-eight teams competing, the stakes are at their highest, making every game crucial for qualification. The campaign film, produced by Star Sports Network, features MS Dhoni, India's 2013 Champions Trophy-winning captain, in an uncharacteristically intense avatar. The promo showcases Dhoni sitting in a bathtub filled with ice, sweating under immense pressure, symbolizing the tournament's high stakes. Dhoni, known for his cool demeanor, delivers the impactful line: "Ek bhi match mein phisle, samjho tournament se nikle." (Slip in even one match, and

you're out of the tournament.) Speaking about the tournament, Dhoni expressed his excitement: "The Champions Trophy has always been special to me. It's where the best go head-to-head in high-pressure games. While players handle pressure on the field, fans experience an entirely different level of excitement." India's fixtures in Champions Trophy 2025 Team India, led by Rohit Sharma, will begin their campaign against Bangladesh in Dubai on February 20. The group stage includes a blockbuster clash against Pakistan on February 23 and a match against New Zealand on March 2. The Champions Trophy 2025 kicks off on February 19, with the final scheduled for March 9. Fans are set for an electrifying tournament where every match is a do-or-die battle.



## Manchester City to Face Real Madrid in Champions League Play-Off Round



Defending champions Real Madrid will take on 2023 winners Manchester City in the highlight fixture of the Champions League play-off round, following the draw held on Friday. This marks the fourth consecutive season that the two European powerhouses have clashed in the knockout rounds. Last season, Real Madrid emerged victorious in a penalty shootout in the quarter-finals, while City had beaten them in the 2023 semi-finals en route to their first Champions League title. Real had also won a thrilling semi-final tie in 2022, making this fixture a true European rivalry. Pep Guardiola's side will host the first leg at the Etihad Stadium before traveling to Madrid's Santiago Bernabeu for the decisive second leg. "It feels like a derby already," Guardiola remarked. "Four years in a row facing Real Madrid. Hopefully, we arrive at our best for both legs." Real Madrid legend Emilio Butragueno acknowledged the challenge but emphasized the club's historic success in the competition: "They are a great team, experienced in these games. But the Champions

League is special for us, and we will have the second leg at home." **Other Play-Off Fixtures**

- Bayern Munich vs Celtic – The Scottish champions return to the knockouts after 12 years.
- PSG vs Brest – An all-French battle.
- Juventus vs PSV Eindhoven – A clash between two former European champions.
- Feyenoord vs AC Milan – A meeting of two past winners.
- Atalanta vs Club Brugge – Last season's Europa League winners face Belgian opposition.
- Sporting CP vs Borussia Dortmund – A tricky contest for the German runners-up.
- Monaco vs Benfica – A rematch from the league phase.

**Teams Already in the Last 16** Liverpool, Barcelona, Arsenal, Inter Milan, Atletico Madrid, Bayer Leverkusen, Lille, and Aston Villa have automatically qualified for the next round after finishing in the top eight of the league phase. The Champions League final will take place at Allianz Arena, Munich, on May 31.

## Annabel Sutherland Makes History with Century as Australia Dominate England in Ashes Test



Annabel Sutherland created history on Day 2 of the Women's Ashes Test at the Melbourne Cricket Ground (MCG), becoming the first woman to score a Test century at the iconic venue. The young all-rounder smashed 163 off 258 balls, leading Australia to a commanding 422-5 at stumps, securing a 252-run lead over England. Starting the day on 24 not out, Sutherland played with elegance and resilience, hitting 14 boundaries. She reached her century with a well-placed cut shot, describing the moment as a dream come true. "It's a pretty special place, especially as a Victorian. Growing up, there was no better place to be than the 'G,'" Sutherland told Fox Cricket. She shared a 154-run partnership with Beth Mooney, who remained unbeaten on 98 and became Australia's fourth-highest female international run-scorer. England's fielding struggles were evident, as they dropped nine catches and missed a crucial stumping, allowing Sutherland and Mooney to capitalize. Former England captain Alex Hartley criticized their lackluster performance, calling it their worst fielding display of the Ashes series. Australian skipper Alyssa Healy (34) fell LBW in a controversial decision, while Ellyse Perry's availability remains uncertain due to a hip injury. With Australia firmly in control, the focus shifts to when Healy will declare and put England under pressure with the ball as they push for an early breakthrough.

## Pakistan Announces Champions Trophy Squad: Mohammad Rizwan to Lead, Four Players Make Comeback

Pakistan selectors have announced a 15-member squad for the upcoming Champions Trophy, with Mohammad Rizwan named as captain. The squad includes four changes from the team that last played an ODI series in South Africa, with Fakhar Zaman, Khushdil Shah, Faheem Ashraf, and Saud Shakeel making their comeback. A major surprise in the selection is the inclusion of just one specialist spinner, Abrar Ahmed, who has played four ODIs and taken 10 wickets. The Pakistan Cricket Board (PCB) stated that the squad can be modified until February 11, as per ICC regulations. **Key Squad Changes:**

- In:** Fakhar Zaman, Khushdil Shah, Faheem Ashraf, Saud Shakeel
- Out:** Saim Ayub (injury), Abdullah Shafique, Muhammad Irfan Khan, Sufyan Moqim

Selector Asad Shafiq emphasized that domestic performances played a key role in selection. "We have picked players who have consistently performed in



domestic competitions under similar conditions," he said. Pakistan's squad features four fast bowlers – Shaheen Afridi, Haris Rauf, Naseem Shah, and Mohammad Hasnain. The

selectors are considering either Babar Azam or Saud Shakeel to open alongside Fakhar Zaman. Before the Champions Trophy, Pakistan will play a Tri-series against South Africa and New Zealand from February 8-14 in Karachi and Lahore. **Pakistan Squad for Champions Trophy 2025:**

- Captain:** Mohammad Rizwan
- Vice-Captain:** Salman Ali Agha
- Batters:** Babar Azam, Fakhar Zaman, Saud Shakeel, Kamran Ghulam, Tayyab Tahir, Usman Khan
- All-rounders:** Khushdil Shah, Faheem Ashraf
- Bowlers:** Shaheen Shah Afridi, Haris Rauf, Naseem Shah, Mohammad Hasnain, Abrar Ahmed

The Champions Trophy begins on February 19 at the National Stadium, Karachi, with Pakistan aiming for a strong performance.



## Anshu Returns to Tollywood with 'Mazaka,' Teases Fans with Stunning Bridal Look

Actress Anshu, who regained widespread fame for her role in Manmadhudu alongside Akkineni Nagarjuna, is making her comeback to Telugu cinema after a long hiatus. She will play a significant role in the upcoming film Mazaka, directed by Trinadharao Nakkina of Dhamaka fame.

In Mazaka, Anshu is set to share the screen with Tollywood actor Sundeep Kishan and actress Ritu Varma. Rao Ramesh will also appear in a key role. The filmmakers recently released a special look of Anshu in a bridal outfit to celebrate her birthday, which has quickly gone viral on social media. In the image, Anshu sports a glamorous bridal attire, paired with stylish sunglasses, adding to the excitement surrounding the film.

Mazaka is a mass entertainer, scheduled for release on February 21. The film is being produced by AK Entertainments, Hasya Movies, and Zee Studios. The title and the first look of the movie have already garnered attention, with Sundeep Kishan presenting a fresh look that has increased anticipation among fans.

The film's recently released song, "Bachelor's Anthem," has also been receiving positive feedback, giving audiences a glimpse of the fun-filled vibe of the



movie. The teaser features light-hearted banter between the hero and heroine at a station, where Sundeep Kishan humorously asks whether beer or whiskey is better. Ritu Varma responds with playful dialogue, teasing the audience further and promising a film full of entertaining moments.

With Anshu's return to the spotlight, the buzz surrounding Mazaka continues to grow, as fans eagerly await its release next month. The film's intriguing mix of humor, romance, and drama is expected to be a hit, drawing attention from both old and new fans of the actors involved.

## Rukmini Vasanth Turns Heads in Dazzling Blue Elegance!

Rukmini Vasanth, who captivated audiences with her stellar performance in Sapta Sagaradaache Ello, is making a strong mark in Tollywood. After her recent appearance in Appudo Ippudo Eppudo, the actress has once again set social media abuzz with her latest fashion statement. Dressed in a stunning blue one-shoulder gown with bold cutouts and a thigh-high slit, Rukmini radiated confidence and charm. Her effortless grace and impeccable style made for a breathtaking visual, leaving fans mesmerized. On the professional front, Rukmini is gearing up for her next major venture, NTR 31, where she will star alongside Jr. NTR. With her undeniable talent and rising stardom, audiences are eagerly awaiting her next big-screen performance.

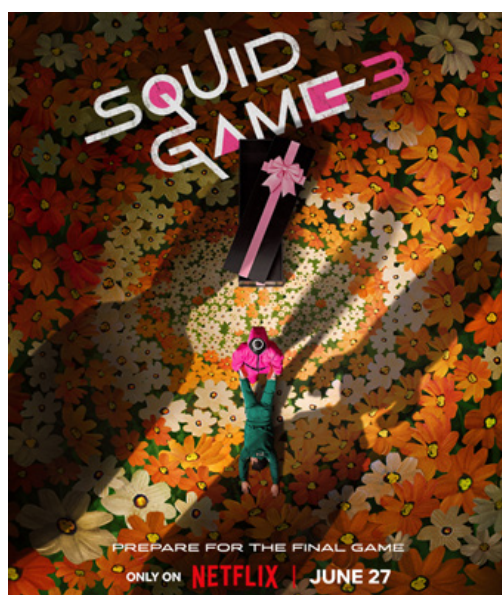


## Squid Game 3: Netflix Announces Release Date for Final Season

Netflix has officially announced that Squid Game Season 3 will be available for streaming on June 27, 2025. Fans of the popular South Korean series have eagerly awaited the conclusion of the story, and with this announcement, anticipation is building for the highly anticipated final season.

The new season will once again feature Lee Jung Jae, Lee Byung Hun, and Wi Ha Joon in key roles. The announcement poster teases a chilling tone, featuring a masked guard in the signature pink outfit, dragging a body, and a black coffin box tied with a pink ribbon—suggesting the high stakes and dark twists that lie ahead.

Season 3 will continue the journey of Lee Jung Jae's character, the protagonist who seeks to put an end to the brutal and dystopian games that have captivated au-



diences worldwide. The second season, which premiered on December 26, 2024, left viewers on a major cliffhanger, and

the third season promises to address these unresolved questions and bring the story to its conclusion.

Interestingly, both the second and third seasons of Squid Game were filmed simultaneously, so fans will not have to wait long to see how the series wraps up. The first season of the show became a global phenomenon, dominating Netflix during the lockdown with unanimous praise. While the second season received more mixed reviews, the pressure is now on the third season to deliver a satisfying conclusion to the intense and thrilling story.

As the final season approaches, all eyes are on how Squid Game will end, and whether the show can recapture the magic that made it one of Netflix's biggest hits.

## Kannada Producer Accuses Nani's Hi Nanna of Copyright Infringement



Nani's Hi Nanna, which has been a major success both at the box office and in terms of accolades since its release on December 7, 2023, is now facing a copyright controversy. The movie, directed by Shauryuv, has earned widespread appreciation and awards. However, the film is now at the center of a legal dispute after Kannada producer Pushkara Mallikarjunaiah, known for producing hits like Avane Srimanarayana and Kirik Party, leveled serious allegations against it.

Pushkara Mallikarjunaiah has claimed that Hi Nanna is a direct copy of his 2020 Kannada film Bheemasena Nala Maharaja. According to Mallikarjunaiah, the makers of Hi Nanna did not obtain official permission or remake rights to adapt his film into Telugu. He has accused them of remaking his work without any legal clearance, which has led to the allegations of copyright infringement.

In Bheemasena Nala Maharaja, the protagonist invites the her-

oine to a resort to narrate his love story, and a child also plays an important role in the plot. Mallikarjunaiah pointed out the striking similarities between the two films, with the core storyline seeming almost identical. While the setup and presentation in Hi Nanna may differ, the general premise appears to resemble that of Bheemasena Nala Maharaja.

The accusation has sparked significant debate among movie enthusiasts and netizens. While some are questioning the originality of Hi Nanna, others are keen to see how Nani and the film's director, Shauryuv, will respond to these allegations. The controversy has brought attention to the broader issue of copyright infringement in the Indian film industry, where remakes and adaptations often become contentious.

As the legal proceedings unfold, fans of both films are closely watching the situation to see how this issue is resolved.

## Parasakthi Title Controversy Resolved: Siva Karthikeyan's Film Secures the Name

The title controversy surrounding the iconic name "Parasakthi" has finally been resolved, bringing clarity to the Tamil film industry. The issue began when two major actors, Siva Karthikeyan and Vijay Antony, both announced their upcoming films with the same title, leading to widespread speculation and confusion among fans.



Siva Karthikeyan's film, directed by Sudha Kongara (known for her hit film Aakasam Nee Haddhura), had initially been planned with Suriya as the lead. However, due to certain reasons, the project was later revamped with Siva Karthikeyan in the lead role. The film, which also stars Atharva, Jayam Ravi, and Srileela, released a title teaser showcasing the name "Parasakthi." This sparked a controversy as the title

of the movie was shared with the 1952 blockbuster starring Sivaji Ganesan, a highly revered classic in Tamil cinema.

Coincidentally, actor Vijay Antony, known for his breakout role in Bichagadu, also announced a film titled "Parasakthi" for his upcoming project. Vijay Antony's team had reportedly registered the title in Telugu back in July of the previous year, causing fur-

ther confusion when the two films were set to be announced on the same day.

To resolve the issue, Vijay Antony clarified that he would drop the "Parasakthi" title for his film, allowing Siva Karthikeyan's movie to retain it. In a statement, Vijay Antony explained that he had registered the title in Telugu but had no problem relinquishing it for Karthikeyan's project, which had gained more traction. As a result, Vijay Antony's film will be renamed in Telugu, while the iconic title will officially remain with Siva Karthikeyan's film.

This resolution brings an end to the controversy, and fans can now look forward to the film Parasakthi starring Siva Karthikeyan, directed by Sudha Kongara.